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Novi News

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2007

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VOLUME 52 #29 50 CENTS

Preserving natural Novi

■ City acquires 16 acres of land through state grant

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

Sixteen-acres of Novi's natural land will be preserved forever.

Last Wednesday, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund awarded the City of Novi with a \$281,300 land acquisition grant, to acquire 16.2 acres of land.

This was the second time the city applied for a trust fund grant regarding the property located between Nine Mile and 10 Mile roads, halfway between Napier and Beck roads.

"This is the second year we've made the request," said Andrew Mutch, Novi city councilman and supporter of Novi parks. "The intent of the property that is purchased is that it will be protected forever."

Although the property owners, John Liadis, Mike Liadis and Jerry Beale, originally considered using the land for residential development, they were in full support of the city's effort to preserve the land.

"It was a really nice partnership between the city and the property owners," Mutch said.

The owners of the land, which is located near Fire Station No. 4, donated half of the value of the property to the city, therefore lowering the amount requested for the grant.

"We weren't asking for as much as other projects," Mutch said.

Of 153 applications submitted, Novi was one of 65 projects

throughout Michigan to receive money from the trust fund.

"They all had to apply and go through a rigorous grant proposal," said Sen. Nancy Cassis (R- Novi). "I think Novi did an excellent job of making a case."

As a former Novi councilwoman and advocate of environmental preservation, Cassis spoke in front of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board of Trustees in support of Novi's endeavor.

"(Mutch) has been very dedicated in this pursuit," Cassis said. "I was glad to join with all those individuals who had a hand in this project to be of assistance."

"Novi was an early leader in environmental preservation. I describe Novi as a 'green' city. This property represents a core habitat reserve."

The Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund is supported by annual revenues from state-owned mineral resources, such as oil and gas.

As a result of those royalties, the trust fund allocated more than \$34 million in grants, with the majority being designated to land acquisition projects.

The trust fund is specifically designed to financially assist local governments and the Department of Natural Resources in purchasing land for public recreation or protection due to its environmental importance or scenic beauty.

"If we don't preserve them now, there's a good chance they will be lost forever to development," Cassis said. "It's a long-lasting legacy and Novi has been a champion in eco-environmentalism."

According to Mutch, the plan for now is to preserve the natural resources of the land, but in the future, the city will look into public uses of the property.

"You want to balance protecting those natural features as well as open it up to the public," he said. "It has a lot of nice natural features. It was the missing piece of a puzzle."

Singing in the holidays



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

The Novi Middle School choir sings Christmas carols during last week's senior holiday party at the school.

Seniors celebrate the season with Novi schools

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Surrounded by holiday decorations and youngsters in Santa hats, Novi seniors got a treat last Thursday, as they were entertained with song, band and a nice little meal.

The Novi Rotary Club held their Annual Senior Holiday Party at Novi Middle School. Seniors were treated to Christmas carols from the seventh- and eighth-grade choirs and concert bands.

"They did a very good job. They do a lot of work (to get ready)," said Barbara Green, a

70-something resident who came with the Novi Community Senior Center for the third time. "They all do well. We thank the Rotary for putting it together."

Residents of the Novi Community Senior Center intermingled with residents from The Manor of Novi and Whitehall Manor in Novi for a dozen holiday tunes and additional sing-a-longs of "Santa Claus is comin' to town" and "Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer" to which some choir members made the final line "You'll go down in history, like the Wildcats."

"Everything went really smoothly," said Ginger Barrons,

president of the Novi Rotary Club. "I had two favorite parts, sitting in the auditorium and watching the kids perform and watching the faces of the seniors to see if they're smiling, and watching the students serve the seniors. They were so nice."

The show, which lasted about 75 minutes, was followed with a special lunch in the school cafeteria, where student government members served and waited on the 205 seniors at their tables while choir members went caroling from table to table with Christmas tunes playing on the piano in the background. Santa Claus made the rounds as well, handing out

candy canes and putting smiles on the seniors' faces.

"It's fun to do," said seventh-grade band member and student council representative Jacquelyn Gardner, 12. "Just to give them a little bit of joy in their life. They might not get a lot of visitors."

About 30 Rotary members and 10 officers from the Novi Police Department volunteered their time to help out at the event.

"I like it because so many people in the community are involved," Barrons said.

She has chaired the event's

continued on 4A

Novi Youth Assistance: Fifty years and still going strong

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

It was the vision of former Novi Police Chief Lee BeGole that brought the youth assistance program to Novi 50 years ago.

"Chief Lee BeGole was probably the driving force to bring this to Novi," said Claudia Walter, youth assistance caseworker. "The juvenile justice system, back then, was doing certain things, but, in terms of making long-term changes, it wasn't happening. We became a prevention program."

The Novi Youth Assistance, which is a branch of the Oakland County Youth Assistance program, is a volunteer-driven organization serving several hundred Novi children and families a year. "He (BeGole) was pretty persistent and really believed in the program," said John P. O'Brien, chairman of the Novi Youth Assistance.

Providing support

Through programs and services, the youth assistance provides

support and assistance to at-risk children and their families.

According to Walter, at-risk children can be anything from kids struggling with academics or getting in trouble with the law, to kids whose families are experiencing financial and economical hardships.

"I think, for all of us, at some point in our lives, reaching out and asking for help is hard," Walter said. "Because of the economy in southeast Michigan, we've seen an increase in our scholarship (programs), both aca-

demically and non. Even families you wouldn't think would be struggling are being affected."

The youth assistance program is a tri-sponsorship between the county, local municipality and community school district.

Kids are most often referred to the youth assistance by their parents, the school or the police department.

"As needs come up, we work with schools," Walter said.

A recent example of this, she

continued on 4A



Novi Youth Assistance caseworkers Catherine Womack, left, and Claudia Walter take a look at the donated Christmas gifts they'll be giving to families and children in need.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

My Novi News



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NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER

• **FRIDAY**
Baseline rivalry alert! The Novi Wildcats' boys varsity basketball team will host the Northville Mustangs 7 p.m. at Novi High School, 24062 Taft Road. Sport your green and white and cheer on the Wildcats to victory! Call the Athletic Department at (248) 449-1509 for more information.

• **SUNDAY**
Gear up for some holiday tunes at 3 p.m., courtesy of the Novi Concert Band. The band will be at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, for a free, all ages event. The symphonic wind ensemble of local residents ranging from high school to age-80 will perform "March of the Toys," "White Christmas," "O Holy Night," "A Most Wonderful Christmas," "Sleigh Ride," music from "The Polar Express" and more under the direction of Scott Cramer. Refreshments will be provided and there will be a Christmas Sing-A-Long session. Call (248) 347-0400 for more information.

• **SATURDAY**
Novi resident and former "Survivor" contestant Keith Famie wants residents in front of their televi-

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MY INDEX

Bulletin Board	14A	People	6A
Community	13A	Public Safety	5A
Education	3A	Real Estate	1C
Food for Thought	8A	Regional Marketplace	6B
Parks & Rec	5B	Senior Citizens	11A
	10A	Sports	1B



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Novi Public Library employee Margi Karp-Opperer checks out the Museum Adventure Pass information kiosk. The museum pass system runs until October.

Novi Public Library offers Museum Adventure Passes

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Public Library is one of more than 150 libraries throughout the Greater Detroit area participating in the Museum Adventure Pass program.

The program is a partnership between 162 metro area libraries and 25 local arts and cultural organizations offering library card holders free admission to local museums, cultural centers and historical sites.

"There's a lot of positive feedback," said Mary Storch, public services librarian for the Novi Public Library.

The Novi library has five laminated passes for free admission to each destination, which are available for library patrons to check out.

The passes are on display for card holders to browse and select the specific museum they want to visit.

Some of the participating organizations are the Detroit Institute of Arts, Ford Rouge Factory Tour, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Automotive Hall of Fame, Howell Nature Center and many more.

"The D.I.A. now that it's open, I think it will probably be very popular," Storch said, noting the Ford Rouge Factory Tour has also been a popular choice.

Passes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. "You can't reserve or renew them," Storch said. "But if Novi's are all checked out and you want to go to Northville and check them out, you can."

Depending on the organization, card holders will receive two or four free passes to be used within one week.

Special exhibitions and other attractions may not be covered with the Museum Adventure Pass and other restrictions may apply.

For information regarding events and restrictions visit www.detroitadventurepass.org.

Novi News staff writer Kelly Murad can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or kmurad@gannett.com.



Friendraiser!

Revelers of the Friends of the Novi Library enjoy the group's annual holiday event. The party was held at a Toll Brothers Island Lake model home and included food, drink and merriment for about 70 area residents in attendance. Guests included Novi City Councilwoman Kathy Crawford and County Commissioner Hugh Crawford, along with many long-time members of the Friends. A book for the Free Press children's gift of reading program was the donation requested for attendance.

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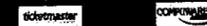
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Santa stops and chats with Judy Ward during last Thursday's annual Novi senior Christmas party at the Novi Middle School.

Seniors celebrate the season with Novi schools

continued from front

committee for the past 10 years and been involved with the event the past 20 years.

Many seniors, like Nana Kerr, 92, and Betty Green, 79, have been to a few of the Holiday Senior Party's themselves during the past few years. Green said her favorite part is when they all sing "Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer."

Other seniors made more personal connections during the show.

"Music like this is good for them. To give concerts like this does them good, it does us a lot of

good too," said Peter White, 88, of Meadowbrook Commons, who was attending the show for the second year.

White grew up participating in similar events as a member of acapella choir, men's glee clubs and many church groups. He has two grandsons, ages 11 and 12, who he hopes will one day perform for him as part of the same event.

"I have two grandsons in elementary school that just took up the French horn and clarinet. I can picture them up there with the band," he said, looking over his shoulder and adding, "The music teacher is very good. She plays a good piano."

Novi News staff writer Chris Jackett can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122 or cjackett@gannett.com.



Novi Middle School students sing Christmas songs to seniors as they eat lunch during last week's annual Novi Rotary senior holiday party.

Novi Youth Assistance: Fifty years and going strong

continued from front

said, was when Novi Middle School noticed a lot of kids struggling academically, so they collaborated with the youth assistance to form an after-school program for students to work with certified teachers on organizational and academic skills.

School staff also notifies the youth assistance when they see a child struggling at home.

"This week we have a child who has one pair of pants, literally," Walter said. "We've had kids with no coats going to school, no hats or gloves."

"It's true prevention at its most fundamental. Our goal is to figure out where all their needs are and make sure they are walking out of here with the resources needed to help."

Other programs the youth assistance offers are alcohol and drug awareness, summer recreation activities, family education and youth recognition programs.

O'Brien described the youth assistance services as prevention and diversion programs to help build strong families.

As a non-profit organization, the majority of funds raised by the Novi Youth Assistance are through private donors and local fundraisers.

"Our biggest fundraiser is our bowl-a-thon and that is in March," Walter said. "We are 100 percent local. Everything that is donated to us goes back to Novi. Every penny we raise goes back to the families and the kids."

Novi Youth Assistance

For more information regarding the Novi Youth Assistance visit their office inside the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road or call (248) 347-0410.

- Novi Youth Assistance office secretary Kim Ziegler
- Youth Assistance Caseworker Claudia Walter
- Youth Assistance Caseworker Catherine Womack

"They truly want kids to get measured as the eve of Thanksgiving through New Year's Day, has traditionally been a time of gathering with family and friends to reunite and have a drink, or two or three."

"We want to resolve the core issues so the behavior doesn't continue," Walter said. "They may come in here for shop-lifting, but we are assessing why they were shop-lifting so we can plug-in the appropriate services."

In 2006, there were 40 arrests in Novi for driving while impaired during this time span.

Novi Police Chief David Molloy said there have been 14 operating while impaired arrests Nov. 21 through Monday, keeping on pace to match last year's total.

"It is a little bit busier. There's an increase in office holiday parties and family holiday parties," Molloy said, noting a few nights and weekends during the holiday season have increased patrol.

Drinking and driving arrests last December were down to 26

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MY PUBLIC SAFETY

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Caution driving this holiday season

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

The holiday season, often measured as the eve of Thanksgiving through New Year's Day, has traditionally been a time of gathering with family and friends to reunite and have a drink, or two or three.

In 2006, there were 40 arrests in Novi for driving while impaired during this time span.

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Drinking and driving arrests last December were down to 26

leaving 58 drivers below the legal limit either dead or with deaths on their hands. The legal limit needed to receive a driving under the influence arrest is a 0.08 blood alcohol concentration. For most people, this is about two or three beers, or anything more than one glass of wine or liquor.

"It's a serious problem. If you're driving impaired, you're not only risking your life, you're risking others around you," said Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi).

In 2005, 421 traffic fatalities were connected to alcohol-related drivers in Michigan, accounting for 37 percent of the state's 1,129 deaths that year, according to www.alcoholalert.com.

"Three in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash sometime in their life," Molloy said.

Only 363 of those 421 traffic fatalities had a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more.

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Only 363 of those 421 traffic fatalities had a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more.

To avoid drinking and driving, have a friend or family member serve as a designated driver, arrange for someone to pick you up when you're ready to leave or call a taxi. Many bars will call a taxi for you if you're intoxicated and unable to drive, you just have to pay the fare once you get home.

"Keep in mind what's at stake," Molloy said. "Designate a driver who will not drink at all. If you are the designated driver, make sure you stay the designated driver throughout the night."

If you're at a friend or relative's place, ask if spending the night on the couch is an option. Chances are they'll say "yes" and no one's life will be at risk. Also, no one will get arrested or crash their vehicle as a result of it, both events that would be damaging to the pocketbook and criminal record.



In Command
Novi Fire Department Capt. Brad McFaul recently graduated from Eastern Michigan University's 10-month School of Fire Staff and Command program, which focused on management, computer programs and managing fire department personnel.

Christmas stealing is naughty not nice

POLICE BRIEFS

BB gun responsible for vehicle damage

A vehicle, parked on Peach Tree between Nine Mile Road and Edgewater, was shot at with a BB gun between 5:30 p.m. Dec. 4 and 9 a.m. Dec. 5, reports said.

According to the report, the woman exited the store with an attempt to pay for the concealed jewelry.

She was apprehended by loss prevention officers and taken into custody, where she turned over the stolen jewelry worth \$67, reports said.

According to Novi police officers, the woman confessed to taking the jewelry for her sister for a

Paintballs color Explorer

According to a recent police report, a vehicle parked in the lot of Lady Jane's Barber Shop, on 10 Mile near Meadowbrook Road, was hit by paintballs Dec. 5.

The beige Ford Explorer, which was parked in the lot toward the back of the barber shop, was splattered along the passenger-side windows with yellow paint, reports said.

