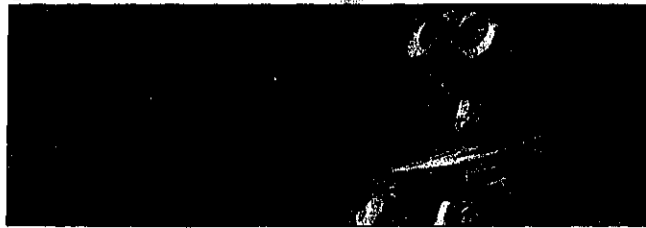


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THURSDAY
June 19, 2008

Novi News

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Main St. growth slows

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Tables are set with plates and the restaurant appears to be ready to open for lunch, but Lazy Lizard Cantina sits empty with its lights out.

The Mexican-themed grill has been closed for three weeks with the interior appearing no different than the last day it was open.

"They couldn't comply with the rent payments," said Hafeez Shaikh, partner and manager of the Atrium of Novi, part of the MainStreet Novi complex. "They were behind on their rent. They said business was slow."

Lazy Lizard Cantina, which had been a part of MainStreet since 2000, was evicted May 22 by Oakland County Treasurer Patrick Dohany. The notice of seizure posted on the restaurant's door said more than \$8,400 was overdue.

Aside from the closure of Lazy Lizard Cantina, Shaikh said his complex is surviving the tough economic times.

"We are doing well. Things are moving along aside from losing Lazy Lizard, which was basically an eviction on our part," he said.

Although only a few suites are still vacant, some are glaringly noticeable, such as the former Mesquite Creek restaurant location on the northwest corner of Main and Market streets that closed in 2006.

Red, Hot and Blue also closed in the MainStreet Court on Novi Road recently, leaving only Basic Asian Mart and 5th Avenue Ballroom in the court. The Red, Hot & Blue venue has a business card taped to the front door stating the suite is available.

Shaikh said he has been in talks with several potential tenants and MainStreet could see new businesses moving in this summer.

The economy has done more than force Lazy Lizard Cantina out of business. It has also delayed the ground-breaking of the MainStreet expansion planned by Triangle Development.

"The ground-breaking was supposed to be two months ago," Shaikh said, citing final planning and financial needs as the reason. "I think it'll still be this year."

The expansion will include three retail structures in addition to an expansion of the Atrium of Novi building, connecting to the immediate west of MiXX Lounge. A parking garage and Beaumont Medical Center are also slated as part of the revitalization.

The results are in



Novi Police School Resource Officer Mike Wilson walks out of Novi High School with a group of students on the last day of classes. Wilson is assigned to the school during its academic year and was cited by parents as very beneficial to the students' safety.

School survey responses cite approval from community, parents and staff

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

More than 200 pages of survey results will be presented to the board of education at the end of the month. The survey, which was conducted by the Novi Community Schools, was designed to gauge the community's satisfaction with the district's performance. The survey results show a high level of approval from the community, parents, and staff. The survey also identified areas for improvement, such as communication and safety. The district is committed to addressing these areas and improving its performance for the future.

Moving ahead



The drive leading from Taft Road to the house on Novi's Fuerst Farm.

City prepares to make use of Fuerst Farm property

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

Novi City Council approved, by a 5-2 vote, a plan on April 7 that would eliminate the existing facilities located on the Fuerst Farmstead, agreeing to reconsider the motion, if a group or individual were to come forward with the funding for full restoration of the structures within 90 days.

"It was basically around \$1 million to renovate those existing structures," said Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director Randy Auler. "The barns and the home are in poor condition."

So far, the special-interest money has not surfaced and, while time is almost up, city staff is preparing to implement council's approved plan.

"Based on council's budget discussions, we are proceeding with design work for relocation of the old Township Hall and phase one (of the concept plan)," Auler said, noting phase one includes removal of the barns by relocation, or demolition. "I think the direction council gave was 'if you come in (with money to restore the structures), we're willing to listen and see what can be done.' If that happened, could we adjust the plan? Certainly."

The conceptual plan approved by council was one of the recommendations of McKenna Associates, Inc., the planning consultants hired to review the city-owned property on the south-

east corner of Taft and 10 Mile roads.

"It's not going to be a private development, it's going to be a cultural, community attraction," Auler said. "I believe this will encourage the most use of the property."

Outlining a plan became a priority with the upcoming construction of the new library, requiring relocation of the old Township Hall.

"Our focus has been preparing to move Township Hall," Auler said. "But the whole goal when we went through the process, was (to determine) what would be the best use (of the property) for the community."

Novi Community Relations Manager Sheryl Walsh said, with the ground-breaking of the library tentatively scheduled for late-October, mid-November, she hopes to have Township Hall relocated to the Fuerst Farm property by mid-September.

For the 2008-09 fiscal year budget, council approved to allocate \$347,250 for the Fuerst Farm property project, which includes moving the Township Hall, removal of the three barns and farmhouse, and enhancements to the park.

"I don't think they are going to be torn down on the 91st day," said Mayor Pro Tem Kim Capello, explaining staff would have to determine the most environmentally-safe way to remove the structures. "I love barns, but those barns, they're not practical to keep. But I believe there is some value to the barn wood."

