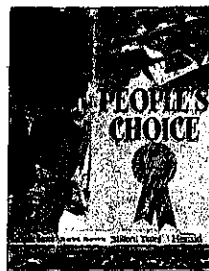


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Wildcat defense:
The shots stop here for ladies soccer ... Page 1B



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Novi News

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2007

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VOLUME 51 #50 50 CENTS

Results in: The bond passes

Community says yes to 26.4M bond

By Renee Gates
SPECIAL WRITER

Novi residents said yes to three new gymnasiums, enhanced security and upgraded technology for their school district Tuesday when they passed the \$26.4 million bond issue.

A little more than 60 percent, or 2,526 voters, supported the bond. Almost 40 percent or 1,683 voters cast no votes.

"The people in Novi are very supportive of the schools," said Peter Dion, superintendent of Novi schools. "People want increased technology, security and buildings that are equitable, very loud and clear."

"Obviously, we're very happy."

Community groups and district officials waged a three-month campaign to educate voters on each area of the bond, particularly the tax issue.

Gail Credit, assistant superintendent of business and finance, said community meetings were held in resident homes and at schools; information was printed and posted

Continued on page 5



Novi's Precinct 12 saw a fair turnout by noon during last Tuesday's election. Voters were asked to decide on a school district bond and board members.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

A vote for experience, new ideas

By Renee Gates
SPECIAL WRITER

In a challenging economic time for schools, with state funding cuts looming and enrollment numbers dropping, nearly 50 percent of Novi voters gave their votes to 12-year school board veteran George Kortlandt and newcomer Bobbie Murphy to make the tough fiscal decisions over the next four years of their children's education.

Both Kortlandt and Brown received 1,663 votes each or 48 percent of the votes, winning the two, four-year term board seats. Incumbent David Brown received 1,512 votes or 22 percent.

"In my opinion the most important thing that happened (Tuesday) was the school bond proposal passed," said Brown Wednesday morning.

"The community spoke and voted the two people in and the (school board) is going to do just fine without me," he said. "I will continue to support them in whatever way I can and I mean that."

For the two-year term board seat, school board trustee, Jeff Nielson, received 2,797 votes to

Continued on page 5

All-new library in '09?

Library board changes course: wants new building

By Greg Migliore
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Novi could be getting an entirely new library by 2009.

After months of considering extensively renovating the exist-



ing facility on 10 Mile Road, library board members changed their minds and will instead ask the public to pay for construction of a new building adjacent to the current one.

Board members said the reason boiled down to money; They say it costs about the same to build a new library as it does to renovate the existing facility.

The \$16 million bond proposal that would pay for library construction remains unchanged, though the money would be used

Continued on page 3

Novi Community Schools \$26.4 million bond

Pass Total Yes **2526** Fail Total No **1683**



Novi man charged in Guatemalan adoption scam

Attorney General: The agency took the money, but did not deliver babies

By Greg Migliore
NEWS STAFF WRITER

A Novi man was charged with racketeering and tax fraud in connection with a Guatemalan adoption scam, the Michigan attorney general's office said last week.

Authorities say Joseph Beauvais, 44 of Novi, and Simone Boraggina, 40 of Macomb, took thousands of dollars from several Michigan couples to facilitate adoptions



Mike Cox

charged with laundering more

than half a million dollars. They were arraigned in District Court in Shelby Township last week. They are free on bond, but the court made them surrender their passports and wear tethers. They could face up to 20 years in prison.

The attorney general's office said the victims wired money for adoption services into an account at Huntington Bank where Beauvais would withdraw the cash. Bank records show he took

\$535,741 from the account in 2005 and 2006. Investigators say they found a similar amount of cash in three of Boraggina's safety deposit boxes earlier this month.

"Bringing a new child into your home should be an occasion for joy," Attorney General Mike Cox said in a statement. "But these individuals took advantage of the dreams of couples to adopt children, stringing them along and taking their money without ful-

filling the promises that had been made."

When reached by the Novi News on Friday, Beauvais referred questions to his attorney, who didn't return phone calls.

A hearing is scheduled for June 7.

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

NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER

FRIDAY

The Novi Theatres presents "Charlie and The Chocolate Factory" at 7:30 p.m. tonight and Saturday on the Novi Civic Center Stage, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. Come enjoy this family classic featuring young actors from Novi and surrounding areas. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. For more information, call (248) 347-0400.

SATURDAY

Come enjoy the Novi Chorales Spring Concert at 7:30 p.m. tonight at the Fuerst Auditorium inside Novi High School, 24062 Taft Road. The concert titled "Encore!" features songs we remember, like to sing and like to hear one more time. Tickets are \$12 and available at the Novi Parks and Recreation Department or any Chorales member. For more information, call (248) 349-3267.

SUNDAY

Happy Mother's Day! Treat mom to Sunday brunch at one of Novi's fine restaurants, or treat her to a day at the spa. Just check your Novi Community Guide 2007 for great places to dine, pamper and shop.

• **My Novi Bulletin Board**
Novi's official events calendar. Page 15A.



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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Thursday, May 10, 2007
www.novnews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Lightning starts biggest fire of 2007

Bolt strikes apartment, blaze lasts for more than three hours

By Greg Migliore
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Lightning struck a plush apartment complex in Novi last week, starting a fire that damaged six units.
No one was injured, but four families were displaced.
The fire started in an empty model apartment at 47249 Manhattan Circle about 7 p.m. May 1. Flames and smoke engulfed the roof and second floor, spreading to the adjacent unit. Firefighters got it under control about 10:26 p.m.
The lightning bolt went through the roof and hit a metal pipe with wiring in it — which sparked and started the fire. It was the biggest blaze in Novi this year, Fire Chief Frank Smith said.
It took about 30 firefighters to douse the fire. Both apartments were empty, which allowed the fire to burn longer.
"With two unoccupied units — there was no one around to hear anything," Smith said. "That's what gave it the heads up in the attic and structural area."
The apartments are part of Central Park Estates, a luxurious complex set amid ponds and trees off the southeast corner of Grand River Avenue and Beck Road.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

A clean-up crew attacks a fire-ravaged condo at Novi's Central Park Estates off Beck Road last Friday morning. The condo suffered damage after a lightning strike.

Work in two weeks.
"Right now we're in the process of evaluating the structure," he said.
Fire officials estimated the building sustained \$672,200 in damages. The property loss for items inside the apartments is pegged at \$448,800.

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

Major rebuilding to start in two weeks

Blair Bowman, one of the complex's owners, said he wants to start major reconstruction

The unlikely arsonist: lightning vexes firefighters

By Greg Migliore
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Novi's largest fire of the year was started by an unlikely arsonist — lightning.
The blaze damaged six apartments at the Central Park Estates condominium complex, but no one was injured.
Dealing with fires started by lightning can be dicey for fire departments, Novi Chief Frank Smith said.
"People just have to be aware when you have a big storm blow through and lightning strikes — it doesn't hurt to take a look at your neighbors," Smith said.
One of the only safety measures residents can take is to be on their toes when lightning is in the area.
"People just have to be aware when you have a big storm blow through and lightning strikes — it doesn't hurt to take a look at your neighbors," Smith said.

when lightning strikes, they sometimes don't realize it. Smith recounted a story of a fire in Bloomfield Township where firefighters pulled up to the blaze — and found the family enjoying dinner — blissfully unaware flames were ripping through their attic.
The family got out safely, but Smith said the episode illustrates the freakish nature of fighting lightning.
"It was just bizarre," he said. "People would never believe this unless they actually saw it."

Awareness is critical

One of the only safety measures residents can take is to be on their toes when lightning is in the area.
"People just have to be aware when you have a big storm blow through and lightning strikes — it doesn't hurt to take a look at your neighbors," Smith said.

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Walled Lake resident Erin Knight scans some book titles at the Novi Public Library on a recent Monday morning. Knight likes Novi's library for its large selection of books. Novi is currently going through the process of finding a new director for the library.

Library board changes course: wants new building

Continued from front

differently.
Library board President Robert Cutler said a new facility allows architects to design a better layout than if they had to build around the existing structure. He said very little of the current 31-year-old building actually would be left after the renovations. He also said it's quicker to build a new facility.
"We can have a much better

layout if we do it this way," Cutler said.
He also noted the library would save money by not moving to a temporary location during renovations. If officials decide to go through with building plans, the current library would stay open during construction. Afterwards, it would be torn down to create more parking spaces.
Officials are building an entirely new structure is more expensive, but argue the extra costs are offset by saving money to move library operations to a temporary site. Cutler estimated that would cost about \$800,000.

New plans, same idea

The new library building would

be fairly similar to renovating the old one. It would be about 60,000 square feet and feature sections for youth programs, administration and meeting rooms. Board members hope to have some preliminary plans by May 20.
"We think for the same dollars, we're going to get a brand new building where we want it, when we want it," library board member Larry Czekaj said.

Cutler said the board might convene focus groups to get residents' input. He also said it's considering using environmentally friendly building practices.
Novi Community School District Superintendent Peter Dion offered to let library patrons use a parking lot at Novi High School during construction,

which helped pave the way for plans to build a new facility.
Library officials plan to go before the City Council in June to iron out the wording for the bond proposal, which is expected to be on the November ballot. The millage would be between .299 and .342 over its 20-year life. It would cost the owner of a \$400,000 house about \$68 per year.
Still, library officials face obstacles. A \$20 million bond to fund renovations failed in Novi in 2001, and the economy has gotten considerably worse in Southeast Michigan since then. State officials have also considered raising taxes to offset Michigan's budget woes. On top of this, the library is in the midst of a search for a new director.

Search for new library director down to three

Novi's interim director, two others, vie for top job

By Greg Migliore
NEWS STAFF WRITER

The search for a new Novi library director has narrowed to three candidates.
The field is made up of interim Novi Director Mary Ellen Mulrooney, Chesterfield District Library Director Marion "Midge" Lasardi and Norfolk, Va., Public Library Director Norman Maas.
They're vying to replace long-time Novi Library Director Brenda Lussier, who retired in February.
All three will be interviewed May 19 in a public meeting at the Novi library. A decision is expected

to be made by the Library Board of Trustees within a few days of the interviews.
"They're all good candidates," library board President Robert Cutler said.
Mulrooney, who has worked at the library since 1988 and also served as head of technical services, is running day-to-day operations.
"I'd like to help the library continue to move forward," she said. "I just think that a library is so important to the community and has so much to offer."

The position pays about \$83,000 to \$85,000 in annual salary and includes a benefits package. Nineteen people originally applied for the job.
Officials hope to have the new director in place by July 1 so he or she can help campaign for the \$16 million bond proposal the library board is expected to put on the ballot in November. The money

will be used to build a new library. The board has considered renovating the existing building.
The millage would be between .299 and .342 over its 20-year life. It would cost the owner of a \$400,000 house about \$68 per year.
A \$20 million bond failed in Novi in 2001.
Novi's search for a new director comes at a time when a slew of local librarians are reaching retirement age — meaning the city is in competition with other communities for talent.
But officials are optimistic they can find a top-flight leader.
"The search is going great," said Assistant City Manager Pam Antil, who is a member of the search committee.

Officials hope to have the new director in place by July 1 so he or she can help campaign for the \$16 million bond proposal the library board is expected to put on the ballot in November. The money

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

Lock down investigation continues

By Greg Migliore
and Victoria Mitchell
NEWS STAFF WRITERS

Novi police continue investigating two threats made at Novi High School last week that put the campus in lock down mode.
Police have received several tips, Chief David Molloy said, but no arrests have been made.
The school went into lock down mode beginning the Wednesday afternoon and lasting through the end of the school day Friday. No other suspicious activity was reported.

The school also participated in a mock emergency drill with Novi public safety officials in December.

"We have a very strong relationship with the police department and fire department," Lawrence said. "The police department did an excellent job at helping us out with this situation."

There were about 10 police officers in the school during the morning arrival time for students last week. The police department usually has one officer in the school, with an extra patrol assigned to monitor the facility.
"Everything ran very smoothly," Molloy said.

During the lock down, backpacks, purses and bags were checked. Students wearing baggy clothing or who appeared to be concealing something were also subject to search by school staff.
Lockers were searched during the evening for weapons, Molloy said. Novi police also had an increased presence in other school buildings.
The person who made the threats could face a felony charge and 20 years in prison.
A \$2,000 reward is being offered for information leading to an arrest.
Anyone with information regarding this case should contact the high school administration, the Novi Police Department or call 1-800-SPEAK UP. All leads will remain anonymous.

School officials said attendance was low last Thursday and Friday. Novi Community School District Superintendent Peter Dion said students and faculty were calm during the process, and recent lock down drills helped the process move smoothly.
School officials said this was the first incident since the high school started participating in state-mandated lock down drills.

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May 8 Board of Education and Trustees Election Results

Novi Community Schools Board of Education

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Craig Parker
Karl Wizinsky
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Marcy Salemi

Walled Lake Consolidated School District Board of Education

Brian Convery
Phil McShane
Amy Peterman
Marc Allan Siegler

Northville Public Schools Board of Education

Carol Grimmer
Steven Lomske
Marilyn Price
Libby Ann Smith

Schoolcraft Community College Board of Trustees

Mary Breen
Brian Broderick
James Fausone
Joan Gabhardt
Ron Randall

Community says yes to 26.4M bond

Continued from front

at each school building and continually updated on-line at the district Web site, with the hope that community members will have enough information to make an educated vote on election day.

"It came from the community, it was supported by the community, and I think the community



Peter Dion

has spoken," Credit said. The bond brings an additional \$9 million to the tax levy causing the owner of a \$200,000 house to pay \$50 a year in taxes. But Novi residents will still receive an overall millage decrease of 1.03 mills this year due to the school district refunding of past bond debt.

Kathy Hrit chaired the Friends of Novi committee, a community-based, not-for-profit organization that formed with the express purpose of educating residents about the bond and encouraging them to vote for it.

"It's a great thing for our community and I'm really pleased they came through and supported our schools yet again," Hrit said. "I am very happy."

The bulk of the bond, \$19 million, will cover the construction and renovation of separate building gymnasiums, art rooms and music rooms for Orchard Hills, Village Oaks, and Parkview elementary schools. The technology portion of the bond, \$6.78 million, will replace student and staff com-

A vote for experience, new ideas

Continued from front

to write-in candidate Marcy Salemi's 341 votes.

"I'm happy," Nielson said Tuesday evening. "I had a lot of support and a lot of help, and I'm looking forward to working

For a video of the senior center dance, go to novinews.com.

STORY CHAT
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agree a vote for him could be perceived as a changing of the guard for the school board.

"I think the people heard my message clearly," he said. "It's a very critical time in our district financially and we need people who are going to be able to make the appropriate decisions to ensure we have the best education for all of our children."

Murphy said she would not speculate on why Novi residents voted the way they did.

"I have to say I don't know. They may feel like it is time for fresh ideas," she said. "I'm glad it turned out the way it did."

Nearly 16 percent of registered voters participated in Tuesday's election, said Maryanne Cornelius, Novi City Clerk.

"That was a wonderful turnout for (the candidates)," Cornelius said. "I'm sure most came out for the bond proposal."

In her seven years as city clerk, Cornelius said she did not remember another time when two candidates tied.

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MY BUSINESS

Thursday, May 10, 2007
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Tower finds road out of bankruptcy

Auto parts giant expects deal by end of July

By Greg Migliore
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Tower Automotive Inc. finally appears to have found a way out of bankruptcy.

The Novi-based supplier of auto parts has filed a reorganization plan in federal court in New York -- one of the final, crucial steps for companies as they emerge from bankruptcy.

"Tower has been in Chapter 11 bankruptcy since February 2005. It's one of the world's largest producers of vehicle frames and a critical supplier to Detroit and import car companies."

When the auto parts giant emerges from bankruptcy, it will rely heavily on its international operations after closing or selling 16 plants, including 11 in the United States. It's also cut costs and whittled its work force down to about 10,500 global employees.