According to police, the paint appeared to be from four or five paintballs, but they were unable to determine if there was permanent damage done to the vehicle.

There are no suspects at this time, reports said.

A man was arrested for operating while intoxicated just before 1 a.m. Nov. 30, reports said.

A Novi police officer was driving eastbound on Grand River Avenue when he observed the black Pontiac Grand Prix in front

of him swerve over the fog line and into the shoulder several times, reports said.

Once the officer initiated a traffic stop on Grand River near Joseph Drive, he immediately smelled an odor of intoxicants, reports said.

After conducting field sobriety tests, the officer administered a preliminary breath test which registered the man's blood alcohol concentration at .156 percent, reports said.

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MY NOVI PEOPLE

ENGAGEMENTS



Cernan-Nadolni

Dennis and Patricia Cernan of Detroit announce the engagement

of their daughter, Cheri Ann Cernan of Novi, to Paul Anthony Nadolni of Novi, son of Katherine Castillo of Southfield and John Nadolni of Jamestown, Tenn. The couple became engaged on Sept. 9 when Paul proposed at Arch Rock on Mackinac Island.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Cass Technical High School in Detroit and is employed as the office manager at Michigan Premier Internists.

The groom-elect graduated from Novi High School and served with the United States Marine Corps from 1998 until 2001. He is currently a student at Schoolcraft College.

A wedding is planned for March 28, 2008 on Sand Key Beach in Clearwater, Fla.



Sessoms-Olson

Timothy Sessoms of Charlotte,

N.C. and Sheila McCathrin of Dallas announce the engagement of their daughter Katelynn Sessoms of Walled Lake to Miles Olson, son of Doug and Leah Olson of Novi.

The bride-elect is a full-time student at Eastern Michigan University. She is in her junior year.

The groom-elect is a junior at Madonna University, and currently employed at AT&T.

A wedding is planned for May 2009.

ADVANCEMENTS



Marc Sherrod

Marc Sherrod was named dean of academic affairs for The Art Institute of Michigan in Novi, a school that offers academic programs in design, fashion and culinary arts. In this position, Sherrod will participate as a member of the school's executive committee, be responsible for managing the business metrics as

they apply to academic affairs and coordinating research and community involvement.

Prior to joining The Art Institute of Michigan, Sherrod worked at The Art Institute of Colorado as dean of academic affairs on education issues and business metrics, participated in Education Management LLC's Executive Committee Leadership Institute (ECLI) and began training for the dean of academic affairs position. Education Management is the parent company of The Art Institutes.

Sherrod graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in history in 1989 and a master's degree in international relations in 1992 from Lancaster University in the United Kingdom.

Sherrod resides in Novi.

MILITARY

Kara M. Gutherie

Navy Scaman Apprentice Kara M. Gutherie, a 2006 graduate of Walled Lake Central High School, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Gutherie completed a variety of training, which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, fire fighting, water safety and survival, shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations." This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance.

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Read Then Recycle

Rapid Robots improve at state LEGO competition

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

They could be considered LEGO enthusiasts, but they have a whole other level up on Zack the LEGO Maniac, of 1998's commercial fame. The Novi Rapid Robots team, one of four pre-high school-aged groups from Novi to compete in nearby LEGO robotics competitions, competed with more than 40 other teams at the FIRST LEGO League State Competition held at Rock Financial Showplace last Saturday.

Although overall competition scores were not set to be released until late this week, the team did well, improving in every category from last year's competition.

"Our team scored highest of the Novi teams. I think, in the performance category, we were tied for seventh," said Dale Stockman, coach of the Rapid Robots. "We did improve a lot from last year in every category. We came close to a perfect 400-point round in the robotic competition, but there was a false start by the judges. They came so close to a perfect score they went to come back (next year) and get that perfect score and a trophy."

The group qualified for the State Competition after receiving the creative presentation award at the Nov. 17 Regional Competition in Allen Park.

"You'll see all sorts of different kinds of competitions. There's schools, communities, churches and homeschool teams. There's quite a mixture of kids and they have a blast," Stockman said.

The Novi Rapid Robots team formed four years ago after a high school demonstration at Parkview Elementary interested the students. Stockman's son, Derek, is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Novi Middle School, and is one of two founding members still with the group. Ryan Dunn, whose dad, Mike, is currently an assistant coach, is the other remaining

franchising member.

Derek serves as the team's software manager, making it his responsibility to name the conventions for all the programs and to make sure everyone knows what is going on.

"(My favorite part is) seeing everything come together at the end and seeing it pay off," Derek Stockman said. "I learned how to diagnose a problem, not just fix it right away and (also) to ask others. One of the other kids was working on a problem that was really inconsistent. We all sat down and diagnosed the problem."

Going into the competition, Derek felt the team would improve on their finish from last year, which was in the top third of more than 70 teams.

"I think we'll do very good. Last year, we made it to States and were strong at Regionals. I think we could do better," he said last Thursday. "Overall, the competition isn't about doing good, but making a difference and learning."

Dale said the robots, which are usually no larger than eight inches in any direction, use LEGO parts and gears to perform several actions that may include pushing a lever, planting small LEGO trees or driving a hydrogen-powered car through a house.

"It may have to go out and navigate from point to point. It may have to push something," he said.

"The one really difficult part is, once you press 'start,' the robot has to go over and do everything

on its own (based on how you programmed it)."

Most of the robots are built with the LEGO Mindstorm NXT kit, which gives the team a system of rotors, wheels and contact sensors to work with in creating their competition piece.

"Our kids started using ROBO-LAB, which is a version of LabVIEW, which is software from the LEGO industry," Dale said, who is a project management engineer at TRW Braking and Engineering in Livonia. "Mission plans and parts are delivered from LEGO engineering. We just have to design it all."

The team gets a lot of help from the high school's Team 503 Frog Force, which serve as mentors to their younger counterparts.

Joining Stockman and Dunn on the team is third-year member Garrett Buckley, second-year member Tommy Blessing and first-year members Connor Daly and Tanner Daskalakis. All team members are 10-12 years old and live in Novi.

Other Novi-based teams competing at the State Competition were the Armored Armadillos, Techno Tadpoles and Poweraid — the latter two which took home trophies.



Team Rapid Robots and their mentors from the high school's Team 503 Frog Force stand with medals they won from their performance at the State Competition. Back row (left to right): Mentors Gavin Patient and Pedro Pastorelli, Derek Stockman, president and mentor Nathan VanHortwick, Connor Daly and Ryan Dunn. Front row: Garrett Buckley, Tommy Blessing and Tanner Daskalakis.

Physical Therapy Rehabilitation Update

by Dennis Engerer, P.T.

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Vasovagal syncope, the most frequent fainting episode, is triggered by a sudden drop in blood pressure during highly stressful or emotional situations. This very common condition results in fainting in about half of the population at some point in their lives. Recently, Dutch researchers found that performing three simple muscle-tensing moves when feeling light-headed may help avert this type of fainting. The first move involves clapping your hands across your chest and pulling hard in opposite directions. The second call for crossing your legs at the ankles while standing and tensing your high, stomach, and buttock muscles. Lastly, squeeze a ball or wad of paper in one hand. These moves may reduce the risk of fainting by about 30%.

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P.S. Vasovagal syncope is an abnormal reflex that causes a drop in blood pressure that leads to decreased blood flow to the brain, resulting in dizziness or fainting.

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Thursday, December 13, 2007 NOW NEWS 8A

MY EDUCATION

School board approves election changes

MEETING NOTEBOOK

The Novi Board of Education passed the Michigan election law changes unanimously to move the elections from May to November and to align the terms with the calendar year rather than the district's academic year.

The Michigan election law was passed 7-0 to hold elections November of every year and to maintain four-year terms. All current member terms will be extended six months to abide by the also passed Dec. 30 term-switch date, moved from June 30.

The changes will save the district \$19,000. The board hopes the changes will also increase voter turnout and keep residents interested in becoming future board members.

Student board member report

Student board member and Novi Middle School President Katherine Ferris, an eighth grader, spoke about the success of the Turkey Trot, which collected money and more than 5,000 cans of food for those in need. She also reported on the success of the senior citizen holiday luncheon and the choir's trip to sing at a primary Spanish-speaking school. She noted that the band's holiday concert is on Dec. 21.

Comments from the audience

Michael Reed, a social studies teacher and parent of Austin Reed, told the board he had chaperoned similar trips with high school juniors and he didn't have a single concern with sending his son on the trip. He hoped the trip would be continued annually so his two younger sons can experience it in a few years. Treasurer Ann Glubzinski said the presentation had removed any prior concerns she had about the trip.

Action items

- Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Bob Schram presented, and the board approved 7-0, the leaves of absence for high school teachers Jodi Foster and Amy Robinson until Jan. 19, 2008, to care for their children.
- The board voted unanimously to maintain the 50 percent summer tax collections between August and February, rather than collecting all 100 percent in August as other districts are doing. The support behind this is that there is not an immediate need for bulking "safety funds" in

the use of EZShare at any time, the board unanimously moved the subject to an action item and passed it 7-0, enabling Windows Media Player video streaming of board meetings on the school board Web site through the end of the academic year.

Board communication

Trustee Julie Abrams spoke about the Board Curriculum Committee's four subjects of discussion: the fourth grade MEAP pilot testing, elementary report cards, the personal curriculum steering committee's Michigan Merit curriculum requirements and the federal grant-funded teacher training being done by the International Baccalaureate program that could bring the program to Novi by fall 2010 after the district is allowed to apply in fall 2008. A district cannot apply until teacher's complete training for the program.

Presentations

Novi Middle School students Austin Reed, Callie Wright and Varsha Raju, along with teacher Kon Fenchel, spoke to the board about the November trip to Washington D.C. Reed presented the educational, social and personal responsibility benefits gained from the trip, while Wright presented a video clip and photos of what the group saw on their trip. Raju spoke about the security the schools used, keeping 201 kids safe and together through matching clothing, backpacks, wristbands, curfews, buddy systems, a 121 chaparrone radio and constant attendance checks at each stopping point.

Discussion Items

The board heard a summary of the district's 2006-07 financial audit from Doran Mayhew, Monica Apertson of the business office spent much of her summer helping to compile the report. The district has a \$8.8 million unadvised fund balance, which could support the state for about six weeks if anything were to happen to state or county funding. The 12.5 percent unrestricted fund is "a safety margin" a lot of districts wish they had," Koepke said. The district also has a \$3 million deficit, a number that was improved from \$4.2 million. The district received a clean and unmodified audit. The audit will be an action item at the Jan. 10, 2008 regular meeting.

Superintendent Peter Dion and Fenchel spoke about their hopes for next year's middle school trip to Washington D.C. from Nov. 5-9, 2008. Fenchel wants to have the trip leave at 10 p.m. Wednesday evening rather than 4 a.m. Monday morning in order to improve sleep schedules and give the group more time in the nation's capital. The additional cost of the trip for doing this would only raise \$35 more than the 2007 trip cost, to \$330 per student. Fenchel hopes, by getting approval now, he can meet with seventh grade parents to let them know about the eighth grade trip next fall, so they can begin planning and saving sooner. Based on the earlier presentation, the board was in general support, moving the decision to an action item in January.

The board discussed a new video streaming option through EZShare that would cost \$700 for the first six months, much cheaper than the previously discussed programs. Technology Director Jim Fry and Technology System Support Manager Wanda Ciancio answered board questions. With the option of starting and stopping

the board received a 10 percent discount on 100 percent in additional items needed for bond projects. District bond projects will cost a projected \$1.9 million, with about \$1 million available through the sinking fund. Kortlandt also announced that the district received a 10 percent discount on 100 percent in additional items needed for bond projects. District bond projects will cost a projected \$1.9 million, with about \$1 million available through the sinking fund.

Superintendent's report

Dion said three Novi High School teachers (Brian Langley, Dale Rogers and Ken Deangelo) were recognized in Lansing on Dec. 6. Dion also said Assistant Superintendent of Academics Monique Beels helped the district earn \$7,000 in grants last week

Historical Visit
Bill Parker, portraying Thomas Jefferson, talks to a group of Novi Meadows students about life in colonial-era America. Students learned that Jefferson was the author of the Declaration of Independence, founded the University of Virginia and was a horticulturalist.

for Japanese students, \$6,000 of which came from the Japanese Business Society.

He also mentioned the success of various volunteer events such as a high school student fundraiser at the MainStreet BD's Mongolian Barbecue and Rotary Senior Holiday Party at the middle school.

He said the all-ages, evening Thomas Jefferson performance by Bill Barker on Dec. 4 was well attended and received as it was standing room only at Novi Middle School.

Dion said the district's 11 highly qualified special education teachers need to get qualified for new state requirements by June 30, 2009, which means they need to plan on it by June 30, 2008.

Parent-teacher conferences went well and a page-long list of parents, teachers and administrators are on a report card committee to ensure the new report card is the best it can be. All grades and district buildings have representatives in the committee.

High School Athletic Director Curt Ellis supported and told Dion that students wanted varsity and junior varsity girls field hockey teams. Dion said adding the potential non-funded intercollegiate sport will be a discussion item at a January board meeting.

The board retired to executive session about 10:10 p.m.

School board meeting notes were taken from the Thursday, Dec. 6 regular meeting of the Novi Community School Board. All board members were in attendance. Next meeting: 7 p.m. Jan. 10 at the Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Road.

Committee forms after report cards deemed not ready

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

More than 50 participants representing each district building met last week for six and a half hours discussing the Novi Community School District's goals for a new report card.

The report card committee, consisting of administrators, teachers and parents, critiqued about eight different cards with recent changes from other districts, setting a mission and purpose for Novi's evaluation docu-

ments.

The committee is scheduled to meet again Jan. 7 to discuss the vision for what the new report cards will include.

Novi Community Schools did not send out a fall report card during the November tri-semester for kindergarten through fourth-grade students after the new card was not ready. The district's software is unable to store two report cards simultaneously, so last year's version was unavailable to send out in its place.

"Our reporting system can only support one. There wasn't enough time to reload the old report card," said Superintendent of Academics Monique Beels, who also noted the district did not know report cards would be unavailable until about Nov. 16, the same time the cards are usually released.

The delay of the new report cards draws from a few issues. The social studies expectations were just completed by the state, but the kindergarten through

eight-grade science expectations expected in early November have not been released and philosophical differences of the report card also came into play, resulting in the new report card committee.

"There will not be a fall report card. There (were) parent-teacher conferences instead," said Superintendent Peter Dion. "We're revising the report card and the revision is not ready yet. It's going to reflect grade-level expectations from the state."