July 6 marks the 90-day limit and, although an organization, Friends of the Fuerst Farm, was created, raising money hasn't

Please see FARM, 4A

Novi News
A 1/2 hr. about town

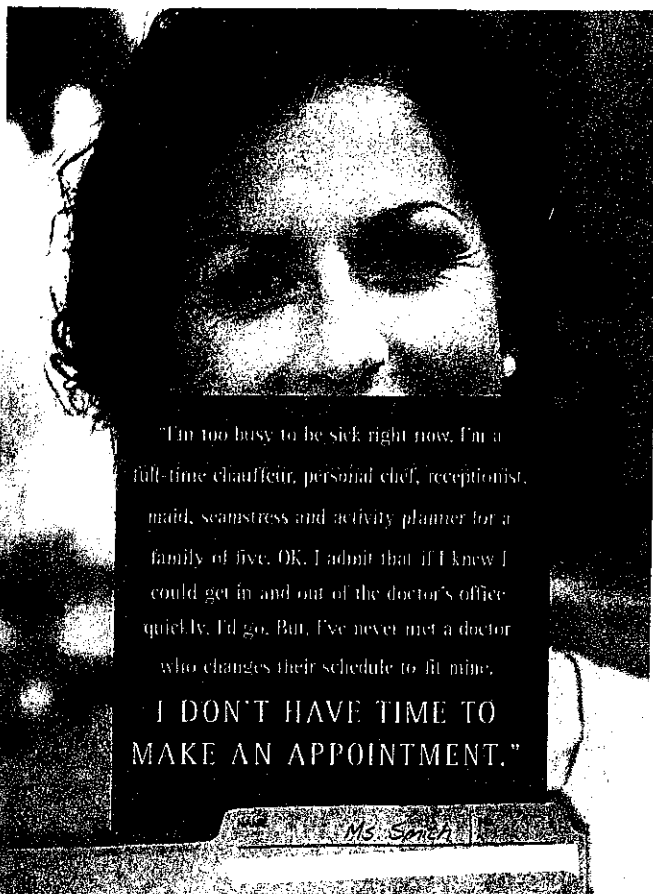
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NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER

<p>• FRIDAY</p> <p>Enjoy the first day of summer at Lakeshore Park, 601 South Lake Drive. The park is open from 8 a.m.-9:30 p.m. daily until Labor Day. The park offers miles of biking and hiking trails, a softball field, soccer field, tennis court, sand volleyball court, play structures for children, pedal boat rentals, concessions, picnic areas and a staffed, clean beach. Beach hours are 10 a.m.-7 p.m. until Aug. 18. The park is free to Novi residents and costs \$5 per car for non-residents. Call (248) 347-0400 for more information.</p>	<p>• SATURDAY</p> <p>Join the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department's Sizzling Summer Arts Series at Power Park, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, at 7 p.m. for a special Movie in the Park event. Bring a blanket and claim a spot for a free evening of fun, which includes interactive projects from the Ann Arbor Hands on Museum ranging from rocket launching to messy fun and experiments. As dusk hits, Ben Stiller stars in the film of the evening, "Night at the Museum," as it plays on a 15-foot-tall movie screen. Food vendors will be on site.</p>	<p>• SUNDAY</p> <p>Check out "The Love Guru" at Emagine Novi, 44425 12 Mile Road, for a good laugh before heading into the work-week. Mike Myers ("Austin Powers," "Wayne's World," "Shrek") stars as Pitka in this comedy as a love guru who works with the Toronto Maple Leafs to help solve romantic problems that have resulted in poor on-ice activity. With a supporting cast of Jessica Alba, Justin Timberlake and Verne Troyer, among others, a hockey movie hasn't promised to be this crudely funny since "Slap Shot" was released in 1977. Call (888) 319-3456 for show times.</p>
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"I'm too busy to be sick right now. I'm a full-time chauffeur, personal chef, receptionist, maid, seamstress and activity planner for a family of five. OK, I admit that if I knew I could get in and out of the doctor's office quickly, I'd go. But, I've never met a doctor who changes their schedule to fit mine."

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.

My Novi, briefly

Novi seeks honorees for 2008 Business Recognition Award

The City of Novi is seeking nominations for the 2008 Novi Business Recognition Awards. Nominations must be located within Novi and can have any number of employees. Business owners or employees may nominate their own business or another area business. Community members may also place nominations. All nominations must be returned to the City of Novi by June 30, and nomination forms may be downloaded at www.investnovi.org. Nominations will be judged on criteria including workforce development, community involvement, sustainability and innovation. A committee of community representatives will review all of the nominations and select the winners. The number of businesses honored will depend on the number, range and quality of the nominations. Award winners will be recognized this fall before a City Council meeting. For more information about the 2008 Novi Business Awards or Economic Development in the City of Novi, please contact Anna Topouzian, economic development manager, at (248) 347-0583, atopouzian@cityofnovi.org or visit www.investnovi.org.

DTE Energy Foundation Honors ArtServe Michigan With 2008 Achieving Excellence Award

ArtServe Michigan of Wixom was among 10 of Michigan's most exemplary nonprofit organizations to receive a DTE Energy Foundation 2008 Achieving Excellence Award - the state's largest corporate grant competition for nonprofit organizations. The Foundation recognized organizations for their accomplishments in five categories: collaboration, innovation, leadership, merger and sustainability. ArtServe Michigan shared the Merger Award, which recognizes organizations that have successfully completed mergers. Along with the Michigan Nonprofit Association and Think Detroit PAL, each organization received a \$25,000 grant. ArtServe Michigan is a statewide arts and cultural advocacy organization. Its mission is to cultivate the creative potential of Michigan's arts and cultural sector to enhance the health and well-being of Michigan, its peo-

ple and communities. Their post-merger office is located in Wixom. For more information, visit ArtServeMichigan.org.

Remember When... The Game Show of the Century!

It's not too late. If you are 50 or older and love to sing or dance, you are invited to be part of "Remember When... The Game Show of the Century." No auditions are required to participate. Come to any rehearsal during the month of June and register. Rehearsals are 12:30-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the summer at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, between 10 Mile and Novi roads. The rehearsal schedule is flexible and the production features six performances Sept. 11-21. No past experience is necessary. "Remember When... The Game Show of the Century" is the story of an interactive game show that will transport cast members and the audience through the 20th Century. All involved will get an opportunity to showcase their musical trivia knowledge as they compete for the ultimate prize. For more information about the Senior Variety Series, please contact the Novi Theatres at (248) 735-5615 or visit cityofnovi.org.

For more information about the Senior Variety Series, please contact the Novi Theatres at (248) 735-5615 or visit cityofnovi.org.