"Tower is now in a strong position to compete in the market in the future," spokesman Joe Kirik said.

The plan calls for Tower's assets to be sold to Cerberus Capital Management L.P. for about \$1 billion. The New York private investment firm has

recently emerged as a player in the troubled North American auto market and is reportedly among the bidders for the Chrysler Group.

Tower and Cerberus officials wrote the plan, Kirik said. Cerberus, which is named for the three-headed dog that stands guard over the gates of Hell, was also part of a deal to buy Delphi Corp., but recently backed off. It also owns a controlling stake in General Motors Acceptance Corp., the former lending arm of General Motors Corp.

Details of the plan

Tower's plan includes paying off its bankruptcy financing and other secured claims. The company will also continue to pay workers' pensions and some of its unsecured creditors.

Shares of Tower's old common stock will be canceled, and shareholders will get nothing. The restructured company will be privately held.

The deal, however, isn't a sure thing. Another investor could step in with a better bid by June 20. If other proposals come in, Tower would be auctioned off June 25. No other bids had been submitted as of last week, Kirik said.

Whatever the outcome, company officials expect a deal to be in place by July 31.

Tower's bankruptcy has been dicey at times, and it nearly trig-

SNAPSHOT: TOWER AUTOMOTIVE INC.

HEADQUARTERS: Novi
SPECIALTY: Makes frames and suspension parts for Detroit and import automakers

EMPLOYEES: About 10,500 globally

NEWS: Filed a plan to reorganize the company under bankruptcy protection. This is one of the final steps to emerging from Chapter 11.

The plan includes a tentative agreement to sell the company to private investment firm Cerberus Capital Management L.P. for \$1 billion. Tower has been bankrupt since February 2005.

Source: Novi News research



Submitted photo

Lotus Opens!

Lotus Bank CEO Satish Jasti cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of his bank's temporary facility on Grand River.

Miller Canfield elects Novi man managing director

The law firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C. announces that attorney Michael P. McGee has been elected a managing director, effective April 19, completing the unexpired term created by Michael W. Hartmann's appointment as CEO.

McGee resides in Novi. He will be part of the firm's five-person management board that works with the chief executive officer to oversee the firm's 17 offices.

McGee has been with Miller Canfield for 22 years and is a principal, practicing public finance law in the Detroit office. He also is the firm's hiring chair.

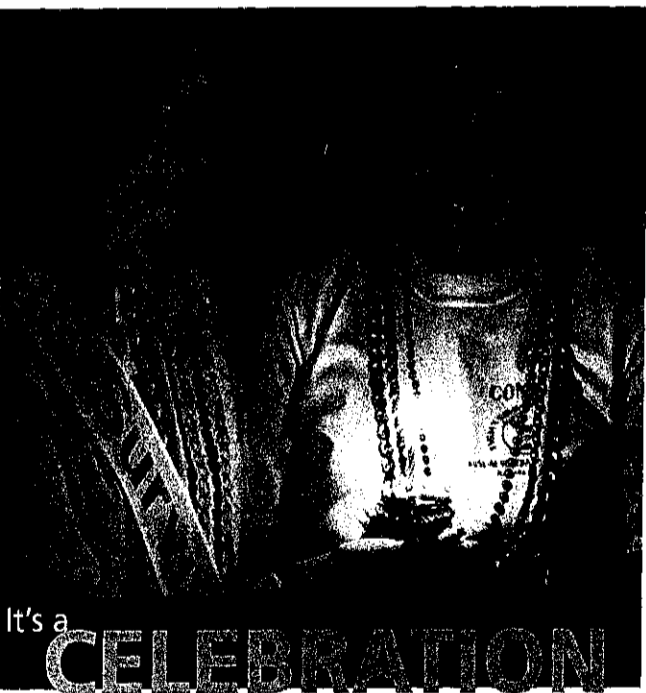
McGee represents public entity clients throughout Michigan, and has had primary responsibility for general obligation and revenue bond issues of over three billion dollars, including acting as bond counsel in the largest municipal bond financing in Michigan history--the \$1-billion bond issue for

the Midfield (McNamara Terminal) at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. He has broad experience in structuring intergovernmental agreements and public/private economic development and public improvement projects.

A three-time graduate of the University of Michigan, he earned a bachelor's degree in economics and political science cum laude in 1979, a law degree in 1982 and a master's degree in public policy studies in 1983.

"Tower is now in a strong position to compete in the market in the future."

Joe Kirik
Tower Automotive spokesman



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OBITUARIES



PATRICK MICHAEL DELAHANTY

Age 26, May 7, 2007. Loving son of Margie and Michael. Dear brother of Chris. Grandson of Margaret Smith. Uncle of C.J. Pat was the cornerstone of the Delahanty family - the first son - the center of its triumphs and headaches - his father's best friend - his mother Margie's soulmate - his brother Chris' protagonist and mentor - and beloved uncle to C.J. Pat touched many with his passion for life. His life was built around his close family and network of friends across the country. Both will miss him dearly. Pat was his own man who had a clear vision of what he wanted out of life. In his short 26 years Pat had many accomplishments including a number of Racing Championships. Just 4 weeks away from finishing his college degree, the world seemed to just be inches from his fingertips. Pat's memory and spirit will live with us forever. Pat graduated from Novi High School in 1999. Visitation at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi, 248-348-1800, Friday 4-9 PM. Instate Saturday at Holy Family Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, 10:30 AM until the funeral Mass at 1:00 PM. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Brain Injury Association of America 8201 Greensboro Dr., #611 McLean VA, 22102. Online condolences: www.cbfuneralsullivan.com.

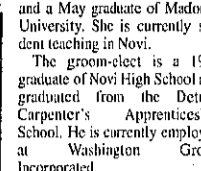
ENGAGEMENTS



Mr. and Mrs. Wey

Elizabeth Ann Orlovski and Francis Olinar Wey were married November 25, 2006 at the St. Bonaventure Chapel, Detroit. The Reverend Michael Orsi and Father Stephen Krepp CO-celebrated their wedding mass. A reception followed at the Crosses Pointe War Memorial, Alger House, Grosse Pointe Farms.

WEDDINGS



Brown-Powers II

David and Lorraine Brown of Milford announce the engagement of their daughter Abigail Leigh Brown to Patrick James Powers II, son of Patrick and Paula Powers of Novi.



Mr. and Mrs. Wey

The bride is the daughter of Robert and Rebecca Orlovski of Northville. She is a 1997 graduate of Northville High School and a graduate of the University of Michigan, in 2001 she earned her bachelor of science degree; and in 2006, her doctor of medicine degree. Currently she is a resident pathologist at Vanderbilt University, Tenn.

ON CAMPUS

Western Michigan University
Western Michigan University junior Quentin C. Sandberg, of Novi was honored for high

Albion College

Scott Kelling son of Kevin Keling and Pamela Keling of Novi, received a Ronald C. Fryxell and Carol J. Fryxell Scholarship in Mathematics during the annual Honors Convocation at Albion College last month. Recipients chosen for this award are among the most exemplary students in all academic departments. Scott is a computer science major.

Hope College

Jenny Carr, daughter of David and Connie Carr of Novi graduated with a bachelor's degree in Management from Hope College, Holland.

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While most people associate tooth decay with children who have a fondness for sweets, cavities may also be a problem for those approaching middle age and beyond. The reason for this is that gums begin to recede as we get older. This leads to exposure of vulnerable tooth roots, which do not have the benefit of an enamel coating to protect them. Unlike the exposed crowns, tooth roots also have minimal exposure to vertical fluoride. Moreover, many older people have reduced secretions of saliva, which affords natural protection against tooth decay. So, to protect aging teeth against decay, older patients are urged to ask their dentists about possible fluoride applications, as well as ways to improve saliva flow.
In addition, we have also found that many elderly Americans neglect their dental health because they assume that dental problems are an inevitable part of aging. We believe this does not have to be the case. With the innovative dental care products available today, plus daily brushing and flossing, people of all ages can keep their smiles glowing for years to come. Remember, too, that nothing is more economical than regular professional dental visits to keep dental problems at bay. We're easy to find at 39883 Grand River, Suite 100, Novi. Please call 248-476-3800 to schedule a convenient appointment.
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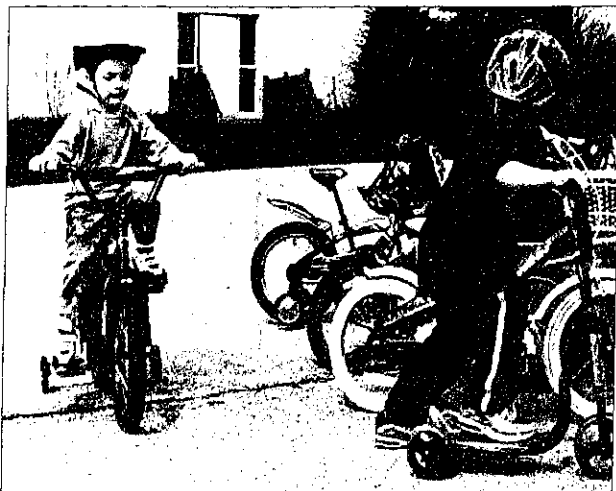
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Cycling for children: Novi Co-op kids help St. Jude

It's race day at the Novi Co-op Preschool, and you can feel the excitement growing on the makeshift track. The cones are set, the starting line is drawn and the kids are anxiously awaiting their turn on the course.

This is not your standard relay race. The students in the 4-year-old program are riding in a trike-A-Thon to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"It's all about the kids and how they can make a difference while learning about bike safety," said Tracey Smith, teacher of the 4-year-old program, who is in her 11th year with the school.



Submitted photo

Students from Novi Co-op Preschool participate in a Trike-A-Thon benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

With its ongoing commitment to charity work, active role in the community and experienced teachers, Novi Co-op Preschool was recognized by the Greater Detroit Cooperative Nursery Council for celebrating its 35th anniversary.

The Co-op is a not-for-profit, non-denominational preschool which began in 1972.

"Kids learn best through play," said Amy Chestnut, President of the Novi Co-op Preschool board.

It is important to provide parents an opportunity to participate in their child's academic growth and development.

"We are privileged to have such dedicated parents and a great relationship with our landlords at the Novi United Methodist Church."

At a time when many academic institutions face cutbacks and

financial challenges, the school is expanding its program by including weekly Parent/Tot classes designed for 2-year-olds and summer camps in addition to the current 3- and 4-year-old kindergarten readiness programs.

After countless laps on the course, the kids are ready to make a pit-stop for a well-deserved snack.

As they head back into the classroom, they are tired but filled with pride at their accomplishment and knowing that they have helped the children of St. Jude.

For more information on Novi Co-op's programs, play-based learning, or ways that you can help St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, please visit www.novipreschool.com or call (248) 339-3233.

This article was submitted to the Novi News.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

With Thanks
Village Oaks principal Sue Burnham, right, gets a hug from her Novi High School co-op student Aubree Bixman during a Wednesday morning recognition breakfast at the Novi Civic Center. Employers and students recognized each other's efforts with the intern program.

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Families find the answer in Club Z

By Stacy Jenkins
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

In a time of shrinking school aid, larger class sizes and less individual instruction, families are discovering they can fill in the gaps with good old-fashioned, one-on-one tutoring.

Club Z, an in-home tutoring service franchise, owned by Dean and Kathryn Thompson is the answer to many homework mysteries, conflicts and stumbling blocks.

"Working one-on-one with kids is such a nice way to meet their needs," said Kathryn Thompson, who has been a teacher for 31 years.

"The way school districts are going, we're seeing less and less individual instruction."

Janet Hong, of Novi, said Club Z is a nice alternative to another group tutoring program her 8-year-old son, Kiefer, attended.

"I like the one-on-one basis," she said. "It's more concentrated on him and more catered to his needs."

The Thompsons' business includes a Novi location, has 150 tutors which serve 300-400 students via in-home tutoring at least twice a week. Club Z also tutors through school districts, which receive some funding from the No Child Left Behind federal law.

Club Z handles after-school tutoring for middle school youth in the Farmington Hills After School Program at the Coskic Activities Center.

"They have saved us in the area of tutoring," said Todd Liga, Farmington Hills Youth and Family Services director. "They have worked with so many students, many who were struggling and have become better students."

Dean Thompson said, "Our parents sometimes forget we offer services year round."

Summer programs often focus on topics not typically covered during the school year, including scientific research, sports grants and even guitar lessons and courses to learn Spanish.

"This gives us the chance to fill the niches we don't get to do at school," Kathryn Thompson said.

Tutor Luis Morales, of Novi, who is a native of Venezuela, enjoys teaching Spanish in addition to the basic reading, writing, history and math.

"I learn from the kids and they learn from me," he said. "They are not as self-conscious as we are; kids just do it, while big people are afraid to make mistakes."

"Some parents will never be without a tutor because they've regained a fun relationship with their kids," she said, adding that parents have told her how much they've learned from watching the tutor.

Club Z is a family thing for the Thompsons, too. Their daughter, Elizabeth, 25, works there. Their son, Joe, 28, lives in Maryland.

Dean and Kathryn Thompson

started their Club Z franchise eight years ago out of their Canton home. Dean Thompson worked in the waste management field for 25 years.

"I reached a crossroads in my life and decided to do something different," he said.

Kathryn is a third-grade teacher at Thornton Creek Elementary in Northville.

Their business has grown throughout the area, with clients in western Wayne County, Oakland County, Ann Arbor and downtown.

"It's a business that gives you the opportunity to meet wonderful people," Dean Thompson said. "You're invited into someone's home and you're invited to really make a difference in a child's life."

For more about Club Z In-home Tutoring Services, visit www.clubz-tutoring.com.



Tom Hoffmeyer / GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Dean and Kathryn Thompson, owners of the Club Z tutoring service, stand outside their new location in Novi.

SPOTLIGHT ON ALLERGY & ASTHMA

Presented by Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.P., C.P.I.

NON-ALLERGIC RHINITIS

Are you constantly reaching for a tissue for your nose, but don't know why? A common cause of a congested nose is called non-allergic rhinitis, a condition associated with allergies. However, full of all people with rhinitis do not have an allergy. Rhinitis can be caused by exposure to irritants such as perfume, smoke, or fumes. Unlike allergies, rhinitis, which commonly affects people in their childhood years, usually rhinitis is more likely to strike people as they get older. It also does not have the seasonal component of allergic rhinitis. Avoiding the rhinitis triggers, if you know them, can prevent symptoms. Nasal steroids, antihistamine sprays, and oral decongestants can help alleviate symptoms.

Rhinitis seldom offers good advice, but allergy sufferers. For the latest and most effective allergy treatment options, you should consult a medical doctor specializing in allergies. Call the ALLERGY

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Summer school

Club Z will offer a summer program at its Novi location and the Jon Grant Community Center in Farmington Hills. The program, Summer Science Studies, will be held Mondays and Tuesdays from June 18 through Aug. 10. A Study Skills course will be offered Monday through Friday from Aug. 20-31, which will help students transition back to school.

"They lose a lot during the summer," Dean Thompson said.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on 5/26/07 at 10:00 a.m. the following will be sold by competitive bidding at Estate Self Storage 21650 Novi Rd., Novi, MI.

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Dilemmas
With Dinner
by Robin Roberts

A promotion is in the air and Brooke is planning the perfect dinner party for her boss and his wife - how was she to know that the caterer is their very bitter ex-daughter-in-law? It's force of its best as everyone tries to keep them apart.

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vemitchell@gannett.com

MY ENTERTAINMENT



Submitted photo

The Cast of Novi Theatres' "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" prepares for opening night.

'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' opens Friday

Family show features more than 100 cast members from the area

thousands of Wonka chocolate bars. What love Charlie and the other four children won? A tour through Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory, led by the eccentric Wonka himself. It's a dream come true! The factory is a fantasy world, crazy colors, wild inventions, secret rooms, Omega Loompops, and lots and lots of delectable sweets. Join Charlie on the tour of a lifetime as the Novi Theatres brings this fantasy to the stage with an all-young-cast, ages 6-18.