Without report cards, many parents utilized the teacher's availability at conferences two weeks ago. Beels said they were some of the most well attended in years.

As the report card committee discusses revisions to the district's report card, fall spring's report card will be issued for the final two semesters.

"We're going to go back to the old report cards for the next two tri-semester (March and June) and will start with the new ones in fall," said Pam Quiquitt.

Grade five through 12 report cards remain on schedule while changes are made to the elementary school report cards.

Beels said parents wanting to contribute input to the creation of a new report card should talk to their building principal or e-mail her at mbeels@novi.k12.mi.us.

Novi News staff writer Chris Jackett can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122 or cjackett@gannett.com.

Novi High School bands perform winter concert tonight

The Novi High School bands will perform a winter concert 7 p.m. tonight at Novi High School. Featured will be the Jazz Band, Concert Band, Symphony Band and the Wind Ensemble. The Jazz Band will perform in the Atrium and the other bands will perform in the auditorium. This is a wonderful evening of music performed by very talented musicians.

Class Notes

Novi Meadows sixth-grader Emma Howe is starring in "The Jungle Book" now playing at the Marquis Theatre, Northville. Howe is playing the lead role of Mowgli at the 2:30 p.m. show, Dec. 15 and 16. This is the 15th production she has been in at the Marquis Theatre. The play runs through January. Tickets are \$8.

Quiz Bowl champs

Five Novi Quiz Bowl teams performed very well at a tournament hosted by Hartland High School.

One novice team had the strongest finish earning second place out of a field of 16 teams. The team went 7-1 for the day, with its one loss coming in the finals in a nail-biter against Catholic Central. The team was led by Tahsin Islam with strong performances by Peter Jiang, Kirana Ghauddikoa, Sabwar Masfiah and second novice team made the playoffs, led by Emily Paterson, but was edged out in

the quarter-final round.

The varsity team also had a great day finishing in third place in a pool of 24 teams. The team won its way into the semifinals losing to the eventual champion, Okemos. The varsity team was led by captain Robert Burgos, with strong performances by Ruizao Zuo, Nazifa Islam and Andrew Phillips.

Finally, the junior varsity team had the great day as well earning third place out of a field of 13 teams. The team went 6-2 for the day, with two losses to the eventual champion, Church Hill. The team was led by Anand Saleem with strong performances by Claire Weber, Andi Li, T.J. Weingener, Matt Jedoin, Maomao Wang, Ani Ravi and Yumbo Nie.

This is the first time that Novi has won three trophies from one tournament.

Community financial makes donation to Novi Educational Foundation

Community Financial recently presented a check to the Novi Educational Foundation, which will use the funds to support the "Reality Store" project at Novi Middle School. This program enables students to participate in a simulation game helping them learn how occupational choices they make today impact their ability to enter different occupations and support various standards of living.

The donation was made possible by Community Financial's positive financial performance during 2007. The Novi

Edmond County. This non-profit organization then distributed the blankets to people in need.

Band students selected for All-State Band and Orchestra

Eleven band students from Walled Lake Central, Northern and Western High Schools recently made the 2008 Michigan All-State Band and All-State Orchestra. They were selected from more than 2,000 students auditioning around the state in early November, and will perform as part of the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids, January 24-26. The students selected for All-State Band are: Kellee Cher (Northern) clarinet; Mark Golden (Northern) trombone; Carrie Restor (Central) horn; Ethan Riley (Northern) trumpet; Ethan Rosenberg (Northern) bass clarinet; and Nicholas Vojvoda (Northern) clarinet. The students selected for All-State Orchestra are: Jon Mascie (Western) violin; Kari Rich (Western) bassoon; Caitlin Taylor

principal of Novi Woods Elementary.

Grade five through 12 report cards remain on schedule while changes are made to the elementary school report cards.

Beels said parents wanting to contribute input to the creation of a new report card should talk to their building principal or e-mail her at mbeels@novi.k12.mi.us.

Novi News staff writer Chris Jackett can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122 or cjackett@gannett.com.

It's A Wonderful Life

The Novi Theatres presents "It's a Wonderful Life the Musical" this weekend at the Novi Civic Center. Actors from Novi and the surrounding area come together to join talents recreating the family classic featuring an orchestra and original score. Performances are 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. There will also be a matinee showing at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

For more information, call (248) 347-0400.

PHOTOS BY ELAINE MAYLEN



Scott Belrens of Novi performs in the Novi Theatres' annual holiday production. The musical takes a lighter look at the Christmas favorite, "It's a Wonderful Life."



The cast of Novi Theatres' "It's a Wonderful Life the Musical" will perform again this weekend at the Novi Civic Center.



A holiday favorite "It's a Wonderful Life the Musical" begins its second run Friday, with the final production Saturday night.

CALLING ALL SENIORS: Check out your section of our community calendar on page 14A

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

MY SENIOR LIFE



Thursday, December 13, 2007
www.novnews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Find your 'balance' later in life

By Tracy Estes-Mishler
SPECIAL WRITER

Gary Swope needed a knee replacement.

But after several months of balance and strength training, the 62-year-old Brighton resident's need was deterred indefinitely.

"I've had some amazing results and have deferred knee surgery," Swope said. "I was just at the surgeon's last week and he told me to stick with the exercise."

"I used to take Motrin and aspirin and painkillers. I was eating those by the handful. Now, I don't take any. I'm absolutely thankful."

Swope participates in the balance and strength class, 60 Plus Balance and Strength at the Sports Club of Novi.

"I've had knee problems my entire life," Swope said. "Originally, I injured it playing hockey as a teenager, then I had medial meniscus cartilage removed, which made for bone rubbing on bone."

"I've basically had pain my entire life but, through medical treatment and these classes, I've deferred surgery. It's amazing."

Balance and strength classes are available for those having trouble keeping their balance and looking to strengthen their muscles.

Debbie Nuttle, personal trainer and group exercise instructor for the Sports Club of Novi, said balance and strength classes can help anyone make their everyday tasks in life easier.

"If you have good balance, you're less likely to slip and fall," said Nuttle, instructor of the 60 Plus Balance and Strength class. "And if you have good strength and flexibility, you're less likely

to get injured if you fall, especially during the slippery seasons."

Nuttle said all those taking a balance class have their own success story, whether it's big or small.

"Balance is going to help you stay on your feet," she said. "Many people will say they don't need it, but you'd be amazed at the difference it makes."

Roughly 9 percent of adults 65 and older report having a problem with balance, according to the National Institute of Health.

Having good balance means being able to control and maintain your body's position, whether you are moving or remaining still.

Get your balance in check

Nuttle said the Sports Club offers two balance and strength classes per week, taught by herself and co-instructor, Suzanne Schulz.

She said both classes incorporate different ways of increasing balance and strength whether by using the BOSU Balance Trainer, a platform used in increasing balance, or other equipment and exercises.

Gloria Burnside, 62, of Novi, said she and her husband, John, have been attending the Balance and Strength class since its onset in September 2006.

"Everyone can benefit from a strength and balance class," Burnside said. "It makes you feel better and even stronger."

"Don't be afraid to try something new. Put aside your apprehensions because you'll be glad you did."

Burnside said, because of her balance and strength class, she

Balance and Strength

For more information on joining a balance and strength class, contact the Novi Sports Club at (248) 735-8850.

was able to sign up for other classes, like Yoga. She said her and John workout three to four days a week on average, but their goal is to shoot for five.

"You need to keep active as you age," Burnside said. "That's how you avoid injuries and problems later on in life."

Cassandra Spohn, fitness coordinator for Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks, said keeping your balance and strength under control helps you maintain independence as you age.

"Many residents here who I work with have either fallen or broken a hip and use walkers," Spohn said. "The goal is to get rid of the walkers and help them to regain their independence."

According to the National Institute of Health, improving your lower body strength will help improve your balance, and better balance means reduced risk of falls.

"Both balance and strength are needed among seniors and are very important," Spohn said. "The idea is to stay active and that helps them live a better life."

She said anyone, not only seniors, could use better balance.

"I've noticed more and more people have balance issues and may not even realize it," she said. "It's OK to be nervous and apprehensive."

"Take a class and give it a try. You will feel much better."

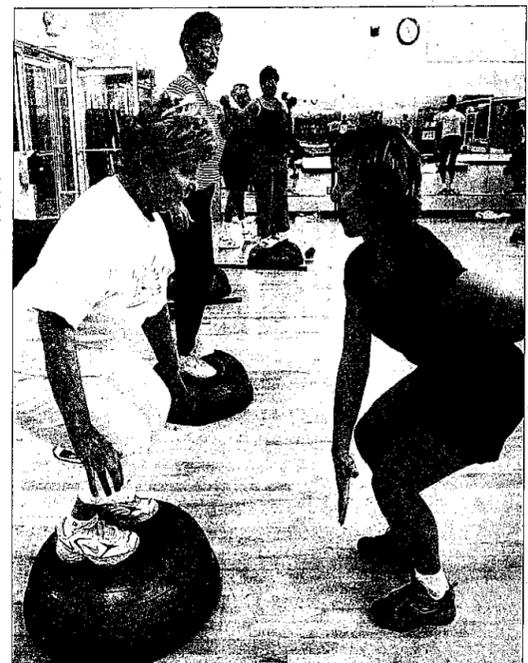


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NOV NEWS

Novi Sports Club instructor Debbie Nuttle, right, works with "55+ Balance and Strength" student Barbara Deck during a Monday morning workout. Many members of the class have seen impressive gains since taking the class, like Gary Swope, who used to need a knee replacement and can now walk and workout without the surgery.

For breaking news on the Web: www.novnews.com

12 Days of Christmas Sale!

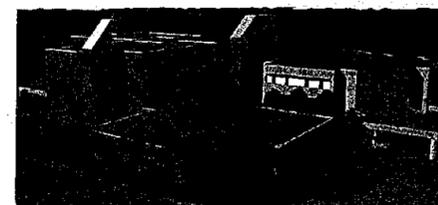
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Profile of a Paw Print Inn Guest

NAME: Cody
FAVORITE PASTIME: Chasing cats
FAVORITE TOY: Squeaky frog
FAVORITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION: The Paw Print Inn



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Victoria Mitchell, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 102

MY OPINION

Thursday, December 13, 2007 www.novinews.com

Novi News

Victoria Mitchell EDITOR Richard Perlberg EXECUTIVE EDITOR Grace Perez Perry GENERAL MANAGER

In our opinion - District gets it right

Last week the Novi Community School Board of Education united and approved changing its school board elections from May to November in an effort to save the district nearly \$20,000 annually.

Board members also agreed to change their four-year terms to align with the calendar year rather than the district's academic year.

We applaud the district for making the changes. In a time when school districts are fighting nominal per-pupil foundation increases and in past years, funding decreases, we believe it is a school district's responsibility to save money wherever possible in order to funnel those dollars back into the classroom.

Since Gov. Jennifer Granholm's election reform, elections are generally permitted four times a year.

Many school districts throughout the state kept their elections in May, despite the fact it meant often footing the entire election bill. Having an election at a time when a municipality is having a general election means districts can share or eliminate costs entirely.

So why not make the change now? Reasons given by area school districts often center on two arguments:

• Many school decision makers believe it would be too disruptive to elect school board members in November when a district's academic year begins in July.

• Arguments have also been made that Michigan school districts prefer to keep their elections in May to maintain ballot control. Placing bond proposals on a May ballot may mean school supporters will show at the polls, rather than the general public, which may mean more "no" votes.

Novi school officials said they look forward to the November elections, and hope it will increase voter turnout and keep residents interested in becoming future board members.

But in our current economy, neither argument, whether true or not, holds water anymore.

Pennies must be pinched. And we are glad Novi has stepped up and made a necessary change to save the district much needed dollars.

The season has lost its meaning

Merry Christmas! I hope I didn't offend anyone by writing that, as seems to be the worry these days. No more "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Hanukkah" being said and advertised, just a lot of "Happy Holidays" and "Seasons Greetings."



Don't get me wrong, I'd love for my holiday to be happy and for the horrible driving conditions snow brings this season. I don't mind being greeted either. However, these have become the substitutes for celebrating holidays that were originally founded on the togetherness of family and whatever religious or ethnic event an individual may celebrate.

If you're Jewish, celebrate Hanukkah. If you're Christian, celebrate Christmas. Kwanzaa is also in the mix for African Americans, a holiday designed to unite the culture. Those three groups should combine to cover a large portion of people celebrating this month, but none of those three words are ones you'll see plastering most advertisements and coming out of your mouths as you pass along your "seasons greetings" to others.

It was much different a decade or two ago. Saying what you're celebrating as an individual lets people know you're not just along for the potential sleigh ride, especially when you're out shopping.

Tradition has sadly changed over the past century as these holidays have grown. No longer is there any real emphasis on the reasons for the season.

An advertisement for toys, in general, can say "Happy Holidays" if their marketing gurus feel they need to be open to all the groups. That's fine. But it's the point where people buy "holiday items" and tell a large-headed man what material items they want that confuses me as to how it all helps celebrate the birth of a recognized religious prophet.

Someone out there had their head on backwards when they thought this all up. For the rest of you, merry Christmas, happy Hanukkah and have a great Kwanzaa.

Rick Wagoner, CEO of General Motors, said it this way: "Twenty years from now, the only markets that will really matter will be the U.S. and China." If it were not for the profits being made in China, GM would be in much tougher financial shape than it is today. While the U.S. auto market is stagnant, the growth of sales in China is growing by leaps and bounds. This should not surprise anyone who



Photo by JOHN HEDER/WNV News

Making a Difference

Village Oaks Elementary School students watch the presentation of Kathleen Day as she talks about "Women Who Made a Difference".

Presidential primary

Now that a decision has finally been made regarding the Michigan Primary, here are a few tidbits of information you might find useful. On Jan. 15, the Michigan Presidential Primary will be held. In many ways it will be like any other public election.

Voters will vote at their regular polling places between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. Voters can vote by absentee ballot if they meet one of the requirements: Out of town, age 60 or older, disability. The deadline to register to vote is 30 days before Jan. 15 or Dec. 17. In order to vote at a polling place, a voter must show a photo ID or sign a statement that they do not

LETTERS

have a photo ID with them. Absentee voters do not have to produce a photo ID.

However, there will be some different procedures as well. First, voters will be asked whether they want a Democratic or Republican ballot, and a record will be made of which ballot they take. The voter's choice of candidate will be secret as in all public elections. Second, the Democratic ballot will have six choices: Hillary Clinton, Christopher Dodd, Mike Gravel, Dennis Kucinich, uncommitted and write-in.