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Novi's youth learn ins and outs of law enforcement



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Minutes from beginning their summer vacation, a pair of Novi High students exchange a high-five in the school's parking lot on the last day of classes June 12. Students are encouraged to spend their summer at the Novi Youth Police Academy.

By Kelly Mured
STAFF WRITER

Most Novi High School staff members look forward to spending summer vacation without students, but School Resource Officer Mike Wilson is looking forward to teaching students about law enforcement for the third year in a row.

As the last bell rang last Thursday afternoon, Wilson was already busy planning, scheduling and recruiting for the third session of the Novi Youth Police Academy. The week-long session is from noon-4 p.m. July 14-18 at the Novi Police Department, inside the training center.

"It's absolutely free and we're looking for Novi residents, ages 13-17," Wilson said. "Currently, there are about 10 kids signed up, but Wilson anticipates meeting, if not exceeding, the 35 students who participated and graduated from the program last summer."

"Thirty-six is very manageable for what we do," he said. "I would love to have 40 kids show up. We're not going to turn anyone down. We've never turned anyone down."

According to Wilson, each year the academy has grown in size due to residential awareness.

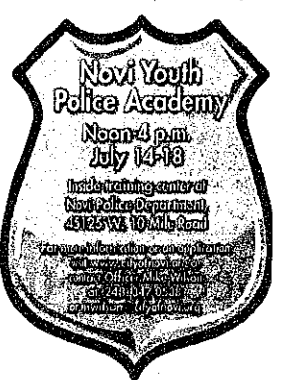
"I've had people call me about this the last few weeks because they know it's coming up," he said. "I've had some kids who want to come through again, that's how much they liked it."

During the five-day academy, the teenagers will learn about crime scene investigation, traffic laws and law enforcement equipment, as well as simulating traffic stops, Taser training and K-9 demonstrations.

"We show them how the dog searches for drugs," Wilson said. "Students will also experience gun firing scenarios through the Firearm Training System."

"They actually use our weapons, but instead of using bullets, (the weapons) shoot lasers," Wilson said. "When they're all done, they'll have a very good understanding of what it takes to be a police officer."

The session ends with a graduation and each student will receive a certificate of completion.



Interested participants must submit an application and pass the mandatory criminal background check. Applications can be obtained from Wilson via e-mail, the city Web site, www.cityofnovi.org, or the Novi Police Department. "We would like everyone to get their applications in by July 1," he said. Contact: kemured@gannett.com (248) 349-1700, ext. 103

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MY NOVI COMMUNITY

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Summer heats up with Novi Parks' sizzling series

Movie at Power Park, Saturday

By Kelly Mured
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is kicking off its Sizzling Summer Arts Series on Saturday with a Movie in the Park.

A 32-by-15 foot movie screen will be set up between the pitchers mound and second base of the Power Park baseball diamond, featuring "Night at the Museum."

"We wanted to do something the younger kids and older kids can enjoy," said Mallery Weathers, recreation coordinator for the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

"Different municipalities were in double digits, Austerberry said. Hit hard in Novi was the Orchard Hills subdivision, at the intersection of Meadowbrook and 10 Mile roads.

The subdivision, just north of Mallot Drive, lost power about 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon while residents scrambled to make other plans for their Father's Day barbecues.

"On Sunday, June 8, about 500 people in Novi lost power after thunderstorms whipped through Michigan early that evening.

The movie will begin at about 9:20 p.m., but families may come early to enjoy food from local vendors and claim their spot in the outfield.

"Restaurants will be on site to sell food at minimal costs," said Weathers. Ringle, communications and resource development supervisor for the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department, also has the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities, beginning at 7 p.m.

"The Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum will be on site with six different activities for kids," said Weathers, giving examples such as making slime and performing experiments with water. "I tried to go along with the science theme, since we're showing 'Night at the Museum.'"

Saturday's movie is first in a series of six free, community events planned by the Novi Parks Department. Contrary to years past, this year's events occur different days, times and locations throughout the summer and

include movies, concerts and performing arts productions.

"In the past, they were traditionally on Thursday nights and, if you couldn't make it on that day, you were out of luck," Ringle said. "We wanted to better accommodate our residents. Now, it has something for everyone."

The second event of the series is Puppets in the Park, which is 10:30 a.m. June 30 at Lakeshore Park. "We're trying to gear that one to the stay-at-home moms and pre-schools around the community," Weathers said. Along with the puppet show, Carousel Acres of South Lyon will be at the park with its petting farm.

The third event of the series is Concert in the Park, scheduled for 7 p.m. Aug. 23 at Power Park. Residents get to vote on which movie they would like to

see on the city Web site, www.cityofnovi.org.

"Currently, 'Pirates (of the Caribbean)' is in the lead with 'The Incredibles' next," said Weathers on Wednesday. The other movie options are "Ice Age" and "Rookie of the Year."

The votes will be tallied July 31. All events are subject to change. For more information regarding the Sizzling Summer Arts Series, contact the Novi Parks Department at (248) 347-0400 or visit the city Web site. Residents are also encouraged to check the weather hotline at (248) 347-0473 in case of inclement weather on event days.

knurad@gannett.com | (248) 349-1700, ext. 103



- Movie in the Park - "Night at the Museum" 7 p.m. Saturday, June 21 at Power Park, 48175 W. 10 Mile Road
- Puppets in the Park 10:30 a.m. Monday, June 30 at Lakeshore Park, 601 South Lake Drive
- Concert in the Park - Candy Band 7 p.m. Thursday, July 24 at Lakeshore Park, 601 South Lake Drive
- Magician and Novi Theatres Performance - Pied Piper Preview in the Park 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10 at Lakeshore Park, 601 South Lake Drive
- Movie in the Park - Voter's choice 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23 at Power Park, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road

Second Sunday of storms put more residents in the dark

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Following Sunday afternoon's thunderstorms, 150 Novi residents and 4,000 people throughout the state lost power.

"Most of them are in Oakland County, about 2,600. The rest are scattered, with the largest concentration in Tawasola County," DTE spokesperson John Austerberry on Monday. "Everyone should be restored by the end of the day."