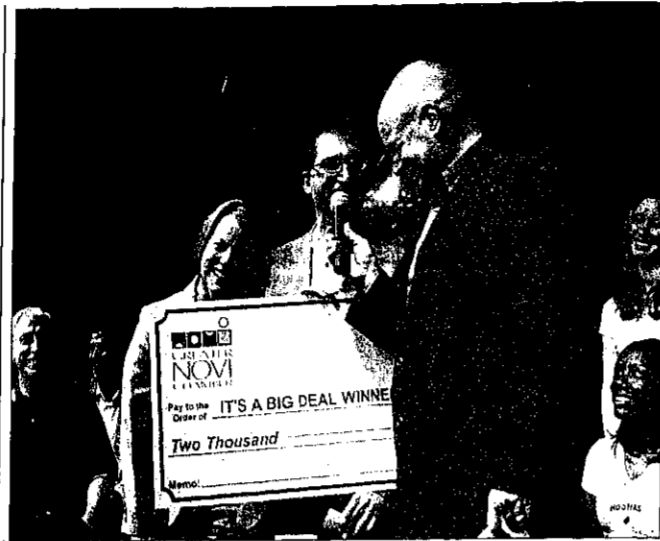
According to director Debbie Lansen, performing arts coordinator for the City of Novi, "The magical adventures of the children in the marvelous chocolate factory will keep theatre-goers captivated from curtain to curtain. This is a show that reminds us all what it is to be a kid!"

This article was submitted to the Novi News.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

When:
Fri., May 11 - 7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 12 - 2 and 7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 13 - 2 p.m.,
Fri., May 18 - 7:30 p.m.
Sat., May 19 - 2 and 7:30 p.m.
Sun., May 20 - 2 p.m.

Where:
Novi Civic Center Stage
Tickets:
On sale at the Novi Civic Center Parks, Recreation & Forestry Dept. Prices are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, student rate is \$10 at the door on May 18.



Submitted photo

Big Winner!

Mark Barsamian won the grand prize at the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce's anniversary party last week. Barsamian was presented with a \$2,000 check and other prizes, including a hotel stay and dinner at Andiamo.

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Before AFTER

A Glad Song

Tradition of music binds family

By Maureen Johnston
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Clody Evans, "Glad" to her friends, is a portrait of elegance perched at her piano.

Grasping her mother's legacy, she has filled her family home with classical music since the age of 8. Her life's song has been lively and joyful, mournful and hopeful.

Nestled in her Woodhill Drive home for 45 years, the matriarch's fingers still caress tender love notes to her late husband, Tad. But her repertoire also includes upbeat ditties to the next generation of talent as her children and grandchildren record their own musical accomplishments.

Evans' ongoing melody underscores a lasting, spiritual foundation of family love.

Musical inspiration

Early on, Evans instilled musical appreciation into her two sons and two daughters.

Today, Northville resident Suzie Johnson teases her mom about force-fed piano lessons when she preferred ball in the yard with her brothers. On the other hand, eldest daughter, Stacey Becker of Novi, took the ball and ran with it, opting for a career in music.

Both speak with proud awe of their mother's ability.

"I have always aspired to play as well as she does," said Becker, an accomplished pianist and music therapist. "It was actually my mom who encouraged me to go that route."

"I think she was someone who has always understood my passion for music."

A full-time music teacher at Novi Middle School, Becker and her husband, Gary, are known for their First United Methodist Church of Northville program, where Stacey has served as director of music for 33 years.

The years Becker spent at the piano bench, practicing, imitating her mother's dedication, became a bridge to her livelihood.

"I think it was destiny," she said. "My first memory is of my mom playing the organ at the Methodist church in Romeo where we lived then."

As a fourth grader, Becker joined her mother in a piano and

organ duet, playing in public for the first time.

Family harmony

Johnson cherishes the beautiful sight and sound of her mother at the keyboard.

Evans' hands coaxing classical selections from the shiny black piano set the scene daily in the pale pastel living room at the center of their childhood home. Evans finds solace in her regimen, fulfilled by the company of the music.

"It's the feeling of everyone being home," she said. "Plus, it keeps my fingers going."

Before and since the loss of their dad six years ago and brother Scott Evans' death the year before, Glad's four grown children and their families simultaneously converged at the Evans Northville home at least twice a year. Standing tradition for the annual celebrations involves gathering around the piano.

"I think it's been part of the marriage agreement," Johnson said with a laugh. Holidays with the Evans family has always been akin to a von Trapp event.

"Growing up, we used to go around the neighborhood," Johnson recalled. "My brother Steve had the trumpet, Scott, the French horn, I had jingle bells. We had pots and pans."

"Everybody loved the Evans' Christmas. It was fun."

But while mom was poised with her classically trained precision, dad would pump out boogie-woogie, playing by ear. Childhood memories are a home filled with music.

And now Johnson, and her husband, Mark, are watching their family's musical roots grow again.

A love song

Like Evans followed the key-boards of her mother who played organ at their family church in Ireland, successive generations are sharing their talents.

And Glad has been relishing her front-row seat for her grandchildren's accomplishments.

The Johnson and Becker daughters both won the lead role in high school musicals their sophomore years. Evans keeps a professional gloss on her piano of Betsie Becker, who subsequently earned a position at Carnegie Hall after completing her vocal arts education.

At Northville High School last month, Erica Johnson won the



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

The love of music runs in the family of matriarch Gladys Evans, center. She brought her daughters Suzie Johnson, left, and Stacey Becker up in a household where the piano was often being played. Evans also passed on some musical talent to daughter Erica Johnson, rear. She recently had the lead role in the musical "West Side Story" as Maria.

audience's hearts as Maria in "The Sound of Music."

Grandmother and granddaughter recalled Johnson's attraction to music as a little girl.

"I'd always sit at the piano," she said. "I always just wanted to hear her play and just dance around."

Evans played as she described her granddaughter's growth.

"I was amazed the other night to hear this voice," she said. "It's hard to keep the tears from coming. I'm just really pleased. I know their grandfather would be, too."

In addition to establishing a musical foundation in their own children, the Beckers have touched thousands of lives, growing First United Methodist's youth program from a fledgling handful in the 1970s to hundreds

of kids singing. God's praises today — as taught by the generation before them.

"Mom's incredible," Stacey said. "Music is an outlet for her, for me. It is therapeutic."

"As with all of us, it's a connection — for my mom too, with her and my dad. ... It's very spiritual. Very emotional."

Spiritually in tune

And in the Evans house, the music plays on, reaching a wider

25 > 0

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HERE'S TO THE CLASS OF 2007

ATTENTION Parents, Grandparents, Friends! Share your pride and joy with the entire city! It seems like only yesterday you were sending them off to kindergarten...Now, they're off to embrace the future! Be sure to include your favorite graduates childhood or graduation picture in this special tribute to...
The Class of 2007!

Spotlight Your Grad in this photo tribute to the Class of 2007. Place your graduates photo along with fellow classmates in the special keepsake edition of the South Lyon Herald & Novi News on Thursday, June 14th. Deadline is May 31st for both papers. Limited space available. Don't wait to show how proud you are.

Spotlight Your Grad!

CLIP & MAIL

Mail picture along with payment of \$25 check or credit card to:
Daily Press & Argus/Class of 2007
202 W. Main Street, Brighton MI 48116
If you have any questions please call 517-548-7074.

School: _____
Student Name: _____
Your Name & Number: _____
Message (20 words or less, please): _____

Charge to my Visa or MC Acct. # _____
Exp. _____ Signature _____

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Marsha Nemon, Massage Therapist

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Where: Oaks Concrete Products
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Wixom, MI 48393
248-684-5004

CHANGING GEARS: Retirees stay busy with community service

Couple hosts baby clothing collection drive next weekend

By Maureen Johnson
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

"Make sure you have something to retire to."
When Bob Harner wrapped up his 35-year career with Ford in January, he heeded those words of advice from a fellow former automotive executive.
Harner, 58, had kept a frenzied pace, raising three children with his wife, Sandy, while logging 70-hour work weeks. Slamming on the brakes was not an option.
So, the engineer is plotting his new leisure time the way he traveled the career fast-track—carefully, with community. Next weekend, the couple is using their home as a drop-off site for the Lennon Center, a Dearborn Heights facility that helps pregnant women.

"After working at the fast pace of automotive, I could not see staying at home with my feet up," Harner said. "Things like this occurred to me, but I wasn't able to take much action due to a lack of time."
Like many driven, newly retired individuals, Harner will help fuel community service efforts with his professional planning experience.

A worthwhile mission

A neighbor introduced the Harners to the Lennon Center's mission of helping prepare pregnant women prior to the baby's birth and for the following five years.
"The facility offers counseling,

life enrichment classes, material goods and other services to clients age 11-46 in 52 cities in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Monroe counties. Center director Laura Dyer said the facility receives more than 1,000 calls per month from women in need of assistance.
Harner said he was impressed with the center's ongoing support for the mothers into their child's 10th year. A tour of the facility clinched the couple's conviction to back Lennon's pro-life cause.
"I said, 'We have a son, we can take it over there,'" Harner said.
"It's not what we do about those huge numbers. It's if you can make a difference with one. That's huge."
Through St. James Holy Family parish in Novi drives and other projects, the Harner family has a history of community service involvement. But they're sure those large numbers. It's if you can make a difference with one. That's huge."
Bob said, "It seems there are a lot of people out there who might be interested in something like that. What if we really organized that (retired) work force?"

A formidable force

Far from ready to park, career-minded men and women in and around the area are revving up second careers in philanthropy.
Municipal posts, non-profit committees and volunteer organizations host rosters of neighbors fresh off years in corporate careers.
In Harner's case, a life-threatening car crash one Christmas created his drive to return and redirect his passion. A Ford buy-out package in January ended him to take the step.
"That was a life-changing



Northville residents Sandy and Bob Harner will be conducting a clothing and baby items drive from their home to benefit the Lennon Center in Dearborn Heights.

Photo by JOHN HEDDER/NOVI NEWS

event for me," he said. "It was at that point it was apparent to me that God was keeping me around."
"It wasn't just to put in 70 hours at Ford. It must be more than that."
A Ford volunteer corps director advised Harner to take his time deciding how to spend his newfound free time. Executives fearing boredom often overcommit before they realize lots of golf fits the bill.
"That's partly why I wanted to retire, finding time for some of these other things," Harner said. "The kids are grown and gone, so this is a great opportunity."
Harner also hopes to find a larger role in his tradition of attending the Catholic Men's Conference held each March. And he's keeping his options open.
"That's something else I'll get more involved in," he said. "For me, it was all in a few split seconds — it occurred to me. I had a sense of these things I should be doing for a long time." Harner left his profession as

director of holy exterior engineering with a smile on his face, not sure where he was headed but certain of his intent.
"Now, I know what I want to spend my time doing — the men's conference, the Lennon Center," he said. "I'm still in the process of filling out my meeting calendar."
"You can get in a hurry when your life is 'full.'"
Maureen Johnson can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 102.

HOT TICKET: Catch a tune at the Novi Choralaires Spring Concert Saturday night

Victoria Michel
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102
vemitch@gnn.net

MY BULLETIN BOARD

Thursday, May 10, 2007
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9632

EVENTS

Novi Choralaires Spring Concert
DATE: Saturday
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Fuest Auditorium, Novi High School
DETAILS: The Choralaires will perform their spring concert, "Encore!" featuring songs we remember like to sing, and like to hear one more time. Tickets are \$12 per person and are available at the Novi Parks Department, Novi Senior Center, from any Choralaire member and at the door.
CONTACT: Dick Bayerl (248) 349-3267

Gardeners Road Trip
DATE: Monday
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Bordine's Nursery, Brighton
DETAILS: New plants; public invited, free.
CONTACT: (248) 349-1946 or mainwoods@wowway.com

Fox Run Continuous Learning Series
DATE: Monday
TIME: 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
LOCATION: Fireside Restaurant
DETAILS: Tom Collier presents "The Erie Canal and the Settlement of Michigan, 1820-1860," includes light lunch; reservations being taken; \$5.
CONTACT: Andrea Peragine (248) 668-8600

The Muses: Twelve Artists Interpret the Figure
TIME/DATE: 1-7 p.m. Thursdays, 4:30-8:30 p.m. Fridays, 12:30-4:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through May 20
LOCATION: Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady St.
DETAILS: Artists' work focuses on beauty of human form through drawing and painting. Exhibit features Karen Berrie, Peggy Brewer, Marge Chelstrop, Darla Fileta, Linda Logan, Barbara Eko Murphy, Kathleen Montgomery, Dominique Moroz, Anne Plustack, Linda Stems, Cail Salinsky, Mary Step.

Democrats of West Oakland County
DATE: Tuesday
TIME: 7-8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Souvlaki and Kabob Restaurant, 31150 Novi Road
DETAILS: Free Press columnist and talk show host Rochelle Riley to speak on key issues for today's democrats.
CONTACT: Jim Gaudoni (248) 624-7228

Wine Tasting Event
DATE: Thursday, May 31
TIME: 6-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Wise Guys

The Second City Alternative Production of "My Cousin's Comedy Show"
DATE: Today and Thursday, May 17
TIME: 10:30 p.m. following the mainstage production
LOCATION: The Second City Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi
DETAILS: Directed by Nate DuFort, the show is an hysterical multi-cultural look at living in the mid-west. Tickets are \$15 and available at the box office or by calling (248) 348-4448

Artrain USA "America's Hometown Art Museum"
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m.-6 p.m., June 8-12
LOCATION: 840 N. Pontiac Trail
DETAILS: Public can tour four galleries and Artists Studio outdoor vintage railcars. Exhibit includes "Native Views," recently designated an American Masterpiece by the National Endowment for the Arts. Children can participate in an exhibition "Scavenger Hunt." Demonstrating artist's original works for purchase. Admission free. Donations encouraged.
CONTACT: Cathy Behrens (248) 624-4847 or Train Travel, Inc. (248) 950-9440; also visit www.rail-road.com or www.ArtrainUSA.org.

Farmers Market
DATE: Every Wednesday through the end of October
TIME: 7 a.m.-1 p.m.
LOCATION: Walled Lake City Hall Field (between Decker and Pontiac Trail), Walled Lake
DETAILS: Vendor applications currently accepted; cost of booth is \$12 per day, special discounts are offered.
CONTACTS: Call Janell Joyce (248) 624-4847 for application and other information.

Comedy for a Cause
DATE: Saturday, June 23
TIME: 7 p.m. doors open; 8 p.m. show starts
LOCATION: Wise Guys

LOCATION: Mezza Mediterranean Grille, 42050 Grand River
DETAILS: Features 50 wines from area's selective distributors; hors d'oeuvres will be served; order wines at special pricing; purchase advance tickets at By Mezza for \$25 per person, \$30 at the door.
CONTACT: (248) 344-8992

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DATE: Saturday, June 23
TIME: 7 p.m. doors open; 8 p.m. show starts
LOCATION: Wise Guys

Comedy Club, 40380 Grand River Ave.
DETAILS: Benefit for Tomorrow's Child/Michigan SIDS; \$15 per person
CONTACT: (248) 919-3216 or Carol.sidsnews@comcast.net

No-No's Garden Walk Adventure II
DATE: Saturday, June 23
TIME: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
DETAILS: Lectures, artists, 6 home gardens; tickets \$10 at Gardenviews; free plant to first 250 ticketholders.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce
The Greater Novi Chamber is a nonprofit business association. We provide enjoyable networking opportunities for our members; act as a bridge between local business and government; help businesses stay aware of other members' services and products and the activities of their community. For more information, contact: Whitney McClellan, executive director (248) 347-4622 or wmgcc@aol.com. For event listings: www.greaternovitchamber.com.
Sales Leads Group
TIME/DATE: 8:30-9:30 a.m. today and Thursday, May 24
LOCATION: Hooper's of Novi
DETAILS: Serious networking on a weekly basis.
CONTACT: Michelle Winn

The Novi Theatres presents "Charlie and The Chocolate Factory" 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 11 and 18 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 12 and 20 2 p.m. Sunday, May 13 and 14 Novi Civic Center Stage
Tickets are on sale now at the Novi Civic Center Parks and Recreation desk. \$15 to \$18. 10 tickets. They are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Student discounts are available. For more information call (248) 347-0400.