A vote for "uncommitted" is a vote to send delegates to the Democratic National Convention who are not committed to any candidate. Those delegates can vote for any candi-

date they choose at the Convention. Supporters of Joe Biden, John Edwards, Barack Obama and Bill Richardson are urged to vote "uncommitted" instead of writing in their candidates' names because write-in votes for those candidates will not be counted.

Let's be part of the process and get out there and vote on January 15.

Karen B. Zyczynski Novi

A note of gratitude

The Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department extends a most grateful "thank you" to the local businesses and organizations who, by their contributions and support, "Enriched Lives and Strengthened Our Community." The 2007 Ringing in the Holidays event, presented in partnership with Providence Park Hospital, was successful and enjoyed by all who took part.

Thanks again for your support! Providence Park Hospital; ITC, Michigan CAT; Varsity, Lincoln, Mercury; Main Street Village/Singh; Pump It Up; Larson Jewelry and Real Estate One.

Derek O. Smith, CPRP Recreation Supervisor Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry

Tom Watkins: Building Bridges - From Great Lakes to Great Wall

If the current and two former Michigan Governors, and top governmental, business, political, labor and educational leaders told you to pay attention, that what you are about to hear and see is going to impact our state, our communities, families and your children and grandchildren - would you? Well, you'd better.

On Sunday, Dec. 16 at 11 p.m. following the finale of "Survivor: China," WWJ-TV (Channel 62) will premiere a three-part series that examines Michigan's economy and future and their potential connections with China in "Building Bridges: From the Great Lakes to the Great Wall." (Part two airs Tuesday, Dec. 18 from 6-6:30 p.m. The series wraps up on Wednesday, Dec. 19 from 6-6:30 p.m.)

This show, in which I assisted as a consultant for WWJ-TV, is a wake-up call to everyone in Michigan. It tells us that the world we once had is now gone. There are 1.3 billion new consumers/capitalists that are going to challenge and engage us at every turn - in business, education, innovation and creativity.

"The TV special, "Building Bridges" is shot in stunning high-definition and hosted by Carol Cain, Community Affairs and Editorial Director of WWJ-TV. It leads us on a journey to see how the Chinese have built one of the most explosive economies on the planet and how the economic growth in China could help position Michigan for future growth.

Rick Wagoner, CEO of General Motors, said it this way: "Twenty years from now, the only markets that will really matter will be the U.S. and China." If it were not for the profits being made in China, GM would be in much tougher financial shape than it is today. While the U.S. auto market is stagnant, the growth of sales in China is growing by leaps and bounds. This should not surprise anyone who

understands that the ability to own a private car is a phenomenon that is less than 20 years old in this country that is home to one-fifth of the world's humanity!

Cain interviewed a number of experts to offer the most comprehensive, eye-opening report on those who are building bridges and attempting to develop opportunities for Michigan residents.

She and WWJ-TV award-winning videographer, Paul Plytylow, captured the sights and sounds of China from the majestic city of Shanghai teeming with its 20 million residents, of China and the scenic beauty of the habitat of perhaps one of the most beloved animals in the world, the Giant Panda.

"Building Bridges" features exclusive interviews with virtually every local business leader and decision-maker who will play a part in Michigan's economic expansion. From government officials to business CEOs, automotive executives to union leaders, Cain leads a very balanced discussion on this important topic.

A number of experts were tapped to offer the most comprehensive, eye-opening report, to date, on this issue. Cain traveled extensively throughout China and Michigan to see first-hand how bold pioneers in business and education are laying the groundwork for future prosperity in Michigan. A partial list of her guests includes: Jennifer Granholm, governor of Michigan; John Engler and Jim Blanchard, former governors of Michigan; Phil Spender, Ford China COO; Audie Wong, Amway China's Zhou Wenzhong, Chinese ambassador to the United States; Mary Sue Coleman, University of Michigan president; Kenneth Lieberthal, University of Michigan China expert; C. Peter Thier, Partner, Buzel Long, Amway China's Business Advisory Council; Karolo Chen, CEO of

Motown Travel; Mark Brewer, Michigan Democratic party chairman; Mark Gaffney, ITC, Michigan CAT; Varsity, Lincoln, Mercury; Main Street Village/Singh; Pump It Up; Larson Jewelry and Real Estate One.

Globalization Is Here to Stay! Jim Epolito, President and CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, gives this advice: "There is a need to change the mindset of all Michigan companies, regardless of size. In today's economy, where goods and services move across time zones and international borders seamlessly, ALL business is global, regardless if you want it to be or not."

Building solid relationships, or "guanxi," are critical to long-term success in China. Two local political leaders, L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County executive, and Robert Ficano, Wayne County executive, are working overtime to build the relationships that will pay dividends back here in the Southeast Michigan region. Both of them and their staffs have made numerous, grueling transcontinental flights in an effort to develop the guanxi and "bring home the bacon" or, in this case, the jobs, for their constituents.

Patterson has both long- and short-term strategies to help prepare his county for the transformational global wave that has been heading our way for some time. He understands that our children will not be competing against the children in the school district or state next door - they will be competing against the children of the world. He has called for, and the Oakland schools have embraced, the teaching of Mandarin Chinese (the most spoken language on the planet) in all schools in Oakland County. His call has been heard in China by educators and busi-

ness leaders alike as a visionary educational effort and one that will make Oakland County and all of Southeast Michigan an economic magnet for Chinese investment.

Ficano has been to China three times in the past few years, crisscrossing the country telling them that Wayne County - and Michigan - are open for their investment and business. Ficano has been successful in locating one in 21 Metro Detroit homes have been in some phase of the foreclosure process and Michigan currently ranks first in the nation in delinquencies of subprime loans.

The bill amends the Consumer Mortgage Protection Act as a member of the committee; I look forward to a hearing on the proposed.

If you would like to look at the proposed summary form "The Basic Facts About Your Mortgage Loan" please contact my office for a copy or go to the following link: www.senate.michigan.gov/poppe/nancy/cassis/OnePageDisclosureForm.pdf

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Victoria Mitchell, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 102

COMMENTARY

Thursday, December 13, 2007 www.novinews.com

Phil Power: When odd couples become allies

This is the story of how two long-time Michigan legislators, originally fierce opponents, earned over time to work together to pass important legislation that today benefits thousands of us.

It is a story our entire governing class could learn from today. It makes a convincing case that Michigan's term limits hurt our ability to pass sensible and effective legislation. More than that, it stands as a sharp rebuke to the behavior of our legislature in recent months.

First, to set the scene: David Hollister was first elected to the legislature in 1974, representing the 57th district, a safe seat for Democrats located entirely in Lansing. He was a firebrand Democrat, a member of the so-called "Kiddie Caucus" of liberal, young lawmakers who came in the Democratic wave after Watergate. He was pro-life in no uncertain terms, and served for 20 years.

Fred Dillingham was elected to the legislature in 1978, representing the solid Republican 51st district, including all of Livingston County and much of rural Ingham County. Geographically, his seat was close to Hollister's. Politically, they were light-years apart. Dillingham was a staunch pro-life, anti-abortion conservative. He served in the legislature for 16 years.

It would be hard to imagine two less likely allies. Yet they forged an alliance, something that happens far less often today. And here, in their own words, is how they turned an initial confrontation over "the right to die" into working together to get legislation authorizing hospice care in Michigan.

Hollister: "My interest in the issue grew out of my grandfather, who had been a carpenter and never hospitalized. In the mid-1970s, he had a severe stroke. They put all kinds of feeding tubes and resuscitation stuff into him, which he hated - he tried to yank the tubes out, and they had to restrain him in the hospital for me. The critics would go after both of us, but I wasn't about to go back on my word to David, and he wasn't going to go back on his word to me."

Hollister: "Both of us came from safe districts, so we could keep our word with each other, perfecting our vision and keeping to it, day to day, month to month, hearing to hearing. We simply could not have done it under today's strict legislative term limits."

Dillingham: "We cut a deal and we stuck to it. Today, legislators are often scared - of interest groups, of recall campaigns, of who knows what. But in our case, over the years we were prepared to go back on our word, on what we had agreed to do."

Dillingham: "I can't imagine being able to that today." Eventually, legislation amending the Public Health Code authorizing hospice care was passed by the legislature in 1987 and signed into law by Gov. James J. Blanchard.

What followed has had an enormous impact. According to the Michigan Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, around 42,000 people in Michigan avoid themselves of hospice care. A more specific number shows that in 2005 alone, exactly 32,836 people in Michigan had hospice care paid for by Medicare. So what Rep. Dillingham and Hollister managed to do together has made an important difference in the lives of many, many Michiganders.

After leaving the legislature, Hollister became the mayor of Lansing and is now the director of prima civitas, the principal economic development organization for Lansing and mid-Michigan. Dillingham became president of the Economic Development Council of Livingston County. Coincidentally, both lost their mothers within the past three months; each died peacefully in hospice care.

Today, hospice care is far from unusual. Research by Jane Banaszak-Holl, a public health professor at the University of Michigan, suggests that 34 percent of those who died in Michigan in 2002 used hospice services in the year before their death. This was higher than the national average of 29 percent.

As for the "odd couple" - "We're still friends, still working together with the same passion as we did when we were in the legislature," Dillingham said. Collaboration is the key to everything, as it is to almost anything, of any importance," Hollister added. "Wouldn't we all be better off if our legislative leaders in Lansing today could understand from - and follow - their example?"



About Phil Power

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan, and was a reporter 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@chronet.com.

That wasn't easy, because each of us had to go back to our colleagues and bring along bunches of people who were critical. David had no standing with Right To Life, but I was able to give him cover with them. And he did the same thing for me. The critics would go after both of us, but I wasn't about to go back on my word to David, and he wasn't going to go back on his word to me."

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Lansing Connection:

Cassis co-sponsors mortgage disclosure bill

I recently co-sponsored legislation that was introduced in the state Senate requiring mortgage lenders to provide borrowers with a one-page summary disclosure of relevant facts pertinent to a mortgage contract.

Senate Bill 924 will help provide home buyers with information that is critical to determining whether an individual can afford to purchase a particular home. Since January 2006 it is estimated that one in 21 Metro Detroit homes have been in some phase of the foreclosure process and Michigan currently ranks first in the nation in delinquencies of subprime loans.

The bill amends the Consumer Mortgage Protection Act as a member of the committee; I look forward to a hearing on the proposed.

If you would like to look at the proposed summary form "The Basic Facts About Your Mortgage Loan" please contact my office for a copy or go to the following link: www.senate.michigan.gov/poppe/nancy/cassis/OnePageDisclosureForm.pdf

According to the New York Times, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said 38 of about 39 lead-related recalls this



Nancy Cassis

When many are purchasing toys for children and it is more important than ever to protect them from harm. Legislation banning the sale or transfer of toys and child care items that contain lead has unanimously passed the Senate.

Senate Bill 174 prohibits a person from using or applying a toxic substance in or on any toy or child care article and prohibits a person from selling, offering for sale, or transferring such an item in Michigan. The prohibitions would not apply to a collectible toy not marketed to or intended to be used by a minor.

According to the New York Times, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said 38 of about 39 lead-related recalls this

year were of Chinese-made products. The Times reported some Chinese factories choose to use paint with higher levels of lead because it can cost significantly less than those with lower lead amounts.

If you are purchasing toys this holiday season, you can check the National Safe Kids Campaign Web site www.safekids.org for updates and information on recent toy recalls.

Senate Bill 174 has been sent to the House of Representatives for consideration in the Health Policy Committee.

As always, I look forward to your comments. You can contact me by e-mail at annecassis@senate.michigan.gov, or toll free at (888) 38-NANCY.

State Senator Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi) represents the 15th Senate District, which includes the townships of Commerce, Highland, Holly, Lyon, Milford, Novi, Rose, West Bloomfield and White Lake, as well as the villages of Holly, Milford and Wolverine Lake and the cities of Novi, Northville (the Oakland County portion), Orchard Lake, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wixom.

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PROGRESSIVE DENTAL GROUP Start Smiling Now With Whiter Teeth! Open 2 Saturdays per month. Cosmetic Dentistry, Emergency Dental Care, Modern, State-Of-The-Art Facility.

LET'S TALK WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN GEMOLOGIST. A WIDE SPECTRUM OF POSSIBILITIES. Many people fortunate enough to have been born during the month of January repeat the tradition of buying red, white & blue.

WANTED Women who Are Serious about Their Fitness Resolutions! Join a 6 or 12 week fitness challenge! InShape Fitness 248-982-3860

In the Dec. 6 issue, the article "Legislature solves stalemate, repeals service tax" on Page 5A, the government growth was listed as 2.8 percent. It should be listed as 8.2 percent.

In the Nov. 29 article "Local toy makers ease anxiety" on Page 4A, color additive is mixed into the liquid plastic mold, not color coating, as reads. American Plastic Toys does not coat its toys.

HOT TICKET: Novi High School Winter Concert 7 p.m. tonight at the Taft Road campus

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



MY BULLETIN BOARD

Thursday, December 13, 2007
www.novnews.com
fax: (248) 349-6832

EVENTS

NHS Winter Concert
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13
LOCATION: Novi High School
DETAILS: The Concert Band, Symphony Band, Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band (Atrium) will perform.
CONTACT: Cheryl Crist at CC6597@aol.com

Milk & Cookies with Santa
TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14
LOCATION: Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool, Mt. Hope Church, 30330 Schoolcraft Road
DETAILS: Admission is \$4 per child; includes milk, cookies, crafts, photo with Santa and a raffle ticket to win the signed copy of "The Night Before Christmas," read by Santa. Kids can wear pajamas. RSVP: CONTACT: (734) 261-9540 or kidsfirst@academicpathwayspreschool.com

Novi Concert Band Performance
TIME/DATE: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16
DETAILS: The Novi Concert Band presents this special holiday concert sure to please audiences of all ages; songs include Victor Herbert's "March of the Toys," "White Christmas," "O Holy Night," music from "The Polar Express" and a new band classic "A Most Wonderful Christmas."

Hats, Scarves, Gloves Collection
LOCATION: Provident Dentistry, 40105 Grand River, Suite 1
DETAILS: Doctor's Angelecci, Kessler and Nielsen and their staff are collecting hats, scarves and gloves for needy school children, grades K-5th grade, in the Novi area. Please bring items to the dental office; call for further information (248) 471-0345.