The largest location feeling the effects of the storm was Farmington, with 1,000 people without power Monday morning.

Bloomfield Township had 500, Franklin 400 and Bloomfield Hills had 150 without power. All other municipalities were in double digits, Austerberry said.

Hit hard in Novi was the Orchard Hills subdivision, at the intersection of Meadowbrook and 10 Mile roads.

The subdivision, just north of Mallot Drive, lost power about 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon while residents scrambled to make other plans for their Father's Day barbecues.

"On Sunday, June 8, about 500 people in Novi lost power after thunderstorms whipped through Michigan early that evening.

quickly blew through the area early Sunday afternoon, bringing with it rain, high winds, thunder and lightning.

The Weather Channel had a 30 percent chance of rain showers forecasted for Novi all day Tuesday and early Wednesday. Scattered thunderstorms late Friday and early Saturday are also possible.

"The weather service is not predicting any severe weather. Any impact will be minimal," Austerberry said.

On Sunday, June 8, about 500 people in Novi lost power after thunderstorms whipped through Michigan early that evening.

DTE energy spokesman Len Singer said about 80,000 people were without power throughout Oakland County following the

early-June storm. Numerous downed power lines were reported Sunday evening including along Napier Road; 10

Mile Road, east of Taft Road; Shanrock Hill, west of Old Novi Road; and Forest Park, near 10 Mile and Beck roads.

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SURVEY

continued from front

Improving during changes

Two areas the summary calls for improvement are the English Language Learners and staff development programs.

"We've created an ELL handbook that will be ready to go in September and in other languages by January," Beels said of the district's efforts to address the rapidly growing program.

The district will host an ELL summer camp June 23-July 17 for kindergarten through sixth-grade students. Beels said more than 30 students have already signed up.

"We'll teach them some basic language skills, grammar, but really, American culture," she said.

An example of a camp activity could be the lesson of how to order an ice cream cone at Guernsey's, Beels said. It would be followed by a field trip for the students to put their lesson to the test.

Staff development days drew notice, as the executive summary stated "Parents express concern over the number of days students are out of school and over 50 percent of staff indicated the current Professional Staff Development (plan) does not meet their needs." The staff days are used to update the curriculum to fit the continually changing state standards.

Other areas suggested for further improvement on the survey are already undergoing processes for change. Three elementary schools are receiving renovations and additions, several programs are expanding and newer programs are booming with parents eager to sign up their children.

"There's an awful lot of good," Falls said. "There's strong preschool and early childhood education support. Almost 50 percent of respondents want more preschool."

Beels said she would like to see even more parents get involved.

"It's pretty easy to get k-six parents in and I'd like to get more of our secondary parents in," she said.

A diverse demographic

"I think the community members like to know what's going on," Falls said. "The most commonly cited source of information from parents, is their children."

Falls said the local newspaper, district publications and district Web site are the next three largest draws of district information for parents and community members.

About 31.7 percent of community members cited the newspaper as a source of district information, with district publications next at 22 percent. Among parents, students drew 23 percent, while the newspaper and district publications each had 17.2 percent and the district Web site was a source for 16.7 percent.

Of the 376 community members, 330 staff members and 118 high school seniors who took the survey, diversity was also an evident factor.

Falls said 77.6 percent of parents and community members were white or non-Hispanic and 16 percent were Asian or Pacific Islander. About 82.5 percent of respondents were female and 75.76 percent had a four-year college degree or higher.

Falls said the community-wide survey should take place every three years, with staff, student and alumni surveys possibly occurring more frequently.

"What I'm looking forward to is seeing the results of surveys over time," Beels said. "I'd like to expand our survey to our graduates, one year out, two years out."

cjackett@gannett.com 1 (248) 349-1700, ext. 122



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Two of the three barns, located on the southern end of the Furst Farm property.

FARM

continued from front

been the group's first priority. "Our first job was to find out if there was community support for preservation," said Friends of the Furst Farm President Kathy Mutch. "There is no point in raising money for a plan council hasn't even considered."

Mutch is hoping a petition in support of preserving the Furst Farm facilities, and opposing demolition, will strike a chord with council members in coming weeks. "We want the city council to take the petition signatures as seriously as the people who put the names on the petition themselves," she said. "These are people that are signing their names, petitioning council to reconsider their actions."

Friends of the Furst Farm is encouraging community members in support of preservation to attend the 7 p.m. June 23 council meeting at the Novi Civic Center to speak their mind.

The 6.5-acre farm parcel was sold to Novi Schools in 1973 by the Furst daughters, Ruby and Iva. According to the Friends of the Furst Farm, the sisters stipulated that the farm be held for public use. The farmstead was purchased by the City in 1997.

The property, which includes a home, three barns, well house, gardens and orchard is listed on the national and state registries of historic properties.

If council chooses to move forward with the previously approved plan, Capello expects the first thing they will do is award the contract for demolition of the existing structures.

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Novi Parks Performing Arts presents Cirque Amongus Circus Camp

Keep your kids active this summer and give them an opportunity to make new friendships and develop unique skills by signing them up for Cirque Amongus Circus Camp at Novi Parks. The excitement begins Monday, Aug. 4 at Ella Mae Power Park, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, between Taft and Novi roads, located behind the Novi Civic Center.

Cirque Amongus is a hands-on learning camp for youth 7-15, designed to boost self-confidence, build self-esteem, and improve motor skills. Led by professional entertainers and skilled instructors, children will be introduced to the fundamentals of circus acts - juggling, balancing and movement - in a safe and educational environment.

"Working together to learn the different circus skills instilled the importance of teamwork and cooperation in a fun and exciting way. New friendships were

formed and everyone was a performing star," said Susan Branstner, who offered a similar program at Dearborn West Family Service and Learning Center last year. The Michigan Humanities Council and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs provided the City of Novi with a grant in support of this program.