(248) 835-3754
Arts Round Table
TIME/DATE: 5:30 p.m. Tuesday
LOCATION: MIXX Lounge
DETAILS: Join this eclectic group to discuss art and culture in the area. No charge.
Neighborhood Round Table
TIME/DATE: 3 p.m. Thursday, May 17
LOCATION: Courtyard by Marriott
DETAILS: Come and brainstorm about bringing more conventions and visitors to the area and create a new name for the group. The group will meet on the second Thursday of every month.
B2B Breakfast
TIME/DATE: 7:45 a.m. Wednesday
LOCATION: Konica Minolta, 46921 Enterprise Ct.
DETAILS: For members \$5, non-members \$10.
After Hours at Andiamo
TIME/DATE: 5-7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 17
LOCATION: Andiamo Round Table Group. Information provided regarding identity theft, 401k, insurance and more. For continued on 16

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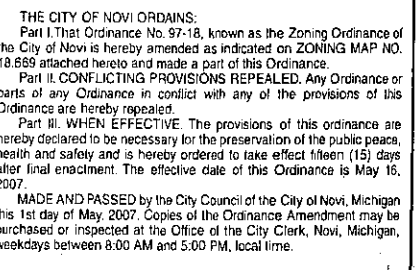
real estate auctions Beginning Mon, May 14th
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Opening bids from \$1,000
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MAY 1ST, 2007 BID SPECIFICATIONS CCTV EQUIPMENT/INSTALLATION HOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Howell Public Schools is currently soliciting proposals for a company to provide and install a CCTV system for Parker High School. Please go to www.howellschools.org to obtain a bid packet.
The deadline for sealed bids is May 22nd, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the following location:
Howell Public Schools District Operations
Attn: Paul Pominville
411 N. Highland Way
Howell, MI 48843
Bid opening will take place at that time.
Howell Public Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids; to waive any defects, irregularities in any bid; and to make the award in any manner deemed in the best interest of the school district. Inquiries should be directed via e-mail to:
Mr. Paul Pominville
Paul@HowellSchools.com
Director of Technology
(516)13 DAILY & 5-10-07 NN 352401

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CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ENACTMENT ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18.669
THE CITY OF NOVI ORDAINS:
Part I That Ordinance No. 97-18, known as the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Novi is hereby amended as indicated on ZONING MAP NO. 18.669 attached hereto and made a part of this Ordinance.
Part II CONFLICTING PROVISIONS REPEALED. Any Ordinance or parts of any Ordinance in conflict with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.
Part III. WHEN EFFECTIVE. The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety and is hereby ordered to take effect fifteen (15) days after final enactment. The effective date of this Ordinance is May 16, 2007.
MADE AND PASSED BY the City Council of the City of Novi, Michigan this 1st day of May, 2007. Copies of the Ordinance Amendment may be purchased or inspected at the Office of the City Clerk, Novi, Michigan, weekdays between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, local time.



MARYANNE CORNELIUS
CITY CLERK
(5-10-07 NN 352837)

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Offer good on selected models installed between April 15-June 30, 2007.

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Maximum rebate of \$1500 on up to \$10,000 in qualifying HVAC equipment through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.
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2007 Ann Arbor Antiques Market
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Sunday, May 20 • 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
\$6.00 Admission ~ Free Parking ~
2007 Season Schedule:
• Sun., June 17
• Sat. - Sun., July 14-15
• Sun., Aug. 19
• Sat. - Sun., Sept. 15-16
• Sun., Oct. 21
• Sun., Nov. 4
Special May Exhibit: "Antiques in the Garden" Made possible by Lodi Farms Nursery, 2880 S. Wagner Road, Ann Arbor
Visit our Web Site at www.annaborantiquesmarket.com
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BIG BAND SOUNDS
Sunday, May 13, 2007 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at Brighton Gardens of Northville
It's a beautiful time of the year to visit Sunrise Senior Living. Put your dancing shoes on as we celebrate the season with live music from the Glen Miller Big Band era as you mingle with residents and team members. Light refreshments will be served.
Take an opportunity to tour our community and learn more about the distinctive services, amenities, programs and events we offer. Come visit us at Sunrise Senior Living and see what we do to make our communities places that seniors call home.
Don't miss a beat - RSVP to 734-420-7917 today!
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Brighton Gardens of Northville 734-420-7917 15870 Haggerty Road
Sunrise of Northville 734-420-4000 16100 Haggerty Road
Assisted Living • Alzheimer's Care
For more information and a FREE online newsletter, visit www.sunriseseniorliving.com

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Our Garage, Your Sale
FREE use of our units for 3 days (as availability lasts)
2 days to Organize Your Sale, 5 Hours to Sell
Estate Self Storage, Novi Rd. Between 8-9 Mile
Mini Garage Sale Sat. May 26th, 9am to 2pm
Call for details - 248-349-1673
Special event parking available at Novi Bowl.
See Novi Bowl's new lounge & receive a coupon for a FREE game of bowling
This event will be combined with our Regular Auction of Discontinued Units at 10:00 a.m.

To rezone a part of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 9, T.1N., R.8E., City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, being part of parcel 22-09-451-013 more particularly described as follows:
Beginning at a point located N87°03'04"E, 175.00 feet along the South line of Section 9 (nominal C/L of Twelve Mile Road) and N03°08'19"W, 102.00 feet and S87°03'04"W, 89.50 feet and N03°08'19"W, 554.00 feet along the East right-of-way line of West Park Drive and N87°03'04"E, 424.01 feet from the South 1/4 corner of Section 9; thence continuing N87°03'04"E, 158.85 feet; thence S03°08'19"E, 228.94 feet; thence S87°03'04"W, 158.85 feet; thence N03°08'19"W, 228.94 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 0.83 acres.
FROM: I-2 GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO: I-1 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT
ORDINANCE NO. 18.669
ZONING MAP AMENDMENT NO. 669
CITY OF NOVI, MICHIGAN
DAVID B. LANDRY, MAYOR
MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK
(5-10-07 NN 353638)

continued from 15

members \$10, non-members \$15.

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce

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

CONTACT: (248) 628-2826
Evening Connection
TIME/DATE: 5:30-7:30 p.m., today

LOCATION: Pure Salon and Day Spa, 39800 W. 14 Mile, Commerce Township
DETAILS: Purchase a special Mother's Day surprise.

Novi Chamber of Commerce

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

Wild West Casino Night
DATE: Saturday, May 19
TIME: 6-10 p.m.
LOCATION: Lucky Strike Lanes, Fountain Walk

DETAILS: Enjoy a night of friends, fun, food, poker, silent auction and casino games. This is a great opportunity to get exposure for your company. Be a sponsor or donate a prize.
Membership Luncheon
DATE: Thursday, June 7
TIME: 11:30 a.m. registration, noon lunch
LOCATION: Carrabba's Italian Restaurant

ing techniques that can be used at home or on the job to help reduce stress; class held in reflection space, Cancer Center.

Yoga Classes

TIME/DATE: 12:30-1:15 p.m. Monday (for backs), 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday (for strength & endurance), 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Wednesday (for backs), 12:30-1:30 p.m. Friday (for backs)
DETAILS: The cost is \$10 for walk-in; \$80 for 10-class card; \$70 for seven-week evening session. Registration required.

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

Oakland Physical Therapy, PC

LOCATION: 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 380-3550
Tennis Elbow
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 30

DETAILS: Lecture and demonstration for those with arthritis interested in starting an exercise program and those currently involved in an exercise program.

Line Dancing

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

SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT

Novi City Council Meeting

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

Board of Education Meeting

DATE: Thursday, June 7
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, June 5
TIME: 6 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

Blood Drive

DATE: Friday
TIME: 1-7 p.m.
LOCATION: Village Oaks Elementary, 23333 Willowbrook

Novi High School Band Bottle Drive

TIME/DATE: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday
DETAILS: Students to collect returnables throughout the community.
CONTACT: Patti Kochyan (248) 348-5135

Novi High School Class of 2007 Scrapbooking Fundraiser for Senior All Night Party

TIME/DATE: 3-11 p.m. Friday, May 18
LOCATION: Novi High School cafeteria, 24062 Talt Road
DETAILS: Tickets are \$20 and include table space, snacks, pizza, beverages and scrapbooking demonstrations.
CONTACT: Michelle at (248) 471-7929

Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southwest Garden Sale

DATE: Saturday through May 20
SCHEDULE: 7:45-9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday and Sunday
LOCATION: 1000 Beck Road, Wixom
DETAILS: The Garden Center will offer annuals, perennials, hanging baskets and much more.

Jeanna Clarke Summer Teen Center

DATE: Monday thru Thursday, June 18-July 27
TIME: noon-5:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Cafeteria at Novi



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Balancing carefully on her skates, Julia Kaji, 5, gets a hand from instructor Marianne Doengels at the Novi Ice Arena. The ice arena was prepping for an upcoming Ice Show on the weekend of April 28th.

High School, 24062 Talt Road
DETAILS: Summer fun for teens going into 6th-8th grades; wave pool, movies, bowling, music, video games, laser tag, field trips, Detroit Tigers, look-in, tournaments, sports, Cedar Pointe.

Walled Lake City Library
LOCATION: 1499 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake
CONTACT: (248) 524-3772
Evening Story Hour
TIME/DATE: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays

DETAILS: Drop-in story time is for children ages 3-5.
Toddler Time
TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday
DETAILS: Children ages 2-3 are invited for a story hour.

eBay Workshop
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Tuesday
DETAILS: Learn how to buy and sell on eBay in this introductory workshop presented by Richard Truax; free and open to public.
CONTACT: (248) 348-0720

Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
Story Times
DATE: Session #5 through Friday, May 18.
DETAILS: No registration needed. Brochure listing days and times of drop-in story time sessions available in library.
Closed Sunday, May 13.
Happy Mother's Day!
Novi Knitters
DATE: Monday
TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.
DETAILS: Knitters of all levels welcome to drop in. Group meets in the Youth area.

Starlight Story Time
DATE: Tuesday
TIME: 7-7:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Preschoolers and their parents invited to enjoy bedtime stories. Registration not required.

Page Turners
DATE: Wednesday
TIME: 4:30-5:15 p.m.
DETAILS: Fifth and sixth grade group to discuss "Crazy Lady," by Jane Conly.

Library Board Meeting
DATE: Wednesday
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: Community members welcome. Broadcast live on channel 13.

Snack Tales
DATE: Monday, May 21
TIME: 7-7:45 p.m.
DETAILS: Grades K-3 can enjoy the story and make a related edible treat; registration requested.

ESL Cafe
TIME/DATE: 3:30 p.m. Thursdays
DETAILS: Join us for coffee and conversation. Improve your English speaking skills by speaking with people from different countries who are trying to improve their English. There are no tests and it is free. An instructor will help the group.
CONTACT: Karin at the Information Desk

Novi Senior Center
Located in the Meadowbrook Commons Senior Complex, 25075 Meadowbrook Road

Monday
8:45 a.m.: Men's Golf League
9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Dupli. Bridge
1 p.m.: Bingo

Tuesday
8:30 a.m.: Panera Bread
9-11 a.m.: Line Dance-Intermediate class
10 a.m.: Asian Pacific
10:30-11:30 a.m.: Bookmobile
11 a.m.: Computer Lab
noon: Lunch
12:30-3 p.m.: Focus Hope (date change)

Wednesday
9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
9:15 a.m.: Women's Golf League
10 a.m.: Body Recall
11 a.m.: Take Off Pounds Sensibly and Blood Pressure
11 a.m.: Blood Pressure
12:30 p.m.: Pen Pal Meeting
1-3 p.m.: Clogging Club
1-3 p.m.: Game Day

Thursday
9 a.m.: Mixed Golf League
9-11 a.m.: "Line Dance-Int."
11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: "Line Dance-Beg."
noon: Lunch
12:15 p.m.: Contract Bridge
1-30-3:30 p.m.: Writing Workshop II
2:30-3:30 p.m.: Line Dance
*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Rd. Phone (248) 347-0414.
Message: Call for an appointment.

Friday
9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Clogging-Beginner/Easy/Int.
7:30 p.m.: "Clogging Club"

Saturday
8:45 a.m.: Men's Golf League
9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Pinochle
1:30 p.m.: Mother's Day Party (advance ticket required)

Sunday
9 a.m.: Men's Golf League
9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Pinochle
1:30 p.m.: Mother's Day Party (advance ticket required)

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1:30 p.m.: Mother's Day Party (advance ticket required)

able. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Lisa Molloy (248) 334-3595

Bereavement Support Group

DATE: Third Tuesday of each month
TIME: 7:30-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: A clergy from the area will be lead in prayer and reflection to help those recover from the loss of a loved one. All are welcome and there is no fee.
CONTACT: Michael M. Meyer, Doctorate of Ministry

Neighborhood Baby-sitting Co-op

DETAILS: Using the co-op, you and your children can make friends and get what you need accomplished without the little ones in tow. Also enjoy a mom's night out and other social events.
CONTACT: Sue Tracz (248) 380-0998.

Friendship Circle

DATE: Second Thursday of each month
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: St. James Catholic Church, 46325 10 Mile Road, between Talt and Beck Road
DETAILS: Social group for all widows and widowers.
CONTACT: Norbat Monson (248) 851-6730, Florence Voight (248) 477-3032 or Joy Iovaldi (248) 348-9138 or joyiovaldi@earthlink.net

MOMS Club of Novi

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

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples

DATES: Second Thursday of each month
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Witch's Hat Depot, 300 Dorothy St., South Lyon.
DETAILS: This group provides information, support and social activities for mothers of multiple birth children and their families. Mothers of multiples living in and around the Kensington Valley school conference are all welcome.
CONTACT: (248) 437-5496 for more information.

Women's Prayer Support

DATE: Saturday
TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 48329 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
DETAILS: Come for encouragement, help, hopes and prayer. Drop-in for five minutes or longer.
CONTACT: Nancy or Susan (248) 926-8332 or harvestfellowship@comcast.net

Breast Cancer Support Group

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

Crohn's & Colitis Support Group

DATES: First and third Wednesday of each month
LOCATION: Providence Park Hospital and Medical Center
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
DETAILS: Enter facility through southeast entrance. Meeting in Conference Room A, immediately to the left.
CONTACT: Al Riggs (313) 805-7905 or Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (888) 737-2322.

Oak Pointe

LOCATION: 50200 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 912-0043 or visit www.oakpointe.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

St. James Catholic

LOCATION: 46325 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-7778
Mass Schedule
TIME/DAY: 8, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday, 9 a.m. Monday-Tuesday, 7 p.m. Wednesday, 5 p.m. Saturday

Novi United Methodist

LOCATION: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-2652
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:45 a.m.
Rummage & Bake Sale
DATE: Friday-Saturday

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Chapter

TIME/DAYS: Wednesdays 11 a.m. weigh-in; 11:30 a.m. meeting
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi
DETAILS: \$24 per annual membership includes handbook; \$1 per meeting. New members welcome.
CONTACT: Rebecca Boyke (248) 305-8846

FAITH

Meadowbrook Congregational

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

First Baptist Church of Novi

LOCATION: 43301 W. 11 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-3647 or www.firstbaptistchurchofnovi.org
Sunday Schedule
Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m.
Family Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible Study: 6 p.m.
Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m., fourth Sunday of every month.