The Second City's "Dysfunctional Holiday Revue"
TIME: 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, \$15; 8 and 10 p.m. Fridays, \$20; 7 and 9 p.m. (11 p.m. in December) Saturdays, \$20; and 8 p.m. Sundays, \$15
LOCATION: The Second City, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi
DETAILS: Get a healthy dose of seasonal satire with The Second City's 31st revue, directed by Mark Levenson of Novi.
CONTACT: For tickets or information, call (248) 348-4448 or visit www.secondcity.com

Art Van Community Events
Art Van Furniture Store, 27775 Novi Road, Novi, (248) 348-8922
Toys for Tots
DATE: Please donate a new, unwrapped toy for a child and drop it off at any Art Van store through Dec. 15. Toys will be delivered to local children by Christmas day. No toy guns please.
Visit with Santa
TIME/DATE: 3-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15
DETAILS: Children can visit with Santa and receive a treat; bring your camera.

Improv and Comedy Writing Classes
TIME/DATE: Registration is open through Dec. 14; Class begins Jan. 5.
LOCATION: The Second City Training Center, 42705 Grand River
DETAILS: Classes meet once per week (8 weeks) for 3 hours. Tuition is \$200, due in full upon registration (no refunds, non-transferable).
CONTACT: Visit www.secondcity.com or call (248) 348-4448.

Novi Rotary Club
TIME/DATE: Noon every Thursday
LOCATION: Novi Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Lunch is \$10 at meeting; visitors welcome, check website for speaker information, www.novirota.org.
Annual Holiday Raffle Dinner

DATE: Friday, Dec. 14
DETAILS: Enjoy an enchanting evening of "Dancing with the Stars;" help support our various community efforts with the purchase of a raffle ticket; tickets are \$125 but only 125 will be sold; Grand Prize is \$5,000 but other prizes also awarded.
CONTACT: Ginger Barrons at (248) 348-0551 or email Ginger at novirota.org@twmri.com

Pancake Supper Fundraiser
TIME/DATE: 5-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11
LOCATION: Novi High School Cafeteria
DETAILS: This fundraiser is entertaining for all ages. Sponsored by the Novi Neighbors and Newcomers, come out for all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, OJ and coffee. Watch the fastest pancake flipper from Chris Cakes of Michigan and duck for flying pancakes. Cost is \$6, children under 3 are free. Proceeds benefit NHS student scholarships. Afterwards watch the Boys Varsity basketball game.

Scrap the Night Away
TIME/DATE: 3-11 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25
DETAILS: Novi High School Senior All Night Party Fundraiser; \$25 per person includes pizza, snacks, beverage and door prizes; registration required; visit www.nhsk12.mn.us/parents-comm/orgs/WebPages/SeniorParty.aspx for information or to register.

SCI-Novl Chapter Annual Fundraiser Banquet
TIME/DATE: Doors open 4 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16
LOCATION: Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia
DETAILS: Featured items include hunting and fishing adventures all over the world, jewelry, artwork, home decorating goods, vacations and sport memorabilia; also numerous raffles. Tickets are \$65 each, including \$25 in free raffle tickets, when purchased by Jan. 31; and \$75 each after Jan. 31 with no free raffle tickets. Special table purchase programs also available. Purchase tickets by visiting www.scinovi.com or calling Wendy at (248) 620-0161. Seating is limited to the first 1000 tickets sold.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce
We're about business. We're about networking. We're about creating excitement in business and networking! Everyone is welcome to attend any of our events. For more information call Whitney, executive director at (248) 347-4622 or wmgccc@yahoo.com. Also visit www.greater-novichamber.com.
Experience West Oakland
TIME/DATE: 3-4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13 and 27
LOCATION: Compunware Ice Arena, M14 and Beck Roads
DETAILS: Join this group in their quest to bring more visitors and conventions to the area; free.
Sales Lead Group 1
TIME/DATE: 7:30-9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 13 and 27
LOCATION: Hosters of Novi
DETAILS: Pass and receive business leads (one business per category); free.
Holiday Party
TIME/DATE: 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19
LOCATION: 5th Avenue Ballroom
DETAILS: Join our pool tournament, with cool prizes, food and drink specials; call for details and to RSVP.
Arts Round Table
DATE: Tuesday, Jan. 8
LOCATION: MIXX Lounge on Main Street
DETAILS: Discuss art. Network with local artists.
Economic Forecast Luncheon
Sponsored by Lotus Bank and Shindler Rock & Associates
TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. registration

Females in the Family Business Affinity Group
TIME/DATE: 8-9:30 a.m. Third Thursday of every month
LOCATION: Walsh College Troy Campus
DETAILS: Walsh Business Leadership Institute invites women who own, are partners in, or work for family businesses. Items discussed will be common issues, and women can share solutions in a nonthreatening, noncompetitive, non-sales roundtable. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Jan Hubbard, jhubbard@walshcollege.edu

Providence Center for the Healing Arts
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455
Wanted: One-Time Art Workshop Instructors
DETAILS: We are looking for

tration; lunch at noon; speaker to follow; Wednesday, Jan. 9
LOCATION: Hotel Baronette
DETAILS: We will vote for our board members; cost is \$25 per member and \$30 per non-member.
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.novichamber.com or contact the chamber office at (248) 349-7343.

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 development programs that are responsive to the needs of the communities; we serve. For more information visit www.lakesareachamber.com or (248) 624-2826.
Ambassador Meeting
TIME/DATE: 9:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 14
LOCATION: Chamber Office, 305 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake
Spotlight Lunch
TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9
LOCATION: Coffee "N More, 48992 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
DETAILS: Members receive complimentary soft drink with purchase of a meal.
Gala Meeting
TIME/DATE: 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8 and Feb. 12
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital (Feb. meeting at Chamber Office)
Make 2008 Your Best Year Ever
TIME/DATE: 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17
LOCATION: Walled Lake Central High School Auditorium, 1600 Oakley Park Road
DETAILS: Presentation by author and international speaker Michael Angelo Caruso; reception, networking, hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks; \$35 per person.

Home Based Business Roundtable
TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23
LOCATION: Chamber Board Room
DETAILS: Discussion topic "Show Me the Money" including lunch, \$10 per person; pre-registration required.

Novi City Council Meeting
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 17
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Novi Community School District Board of Education Meeting
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10
LOCATION: Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Road
CONTACT: (248) 449-1204

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting
TIME/DATE: 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

BUSINESS

Novi Public Library
LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720
Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.

people who have an art or craft that they would like to share in our series of one-time workshops.
Colored Pencil Workshop
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m., second Tuesday of every month
DETAILS: Beginners welcome.
Express Yourself with Art and Color
DETAILS: \$5 materials fee; call for times and registration.
Ceramics Class
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; Friday by appointment
DETAILS: \$10 materials fee.
Knit'n' Yarns
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. Wednesday
DETAILS: Join others and create hats and scarves for those in need.
Creative Moments with Scrapbooking
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-noon Tuesday
DETAILS: \$3 materials fee.
Meditation
TIME/DATE: 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Thursday
DETAILS: Learn proper breathing techniques that can be used at home or on the job to help reduce stress; class held in reflection space, Cancer Center.
Therapeutic Yoga
TIME/DATE: 12:30-1:30 p.m. Monday (for backs); 6-7 p.m. Tuesday (mixed level); 11-12 a.m. (gentle yoga for cancer) and 12:15-1:15 p.m. (mixed level) Wednesday; 12:30-1:30 p.m. Friday (beginner/intermediate); 9:30-10:30 a.m. (intermediate/advanced) and 10:45-11:45 a.m. (mixed level) Saturday
DETAILS: \$10/walk-in, \$60/10-class card; \$45/5-class card; Lunch and Learn Yoga 7-week session is \$50; registration required. Classes also held at Providence Hospital, Southfield; call for details.
Massage Therapy
TIME/DATE: By appointment
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, \$50/50-minutes.

Knit'n' and Knotters
TIME/DATE: 6:30-8 p.m. second and fourth Monday of each month
DETAILS: Drop in for informal needlework group in Youth Area; all levels welcome.
Senior Book Discussion
TIME/DATE: Noon-1:30 p.m. second Thursday of each month
DETAILS: Book discussion group for older adults facilitated by librarian; please call to join.
H & R Block Year-end Tax Strategies
TIME/DATE: 7-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13
DETAILS: Register online or call the library for up to date information regarding your 2007 tax return.

Walled Lake City Library
LOCATION: 1499 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake
HOURS: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday; Closed Friday
CONTACT: (248) 624-3772
Classical Music Series
TIME/DATE: 2 p.m. first Tuesday of each month
Friends of the Library Meeting
TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. second Tuesday of each month.
Book Discussion Group
TIME/DATE: 12:30 p.m. third Tuesday of each month
DETAILS: Drop in for informal discussion; bring a bag lunch; check library for current book selection.
Evening Pre-school Story Time
TIME/DATE: 6:30-7:30 p.m. every Thursday
DETAILS: Stories, crafts and music for the independent listener, ages 3-5; drop-in, registration not required.
Story & Snacks Family Time
TIME/DATE: 6:30 every Thursday
Library Board of Trustees Meeting
TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. second Friday of every month

Line Dancing
DATE: Monday and Friday
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m. beginner; 7:30-9:30 p.m. intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: No partner needed; pay-as-you-go; Novi residents \$5, non-residents \$6.
Wixom Public Library
LOCATION: 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
HOURS: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday
CONTACT: (248) 624-2512
ESL Cafe
TIME/DATE: 3:30 p.m. every Thursday
DETAILS: Coffee and conversation-improve your English speaking skills by speaking with people from other countries trying to improve their English; no tests; instructor help; free.
CONTACT: Karin at the Information Desk.
Holiday Celebration, A Magical Puppet Show
TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 15
DETAILS: For children in grades K-5; Rob Papineau of Pippin Puppets presents "The Winning Wizard and the Trophy Hat"; registration required.

Novi Senior Activities Center
LOCATION: Located in the Meadowbrook Commons Senior Complex, 25075 Meadowbrook Road.
CONTACT: (248) 347-0414
Massage by appointment:
12:30-4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-noon Saturday
Thursday

SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT

Novi Community School District Board of Education Meeting
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10
LOCATION: Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Road
CONTACT: (248) 449-1204

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting
TIME/DATE: 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library
LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720
Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.

List your event in our calendar!

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



Deadline: Must be received by noon on Monday to be published in the Thursday edition
Call (248) 349-1700 for additional information.

9 a.m.: Line Dance at Novi Senior Center
10 a.m.: Meditation
11:15 a.m.: Line Dance-Beg
Noon: Lunch
12:15 p.m.: Contract Bridge
1 p.m.: Computer Lab
1:30 p.m.: Book Discussion-"A Christmas Blessing" by Donna Van Lier
2:30 p.m.: Line Dance
Friday
9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
Noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Dupl. Bridge
1 p.m.: Bingo
Monday
9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
Noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Pinochle
1 p.m.: Therapeutic Laughter Club, registration required, \$1
2 p.m.: Afternoon Tea, \$1
4 p.m.: Bereavement Support Group, Dr. Michael Meyer
Tuesday
8:30 a.m.: Panera Bread
9 a.m.: Line Dance-Int.
10 a.m.: Asian Pacific
10:30 a.m.: Bookmobile
Noon: Lunch
1 p.m.: Bingo
Wednesday
9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength at Novi Civic Center
11 a.m.: TOPS
11:30 a.m.: Beg. Clogging
Noon: Holiday Celebration Luncheon, advanced ticket required.
12:30 p.m.: Beg. Clogging
1 p.m.: Sing-A-Long
2-4 p.m.: Estate Planning by appointment.
6:30 a.m.: Beg/Easy/Int. Clogging
7:30 p.m.: Clogging Club

DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital Support Groups
LOCATION: 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce
Al-Anon Support Group
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. every Sunday
DETAILS: Al-Anon is similar to Alcoholics Anonymous; intended for the family and friends of someone with an alcohol problem, helping them to recover from the effects of living with a problem drinker.
CONTACT: (248) 706-1020
Alcoholics Anonymous Support Group
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. every Sunday
DETAILS: Support group to attain and maintain sobriety.
CONTACT: (248) 937-3314
Journeys Cancer Support Group
TIME/DATE: 7-8:30 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month
LOCATION: Lobby of the Charach Cancer Treatment Center, of the hospitals' South

Psychotherapy & Counseling Services
Northville Counseling Center
Anxiety/Agoraphobia/Panic Attack Support Group
TIME/DATE: second Wednesday of each month
DETAILS: Call (734) 420-8175 for more information.
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

Waldenwood at Twelve Oaks
Independent Living Residence, Licensed Assisted Living, Licensed Memory Care
LOCATION: 27475 Huron Circle (adjacent to Twelve Oaks Mall)
CONTACT: (248) 735-1500
Open House
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily or by appointment.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting
DATE: Last Wednesday of each month
TIME: 10-11 a.m.
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Road
DETAILS: This informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. There is no charge. Child care is available; registration 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, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: The meeting provides the opportunity for those in grief to share their story and to learn about the phases and tasks of grief. All are welcome; no fee.
CONTACT: Michael M. Meyer, Doctorate of Ministry

Angela Hospice Groups
DETAILS: Grief support groups include general grief, loss of a spouse, women's grief, parents who have lost a child and a grief support quilters

group. All groups are led by bereavement professionals and trained volunteers.
LOCATION: Angela Hospice Care Center, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia
CONTACT: Joan Lee (734) 953-6012

General Grief Support Groups
TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. second and fourth Tuesday of month
LOCATION: Kruger Center (South Garden Entrance)
DETAILS: Open to all losses.
Loss of Spouse/Significant Other Support Group
TIME/DATE: 6:30-8 p.m. first Tuesday of month
Men in Grief
TIME/DATE: 6:30-8 p.m. fourth Monday of month
Suicide Loss Support Services
DETAILS: Individual and family services offered free for those who have lost a loved one through suicide; call (248) 464-7810 for more information.
Heartstrings: Parents Who Have Lost a Child
TIME/DATE: 7-8:30 p.m. first Thursday of month
Grief Support Quilters Group
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. first and third Tuesday of month
DETAILS: Register by calling (734) 953-6012

New Parents Support Group
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. second and fourth Wednesdays of each month
LOCATION: Hospital Conference Center
DETAILS: A supportive environment for families to share their struggles, learn how to resolve issues after the birth of a child; discuss concerns such as sleep deprivation and coping with the emotions of parenting.
CONTACT: (248) 658-7766
Support for Smokers Group
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. first and third Tuesday of each month
DETAILS: Provides education and support to quit smoking; no fee and no pre-registration required.
CONTACT: (248) 937-3314
Breathier's Club Support Group
TIME/DATE: Noon the third Wednesday of the month
DETAILS: Free year-round program for persons afflicted with lung disease; provides support and information; pre-registration not required; for information call (248) 937-3314.

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. second Thursday of each month
LOCATION: Which'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.