Cirque Amongus Circus Camp takes place from Aug. 4-8, Monday through Thursday activities run from 9:30 a.m.-noon. Friday will feature a performance by camp participants from 4:30-7 p.m. Registration fees are \$145 for residents and \$173 for non-residents. Online registrations receive a \$5 discount. Registration ends July 25.

Register online at cityofnovi.org, or at the Novi Parks office. For more information, contact Lauren Sorrentino at (248) 735-5615 or lsorrentino@cityofnovi.org.

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MY NOVI PEOPLE

Thursday, June 19, 2008
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Novi says goodbye to one of its founding fathers

Funeral services for Ed Dobek Sunday and Monday

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

Debbie (Dobek) Dyer still remembers the smoke from her father's cigar filling the room at council and planning board meetings for the Village of Novi.

"He'd light up his cigar when he started losing his patience," she said of her father.

The late Ed Dobek is considered, to some, as one of the founding fathers of the City of Novi.

"People like Ed gave us the community we live in today," said Novi resident and former Police Chief Lee BeCote. "He gave a lot of his time, a lot of his efforts and a lot of his knowledge and, as a result, we're all better off today."

Dobek, who lived in Novi for about 30 years, sat on the planning review board and board of appeals and was instrumental in developing a master plan for the city.

"He helped draw up the original master plan for the city, which made Novi what it is today, at least on the development side," Dyer said, noting her mother, Winnie (Winifred), served on the charter commission. "My mother and him made a great team. They were very community-minded people and it actually made a good reputation for our family. They were so highly regarded."

Ed and Winnie moved from Detroit to Novi in November 1963 to raise their 10 kids on what became the Dobek Farm.

Farming was a familiar lifestyle to Dobek, who dropped out of school in eighth grade to help his father run the family's dairy farm in Grass Lake.

The Dobek Farm was on 12 Mile Road, between Novi and Dixon roads. Upon the 21.7-acre farm was Harom Hills Stables, where the Dobeks raised and boarded horses, and a variety of other animals such as chicken, ducks, sheep and geese.

"We had a complete 'Old McDonald' farm," Dyer said.

The family also gardened grapes, strawberries and raspberries, among other things.

Dyer still recalls her father riding around on the John Deere tractor in his bib-overalls and straw hat, while smoking his signature cigar.

"My dad was like a cowboy with his cowboy boots and belts," she said.

Aside from time spent on the farm and at meetings for the community, Dobek worked as a general superintendent for Highland Construction in Southfield.

"He was a very talented man, there wasn't anything he couldn't build," Dyer said. "He had a keen business sense. He knew what investments to make and could handle property."

After losing his wife to a tractor accident in 1988, Dobek moved out of Novi and attempted retirement in St. Petersburg, Fla. in 1993, but continued working as a consultant into his late 70s.

"He was a power house," Dyer said. "He was always full of energy. He was 76-years-old riding the Tower of Terror at Disney."

Edward Frank Dobek died in his St. Petersburg, Fla. home on the eve of Father's Day from prostate cancer. Dobek was 87, 15 days shy of celebrating his 88th birthday.

Dobek was the son of Andrew and Mary and beloved husband of the late Winifred (Winnie). He is survived by one sister, Genevieve (Clare) Wahl of Grass Lake and 10 children: Edward (Sandra) of Georgia; Linda (Charles) Witmer of Hartland; Donald (Rose) of Clinton Township; Jean Brown of Florida; Robert (Brenda) of Iowa; Mary (Gregory) Kendall of Whitmore Lake; Andrew of Muskegon Heights; Dr. Gerald of Traverse City; Debra (James) Dyer of Florida; and Donna (Scott) Harney of Florida. He has 27 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren.

"He loved his family so much," Dyer said. "His grandkids know him as 'the candy man' because he always had candy. His favorite was Tootsie Rolls."

Services will be at Casterline Funeral Home, located at 122 W. Dunlap in Northville. Visitation will be 2-8 p.m. Sunday, June 22, with the Rosary at 7 p.m. The memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Monday, June 23 with the interment at 2 p.m. at Oakwood (east) Cemetery in Grass Lake.

For more information regarding funeral services visit www.casterlinefuneralhome.com.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking donations be made to The Hospice of the Florida Suncoast, 3050 1st Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712. For more information, visit www.TheHospice.org.

kmurad@gannett.com 1 (248) 349-1700, ext. 103



Submitted photo

Visitation for Ed Dobek will take place this weekend. He is known to many as Novi's founding father. Dobek, who lived in Novi for about 30 years, sat on the planning review board and board of appeals. He was also a proud father to a family of 10.

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CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 18.225

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 18.225 to amend Ordinance No. 97-18 as amended, the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance at Article 25, Subsection 2508.1, "Uses Not Otherwise Included Within a Specific Use District" to modify the standards for "Commercial Television and Radio Towers, Communication Antennas, Public Utility Microwave Towers and Public Utilities and TV Transmitting Towers".

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, June 9, 2008 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

(6-19-08 NN 418429) MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 25, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **BASILIAN FATHERS RESIDENCE, SITE PLAN NUMBER 07-59A, FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND WOODLAND PERMIT APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 16, AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF TAFT ROAD AND ELEVEN MILE, IN THE RM-1, LOW-DENSITY, LOW-RISE MULTIPLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT.** The subject property is approximately 4.15 acres and the applicant is proposing the development of a residence for 14 Basilian priests.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, June 25, 2008.

Published June 19, 2008

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
MICHAEL MEYER, SECRETARY

(6-19-08 NN 419172)

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Michigan abortion ban vetoed, new bill on deck

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER



Nancy Cassis

Despite successfully passing through both the Republican-controlled Senate and Democrat-controlled House, Gov. Jennifer Granholm (D-Lansing) vetoed a bill banning partial-birth abortion last Friday.

"I think the governor's veto was extremely unrealistic and counter to the truth," said Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi), who co-sponsored the bill. "The title of it is to stop the killing of the children who are partially born. I don't think there are any more children who are partially born than this being done. I don't believe in killing children when that child is fully formed and ready to be alive."