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross

LOCATION: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 427-1175 or www.churchoftheholycross.com
Sunday Worship
TIME: 7:45 and 10 a.m.
Sunday School
TIME: 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship Center for ages 3-7; 10 a.m. All Ages Lunch Hour
TIME/DAY: 12-10:12:50 p.m. Wednesday
DETAILS: The service will include scripture and Holy Communion.
Youth Worship
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. second and fourth Sunday of every month
DETAILS: All youth welcome.

The Baha'i Faith

CONTACT: (248) 473-0355 or visit www.us.bahai.org
Devotional Gathering
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. last Saturday of every month
LOCATION: 23603 Ripple Creek St., Novi
DETAILS: This is a gathering focusing on prayers for peace. People of all faiths are welcome.

First Presbyterian Church of Northville

LOCATION: 200 E. Main St.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0911
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:30 and 11 a.m.
Single People Ministries
DETAILS: Thursday evenings; 7:30 p.m. social time; 7:45 p.m. opening; 8-9 p.m. program; \$5
CONTACT: (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singlepeople.org
Tonight: "Understanding and Improving Credit Scores," with Beth Troost; Cards and Games, 8 p.m.
May 17: "Online Dating: What You Need to Know," with Tara Kachaturoff; Cards and Games, 8 p.m.
May 24: "Health and Wellness," with Patrick J. Olfman, Ph.D.
"The Power that Made the Body Heals the Body," with Dr. Patricia L. Chelensky, D.C.; "Looking at Foods," with Patrick J. Olfman, Ph.D.
May 31: "Picnic & Light & Lively Concert," featuring Ronnie "J." Requesting donation of \$10 for picnic and concert; \$5 for concert.

Holy Family

LOCATION: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org
Mass Schedule
TIME/DAY: 7:30, 8:45, and 10:30 a.m.; 12:15 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m. Wednesday-Friday, 5 p.m. Saturday
Bible Study
DATE: Thursdays
TIME: 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.
DETAILS: Join the group for prayer, sharing, and discussion of the Sunday scripture readings.
CONTACT: Maria (248) 349-8847 or e-mail at sprinkwalk-e001@aol.com

Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting

DATE: Last Wednesday of each month
TIME: 10-11 a.m.
DETAILS: This free informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Child care is available. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Lisa Molloy (248) 334-3595

St. John Lutheran

LOCATION: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills
CONTACT: (248) 474-0584 or visit www.stjohn-lutheran.com
Sunday Worship
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday School
TIME: 10:15 a.m.

St. John Lutheran

LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org

First United Methodist of Northville

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

Crosspointe Meadows

LOCATION: Meadowbrook Elementary School, 23220 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 427-2700, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9 and 10:30 a.m.

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'i Faith

CONTACT: (248) 473-0355 or visit www.us.bahai.org
Devotional Gathering
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. last Saturday of every month
LOCATION: 23603 Ripple Creek St., Novi
DETAILS: This is a gathering focusing on prayers for peace. People of all faiths are welcome.

First Presbyterian Church of Northville

LOCATION: 200 E. Main St.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0911
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:30 and 11 a.m.
Single People Ministries
DETAILS: Thursday evenings; 7:30 p.m. social time; 7:45 p.m. opening; 8-9 p.m. program; \$5
CONTACT: (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singlepeople.org
Tonight: "Understanding and Improving Credit Scores," with Beth Troost; Cards and Games, 8 p.m.
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"The Power that Made the Body Heals the Body," with Dr. Patricia L. Chelensky, D.C.; "Looking at Foods," with Patrick J. Olfman, Ph.D.
May 31: "Picnic & Light & Lively Concert," featuring Ronnie "J." Requesting donation of \$10 for picnic and concert; \$5 for concert.

Holy Family

LOCATION: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org
Mass Schedule
TIME/DAY: 7:30, 8:45, and 10:30 a.m.; 12:15 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m. Wednesday-Friday, 5 p.m. Saturday
Bible Study
DATE: Thursdays
TIME: 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.
DETAILS: Join the group for prayer, sharing, and discussion of the Sunday scripture readings.
CONTACT: Maria (248) 349-8847 or e-mail at sprinkwalk-e001@aol.com

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DATE: Last Wednesday of each month
TIME: 10-11 a.m.
DETAILS: This free informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Child care is available. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Lisa Molloy (248) 334-3595

St. John Lutheran

LOCATION: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills
CONTACT: (248) 474-0584 or visit www.stjohn-lutheran.com
Sunday Worship
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday School
TIME: 10:15 a.m.

St. John Lutheran

LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org

Sunday Worship

TIME: 9, 10:30 a.m.
Rummage Sale
TIME/DATE: 9 a.m.-6 p.m., today; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday; Bag Sale 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday
Children's Ark Childcare Open House
DATE: Saturday

TALK ABOUT IT: Join in discussing our stories online via Story Chat at novinews.com

Victoria Mitchell
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102
vmitchell@gannett.com

MY OPINION

Thursday, May 10, 2007
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Novi News

Victoria Mitchell
EDITOR
Richard Parberg
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Rich Hamlett
PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER
Grace Perez Perry
GENERAL MANAGER

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

IN OUR OPINION:

Thank you, mom!

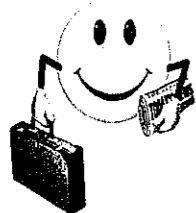
Mothers have been around for ... well, forever. But we've only been honoring them officially since 1914. That's when Congress designated the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

But you don't need an official act by politicians to celebrate these wonderful women, who numbered 80.5 million in this country alone in 2001.

Take time to really think about all the things your mother did for you. A little stunned, are you? And if you have children, you realize even more what a tremendous responsibility and commitment the title of mom carries.

If your fortunate enough to still have her, don't let Sunday slip by without recognizing your mother. Spend the day with her, take her out to eat, buy her flowers or just call her on the phone. She deserves as much (and a whole lot more).

Send us your news



Do you have a new hire at your business? Are you gearing up for your grand opening? Is your business heading in an exciting new direction, celebrating an anniversary or moving? If so, we want to know.

What do you think?

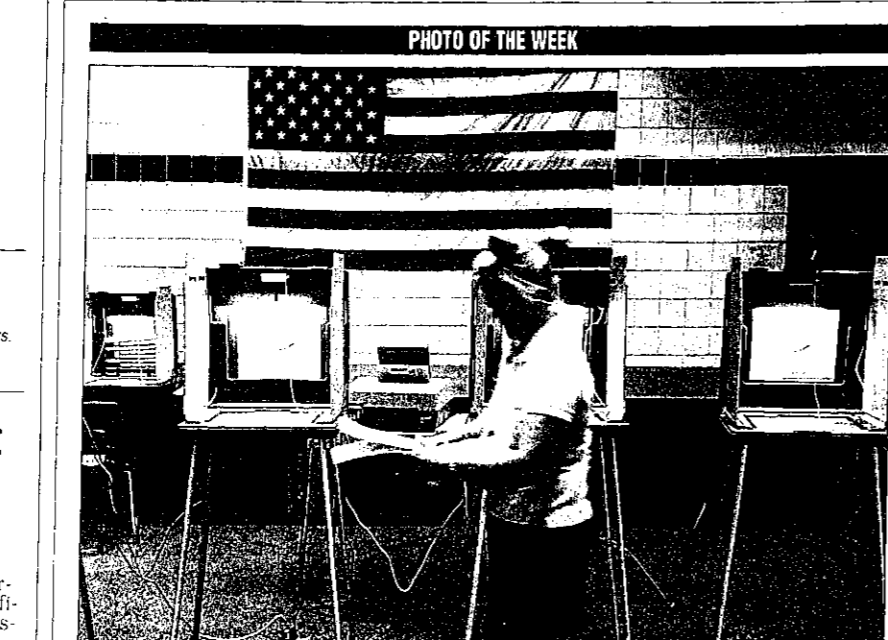
We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

Mail: Novi News, Letters to the Editor, 104 W. Main Street, Suite 101, Northville, MI 48167
Fax: (248) 349-9832
E-mail: cstone@gannett.com
Deadline: Letters must be received by noon on Tuesday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Spring graduation is here: Time to ensure safety for our youth

With spring graduation upon us, the Novi Police Department is dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of all young people throughout our community. The men and women of the Novi Police Department are committed to forming proactive partnerships with registrars throughout our fine city to ensure the well-being of Novi youth. It is important that parents and young people understand the ramifications and deadly consequences that can come from underage alcohol consumption.

Graduating from high school is a milestone in your child's life and signifies a major step toward the privileges and responsibilities of adulthood. All of us at the Novi Police Department realize that this is a joyous time in your senior's life, and we want it to be the happiest occasion possible. Once again this year, the Novi Police Department is taking part



Ready to Vote
Tricia Dooley prepares to cast her ballot at Novi's Precinct No. 12 around noon last Tuesday.

LETTERS

Stop The Fliers

This letter is in response to the blue flier I received in my mailbox on Monday, May 7, just one day before the school election. The flier conveniently did not indicate the sources and was also placed in my mailbox without going through the U.S. Postal Service, a federal offense. The flier, which encourages voters to vote "No" on the Novi School Board, is filled with misinformation about the consequences for non-compliance if the bond is passed. For example, "Note: At the current declining rate of Novi Elementary School student enrollments, one of these three schools will close in the next 10 years." I'm curious to know where I can buy one of these crystal balls that apparently can forecast the future with such definite accuracy, regarding the statement that the bulk of the building improvement money would result in ... Full Basketball court gyms for three schools (8-4; Parkview is the worst, when the project is here they will have two gymnasiums.) This could not be further from the truth. Parkview would have a separate gym and cafeteria, not two gyms. Right now, one space is shared for both cafeteria and gym, and the other stage in this room. Please get your facts straight before you anonymously and illegally attempt to sway voters in a misguided direction.

Sue Choma
Novi

Keep Them Cold

Just when it seems like the politicians of this state have reached the height of their stupidity, they somehow manage to raise it for a few days. After the 19th of August that was held in California a month or so ago, I sort of assumed that they would actually lay low, and lick their wounds for a while, and sort of let things cool down a bit. Silly me. There is some sort of week-long public pension seminar being held here this month in Hawaii and this junk was just too good for our public officials to pass on. Eighty of them signed up to attend (at taxpayer expense of course) which is more than twice the number of the next highest state.

Chuck Tindall
Novi

Republican Rants

Last week's letter from Chuck Tindall is just another one of his baseless anti-Republican rants. Our Republican leaders should resist tax increases because there is more work to be done on the spending side of the ledger. Michigan is one of four states where more adults than children are in the State Children's Health Program. This is in addition to Michigan's open-ended welfare policy, the ending of which was vetoed by Gov. Granholm in 2005.

Michelle Sankovic/Cathy Schramm
Class of 2007 SAMP CO-Chairs

Time to Contribute

The Parent Committee for the Class of 2007 Senior all night sure August planning this wonderful evening for all graduating seniors from Novi High School. The party is orchestrated by the parents and the first wave of funding for the party comes from the students themselves when they purchase \$50 tickets during registration to attend the end-of-year party. The party takes place

Scott Horsburgh
Novi

JOIN IN: Discuss our stories online via Story Chat at novinews.com

Victoria Mitchell
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102
vmitchell@gannett.com

COMMENTARY

Thursday, May 10, 2007
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Business Tax Plan Gains Momentum

Now here's a little good news for a change — a glimpse of what can happen when the political system works and politicians rise out of their ideological trenches to try and do what's right.

This came last week, after months of intense partisan squabbling about Michigan's business tax structure. Finally, we saw the beginnings of a breakthrough that could lead to an agreement.

Those with long memories will recall that last year, a petition drive launched by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson led to the repeal of the Single Business Tax, the state's main levy on business, a tax that brings in around \$2 billion annually.

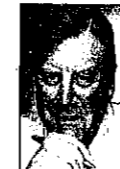
But the legislature abolished it without putting anything in its place, effective at the end of this year. In a state already facing billion-dollar deficits for both this fiscal year and the next, that threatened to add enormously to an already daunting financial crisis.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm's early ideas for replacing the SBT were declared dead upon arrival, and much of this year has been consumed by complicated arguments about what to do about it.

These arguments involved not only the political parties and the governor's office, but her appointed state treasurer, Robert Tuttle.

Under the leadership of Speaker Andy Dillon, D-Redford, and tax committee chairman Steve Bleda, D-Warren, House Democrats proposed a tax package that would fully replace SBT revenue.

The money would come from taxing a combination of business income and net worth, provide around \$900 million in personal property tax relief and offer some \$700 million in new tax credits for companies that invest in Michigan.



About Phil Power

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan, and was a regent of the University of Michigan from 1987 to 1989. He is also president and founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank. These opinions and others expressed in his columns are his own and do not in any way represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. Phil would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@cmnet.com.

environment was going to be like.

Jim Epollito, CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, reported that up to \$5 billion in potential investment here was being held hostage until it was known just what Michigan's business tax structure would be.

Moreover, there is even less time left than might appear. Officials at the state treasury began noting that it would take at least six months to develop the forms and procedures needed to actually collect whatever tax the legislature agreed on.

So, as the calendar moved forward into May, everybody began to recognize that time was running out. Enter three groups not usually noted for working closely together: The powerful Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the Michigan House of Representatives, and the governor's office, and her appointed state treasurer, Robert Tuttle.

Under the leadership of Speaker Andy Dillon, D-Redford, and tax committee chairman Steve Bleda, D-Warren, House Democrats proposed a tax package that would fully replace SBT revenue.

The money would come from taxing a combination of business income and net worth, provide around \$900 million in personal property tax relief and offer some \$700 million in new tax credits for companies that invest in Michigan.

A lot of interested people said they liked the package. Capital intensive manufacturers, who dislike the personal property tax more than the SBT, were happy. Local government folks were relieved that reduction of the personal property tax wouldn't hurt their revenue stream. Major corporations, business groups like the Michigan Manufacturers Association, organized labor and universities all had something nice to say.

Most important was the state Chamber of Commerce, which said it was "intrigued" with much of the plan. Tricia Kinley, the chamber's tax expert, praised features that would give businesses incentives to expand in Michigan. At that point, momentum for a bipartisan, broadly acceptable business tax plan began to build.

When I talked to Rich Studley, executive vice president of the Chamber late last week, he was cautiously optimistic. "Of course, there will be some political maneuvering and posturing," he said, "but we want to play a constructive role in this. This is not a political issue, but a public policy issue."

The chamber has, he said, pulled together more than 100 business leaders around the state, surveyed business tax conditions in other states, and held meetings after meeting of its tax committee over the past year. "Having supported SBT repeal, we felt an ethical obligation to play a

constructive role in the process."

Studley also praised State Treasurer Robert Tuttle. "I talked with Klein, who is a smart and sensible guy. He made it clear that we really had to have some time of detailed act passed in time for Treasury to work out how to collect it. He was very responsive," Studley concluded. "If we miss the deadline for passing a business tax, Michigan will look like some kind of banana republic."

Of course, given a package as complicated as this, there will be no end of debates as the process moves forward; both the House and the Senate passed differing plans last week by largely straight party-line votes. The Senate plan gives businesses a \$600 million tax cut, and a lot of work will have to be done to mold the plans together. But the fact that there is, at long last, momentum to get something done is an important sign that lawmakers and interest groups can come together and do the right thing.

This was an example of how Michigan should work and a cautionary tale about what hasn't worked in times past.

Now imagine what would happen if people actually got together and earnestly tried to find common ground on issues like prison spending, higher education, and the current budget deficit.

We might even have a state that worked once again.

Adventures in Black and White

I have always been drawn to loud, bright photographs. They demand to be seen. But black and white photography is a horse of another color. It doesn't jump out and grab me around the neck and scream, "look at me, look at me!"

Black and White uses a softer seduction. It takes me by the hand slowly, inviting me to look closer into its focus. The relationship between artist and viewer seems more profound in this medium and therefore, more revealing.

And since the DIA is currently showing the works of the great Ansel Adams, until May 27, I thought I'd go down there for a little romance.