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

Croh'n's & Colitis Support Group
TIME/DATE: 7-9 p.m. first and

Garden Entrance
DETAILS: The Charach Cancer Treatment Center hosts a support group for anyone dealing with a cancer experience or who know someone living with cancer.
CONTACT: (248) 937-5163
Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group
TIME/DATE: 2-3:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month
LOCATION: Kruger Center (South Garden Entrance)
DETAILS: Designed to allow caregivers to share tips and offer support to each other; for questions or directions call (248) 937-3314.
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TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. first and third Tuesday of each month
DETAILS: Provides education and support to quit smoking; no fee and no pre-registration required.
CONTACT: (248) 937-3314

Friendship Circle
TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. second Thursday of each month
LOCATION: St. James Catholic Church, 46325 10 Mile Road, between Taft and Beck roads
DETAILS: Social group for all widows and widowers.
CONTACT: Norbert Monson (248) 851-8700, Florence Voight (248) 477-3032, Joy Ivaldi (248) 348-9138 or joyvaldi@earthlink.net

MOMS Club of Novi
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. first Thursday of each month
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

Novi Toastmasters
TIME/DATE: 7-8:45 p.m. first and third Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center

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ones in tow. Also enjoy a mom's night out and other social events.
CONTACT: Sue Traez (248) 380-0998.

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LOCATION: Novi Civic Center

third Wednesday of each month
LOCATION: Providence Park Hospital and Medical Center
DETAILS: Enter facility through southeast entrance. Meeting in Conference Room A, immediately to the left.
CONTACT: Al Biggs (313) 805-7605 or Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (888) 737-2322.

Heartland Hospice Volunteers Needed
TIME/DATE: Day and evening classes
LOCATION: 26588 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 475, Southfield
DETAILS: Caring and compassionate individuals needed to register for Heartland Hospice Volunteer Training. We serve individuals and their families during their end of life journey in the Tri-County area. Office support is also needed.
CONTACT: Mary at (800) 770-9859

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LOCATION: Novi Civic Center

Activities Room, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.
CONTACT: Amy (248) 752-2800

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Chapter
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. weigh-in and 11:30 a.m. meeting every Wednesday
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi
DETAILS: \$24 per annual membership, includes handbook; \$1 per meeting. New members welcome.
CONTACT: Rebecca Boyke (248) 305-8646

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LOCATION: Novi Civic Center

www.mbccc.org or gmccc@arouidetroit.biz
Sunday Worship
TIME: 10 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Novi
LOCATION: 45301 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 a.m.
Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m., fourth Sunday of every month.
Christmas Cookie Sale
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15 and 22
DETAILS: Buy fresh-baked Christmas cookies for \$8 per dozen.
CONTACT: (248) 349-9441

Novi Toastmasters
TIME/DATE: 7-8:45 p.m. first and third Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center

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TIME/DATE: 7-8:45 p.m. first and third Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross
LOCATION: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 427-1175 or www.churchoftheholycross.com
Sunday Worship
continued on 16A

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Spotlight on Business

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Larson Jewelry Design

43155 Main Street – Suite 304, Novi
(248)-347-4653

The name is familiar – Larson Jewelry Design – and so is its commitment to the Novi community. Owner Brian Larson is preparing for another holiday season the same way he has prepared for the previous eight ones in his location in the Atrium of Novi on Main Street – with a great selection of jewelry for all ages at great prices and custom crafted to exact customer specifications. But this year something special is also happening at Larson Jewelry Design.

Brian was asked by the planning committee for the Providence Park Neurosciences Institute to design a special piece of jewelry to be auctioned off at its black-tie fundraising event on February 9, 2008 titled "The Event." Brian was flattered that of the 27 jewelry stores in the Novi area, he was chosen for the project. "It is a custom made two-tone diamond pendant in a free form design," he said. "The design came right out of my head and I am donating it to the event."

This generosity has become a trademark for Brian as his business has grown over the years. He believes he was chosen for the project because of his reputation both as a strong supporter of the Novi community and for the quality custom jewelry that has also become a trademark.

Brian believes his business is following a pattern that any small business needs to do in order to be successful. "Most small businesses need to get their names out in their communities," he added. "Our name is becoming well known."

But it isn't just the philanthropic gestures that have made Larson Jewelry Design a household name in Novi, it is the service and products, too. One of the most popular and recognizable jewelry brands is Pandora, which has enjoyed longevity and success because of the selection and price points of its popular charm and charm bracelet products.

"We are listed on the Pandora website as a gold dealer because we carry every piece of jewelry in its product line," said Brian. "We know times are tough for people right now and the price points of Pandora make them affordable and meaningful gifts for everyone."



The Pandora line of charms and charm bracelets is one of the most popular gift items around and Larson Jewelry Design carries the entire line of these products.



Brian Larson proudly shows off his custom made two-tone diamond pendant that he designed for a special fundraising event for the Providence Park Neurosciences Institute.

Larson Jewelry Design recently added the Tissot line of watches to compliment its existing product line. These women's and men's watches make an excellent gift item with prices ranging from the low \$200s to several thousand dollars.

If customers can't choose the perfect gift, that's no problem either. There are gift certificates available. But Brian believes that everyone should be happy with the gift they receive from his store – and he will not be happy until each giver and recipient is happy. "I'm not happy until the customer is happy," he said. "No sale is final. If the person does not like their gift they bring it back and find something he or she really wants."

And if Brian doesn't have something a person likes, he can custom make it for them. This is where Brian excels and has a lot of fun – creating custom pieces. He talked about a customer who recently brought in a large loose birthstone and wanted it mounted in a special setting. Brian used his experience (30 years as a Jeweler and as a Graduate Gemologist) to design a custom mounting for the stone, which became a beautiful pendant.

"There are probably a lot of loose gem stones in people's drawers around Novi," he laughed. "And all it takes is one person to bring in a stone for a custom mounting – and other people will see it and want their own stones mounted, too."

That kind of word-of-mouth advertising has kept Larson Jewelry Design on the mind of many Novi people, especially when gift selection comes up to the very last minute. The store will be open until 3:00 on Christmas Eve and the staff, including Brian's wife Nancy – a certified Accredited Professional, too – will suggest just the right gifts, whether they be a Pandora charm bracelet, Tissot watch, rings, earrings, necklaces, or a gift certificate.

"You won't need to wake up at 4:00 a.m. to get any special sales," said Brian. "The good price you pay on Christmas Eve will be the same good price you pay any other time of the year. And we'll only be happy when you are happy."

By John R. Hall

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Ho, ho, ho!

Santa gets a visit from a young lady on a recent Tuesday afternoon at Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall. Santa greets visitors in the center court Monday through Saturday with one-hour breaks from 1-2 p.m. and 5-6 p.m. Santa greets children on Sunday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

My Novi, briefly

Photo contest deadline nears

If you can capture something spectacular about Novi in a photograph, the Novi Historical Commission wants your entry for its annual My Hometown Novi photo competition.

It can be nature, children, public or personal events – almost anything that captures the essence of the City of Novi.

Through Dec. 28, contestants may submit as many as five photographs at \$5 per entry. Eligible photographs may not be altered and will be judged as a single group.

Top finishers could receive \$100, \$50 and \$25 prizes, or the distinction of "People's Choice," an award. Winning photographs will also be published in the Novi News.

Call (248) 224-4211 or visit www.cityofnovi.org for more information and to obtain an entry form. Please send entries to 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi, Mich. 48375 with attention to "My Hometown Novi Photo Competition" and the Novi Historical Commission.

Primary registration

The last day to register to vote in the January 15, 2008 Presidential Primary Election is December 17. The Novi City Clerk's office is located at 45175 W. 10 Mile Road and will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Women needed

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners seeks citizens to serve on the newly formed Women's Commission for Oakland County. The commission will focus on various issues pertaining to women in Oakland County. The 25-member Oakland County Board of Commissioners will each appoint one representative from their respective district.

The goal is to attract a diverse cross-section of Oakland County's population (stay-at-home moms, seniors, entrepreneurs and working women) to serve on the commission.

Anyone interested in applying for a position on the commission should contact their local commissioner. All applications must be received by tomorrow. For more information, contact Commissioner Christine Long.

(248) 336-2666 or e-mail at longc@oakgov.com.

Olga's Kitchen launches community benefit nights

Guests at the newest Olga's Kitchen restaurant in Novi get to enjoy great tasting, made to order favorites from Olga's Kitchen while supporting four community organizations on designated Olga's Benefit Nights.

Four community organizations will participate in Olga's Kitchen Benefit Nights: Clinton Valley Council Boy Scouts of America, Ottawa District, Detroit Catholic Central High School, Foundation for Excellence, Walled Lake Schools; and Novi Athletic Boosters. Each organization will be featured on a separate day each week through December. When organization supporters present a special benefit night flyer on the designated evenings, 20 percent of net proceeds will be donated to the organization.

Individuals interested in supporting any of the organizations are encouraged to contact the participating groups to obtain benefit night flyers.

Olga's Kitchen at Westmarket Square is located on the North side of Grand River, West of Beck Road, at 47960 Grand River Ave.

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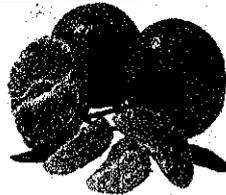
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Joe's December SPECIALS!

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Santa is arriving Friday Dec. 14 from 4-8. Be sure to stop by and see him.

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Bragg Organic Apple Cider Vinegar 2/\$8.00 32 oz.

Oldtime Mini Colby Muenster \$4.99 lb. Swiss 4x4 \$5.69 lb.

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Dietz & Watson Black Forest Smoked Ham \$5.99 lb. Virginia Lite Ham London Broiled Oven Classic Turkey \$6.99 lb.

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Novi hosts Northville hoops tomorrow SPORTS, 3B

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SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: ALL-AREA FOOTBALL

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

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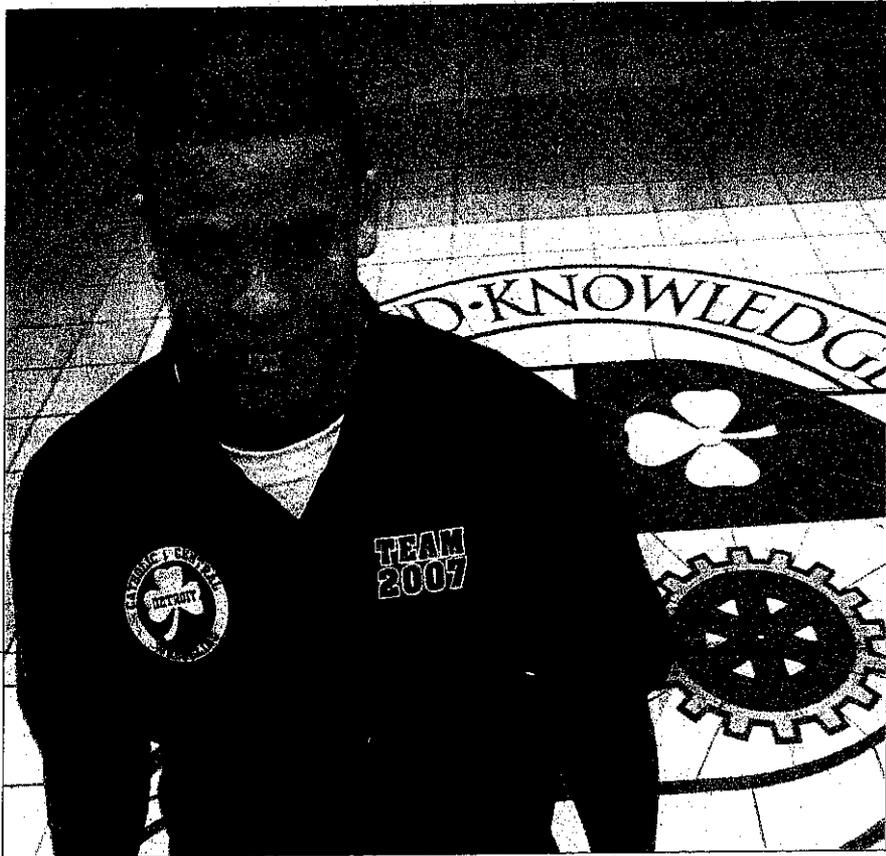


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Catholic Central senior lineman Mike Martin is the All-Area football Player of the Year.

Hoover, Hall, Heard, Smith, Bernier, Bradford on 1st Team

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

Mike Martin did something that no other Catholic Central football player has ever done before the season. He signed a Letter of Intent to play football. Martin will attend the University of Michigan.

"Mike is the very first player in the history of our school that committed or was asked to commit before the season," Shamrock head coach Tom Mach said. "That does tell you something about him."

"I think he's ready for that. I think his confidence gets better every day."

After that, his season only got better as the Shamrocks rode their stingy defense and power running game all the way to the final four.

It was also a season that Martin very rarely got a view of from the sideline. He was usually busy playing on either side of the line, as a defensive tackle or offensive lineman.

"He gave us a good inside on defense," Mach said. "He made tackles from sideline to sideline. He gave us a lot of pressure on the quarterback. He always seemed to make the big play when we needed it."

"Offensively, he became a pretty good blocker. He was a force for us. He was out there the full game hitting somebody on every play."

Martin, listed at 6-2, 285 pounds, possesses a freaky combination of size and speed. He is able to fend off defenders on offense and push and run by lineman as a defender.

"He moves like a cat. For a man that's 285 pounds, he's got excellent movement," Mach said. "He's got excellent speed for his size."

See ALL-AREA, 4B

All-Area Football

Player of the Year: Mike Martin, Catholic Central senior

First Team

- Greg Hassa, Northville senior
- Max Bojovic, Northville senior
- Andrew Devine, Northville senior
- Joe Kinville, CC senior
- Ryan Houska, CC senior
- Shane Morris, CC senior
- Jim Morasso, CC senior
- Scott Kovanda, CC senior
- Tyler Hoover, Novi senior
- Arsham Hall, Novi senior
- Graham Smith, Novi senior
- Mark Bernier, Novi senior
- Mark Heard, Novi senior
- Brandon Bradford, Novi junior
- Blake Hillman, Lakeland junior
- Jon Wissner, Lakeland senior
- Lee Lopez, Lakeland junior
- Oliver Penakle, Lakeland junior
- Dan Greiner, Lakeland senior
- Jordan Kidel, Milford senior
- Jack Thompson, Milford junior
- Chris Groth, South Lyon senior
- Paul McGee, South Lyon senior

Second Team

- Paul Kanaan, CC senior
- Neil Park, CC senior
- Conrad Borowski, CC senior
- Chris Amble, CC senior
- Cavin Long, CC senior
- Garrett Green, Novi junior
- Patrick Haight, Novi senior
- Tommy McMillan, Novi senior
- Timmy Richard, Novi senior
- Tommy Voss, South Lyon senior
- Michael Sudham, South Lyon senior
- Timothy Chery, Lakeland senior

Honorable Mention

- Anthony Capatina, CC sophomore
- Jack Davkin, CC senior
- Chris Fischer, CC senior
- Dave Robinson, CC senior
- Drew Ehrke, Northville senior
- Chris Barracardner, Northville junior
- Walt Zielke, Northville senior
- Brandon Healy, Northville junior
- Pat Schlenker, Novi senior
- Aaron Pugh, Novi senior
- Brandon Bryant, Novi junior
- Jordan Murphy, Novi senior
- Justin Trombley, Lakeland senior
- Mike Haller, Milford senior
- Tommy Standaert, Milford senior

'Cats have versatility

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS REPORTER

Novi swim and dive head coach Bill McCord was worried the beginning of "pay to play" was going to hurt his team's numbers.