It's murder, pure and simple. The governor has gone along with contributing to the murder of children. This would have safeguarded the life of the mother and life of the child."

Senate Bill 776 was approved 24-13 Jan. 22 by Senate leaders and 74-32 May 27 by the House.

"I will not support a late-term abortion ban that fails to protect both the life and health of mothers," Granholm said in a statement

to Senate leaders. "Medical professionals oppose this legislation because it does not contain valid exceptions for the health of the mother. They believe that medical decisions of this nature should be made by women and their doctors, not politicians. I agree."

A partial-birth abortion is performed when a fetus is partially delivered during the second or third trimester, often referred to as "drawing the birthing process" where the fetus is within a few seconds of being a full-born child with constitutional rights.

Although no partial-birth abortions were performed in Michigan in 2006 or 2007, the bill called for a penalty as severe as two years in prison and a \$50,000 maximum fine for performing the procedure.



Craig DeRoche

With many House Democrats supporting the Senate's partial-birth abortion ban, DeRoche emphasized the need for House Bill 4613 to push through quickly.

"It differs only in procedure and rules of finding its way into law," he said. "There's 74 votes in the House, which is enough to override the governor."

With Granholm's veto of the Senate bill, legislators now have the option of pushing HB 4613 through. The bill is nearly identical to the House bill, passed in 2007. The only key addition is the provision allowing a vote to override the governor's veto.

"The federal law has to be revisited," DeRoche, a co-sponsor of the House bill, pointed out. "The House bill states partial-birth abortions are never medically necessary to preserve the moth-

er's health and the procedure confuses medical, legal and ethical duties for physicians who have the responsibility to preserve and promote life.

Both Novi legislators, DeRoche and Cassis, supported the Senate bill and DeRoche now supports the House bill. Cassis had not been presented with the bill since it has yet to be passed by the House.

"We have many individuals in the legislature who would support partial-birth abortion ban. I think this is a very important issue that will come up again and again," Cassis said. Regarding an override, she said, "It wouldn't be symbolic. It would be a deep-rooted ethical stance to stop this evil."

"We're going to keep fighting for the lives of these babies. Partial-birth abortion is a heinous and unethical procedure. I think the partial-birth abortion ban should be something we can all agree on."

Both candidates said they favor

11th District Democratic candidates exchange views

By Hugh Gallagher
STAFF WRITER

Livonia attorney Joseph Larkin and former Novi City Manager and developer Edward Kriewall said U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia) is out of step with the people in the 11th Congressional District because he doesn't listen.

The two Democratic candidates for the 11th District House seat held by McCotter met last Wednesday for a quiet exchange of views before an audience of about 45 people at the Livonia Senior Center.

The forum, sponsored by the Livonia Democratic Club, was moderated by club president Patrick O'Neil, who asked questions from the audience and has own questions.

Larkin was critical of McCotter's style as well as his positions on issues.

"Mr. McCotter doesn't listen to people. He yells at you and storms off," Larkin said. "His politics are not your politics, they're GOP politics and he's a party hack."

Both candidates oppose the war in Iraq, which links to McCotter and President George W. Bush.

"America was sold on a lie," Larkin said. "There were no weapons of mass destruction,

there was no link with al-Qaeda."

He said the United States was right to enter Afghanistan because the Taliban government had attacked the terrorists who harbored the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. But, he said, that mission has not been completed and was weakened by entry into the Iraq War.

"Iraq was a mistake for the Bush Administration and I will vote against future funding," Kriewall said. "America shouldn't be there."

He said the United States should get out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We can't afford to go into these countries and try to solve their problems," he said.

He said the country should be spending more on improved intelligence gathering than on waging war.

Larkin said energy was a major issue in this campaign. He said he favors more investment in alternative energy to reduce American dependence on foreign oil.

He said big oil has received recent profits under the Bush Administration.

"Stop subsidizing big oil," he said.

Kriewall said it might be time to rethink traditional Democratic

opposition to drilling in the Alaska wildlife preserve.

"Drilling is a lot safer than it used to be. A lot more sophisticated today," he said.

Larkin said he opposes expanding drilling until more money is spent on developing alternative energy.

Kriewall's defense of Alaskan drilling was one of several positions taken by both candidates that are more conservative than those taken by the national party.

Kriewall admitted that he had voted for George W. Bush in the last two presidential elections. Larkin admitted that he did not vote for Bill Clinton in his second election because of the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

Kriewall called the Congress "dysfunctional" and the two-party system "obsolete" but "the best we have."

Both candidates are opposed to the immigration reform legislation supported by both presidential candidates.

"Illegal immigration is ruining this country," Kriewall said, then he quoted Fox News commentator Bill O'Reilly that the country couldn't accept everyone.

O'Reilly is a conservative and often a target for Democrats.

Larkin said illegal immigrants compete with Americans for jobs and that current immigration laws need to be strictly enforced.

Larkin said he is a pro-life Democrat, but argued that decisions on abortion laws are made in the federal courts and that the Senate, not the House, decides on judicial appointments. Kriewall said he is pro-choice.

Larkin and Kriewall said they believe the Second Amendment supports an individual's right to bear arms. When asked about assault weapons, Kriewall said he didn't see a difference in a semi-automatic assault weapon and a high-powered hunting rifle.

"Quite frankly, bad guys get the guns, innocent people need to have guns," he said.

Both Larkin and Kriewall said they support a balanced budget. Larkin added that sometimes, as in the current economic downturn, it might be necessary to have deficit spending, but generally he supports a balanced budget and

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PHOTO: BOB HAZEL/STYLING: JOYCE W. HAZEL

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CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, July 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Novi Civic Center 45175 W. Ten Mile Road to consider:

Case No. 08-027 filed by Donna Skelton at 301 Duana Court. District of 301 Duana is requesting a variance from the strict requirement of the Zoning Ordinance which prohibits fences on all lots of record in all residential districts from extending into the front yard setback to allow a 14 foot 3 inch long fence on the front yard. In addition to the variance requested petitioner is asking for an interpretation of the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to "decorative fencing." Property is zoned R-4 and is located south of South Lake Drive and west of Old Novi Road.