At the exhibit, I walked from one breathtaking image to the next, being awestruck by both Adams' subjects and the sharp contrast of light and dark, in which he is known. His famous works of Yosemite National Park and the American wilderness were displayed, of course, but it was the lesser known images that drew me in. A lonely farm house at the end of a country lane would have me standing and staring for almost an eternity, wanting so badly to walk down that road and into the old farm house.

Perhaps I'd sit down at the kitchen table and have a cup of muddy coffee and share warm biscuits with the grandmother who lived there (assuming there was a grandmother who lived there). Sometimes I like not knowing the facts of a photograph. This gives my imagination a chance to

play. I was really enjoying this black and white rendezvous and didn't want it to end. So, the next day I seized the opportunity to meet fine arts photographer Monte Nagler at his home in Farmington Hills. Monte explained that he once took a workshop taught by none other than Ansel Adams. It was this class that would change his life forever. He promptly sold his two muffer shops and began a successful career in photography, his passion. "Ansel brought an art to black and white photography in a way that made it possible for photographers like myself to make a living."

Adorning the walls of Nagler's home is a museum-like collection of both his own works and those of famous photographers who preceded him. Monte captures moods and subjects very similar to the works of Adams. But it was his latest infrared images that hijacked my attention. The softness of these brown and white photographs captures an intrigue all its own.

At last, my adventure in this fascinating medium was complete. For now, anyway. Monte Nagler will be showing his works at Laurel Park Place from May 12-27. There, you can view and purchase his black and whites as well as his infrareds, one of which will probably find its way to my house. Monte will be at the show everyday from 3 until 9pm. You can also find his works at the Tom James Gallery in downtown Northville. Visit his website at montenagler.com. Fill your heart with art.

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LET'S TALK WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN GEMOLOGIST

THE KISSING DIAMONDS RING
If you are looking for a unique and romantic engagement ring that symbolizes the bond between two life-time partners, you cannot do better than to select a "kissing diamonds" ring. Rings of this type feature two diamonds that touch at their cullets, which are the points at the bottom of each diamond's pavilion. So delicate is this intimate meeting between the exquisite tapered ends of each diamond that they seem to be two lips embraced in a kiss. Seldom is love so eloquently articulated in an artifact form of fine jewelry. The kissing diamonds ring leaves no doubt as to its intentions as a symbolic reminder that love is sealed with a kiss. As the ultimate symbol of romance, diamonds say "I love you" with engagement rings and "I love you more than ever" with anniversary rings. Diamonds celebrate special private moments, birthdays, and holidays. What are you trying to say? We'll help take the love you're trying to say! We'll help take the love you're trying to say! We'll help take the love you're trying to say!

Physical Therapy Rehabilitation Update
by Dennis Engerer, P.T.
A SUMMER CAUTION
After a season of relative inactivity, many people are lured by warmer temperatures to indulge their passion for playing tennis or joining a softball league. While this is all well and good, summer athletes should temper their enthusiasm by slowly acclimating their muscles and tendons to the rigors of their favorite sports. Hitting a tennis ball and throwing a softball are strenuous and repetitive movements that place a lot of stress on tendons, which are the tissues that connect muscle to bone. Prolonged stress can lead to tendinitis, or inflammation of the tendon. Symptoms usually include tenderness and pain at the rest. Rest is vital to helping tendinitis heal, which is why prevention is so important. When you require rehabilitative care after a sports injury or surgery, contact Northville Physical Rehabilitation P.C. We are dedicated to providing quality care to insure the best possible result for each patient. 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LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO? Check out our senior calendar of events on page 16A.

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MY SENIOR LIFE

Thursday, May 10, 2007
www.novnews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Taking a stroll down memory lane

By Tracy Mishler
NEWS SPECIAL WRITER

Ruben Katz wouldn't call it a stroll down memory lane, but rather his life.

The 90-year-old Novi resident recently wrote the book, "My Book, My Life," a collection of short stories describing events throughout his life, growing up and raising a family in Michigan.

"I've always loved reading and writing," Katz said. "I have a knack for writing and you wouldn't believe how many books I've read in my lifetime."

Published by Tate Publishing in December, "My Book, My Life" is 248 pages and cost Katz \$6,000 before hitting the shelves.

Katz said he spent about \$4,000 to have his book published, \$1,000 to edit and the rest was spent on supplies and materials, including a new computer.

"It was worth it," he said. "I haven't seen much money yet. But I've sold 52 books."

In the beginning

"My Book, My Life" starts out with the story of Katz meeting the love of his life, Bessie.

"That was the purpose for writing this book," he said. "I wanted to tell everyone what a wonderful woman my wife was. I had to start some place."

Katz said he also bases his book

on his life before he met Bessie, who passed away in 2004 at the age of 87.

"I was born Jan. 20, 1917," he said. "I had to talk about what happened to me from 1917 on."

Katz goes on in his book, in 44 chapters, talking about working in a tool and die shop, his son's car, a family trip to California and their special Saturdays.

"You have to read it to understand it," he said. "I did a lot of crazy things in my lifetime."

Moment in the spotlight

Katz will attend his first book signing at 2 p.m. May 12 at Barnes and Noble in West Bloomfield, where his book is available for \$14.99.

"My Book, My Life" can also be found at Borders Books and at Tate Publishing's Web site, tatepublishing.com.

Katz said he will not stop at his first book, he currently has three more manuscripts in the works.

"I think everyone should write something in their life," he said. "You've done so much all your life, you have to write something."

Katz said he is proud of his first book, and he knows his wife, Bessie, is proud of him, too.

"She was my best friend," he said. "I think of her everyday, and I go see her every month."

Tracy Mishler is a freelance reporter with the Novi News.

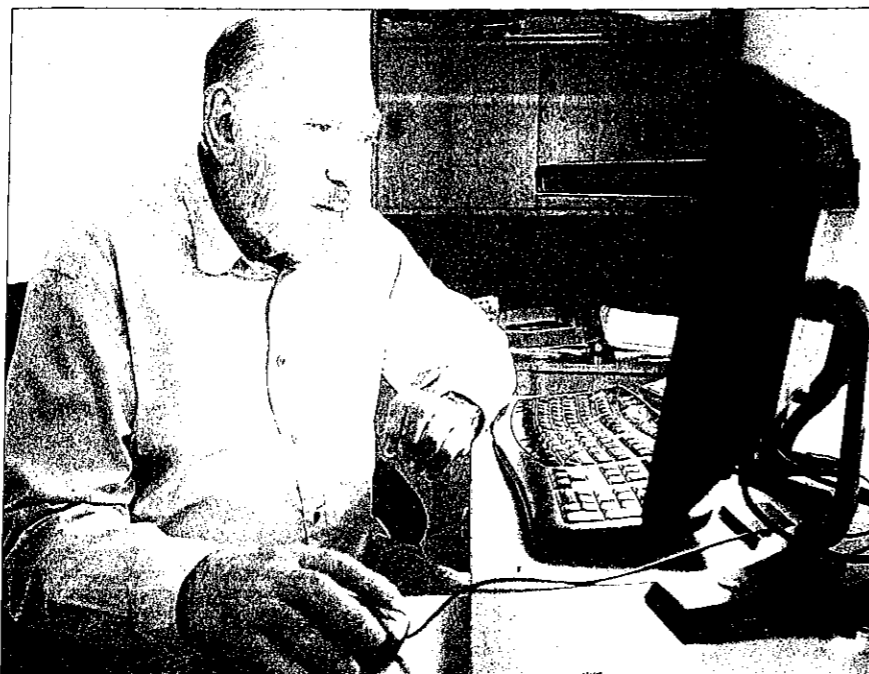


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi resident Ruben Katz, 90, recently completed his memoirs titled "My Book, My Life" in which he talks about growing up in the Detroit area during the Depression, meeting and marrying his wife, Bessie, and working for the car companies.

TALK ABOUT IT: Join in discussing our stories online via **Story Chat** at novnews.com

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MY HEALTHY LIVING

Thursday, May 10, 2007
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Honor in health care

By Tracy Mishler
NEWS SPECIAL WRITER

Janice Richmond knew what her calling was after undergoing open-heart surgery at the tender age of 12.

Now, as an emergency room registered nurse at Providence Hospital in Novi, Richmond continues helping people was called her calling.

"It's a great joy knowing that you are going to be able to help someone new on a daily basis," she said. "If you truly want a rewarding job and have a natural knack to be caring for fellow human beings, then nursing is the way to go."

Richmond, a nurse for more than 20 years, is one of thousands honored during National Nurses Week, May 6-12, across the nation.

"I've always looked at nursing as a wonderful, caring profes-

Nursing workforce facts

- There are fewer younger people entering the nursing workforce.
- The physical demands of nursing make it difficult for individuals to work in the profession past their mid- to late-50s.
- In Michigan, 18 percent of active registered nurses are age 55 and older.
- Women have left nursing for other professions and not enough men have entered the profession to take their place.
- In Michigan, 8 percent of active registered nurses and 4 percent of LPNs are males.

Source: Michigan League for Nursing; Michigan Lessons Survey 2005

sion," she said. "You come into it (nursing) because you love helping people. That's the best part."

National Nurses Week is celebrated annually beginning on May 6, National Nurses Day, and ending May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, known as the founder of modern day nursing.

True calling

Judy Checcebelli, of Novi, a

registered nurse with the Visiting Nurses Association of Southeast Michigan, said she found her calling as a home-care nurse during her clinical rotation in nursing school.

"When I went to nursing school, some of the students knew what kind of nursing they wanted to go into, for example, in a hospital," Checcebelli said. "It wasn't until I had my clinical rotation in public health that something



Submitted photo

Homecare nurse Judy Checcebelli, of the TeleHomecare program through the Visiting Nurses Association of Southeast Michigan, assists patients with their needs in the privacy of their homes. The nursing profession is in great demand in Michigan.

clicked, and I knew this would be the area that I would love."

"There will always be a demand for nurses," Checcebelli said. "There's a shortage as we speak."

Gov. Jennifer Granholm recently highlighted a key proposal to provide Michigan workers with training they will need to succeed in a global economy.

The Michigan Nursing Corps initiative, unveiled during Granholm's February State of the State address, would help minimize the future nursing shortage forecasted in the future.

"By expanding our capacity for training nurses and accelerating the training," Granholm said in a statement, "we are not only placing workers in jobs, we are helping to ensure every Michigan citizen receives world-class health care."

Along with the training program, the Granholm administration has invested \$30 million through the Michigan

Opportunity Partnership in state universities and community colleges for programs to generate more nursing graduates.

"We encourage both men and women to go into nursing," said Marisa McLaughlin, emergency room registered nurse at Providence Hospital. "It's certainly important to honor nurses because it's a noble and gratifying profession."

McLaughlin said though nursing might sound tough, anything is obtainable if you set your mind to it.

"Nursing is certainly interesting and offers continuous learning long after college," she said. "If there's any struggling that goes on in school, by the nature of nurses, anyone would be willing to provide tutoring."

"We know how important it is to recruit more people."

Tracy Mishler is a freelance reporter for the Novi News.

Seniors get second chance at prom

Decades melt away as memories come flooding back at senior dance

By Tracy Mishler
NEWS SPECIAL WRITER

Marjorie and Tom Montgomery remember dancing the night away at their senior prom.

The high school sweethearts, from Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks Retirement Community in Novi, have now been married 61 years.

And though the Montgomerys' celebrated prom was more than seven decades ago, they remember it as though it were yesterday.

"I remember he wore tux," Marjorie said. "He was so handsome and a good dancer."

"I remember her pink dress," Tom said. "We always had dances in high school, but her pink dress really stands out."

The Montgomerys said they each went to separate high schools, but made time to make an appearance at each prom, held on the same night.

"We only paid \$2.50 or \$3 for tickets," Marjorie said. "They played big band music and we danced and danced and danced."

The Montgomerys' recently got the chance to relive their prom memories thanks to the combined efforts of the Novi Youth Council and Waltonwood officials.

The 2007 Waltonwood "Senior" Prom brought back memories and allowed for new memories to be made as two generations came together to enjoy a night of past and present.

"The Novi Youth Council has partnered the younger generation in the city, but nothing had been done to bridge the youth and seniors together," said Sheryl Walsh, community relations manager.

Scott Czekaj, president of the Novi Youth Council, said he never knew how much fun it would be to combine the generations for such an event.

"(As youth) we're so blind to what they (seniors) went through," Czekaj said. "This is the youth, they've just aged."

Members of the youth council, along with members of Novi City Council, including Mayor David Landry, Mayor

Pro-Tem Kim Capello and councilwoman Terry Margolis, spent the majority of the evening talking with Waltonwood residents about prom memories.

"I graduated in 1933 and went to both my junior and senior prom," said Laura Kelly, 91. "I remember my dress. My mother made both my sister and I lovely dresses."

Kelly said she couldn't remember if she had a date, but much like today's dances, most people went with groups of friends.

"It was a dance and we had an orchestra," she said. "I'm sure I had a lot of fun."

Sophi McDonnell, 82, said her prom was changed from night to afternoon due the riots occurring in Detroit in 1943.

"I went with a group of girls," McDonnell said. "Everyone went in those days. We all went and had fun."

McDonnell said she now enjoys listening to her grandchildren talk about their proms and dances.

"It's all so exciting," she said.

Dancing the night away

From the "Hustle" and "Cha Cha Slide" to the tunes of Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin, the city of Novi proved it is possible to bridge generations with common interests.

"This kind of mixing is wonderful," Margolis said.

"It's great to see our Youth Council in action," Capello said. "They're not just providing a service. They went above and beyond."

Elizabeth Edenstrum, executive director of Waltonwood, said there was no doubt the senior residents would enjoy reminiscing with the youth of Novi.

"All the energy the youth brought literally overflowed onto our seniors," Edenstrum said. "It was contagious."

Both Edenstrum and Walsh agree more events combining generations will be held in the future.

"It's wonderful to remember the past," Kelly said. "So much happened and there's so much to talk about."

Tracy Mishler is a freelance writer for the Novi News.



Photos by Tracy Mishler

Waltonwood resident Laura Kelly dances with Christopher Jodoin of the Novi Youth Council.



Marjorie Montgomery enjoys a dance with Scott Czekaj, president of the Novi Youth Council.



A group of Waltonwood residents enjoy themselves at the 2007 Waltonwood 'Senior' Prom held this month.



Submitted photo

Homecare nurse Judy Checcebelli assists patients at their homes. The profession is celebrated this week during National Nurses Week.

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Pizza Marvelous? Yes It Is



Andy Nofar and Novi's Pizza Marvelous

When you think of mouth-watering delicious ingredients, what comes to mind? The list probably includes fresh vegetables, cheeses, and meats. And the list probably includes the delicious taste of pizza. Combine all of these delights into one item and you come up with a fresh pizza from Pizza Marvelous of Novi.

Located within Novi Fine Wine & Liquors on 43340 W. Ten Mile Road, Pizza Marvelous has consistently been voted the number one pizzeria in Novi by its customers and readers of The Novi News, who have given it their "People's Choice" award. What started out as a small business for owner Andy Nofar has mushroomed (no pun intended) into a popular carryout and delivery food service for customers throughout Novi and the surrounding area. In just six short years, Pizza Marvelous has become the pizza of choice in the community. "Everyone knows about our pizza and everyone loves it," said Nofar. And for good reason.

Nofar and his staff pick the freshest ingredients daily and believe that freshness is the key to a food's good taste. He admits that it doesn't hurt to have some secret recipes, too.

Speaking of secret recipes, Pizza Marvelous is also famous for its juicy barbecued ribs, which literally fall off the bone and are adorned with a special secret sauce. Nofar said he guards his secret very closely.

Beyond the popular pizza and ribs is an extensive menu which includes chicken wings with different sauces, submarine sandwiches, hamburgers, appetizers, salads, lasagna, breads, and desserts. All are available for carryout or delivery.