Instead, the Wildcats had a turnout of more than 20 freshmen, and the Novi program is plenty strong with well more than 40 kids out for the team.

"We were a little nervous about the pay to play and what it was going to do to us," McCord said. "That's very encouraging."

With nine seniors and five juniors, the young team should have

no problem with leadership.

Captains for the team are seniors Dan Kiefer and Dan Meister. But others that are already stepping up to help guide the ship are Jim Brunner and Drew LaDuke.

McCord said the early team strength lies in its versatility. But with so many freshmen, things could change if a few swimmers seize the opportunity to shine.

"We just have to develop them," McCord said. "The freshmen have a lot of ability. Typical of freshmen, they're not real strong and powerful and fast yet."

"They'll just get faster and faster."

The final KVC will be a challenge, McCord sees Hartland as the early favorite. But getting to the state meet is always the ultimate goal.

"I think that we should not only get some people there but maybe a good group of people there," McCord said. "Hopefully some of those people will be youngsters who will keep coming back and in a year or two start scoring a bunch of points."

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



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi's Danny Kiefer swims butterfly in practice.

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Baseline Battles:

Novi 2, Northville 0, 1 Tie



Novi's Kelsey Masserant, left, tries to get past Northville's Brittany Birdsall during the team's first game of the 2007-08 season.

Photos by JOHN HEIDER

See more of his photos at www.novinews.com



Wildcat guard Alyssa Armlak tries to make a pass against the Mustangs.

Novi pushes ahead with 14-3 run in 2nd quarter

■ Wildcats turn small deficit into 9-point halftime lead, cruise to 48-36 victory

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTSWRITER

Novi outscored rival Northville 14-3 in the second quarter and rolled on to a 48-36 home victory last Thursday.

"We played hard, and we played tough," Novi head coach Bill Kelp said.

Northville shot itself in the foot, connecting on just four of 15 free throws.

"When you shoot 4-for-15 in a game like this it means a lot," Northville head coach Pete Wright said. "That and I thought our defensive balance. We didn't get back. We gave up too many easy ones."

"That shouldn't happen. We should be able to get back and get in front and at least contest the shots."

Both teams came out a little tense, missing inside opportunities, until the Mustangs scored the first five points. A flurry of up-and-down scoring by both teams left Northville up 13-11 after the first eight minutes of play.

Novi stayed hot going into the second quarter, and Northville went ice cold from the floor and the free-throw line.

The Wildcats scored the first six points of the quarter. After a Northville hoop, Novi finished the quarter on an 8-1 run. The Mustangs made just one field goal and went 1-for-6 at the line and trailed 25-16 at the break.

"I think switching to the 1-2-2 zone threw them for a little loop," Kelp said. "It was one of the key things."

Both teams matched each other for most of the second half, with Northville getting as close as five early in the third quarter, but no closer the rest of the way.

Novi's Chantel Hill led all scorers with 14 points, seven in each half. No. 3 also scored in double digits with 10, and Katie Chaklos added eight points.

"The precedent was set last

year where it's balanced scoring," Kelp said. "They play together, and that's the strength of the team."

Allison Holmes led the Mustangs with 10 points. Sarah Stern scored all seven of her points in the first half. She fouled out with 4:04 left to play in the fourth.

"It's just one game, two games into the season," Wright said he told his team. "It's awfully early, just get ready and come back and start working tomorrow."

Novi 59, Berkley 10

The Wildcats dominated on both ends of the floor, holding the Bears to just 10 points.

Johnson led all scorers with nine points.

The Wildcats scored the first 27 points of the game and led 36-6 at the half.

WL Western 35, Novi 30

The Wildcats (4-1) suffered their first loss of the year on Friday.

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



Wildcat Paige Janer puts up a hook shot over the arms of Mustang Jeanetta Dolmetsch.

Boys hoop battle Friday

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

To the coaches, it's just one game out of 20 during the regular season. But to the players and fans, it's a lot more than that.

Novi and Northville will meet on the basketball court tonight in front of a packed Wildcat house wishing for this year's bragging rights.

The Mustangs have owned the Baseline Battle the last two years. But Novi won five straight before that, going back to 2003. Novi's last win against Northville came in January 2005, 49-43.

Baseline Battle
Who: Novi, Northville
Where: Novi
When: 7 p.m. Friday

Cory Heitsch has taken over the coaching duties for Novi and already knows this is a big game on the schedule. He said the players want to stop the Northville run at two games.

"Last year's game left a bad taste in their mouth," Heitsch said. "It's something they want to turn in their favor."

Last year, Alvin Storrs keyed a run late in last year's 51-45 Mustang's victory. But he has gone to Grand Valley State.

Northville does have plenty of returning experience though in forwards Dan Kirkpatrick, Mike Rogers, Greg Hasse and David Burke. Steve Anderson also returns to guard duties.

But Novi isn't hurting for returning experience either. Caleb Dean grew a little more from last year and comes in at 6-9. Add in Tyler Hoover's 6-7 frame and it's rather obvious that Novi will try to get the ball inside.

But the biggest improvement for Novi this year could be the guard play. Chris Bellamy and Brandon Bradford started as sophomores last year.

They are now juniors and with newcomers Brandon Bryant and Aaron Pugh, they should form a potent bunch that all bring a certain element to the game.

The action begins at 7 p.m., but one might want to get there well before that to get a good seat.

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

Novi, Northville skate to 2-all tie

Submitted to the Novi News

Before a standing room only crowd at Novi arena, Northville Mustangs hosted the Novi Wildcats last Friday in a rematch of these two fine schools. The teams didn't disappoint the fans in a well played 2-2 tie.

In the first period, with Novi's Craig Howell serving a minor penalty for roughing, Northville junior Wes Gates one-timed a shot from the slot to give the Mustangs a 1-0 lead. Assisting on the power play goal was junior Matt Kreeger and senior captain TJ Hohl.

Novi responded with a power play of their own when Mustangs junior forward Derek Raymond went for a minor penalty. Novi's senior forward Erik Aepelbacher fired a slap shot top shelf, beating Northville

goalie Teddy Keranen glove side. Senior Robbie Knurek and junior defenseman Paul Favorite picked up assists.

In the second period, Northville took the lead with a goal from TJ Hohl, who banged in a rebound in front of the net. Senior Ross Rheil and junior forward Alex Berwin assisted.

Three minutes into the third period, the Wildcats tied the score at 2-2. Arthur Ferriss, a junior forward, scored with assists going to Aepelbacher and Knurek.

Play continued up and down the ice as both teams supplied pressure on each other with multiple scoring chances, but neither could crack the net.

Keranen turned away 22 of 24 shots, and Novi's senior goaltender Kevin Michalczuk turned away 27 of 29 shots.



Photos by Shawn Clainin

Novi's Joe Pritchard works on Northville's Kevin Mantay. Pritchard won by pin.

Wildcats win close match on the mat

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi and Northville wrestling match came down to the Wildcats' Robbie Yusko against Northville's John Hebert at 125 pounds.

A win either way would've swayed the match.

Yusko got the upper hand and earned the pin 1:16 into the match as Novi went onto a 37-35 victory against their main rivals Dec. 5.

Connor Caldwell (103), Joe Pritchard (171) and Joey Shada (215) also won by fall. Charles Satterwhite won by void for the

Wildcats.

Ryan Thomas won 8-0 at 160 pounds, and Ryan Rideout won 6-0 at 189.

Franklin 51, Novi 18

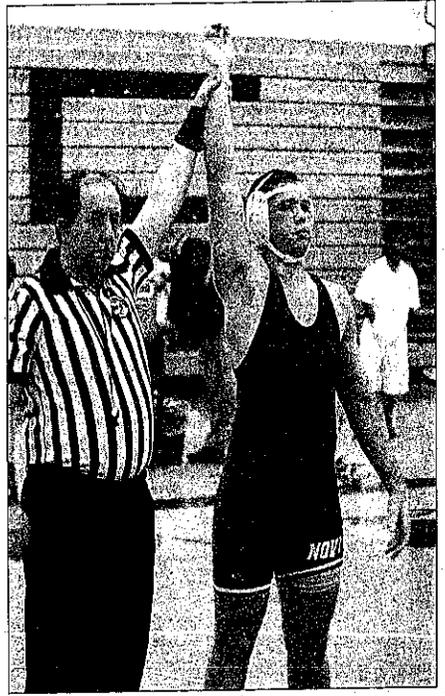
The Wildcats didn't fair as well against Franklin, losing 51-18 last Thursday.

Winning for the Wildcats were Yusko by pin at 125, Clayton Caldwell 6-3 at 130 pounds, Thomas by pin at 152 and Pritchard 7-0 at 171.

Jeff Theisen can be reached at jtheisen@gannett.com.



Novi's Robbie Yusko grabs a leg of Northville's John Hebert.



Novi's Joe Shada gets his arm raised in victory after beating Northville's Dave Owens.

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Regional Champs!

The Waza FC U13 Boys soccer team won the National Indoor Championship Regional Tournament held on Dec. 1-2. The tournament was played at Total Soccer Facilities in Novi and Fraser. The team qualifies for the National Finals held in Sterling, Virginia. Led by Matt Wilson's 11 goals and Trevor Nessel's relentless defense, Waza FC beat two teams from Ann Arbor and a team from Troy in the preliminary round; and then beat the Michigan Wolves 4-3 in the finals.

Front row, from left: Trevor Nessel (Novi), Noah Bushaw, Nick Yang, Aaron Krupa, George Poliak, Colin Warner and Brent Winkler. Back row: Kristian Rego, Tommy O'Connor, Connaugh McLaughlin, Donald Payne, Aleksandar Isaevski, Ronnie Basin, Matt Wilson (Novi) and coach Mario Sceluna.

Submitted photo



Puck control
Catholic Central's Steven Hensley surveys the ice Saturday against Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

Photo submitted by Dennis Barnes

CC swim and dive a mix of talent levels

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS REPORTER

Catholic Central swim and dive has a little bit of everything, which also means the Shamrocks will be able to fill out every event.

Despite having just 18 out for the team, head coach Shannon Duckworth acquired a diver this year, which the team lacked last year.

The team is a mix of talented swimmers and first timers. Leading the returning group of swimmers are captains Josh Radke and Nick Ansara. They are the only seniors on the team. Radke has been in the state meet the last two years.

Sophomores Brady Small and Mike Wick return with state experience.

"Those four kids really want to do well. They're not going to be accepting of falling short," Duckworth said. "We have a little bit of senior leadership that did a nice job for us last year."

Hopefully they'll improve upon where they ended up."

"The rest of the team is loaded with underclassmen, eight sophomores and six freshmen.

"We have a lot of rookies, a lot of raw kids," Duckworth said. "They'll improve a lot."

The undermanned Shamrock team was just one meet last year, but Duckworth knows it's hard for his team to have the depth to win. He focuses more on other things.

"In years that maybe you're not all that successful on the scoreboard, you still look at where every kid starts the year and where they end up," he said.

"We are a lot of actors wanting to be the mighty oak. We have plenty of grow room."

Brother Rice is considered one of the top teams in the state, and should be the leader in the league.

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

Sport Shorts

Lyll signs with Louisville

Novi golfer Alex Lyll will take his game to the University of Louisville.

Lyll finished off a strong junior season with an even stronger off-season playing tournaments. He finished runner-up in a pair of AJGA events, including the Nationwide Insurance Junior, finishing with a 7 under-par 209.

Lyll's other accolades include being named to the Division I All-State team twice, including an Honorable Mention in 2005 and a First-Team selection in 2006.

Schedules

Novi

Boys Basketball
12/14 vs. Northville, 7 p.m.
12/18 vs. Milford, 7 p.m.

Girls Basketball
12/18 at Milford, 7 p.m.

Hockey

12/14 at Clarkson Invite, 7:30 p.m.
12/15 at Clarkson Invite, TBA
12/19 vs. South Lyon, 6:30 p.m.

Boys Swim and Dive

12/13 vs. WL Central, 6 p.m.

Bowling

12/14 S. Lyon at Hartland, 4:30 p.m.

Cheer

1/7 at Hartland, 7 p.m.

Skiing

1/7 at St. Mary Prep, 4 p.m.

Wrestling

12/21 Oak. Cty. at Milford, TBA
12/22 Oak. Cty. at Lake Orion, TBA

Pom Pon

1/19 Regionals at Churchill, TBA

Figure Skating

1/19 Ind. Dist. at D.I.S.C., 8 a.m.

Catholic Central Basketball

12/14 vs. ND Prep, 7:30 p.m.
12/15 at Farmington, 6 p.m.

Hockey

12/15 vs. Brighton, 7 p.m.

Wrestling

12/13 at Davison, 6 p.m.

Bowling

12/13 vs. S. Lyon at Drakeshire, 3:30 p.m.
12/15 Farmington. tour at Drakeshire, 9 a.m.

ALL-AREA FOOTBALL: Six Wildcats earn First-Team honors

continued from front

that is uncanny. He worked hard on his technique to get himself free.

"He's got the full package in what people are looking for in a great defensive lineman."

Playing as a senior captain, Martin wasn't the loudest player on the team, but that doesn't mean he never spoke up either.

"He's a great role model for the kids in our school," Mach said. "Even though he is a gifted athlete, he still has a tremendous work ethic. He wants to excel and improve all the time, and he works that way."

Martin's career will move from Fridays to Saturdays at the Big House. Mach said he is grateful to have coached the All-State Dream Team player.

"He's just as good a person as he is a football player, and I think that's what makes him such a great athlete," Mach said.

First Team

Several of Martin's teammates earned All-Area First Team honors, including linebacker Joe Kinville, offensive lineman Jim Morasso, quarterback/defensive back Ryan Houka, linebacker Shane Morris and punter Scott Kovanda.