Case No. 08-033 filed by G. Michael Kahn of Singh Development LLC at 22475 Huron Drive, Walled Lake. G. Michael Kahn of Singh Development, LLC representing Walled Lake at Twelve Oaks is requesting two sign extension variances for one real estate construction sign and one leasing sign. Sign A is located on Huron Circle and Sign B is located on the north side of Mackinac Boulevard. Property is zoned RM-1 and is located south of Twelve Mile and east of Novi Road.

Case No. 08-034 filed by G. Michael Kahn of Singh Development LLC for Main Street Novi located at 2200 Constitution Street. G. Michael Kahn of Singh Development, LLC is representing Main Street Village is requesting one sign extension variance for an existing a real estate sign located south of Potomac Drive in Main Street Village. Property is zoned TC-1 and is located south of Grand River Avenue and east of Novi Road.

Case No. 08-035 filed by Larry Kelly and Greg Hudus of Signature Associates at 45145 12 Mile Road. Larry Kelly & Greg Hudus of Signature Associates are requesting a 40 square foot area variances and a one foot height variance for a fifty-six square foot oversized real estate leasing sign to be placed at 45145 12 Mile Road. Property is zoned R-4 and is located south of Twelve Mile and west of Novi Road.

Case No. 08-038 filed by James Rohlfing of the Gaman Group for 3979 12 Mile Road. James Rohlfing of the Gaman Group Inc. is requesting a Temporary Special Land Use Permit renewal for the placement of a temporary construction trailer located at 3979 12 Mile Road from July 8, 2008 through July 8, 2009. Petitioner was issued the first temporary use permit for twelve (12) months in TUP06-050 and a twelve (12) month renewal in TSEP07-026. Property is zoned B-2 located south of 12 Mile Road and east of M-6.

(6-19-08 NM 419242)

Dr. David Salah, D.D.S.

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Victoria Mitchell, editor
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102
vrmitch@hometownlife.com

MY BUSINESS

Brembo North America announces Novi relocation

Brembo, Inc., a maker of precision braking systems, announced Tuesday the company will consolidate its corporate and technical offices in Novi, Michigan.

The subsidiary of Bergamo, Italy-based Brembo S.p.A. will also expand capacity at its manufacturing facility in Homer, Michigan.

"With the acquisition of Hayes-Lemaire brake disc divisions last November, 2007 was a banner year for Brembo North America," Brembo North America General Manager Adrian Smith said. "The consolidation and expansion of our operations in Michigan, building on the skills of our workforce and competitiveness of our manufacturing facilities, create great opportunities for sustained growth in North America."

Brembo is a world leader in design, development and production of high performance braking systems and components. Teams equipped with Brembo brakes have won automotive and motorcycle racing championships including Formula 1, IndyCar and NASCAR.

"We are pleased to welcome another outstanding international technical supplier with strong roots in Michigan to Novi," stated Mayor David B. Landry. "Our supportive and diverse community with high quality businesses, neighborhoods and schools will provide a great location for Brembo's headquarters for many years to come."

Brembo North America serves a customer base in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The new 45,000-square-foot facility is scheduled for completion by the end of the year and will bring 42 new jobs to Novi. The move is another important step for Brembo that will enable the company to support all of its North American operations.

"Novi has worked hard to have businesses, such as Brembo, choose to locate in Michigan and, specifically, our community," notes Novi's Economic Development Manager An Topuzian. "Novi's location and access to technology and other auto industry headquarters will complement the company's facility in Homer."

For more information about doing business in Novi, visit investinovi.org.

- Submitted to the Novi News.

Several Novi businesses recognized by 'Corp!' magazine

■ **Imagine Entertainment, ITC Holdings Corp., Ryder honored by publication**

The City of Novi is proud to announce that Corp! Magazine recognized several Novi businesses as Michigan's Economic Bright Spots.

Imagine Entertainment, ITC Holdings Corp. and Ryder Systems, Inc. were three of 36 Michigan companies honored by Corp! on June 11 at the Michigan State University Management Education Center in Troy.

Imagine Entertainment manages three movie theaters in the area including Imagine Novi, Imagine Canton and Cinema Hollywood in Birch Run.

Competing against larger national cinema chains, Imagine Entertainment has excelled by offering state-of-the-art technology and fine-class customer service to offer what Imagine Entertainment believes is the best movie experience possible.

Imagine Novi is part of Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, a 737,000-square-foot open-air shopping, dining and entertainment venue.

ITC operates regulated, high-voltage transmission systems in Michigan's Lower Peninsula and parts of Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois and Missouri.

Employing roughly 3,000 people within the state of Michigan, Ryder Systems Inc., opened its regional headquarters in Novi on June 10. This new facility will allow Ryder to consolidate eight locations into one energy efficient building. The move will also bring about 470 employees to Novi.

"Ryder, ITC, and Imagine continue to show our region that there are positive developments within our current economy," said An Topuzian, City of Novi economic development manager. "They are leading the way towards an improved economy within the State of Michigan."

For more information about doing business in the City of Novi, visit investinovi.org.

- Submitted to the Novi News.

Know the objectives of your mutual funds before investing

With thousands of mutual funds on the market, how can you choose the ones that are right for your individual needs?

For starters, you need to know the objective of each mutual fund in which you plan to invest.