But it is the pizza that has made Pizza Marvelous famous. Nofar knows that. He keeps fresh slices available in his Novi Fine Wine & Liquors store. And its popularity extends way out beyond the store's four walls.

Pizza Marvelous pizza can now be found at concessions stands throughout Novi's athletic fields. Nofar also makes sure that all Novi athletes and their families have the opportunity to sample his great pizzas. "We always donate pizzas to the annual Jaguar Soccer Tournament," he added.

And if customers don't attend athletic events, they can always get smartly priced, great food products delivered right to their door. There is free delivery within the three-mile radius of Pizza Marvelous. If a customer needs beer, wine, liquor, or cigarettes delivered with their food order, Nofar said he can do that, too. (Just have a valid ID at the door when the delivery arrives.)

For customers who choose to pick up their pizzas, Pizza Marvelous always has some type of coupon special available. For example, the latest coupon is for a large pizza with one topping for \$5.99. Nofar said you can pick up that special 15 minutes after you call it in. For hungrier people, a medium deep-dish pizza with two items is only \$11.99. And you can add another of the same for only an additional \$4.99.

"And don't forget to add beverages to the order," said Nofar. While some pizzerias may have a limited selection of available toppings, Pizza Marvelous has every fresh ingredient possible including pineapple, anchovies, jalapeno peppers, steak, and chicken. Specialty pizzas include veggie (five ingredients), meat lovers (four ingredients and extra cheese), BBQ chicken, and the newest Greek, just to name a few.

With the graduation and wedding party season approaching, it is a great time to begin planning the event with Pizza Marvelous catering, too. Imagine giving your guests the opportunity to enjoy food that their neighbors have voted as Novi's best. You can choose large party subs or just give your guests a variety of mouth-watering food to choose from.

Customers can start calling in their lunch orders on Monday to Saturday at 11 a.m. The kitchen stays open until 11 p.m. on weeknights and midnight on Friday and Saturday. Sunday hours are noon to 10 p.m. Look for the newly remodeled Novi Fine Wine & Liquors store on Ten Mile just west of Novi Road.

Pizza Marvelous accepts VISA and MasterCard. Call (248) 348-1000.

By John R. Hall

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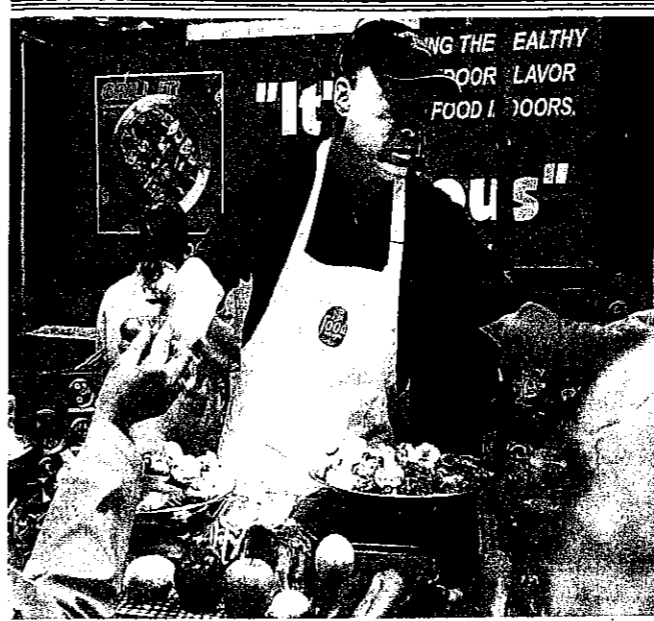
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Thursday, May 10, 2007
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Grill Master!
Hogan Potter gives away samples from his "It's Delicious" indoor grill at last week's International Women's Show. Tens of thousands of people packed the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi to take a look at what the show had to offer. On Friday, attendees got to meet Mario Lopez from "Dancing with the Stars."



Power Shopping!
The International Women's Show offered a slew of shopping choices. Buyers could look for purses, jewelry and other items. The event also featured fashion shows, makeovers and cooking demonstrations. It was the second straight year the show was at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi.

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Jeff Theisen handicaps his trip to the Kentucky Derby ... 4B



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PAGE 4B

My NOVI SPORTS

Novi runners MacDonough, Beard sign SPORTS, 2B

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2007 • WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM • SPORTS SUBMISSIONS: JTHEISEN@GANNETT.COM • PAGE 1B

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

Wildcat defense: No goals allowed

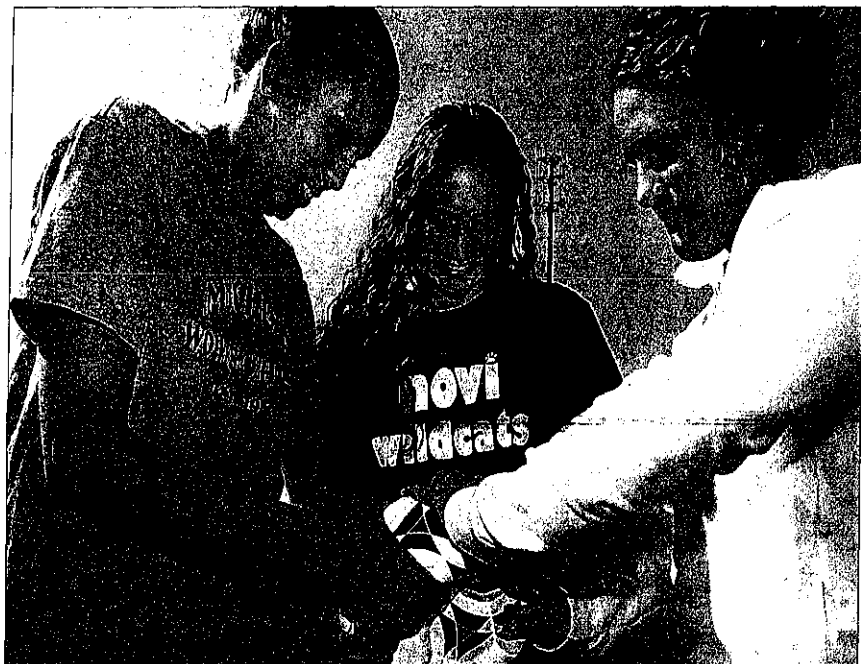


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Wildcat soccer defensemen Jessica Barndt, left, and Kris Chaklos, right, and goalie Erin Zerio help to take the air out of their opponent's offense. Novi's pitched 10 shutouts and only allowed three goals this year.

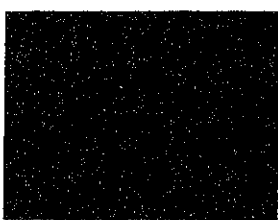
Barndt, Chaklos, Zerio, bricks in the Novi wall

By Jeff Theisen
 NEWS SPORTS WRITER

For the third straight year, Novi head coach Brian O'Leary has been able to count on two starters to help control the defense.

Jessica Barndt and Kristine Chaklos got the starting nod as sophomores, and are still paired together as seniors on a team that hasn't lost during their time as starters.

"Without a doubt it starts with the back," Novi head coach Brian O'Leary said. "Jessica Barndt and Kristine Chaklos have been in the back for three years now. They do a great job of keeping everyone organized.



It's as much a matter of organization as a matter of talent." Defensemen don't get a lot of recognition

as far as stats are concerned, but the important numbers that explain how they are doing is the other team's score and amount of quality scoring chances.

During their sophomore years, Novi went 25-0 with 19 shutouts and 10 goals allowed. During their junior year, the Wildcats were 24-0 with 14 shutouts and 11 goals allowed. This year, Novi has only allowed three goals in 13 games with 10 shutouts.

"We've kept our goals against and our shots against real low these past three years."

See DEFENSE, 3B

AT NOVINNEWS.COM: NOVI WILDCATS SPORTS SCHEDULE. CHECK IT OUT!

What is SPORTS SPOTLIGHT? Each week, the Novi News takes a closer look at Novi athletes. Have a suggestion? Email jtheisen@gannett.com



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi 400 meter sprinter Ben Foerg won this heat during a track and field event featuring visitors from Howell High.

Wildcats top league foes

Golf rebreaks record again

By Jeff Theisen
 NEWS SPORTS WRITER

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

The Wildcat track team beat a pair of league foes in Lakeland on May 1 and Brighton on May 3.

Wildcat winning events of the 73-64 win against Lakeland included: The 3,200 relay team of Mike Beard, Alex Prasad, Scott Wagner and Mike Wheat (8:53.4), Dan Simmons in the 100 meters (11.4), Keuney MacDonough in the 1,600 meters (4:46.1), the 400 relay team (45.7), Eric Johnson in the 400 meters (53.9), Aaron Cross in the 800 meters (2:06.6), Josh Lumley in the 3,200 meters (10:10.3) and the 1,600 relay (3:34.8).

Winning in the 80-57 victory against Brighton were: the 4x800 relay, Tyler Mouch in the shot put (43-4.5), Matt Evans in the high jump (5-7), Eric VanBuhler in the 110 hurdles (15.9), Dan Simmons in the 100 meters (11.7), the 4x200 relay, Lumley in the 1,600 meters (4:40.9), the 4x100 relay, VanBuhler in the 300 hurdles (42.9), Mouch in the discus (136-0), Eric Preston in the pole vault (11-11).

See ROUNDUP, 3B

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NOVI NEWS Athlete of the Week

Novi junior Katie Chaklos, Soccer

Chaklos scored a goal in a 2-0 win against Milford. She stepped up in the absence of Stephanie Crawford and Stephanie Janssens to score three goals in an 8-0 thumping of Lakeland.



CC shoots down Pilots Derby: Another check off the list

■ Shamrocks roll to 13-5 win

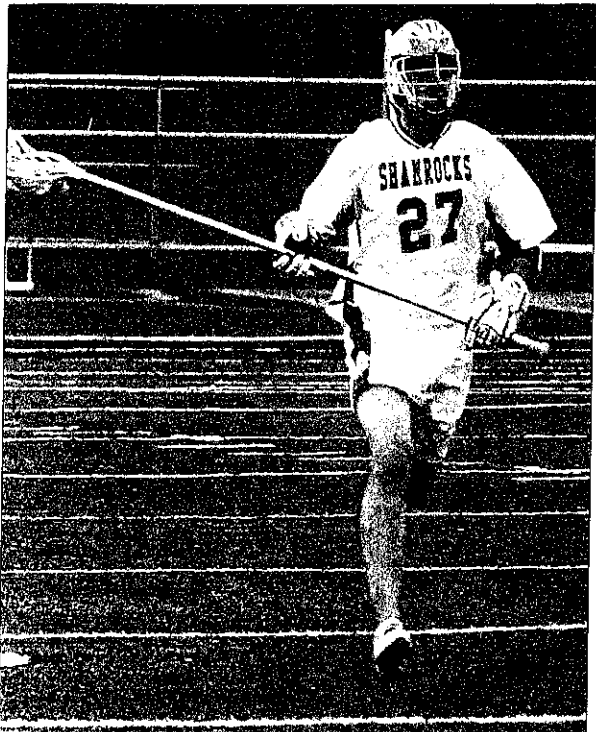
Submitted to the Novi News

Explosive fire power was on display as the Novi Detroit Catholic Central Lacrosse team blasted 13 shots past the De La Salle Pilots goalie.

Novi resident Patrick Nemes scored five goals and added three assists in the 13-5 decisive win over the No. 6 ranked Pilots. Fellow attackman, Connor Bush, had a goal and two assists. But, the scoring flurry was nicely spread out by the Shamrocks as goals were tallied by Cebula, Higgins, Aubrey, Nemes, Chris Nemes, and Danusa.

Of special note, Ryan Cebula not only scored two goals he also snagged ten ground balls to secure the Shamrock offense.

The CC defense, made up of Justin Berglin, Amanda Munoz, and Chad Fromica, had another spectacular game allowing only 6 goals on the night. Senior goalie Nick Garry was heard saying, "I am only as good as the defense in front of me."



Novi Catholic Central captain Justin Berglin brings the ball down the field against DeLaSalle.



Catholic Central midfielder Ryan Cebula scored two goals and scooped up 10 balls against DeLaSalle.

Novi tennis hammers league competition

By Jeff Theisen

The Novi tennis team had little trouble with its dual matches in the past week, winning all four matches in shutouts.

The Wildcats topped Lakeland 9-0 on April 30, Brighton 9-0 on May 2, Livonia Stevenson 8-0 May 3 and Howell 9-0 Friday.

Novi also finished second at a four-team home quad on Saturday.

Against Lakeland, the four Wildcat singles players lost just one game. Vivek Athalye won 6-0, 6-1 at No. 1, and Roshan Ramachandran at No. 2, Goutham Kondapi at No. 3 and Jason Hsu at No. 4 all won 6-0, 6-0.

Against Brighton, three matches were pushed to three sets.

Matt Maindewan won 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 at No. 2 singles. Ramachandran won 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 at No. 3 singles and Jason Hsu and Justin Farooq won 6-1, 5-7, 6-1 at No. 3 doubles.

"It was a good high school tennis match," Novi head coach Jim Hanson said. "It was very competitive. We've got our work cut out when we face Brighton. They're in our league tournament and regional."

The Wildcats blasted through Stevenson and Howell with no Novi player losing a set.

At the quad, No. 2 ranked Ann Arbor Huron took the title with 24 points. Novi was next with 17, and Brother Rice and Troy were next with seven and six points.

Huron swept the five doubles brackets and won No. 1 and No. 4 singles.

"They're def. one of the better teams in the state," Hanson said. "Brother Rice and Troy also had very competitive teams. I thought we played some of our best tennis of the year."

The Wildcats didn't win a flight, but they didn't get shutout in any flight either. Novi won two matches in all flights except No. 1 singles, where Athalye faced two of the better kids in the state, pushing Rice's Bill Gardner to three sets, losing 7-5, 3-6, 6-3.

"Even though he lost two matches, he played some of his best tennis of the year," Hanson said of Athalye.

The KVC tournament begins 8:30 a.m. Saturday. South Lyon is the host, but the matches will be at the middle school and high school courts, with the middle school being the principle site for the single-elimination tournament.

Wildcats move to 11th in state with two wins

Submitted by Craig Hepler

Novi took their season to a new high on May 3 as they defeated Hartland in a sixteen goal shutout. The 2007 lacrosse team has an eight-game winning streak and has moved into the top ten in the state with a 9-2 record.

Travis Blackledge led the team with three goals and four assists as the Wildcats totally dominated the Hartland Eagles. Erik Aepelbacher and Shane McCusker both scored their first goals of the season both assisted by a very unselfish Matt Mandeville. Mandeville finished with two goals and four assists himself.

On the defensive end, the Novi longsticks held the Eagles to only twelve shots with only half of those on goal. Eric Hepler and Kyle Simone shared the goalie duties with Hepler getting two saves in the first half and Simone getting four in the second. Kevin Rowe increased his team leading ground balls by six to a total of 37.

Novi 14, South Lyon 7

Novi's boys' varsity lacrosse got another win on Monday night over the South Lyon Lions 14-7. Their seventh win in a row moved them into eleventh place in Michigan on the Lax Power rankings. Novi is now 10-2 and has beaten every other team in the KVC for a 5-0 conference record halfway through the season.

The Wildcat's came out of the gate strong with Blackledge and Sean Murphy each scoring in the first five minutes but the Lions came roaring back in the last five minutes of the first quarter. They scored three goals to take a 3-2 lead at the end of one.

In the second quarter, Novi goalie Hepler made six saves and held South Lyon to only one extra-man goal. In the meantime, George Riegel put in two of his five goals and Craig Howell added a pair to push Novi in front 6-4 at half-time.

The third quarter was all Novi as they scored seven goals and kept the Lions scoreless. South Lyon tried to mount a comeback in the fourth with three more goals including the completion of a hat trick by senior attack Chad Wright but it was too late as Novi managed to hold on and win by seven.