Kinville, another two-way player, also ran out of the backfield. But he really excelled at chasing after the ball.

Kinville tallied 90 tackles, two interceptions and a sack. As a running back/tight end, he ran for 530 yards, caught nine passes for 118 yards and scored 18 touchdowns.

"He is an excellent leader and his intensity helped our team excel," Mach said.



Wildcat Tyler Hoover fights off a Livonia lineman and eventually makes a tackle during the playoff game against Livonia Churchill.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Morasso helped clear the path for all the running backs at the tackle position.

"Jim was our most consistent and steady blocker," Mach said. "An extremely hard worker who improved each week of the season."

"We ran for almost 3,200 yards this year, and Jim was a reason why."

Houka started every offensive play with the ball, and sometimes finished with it on defense. He ran for 389 yards with four touchdowns and threw for 500 more

with eight more scores. On defense, he snagged five interceptions, a fumble recovery and 27 tackles. He intercepted three passes in the final game against eventual state champion Macomb Dakota.

"Ryan is an excellent athlete and a great hitting defensive back," Mach said. "He is smart, tough and a great leader."

Morris was another two-way player as a linebacker and a running back. He recorded 72 tackles, two interceptions and a fumble recovery on defense. He carried the ball 41 times for 170 yards on offense.

"Shane is a very tough football player who hit someone every play of the game," Mach said. "He was our Iron Man and a player we could always count on to make the tough play."

Kovanda helped the offense in a couple of ways. He played wide-out and helped control the field position battle with his punting. He averaged 37.6 yards a punt and is being recruited by Toledo and Ball State.

Bradford was the main receiving threat. He snagged 38 catches for 728 yards and seven catches.

eight helped land six players on the First Team: Tyler Hoover, Arshawn Hall, Graham Smith, Mark Bernier, Mark Heard and Brandon Bradford.

Hoover stood out in a crowd, standing at 6-7 and playing the line on both sides of the ball. Despite playing the line, he still was in on 101 tackles (50 solos).

"This three-year starter played well all season long," Novi head coach Tim Kellepourey said. "He had the phenomenal ability to get to the football and was our leading tackler."

Hall was the featured running back for the Wildcats. He led the team 1,173 yards on 187 carries and scored 12 touchdowns. He averaged just more than 100 yards rushing a game.

Smith helped open the holes for Hall and also played on the defensive line.

"He was a two-year starter on the offensive line — a very consistent, dependable blocker," Kellepourey said. "He was like having another line coach on the field."

Bernier was another two-way lineman. He was a two-year starter at the guard position.

"Mark was in great physical shape this season, working himself into a two-way starter for us," Kellepourey said. "A great blocker and an outstanding football player."

Heard handled the quarterbacking duties for the Wildcats. He dished out 91 completions for 1,562 yards and 16 touchdowns through the air.

"He worked himself into the starting QB position by developing his throwing abilities," Kellepourey said. "Mark had a great senior year."

Bradford was the main receiving threat. He snagged 38 catches for 728 yards and seven catches.

He averaged 19.2 yards a catch.

"Brandon had some remarkable plays," Kellepourey said. "He was able to get open even when double covered at times. He possesses great hands and ability to make plays."

The rest of the First Team includes Northville's Greg Hasse, Max Bojovic and Andrew Devine; Milford's Jordan Kidd and Jake Thompson; and South Lyon's Chris Groh and Ian McGee.

Second Team

The two Novi schools are well represented on the All-Area Second Team. Novi lands Garrett Green, Daniel Enright, Joe Shada and Joe Pritchard while Catholic Central has Paul Kanaan, Mel Farr, Kondrad Borkowski, Cory Amble and Kevin Longe receiving honors.

The rest of the Second Team includes South Lyon's Dan Vess and Mitch Sidiham; and Lakeland's Ian Docherty.

Honorable Mention

The All-Area Honorable Mention team includes Novi's Pat Schlenke, Aaron Pugh, Brandon Bryant and Brendan Murphy; Catholic Central's Anthony Capatina, Jack Daykin, Chris Fischer and Dave Robinson; Northville's David Burke, Kris Baumgardner, Matt Ziekle and Aamon Chew; Lakeland's Justin Trounbley; and Milford's Nick Haller and Tom Schoedel.

The All-Area teams are submitted by coaches with final decisions being made by Jeff Theisen and Patrick Pinter.

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

Victoria Mitchell, editor
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MY FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Thursday, December 13, 2007
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HEALTHY LIVING

FAMILY FEATURES

Make the decision to live healthy. You're in control — a healthy diet and lifestyle are the best tools you have for long-term benefits to your health and your heart. Use these quick tips from the American Heart Association to master this three-pronged approach to wellness:

- 1. Fitness 2. Nutrition 3. Partnering with your doctor

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- **Fitness for Fun** — Hit the dance floor, rent a rowboat at the lake, have a snowball fight, go ice skating, walk on the beach or play volleyball, walk when golfing, include hiking and swimming during family vacations and try sightseeing on foot.



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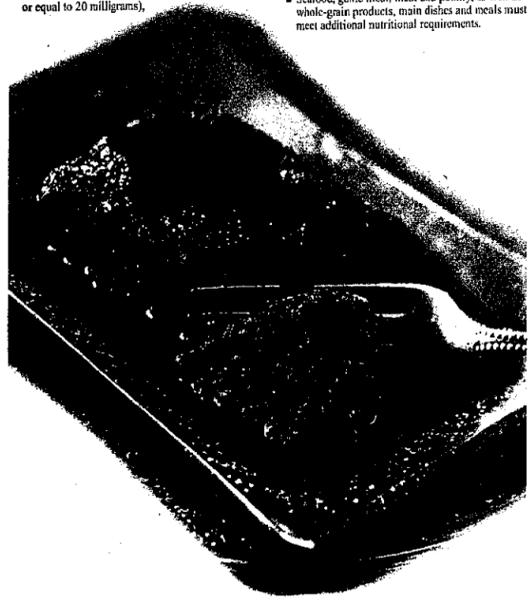
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Chocolate Pudding Cake

This decadent dessert is best when served warm. Serves 24. 1 square per serving.

Vegetable oil spray

- Cake:**
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
 - 1 1/2 cups sugar
 - 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
 - 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon baking powder
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt
 - 1 cup fat-free milk
 - 1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
 - 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Pudding:

- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 1/2 cups firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray 13- by 9- by 2-inch baking pan with vegetable oil spray; set aside.

In large bowl, whisk together flour, sugar, cocoa, baking powder and salt. Whisk in remaining cake ingredients, blending thoroughly. Pour into baking pan, spreading evenly.

In large bowl, whisk together pudding ingredients until sugar and cocoa are dissolved. Pour carefully over batter. (Pudding layer will be thin and runny.)

Bake 35 to 40 minutes, or until top is firm to touch. (Toothpick inserted in center of cake won't be accurate test for doneness.) Let cake rest 15 minutes before cutting.

To serve, slice cake and top with sauce, or pool sauce on plate and top with cake. Cover and refrigerate leftovers up to 7 days or wrap tightly and freeze up to 2 months.

Nutrition Analysis (per serving): Calories 152, Total Fat 1.0 g (Saturated 0.0 g), Polyunsaturated 1.0 g, Monounsaturated 1.0 g, Cholesterol 0 mg, Sodium 94 mg, Carbohydrates 37 g, Fiber 2 g, Protein 2 g

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Tilapia With Smoky-Pepper Sauce

Serves 4. 3 ounces fish and 1/3 cup sauce per serving.

- 4 tilapia or other mild, thin fish filets (about 4 ounces each)
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon canola or olive oil
- 3/4 cup finely chopped roasted red bell peppers
- 1/2 cup mild picante sauce (lowest sodium available)
- 1/2 to 1 chipotle pepper canned in adobo sauce, finely chopped and mashed
- 2 teaspoon olive oil
- 1/4 teaspoon minced garlic

Rinse fish and pat dry with paper towels. Sprinkle paprika and pepper on both sides of fish. In large nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium heat, swirling to coat bottom. Cook fish 3 minutes on each side, or until it flakes easily with fork. Transfer fish to plates.

In small microwaveable bowl, stir together remaining ingredients. Cover bowl with plastic wrap. Microwave on 100 percent power (high) 2 minutes, or until thoroughly heated. Spoon over cooked fish.

Nutrition Analysis (per serving): Calories 151, Total Fat 5.5 g (Saturated 1.0 g), Polyunsaturated 1.0 g, Monounsaturated 3.0 g, Cholesterol 57 mg, Sodium 329 mg, Carbohydrates 3 g, Sugars 0 g, Fiber 0 g, Protein 23 g

Dietary Exchanges: 3 lean meat

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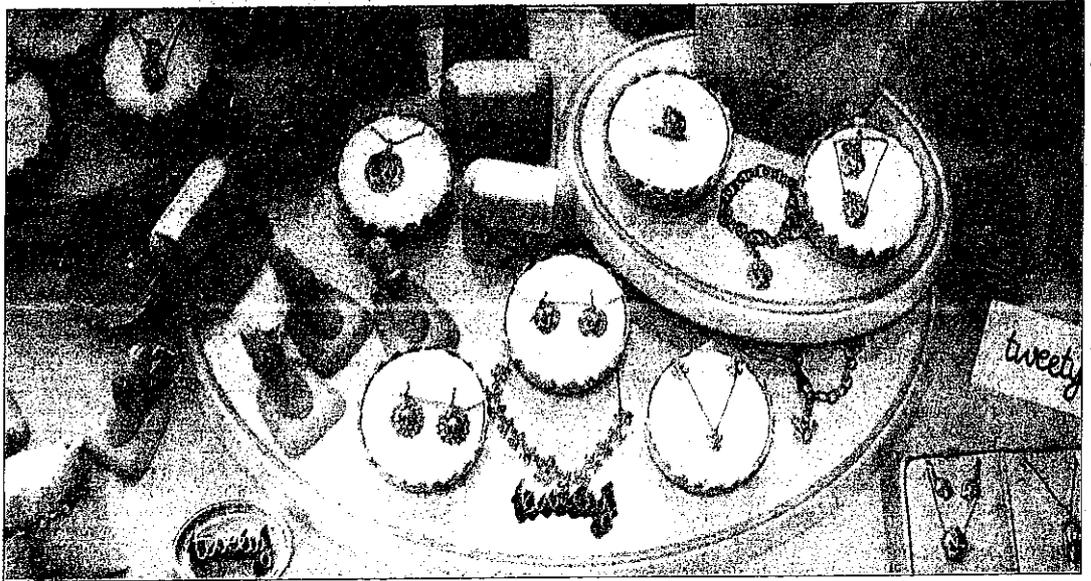


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Photos by JOHN R. HALL

The Tweety Bird collection will be an exciting new gift item for the holiday season at Orin Jewelers.

Orin adds to Northville's charm

New diamonds and jewelry are just in time for holidays

By John R. Hall
SPECIAL WRITER

Although business as usual at Orin Jewelers of Northville means beautiful jewelry and excellent customer service, it is taking on an added meaning this holiday season. The popular jewelry store, a Northville tradition at the corner of Main and Center Streets, is experiencing a new look to accompany the 2007 holiday season. But tradition remains with top-of-the-line merchandise presented by an experienced staff.

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THE NEW LOOK

Orin Jewelry owners Orin and Tina Mazzoni are transporting their brick building back to the days when it was built in 1887. Using today's best architects, masons, and renovators, the Mazzoni family is having the upper half of the building refinished using the original brick, adding a new crown, refinishing windows and trim, and giving a new façade to the lower half which keeps in the trend of the nostalgic look of downtown Northville.

The retail space directly behind Orin Jewelers is being given a complete interior renovation and will provide the opportunity for another retail store to join the lineup of new and established Northville businesses.

GREAT JEWELRY COLLECTIONS

There are some new designs for the holiday season that Gina Mazzoni proudly describes. A recognizable face greets visitors to the store — that of famous Warner Brothers' cartoon character Tweety Bird. The Tweety Collection puts a big smile on Gina's face.

"Warner Brothers has become very big and they are starting a line of jewelry with their most popular character — Tweety Bird," she said. "This is a complete jewelry collection for people of all ages."

The Tweety Collection just arrived at Orin Jewelers in November and can only be found at this location in Michigan.

"We are anxious for people to come in and see what Tweety is all about," added Gina. If Tweety sells well, Warner Brothers will continue to introduce new characters with jewelry lines each year.

DIAMONDS

Customers will also enjoy the Corsage Collection by designer D'Annunzio. Gina

said the distinctive look of the diamonds in this collection is created by a special cut, giving them a "special round invisible setting". The hexagonal-shaped necklaces and earrings are set in 18K gold settings.

"There is a different look to these diamonds — unlike any other," said Gina. "They have a very nice brilliance. All items have matching pieces. We are the only jewelers in Michigan to carry this collection."

One of the most popular collections carried by Orin Jewelers — Hearts on Fire — is once again in the spotlight this holiday season. The collection includes all types of jewelry including necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and rings. Gina describes the diamonds in this collection as "the most perfectly cut in the world, taking four times longer to cut than other diamonds."

She added that Hearts on Fire diamonds are called ten table diamonds because they can be seen from ten tables away.

"I can't stress it enough — these are the most brilliant diamonds in the world," she said, "and they are for everyone."

SERVICE FROM EXPERIENCE

The Orin family has been in the jewelry business for 70 years and both stores in Northville and Garden City are still family-owned and operated. The staff of the Northville Orin Jewelers has been together for a long time and their motto is to give customers the best possible service — which happens the moment the door opens on the corner of Main and Center.

Store manager Orin Mazzoni III, grandson of the company founder, has been running the store for nine years. But he is not the veteran. Carole Urban has worked at the store for 25 years and Joanne Sorby has worked there for 10 years.

The staff includes Gina, Orin III's sister, with six years of experience; Joshua



Gina Mazzoni proudly shows off the Warner Brothers' Tweety Collection — available exclusively at Orin Jewelers in Northville.

Summers, three years, and Cheryl Vickers, two years. Cheryl just received her certified jewelry sales associate certification from the American Gem Society.

Its repeat business and regular customers are a testament to the excellent customer service. Gina said her staff is especially happy to help customers who are looking for just the right gift or who aren't sure of what to purchase.

"We can help people who need suggestions — even on Christmas Eve," she said.

"We know these people are looking for something special and we can help them. One of our most popular gift lines is Swarovski Crystal."

Gina said that for those who just aren't sure what to choose, Orin Jewelers sells gift certificates in any denomination.

Given the excitement of its return to nostalgic times and the introduction of new collections from caring professionals, why would customers choose any other jewelry store to shop for their loved ones?

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