Novi had three scorers with multiple goals: Riegel (3), Blackledge (4), and Howell (2). Nick Zoroya led the team in assists with three. Hepler had nine saves in goal and six ground balls.

I got to check another entry off my must-do-before-I-die list over the weekend. I was able to go down (and donate) at the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs.

I had planned to go the year before, but a few things came up and I had to turn down the offer. Nothing, however, was stopping me this year.

After years of hearing my relatives tell me story after story of what I was missing out on, I had to do it.



Jeff Theisen

The Crowd

I tried to talk to as many people as possible, finding out what makes the Derby what it is. Ultimately, it's many things. It's being with the crowd (more than 150,000 strong). It's the party, as Caitlin O'Connor from Kansas City came down to celebrate her 21st birthday, which actually was the day of the race.

She said a fellow traveler on a trip to Australia talked up the Derby so much that her and two friends had to come down for her birthday.

"Where else better to celebrate your 21st birthday, so I just decided to come down with some friends," O'Connor said. Her plan was to hit the party area which is on the infield.

It's a reason to wear the hats. Some hats went beyond anything that could be justified, but nobody seems to care. It's just a good time with good people.

Ethan Gullickson from Plymouth and Amy Terrill from Harrison Township looked the Mardi Gras part. Gullickson had on a string of beads that were about the size of bocce balls.

For Kathy Lehman of Hendersonville, Tenn., it's was about showing off her hat that she bought in Memphis.

"I kind of sort of knew what the outfit was going to be, so I knew I needed a black hat," she said. "So the black hat with the ostrich feathers, primo!"

Anticipation

The six-hour drive was filled with anticipation and what I was going to do with the money I was going to make after somehow picking the right horse out of a 20-entry field.

I had been to a track or two in my time and was hoping my experiences would allow me to whittle the field down to a few horses that I thought could pull off the win.

But, after asking most of the six others that went down on the trip, I realized it was going to be a crap shoot when almost every one had a different idea, theory or horse they thought could win.

So I put my worries aside for the rest of the drive and enjoyed the trip.

Arrival

My uncle drove us down in his motorcoach, and we arrived at a lot about a mile from the track in a lot filled with buses and trailers.

We were worried about the weather, and sure enough, our worries became true when it rained for much of the first few days.

But asking around to other Derbygoers, I realized it was even more of a crapshoot as I thought -- but about four or five horses never came up in any conversation. OK, now were down to about a 16-horse field -- getting better.

Churchill Downs

We wandered over to the Downs on Friday to go to the first big race of the weekend, The Oaks. I wasn't expecting much on the day before the big race, but as the pattern will clearly show, I was wrong.

The party started sometime on Friday and didn't end until well after the big race on Saturday.

The Race

After consulting more people than I needed to, it was time to make the (wrong) pick. My idea was to pick inside the pack, because of the difficulty in coming from the way outside to win. I went with 5, 6 and 8 horses. (Notice the missing number, I placed a couple of bets for some friends, but they were far from the horses I wanted. I walked to the window still wondering if I had any clue on who was actually going to win, but I had my confidant poker face on.

The turn of the crowd turned to instant insanity as soon as the gates opened. The race started and two horses I had money on were fighting near the front. I was excited, to say the least, but there was a lot of race to go.

As the race neared the final turn, I had the eight horse very close to the front. I've got a sure winner. And then the blur that was Street Sense (#7) dashed my hopes. I looked through the five or six tickets I had, and it might as well be five or six Post-it notes.

A few people are yelling in victory, but most people threw losing slips like confetti at a parade. Or as I put it, the losing party.

Was it worth it? You bet.

The night turned into one big party as everyone realized it's the last hurrah of the weekend. A group of partiers "sang the Michigan fight song" in the parking lot, bean tosses were everywhere in the parking lots and I was already trying to come up with a different plan to win next year.

Celebs

No Queen Elizabeth sightings. I'm pretty sure we saw her motorcade coming in from the airport though. It contained five

CC Baseball splits four

By Jeff Theisen

The Catholic Central baseball team split two doubleheaders with Brother Rice and Country Day.

Against Rice, the Shamrocks won the first game 9-8 before dropping the second, 10-6.

In the win, Jake Hanson led the offensive charge with three hits.

In the second game, Doug Raymond went 2-for-2 at the plate.

The Shamrocks won a wild one against Country Day. Catholic Central won with a run scored on a wild pitch in the seventh inning. Andy O'Millan went the distance, allowing five hits and one earned run with four strikeouts to get the win.

In game two, Bill Hardio smacked a fly ball in the gap with the bases loaded in the seventh, but a nice running catch saved the day for Country Day in a 6-5 win. Cory Amble had two hits and a run batted in for the Shamrocks.

CE Track

The Catholic Central track team finished in second place at the 27th annual Jackson High School Invitational on April 27. The Shamrocks also fell just short of knocking off Orchard Lake St. Mary's on April 30, falling 66-62.

Highlights of the Jackson Relays included: Mike Martin (55-8) and Jake Maloney (50-9) finishing 1-2 in the shot put, Martin claiming the discus title (154-2), Zachary Oleski, Brandon Schneider, Steve Smith and Alex Toloff winning the 3,200 relay (8:26.3), Harrison Hall placing second in the 400 meters (52.4), Oleski taking second in the 800 meters (59.7) and Toloff finishing second in the 3,200 meters (10:39.1) and third in the 1,600 meters (4:55.7).

Highlights of the St. Mary's meet included: Martin winning the shot put (56-1) and the discus (149-4), Jack Daykin winning the 100 meters (11.3), Toloff winning the 1,600 meters (4:48) in a 6-5 win. Cory Amble had two hits and a run batted in for the Shamrocks.

TALK ABOUT IT: Join in discussing our stories online via Story Chat at novineews.com

Victoria Mitchell
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MY FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Pick of the Crop

Want the best way to add color, texture, flavor and essential nutrients to your meal?

Choose vegetables!

Frozen vegetables are a great choice, as they're available year 'round and — since they're picked at their peak — can actually be more nutritious than those found in the produce aisle.



How Many Vegetable Servings Do You Need?

The USDA recommends 2-1/2 cups of vegetables per day for a 2,000 calorie diet, with higher or lower amounts depending on age, gender and activity level. That means about five 1/2-cup servings a day of fresh or frozen, raw or cooked vegetables. For more information, visit mypyramid.gov.

Consider adding a simple salad or one of these easy vegetable dish recipes to your Lean Cuisine Spa Cuisine entrée, and you'll be well on your way to reaching the USDA daily recommended servings of vegetables.

Roasted Red Pepper Hummus

Serve this easy dip with raw vegetables or toasted pita bread as an appetizer before enjoying your Lean Cuisine Spa Cuisine entrée.

3/4 cup roasted red pepper from a jar, drained
1 cup prepared hummus
Lemon juice to taste

Puree roasted red pepper in food processor or blender, then add hummus and puree until smooth. Add lemon juice to taste.

1-1/2 cups or 8 servings



Spa Cuisine Butternut Squash Ravioli

Vegetable Va-Va-Va-Voom!

Check out these easy and delicious ways to help get those USDA-recommended three to five vegetable servings a day:

Don't Forget the Freezer.

Remember that many frozen vegetables, like those found in frozen entrées such as Lean Cuisine, have been picked and processed at their peak, so stock up. Lean Cuisine's new Spa Cuisine entrées all feature at least two servings of vegetables and offer delicious varieties such as Sesame Stir Fry with Chicken, Butternut Squash Ravioli, Ginger Garlic Stir Fry with Chicken, Hunan Stir Fry with Beef, and Grilled Chicken Primavera.

It's in the Sauce.

Tomato-based spaghetti sauces and salsas can be a vegetable serving. So can guacamole, salsa verde and pico de gallo.

Stuff.

Choose ravioli stuffed with squash or pumpkin, fill a burrito with grilled vegetables and fresh salsa, spoon hummus and chopped cucumber into pita bread.

Chop.

Cruise through the grocery store salad bar and load up on chopped veggies to quickly add to scrambled eggs, a grilled cheese sandwich or a casserole.



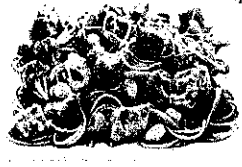
Easy Minestrone

Start simmering this delicious soup a few minutes before cooking your Lean Cuisine Spa Cuisine entrée.

2 (10-ounce) packages Italian-style vegetables, frozen
4 cups low sodium chicken broth
1/4 cup grated Parmesan

Stir together vegetables and chicken broth in large saucepan over medium-high heat. Cook, stirring, until soup bubbles and vegetables are tender, about 8 minutes. Sprinkle each serving with Parmesan.

6 to 8 servings



Spa Cuisine Sesame Stir Fry with Chicken

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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Raney's Plants blooms with garden ideas

By Kate Phillips
SPECIAL WRITER

This time of year many folks are trying to transform their yard into a beautiful, blossoming paradise — an oasis right at home.

Raney's Plants of South Lyon is the best spot to look for annuals, perennials, nursery stock and all sorts of garden accessories.

But even the best plants will wilt if they're planted in the wrong spot or are poorly cared for. The expert staff at Raney's can tell customers what plants would be best for specific soil and sunlight conditions and can provide practical advice on keeping the plants healthy.

When problems arise, an on-staff horticulturist and master gardeners can answer any question. It's what separates Raney's from other garden centers.

"Between us, we have hundreds of years of experience," said Mike Raney, retail manager.

Tradition of excellence

Growing plants comes second-nature to the Raney family. Ray and Irene Raney started out as produce farmers in Novi more than 60 years ago.

As Ray raised his cauliflower and other vegetable crops from seedlings, he began potting some of the plants and selling them to local farmers. The farmers found that Ray's vegetables saved time and made for a bountiful crop. Ray's reputation spread and the farmers began to order more and more plants every year.

Finally Ray and Irene decided to shift towards mostly plant farming. They kept adding greenhouses until the property could support itself just on plants — both vegetables and flowers.

The family purchased the current property on Ten Mile Road, just west of Milford Road and opened a store in 1950.

The couple and their seven children painstakingly labored over the greenery, discovering the best methods for raising healthy plants and getting them ready for customer distribution.

It's always been a destination that draws in loyal customers from miles around — and it still is.

Ray and Irene just aren't the type of folks that retire. They're continuing their life's work. But children, Tony, Mike, Mary, Paul and Anne now manage the business with help from their own children and other family members.

Raised for perfection

It all starts with a tiny seed.

There is thought behind every single seed at Raney's Plants.

As the wholesale growing manager, Tony Raney chooses the perfect seeds — selecting plants that have flourished at Raney's through the years. Nearly all of the plants at Raney's are grown on site.

Since Raney's grows for local consumers and sellers, Tony chooses only varieties that will do well in southeast Michigan. That's a bit different than buying flowers that are shipped in from out of state. Every year Tony checks out the plants at the MSU Trial Gardens. When he sees new plants that are growing well there, he plants some at Raney's the following year.

"We always try out a few new plants every year," said Tony Raney. "We are always growing and changing so we have new stock all the time."

Every year, Tony starts some of the seeds in December and others throughout the winter and spring. With 50 greenhouses to manage, there's always plants that need the staff's careful attention — all year 'round.

Once the seedlings in thousands of tiny dirt plugs have sprouted, they're carefully transplanted into flats or other containers.

Mother's Day Gift List:

- Hanging baskets
- Annual combo planters
- Design moss baskets
- Garden art
- Flowering shrubs
- Rose plants
- Fresh cut flowers



Tony and Michael Raney still grow flowers in the same tradition as their parents, who started Raney's Plants in 1950 — though they've added many technological improvements.

RANEY'S PLANTS

57707 Ten Mile Road,
just west of Milford Road,
in South Lyon
(248) 437-2856

Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day



Photos by KATE PHILLIPS

Raney's Plants carries a full assortment of annuals, perennials and nursery stock — plus decorative accessories and garden art.

On a typical day several Raney's employees are working just on transplanting the plugs. There's automated machinery for filling pots with dirt and other common processes, but the plants are mostly handled by gentle, competent human hands.

Yet technology actually helps the growers take plants to their absolute highest potential. Tony said that the secret to raising good plants in a greenhouse is perfect temperature control. Automated irrigation systems also help make sure that exactly the right amount of water gets to each type of plant every day.

"People would be surprised what a high-tech operation this is," said Tony.

The nursery uses almost no pesticides or herbicides. With healthy plants raised in ideal conditions, there rarely is a need, Tony said.

The growers work hard to coordinate planting schedules and growing seasons. By Easter, beautiful indoor flowers are ready for spring. Then at the start of May a bountiful harvest of annuals are ready for outdoor planting. But as the summer continues, new plants continue to be prepared, so that there is always something looking fresh and beautiful — throughout spring, summer and fall.

The value of plants from Raney's comes in the long, slow growing season. That means that the plants are hardier because they have a longer root system than typical stock. Each plant is grown with a careful eye towards quality — even down to the root.

Flowers everywhere

The showroom at Raney's is like an enormous flowering garden. It's an experience in itself, with rich scents of flowers and something interesting to see in every single aisle.

The main focus is the flowers. They're irresistible to everyone that walks in. There are hundreds of flats filled with colorful annuals. Favorites like marigolds and impatiens are found in every color. Raney's has pansies with huge flowers — the biggest around.

But there are a lot of annuals that you just won't see anywhere else. The double penunia is an old-fashioned flower with lacy looking leaves that just isn't grown much

anymore. A regal geranium is also a rare Raney find, a type of geranium that grows well in cool, shady conditions and lasts throughout the summer.

"If you like something different in your garden, this is the place to look," said Mike Raney.

Raney's specializes in beautiful hanging baskets, patio planters and design moss baskets. With thousands of hanging baskets, there is something for every personality. They make perfect Mother's Day gifts and hostess gifts.

The staff members who put together the combo planters and design moss baskets are true artists. These planters are designed by those with an eye for beauty and enough years of experience to predict how each plant will hold up over the course of the summer. They're like an instant garden, with a number of colors and textures all put together artistically. Every Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., customers can come in to make their own combo pots.

"If they're taken care of well, our planters will look great the entire summer," explained Mike.

The vegetables at Raney's are as good as they were 50 years ago — or better. They're all grown organically. Heirloom tomatoes are highly sought after. They're flavorful, old-fashioned tomatoes that aren't genetically engineered. There's also a number of varieties of peppers, cucumbers and many others, including a dozen herbs.

Perennials are also in bloom at Raney's. Some of Mike's favorites are the pink climbing hydrangea, the "paper butterfly" type of

day lily and the knock-out roses, which are a sturdy low-maintenance variety. He also loves fun plants like mini conifers, which are perfect for grooming into a bonsai tree.

Coleus is a plant that is rising in popularity among gardeners. Raney's now grows 80 varieties of the leafy plant. The intense leaf colors and patterns add interest to any flowerbed.

Raney's also carries a full line of home-grown nursery stock, including ornamental grasses, flowering shrubs, large perennials and trees. Delivery and planting is available.

Perfect gift

It's not all plants. Raney's carries all sorts of unique garden accessories and decorative items. Some are beautiful, some are whimsical, but they all are items that aren't seen at other retailers.

Mike Raney actually travels across the country looking for interesting garden accessories.

"This is the place to come when you're looking for a gift for someone who has everything," said Mike.

A new line called Life Impressions features angels, animal statues with inspirational messages, plus garden plaques with lovely Bible quotes.

There's a huge selection of pots and planters, from contemporary glazed pottery to old-world style antique reproductions.

Plus Raney's stocks many types of garden supplies, tools and fertilizers.

Even kids can get in on the fun with gardening gloves and accessories featuring cartoon figures like Sponge Bob and Dora.



Gift Certificates Available

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Unique home decorating ideas, which includes hard to find life-like silks. Pottery, vases and tropical plants to brighten your home.

Best Variety of Quality Blooming Plants

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Don't Forget Mother's Day - May 13th