Let's take a look at the investment objectives of some of the most popular types of mutual funds:

- **Growth funds.** These funds invest in the stocks of growing companies, with the goal of providing investors with capital appreciation. In plain English, you invest in these funds for the potential to make your money grow. If you invest in these funds, you will almost certainly experience "ups and downs" in the market, but you hold your investments for the long term, and your investments should grow over time.
- **International funds.** You choose from several types of international funds: global funds, which invest in both U.S. and international stocks; international funds, which invest primarily outside the United States; country funds, which focus on investments in one country or region; and emerging market funds, which concentrate on small, developing countries. These funds generally invest for growth, but they involve special types of risk, such as currency fluctuations and the prospect of investments being affected by political or economic turmoil.
- **Bond funds.** When you invest in a bond fund, you are seeking current income, in the form of interest payments, and the chance to help stabilize a portfolio that might be heavily weighted toward stocks. You can choose from municipal bond funds, corporate bond funds, mortgage-backed securities funds and U.S. government bond funds. Although bond funds generally contain less investment risk than stock funds, they carry a different type of risk: Purchasing power risk. In other words, the interest payments you receive from your bond funds may not always keep up with inflation. Keep in mind that bond funds are subject to interest rate risk and fund values may decline as interest rates rise.
- **Money market funds.** These funds invest in short-term debt instruments and are managed to maintain a stable net asset value of \$1 per share. However, the value of a fund can fluctuate and

it's possible to lose money. Many people invest in money market funds if they want to "park" funds for a short time before investing it elsewhere. You might also use a money market fund to cover emergency funds' containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses. While these types of mutual funds have some obvious differences, they also share two important traits in common. First, financial professionals choose the investments that are obviously a benefit to you. Second, mutual funds, by owning many different types of securities, offer the advantage of diversification. (Diversification, by itself, cannot protect your investment portfolio from a market loss in a receding market.)

A financial advisor can help you choose those mutual funds that are appropriate for your needs. But it's still your responsibility to know about the funds in which you invest. So, before writing a check, read a fund's prospectus, which can be obtained from your financial advisor. The prospectus contains more complete information, including the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses that should be carefully considered.

This column was provided by Mark Whiffled, Financial Advisor, Novi Town Center, 43290 1st Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE On Haggerty Rd., North of 8 Mile Rd. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Celebration 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. Dr. Don Biele, Pastor	WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 26100 Eastman Ave., Novi, MI 48068 Sundays 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 7:00 p.m. (18 weeks) Worship 10:30 a.m., 7:00 p.m. Rev. James P. Baker, Associate Pastor
HEADWROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 21350 Woodcroft Rd. in Novi at 8 1/2 Mile 248-348-7737 • www.wrookcc.org Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Rev. Arthur Robert Sarnig, Minister	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHWILLE 300 E. Main St. in Northville (248) 348-0011 Sundays 9:30 A.M., 11:30 P.M. Children Available at All Services Newborn Baptisms, Wed. 12:30 P.M. Singing Praise Ministry, Thurs. 7:30 p.m. Pastor: Bruce Sarnig
HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL 10 Mile between Meadowbrook & Haggerty Phone 248-427-1175 Sundays 7:30 A.M., 10:30 P.M. Sundays 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Sundays 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Rev. Kathleen Harris, Pastor www.churchofholycross.com	OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH 17979 Huron Road, Novi, MI 48068 WEEKEND LITURGIES: Saturdays 5:00 a.m. Sundays 7:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M., 12:30 P.M. Sundays 8:30 A.M., 10:30 A.M., 12:30 P.M. Religious Education, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Pastor: Fr. Stephen Sarnig
FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4440 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-349-2345 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd. Sundays 10:00 a.m. Service Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 9 Mile & Meadowbrook Worship in Lutheran Synod Sundays School and Adult Bible Class 8:45 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Thomas E. Schneider, Pastor • 349-2366
ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI 4325 10 Mile Rd. Novi, MI 48074 Sundays 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. Sundays 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Rev. Ronald George Chamblay, Pastor Phone: 248-373-7378	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHWILLE 8 Mile & Hart Road Sundays Worship Services 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Rev. John Hill • Rev. Bob Cook www.firstunited.org
NATIVITIY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 3800 W. Main St. (E. of Haggerty) Troy, MI 48068 Phone: 248-422-0311 Sunday Services Meters (Orthos) 9:00 a.m., Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Rev. Fr. George J. Maragala, Pastor www.nativityorthodox.org	OAK POINTE CHURCH 4015 W. 10 Mile, Novi Sundays 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Casual, contemporary style band (248) 912-0343 www.oakpointe.org
CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY 24205 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48075 Meters: Sat. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4:45 a.m., 10:30 p.m., 12:15 p.m. Holy Days: Sat. 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. Fr. Timothy Haggart, Pastor Rev. Fr. William Modyk, Deacon Rev. Mr. Timothy J. Pichen, Deacon Pastor Office: 349-8847	FELLOWSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2400 N. Haggerty Road, Novi Sundays 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Deacons: James P. Baker, Bruce Sarnig Nursery Provided
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA 11800 W. 10 Mile, Novi, MI 48074 Sundays 9:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. Sundays 8:30 a.m. Sundays 9:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. Contemporary Service Times: 9:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. Lutery Arkose	CHURCH DIRECTORY For information regarding rates call The Northville Record or Novi News (248) 349-1700

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Victoria Mitchell, editor (248) 348-1700, ext. 102



M PUBLIC SAFETY

Drunk driver involved in hit-and-run

A Novi man was involved in a hit-and-run accident with another vehicle, just before 10 p.m. June 1, reports said.

POLICE BRIEFS

Personnel from the Oakland County Hazmat Team and the Oakland County Health Department were called to the scene and a private contractor performed the clean-up.

Found bikes

At about 8:30 p.m. June 8, a woman walking her dog near Nine Mile Road and Cranbrook Drive found a bike hidden in the bushes, reports said.

Don't park too close

According to a recent police report, the word "tag" was scratched on the hood of a vehicle while parked outside Andiamo, between 10:45 p.m. May 31 and 2 a.m. June 1.

Mercery spill

On June 10, Wixom police and homes is so much of it is plastic or plastic-based," said Novi Fire Chief Frank Smith.

Motor home catches fire on Beck Road in Novi

A Northville resident watched his weekend plans go up in flames last Saturday afternoon.



A Northville resident's RV caught on fire while on Beck Road in Novi this past weekend.

Novi sergeant appointed to county leadership position

On June 5, Detective Sgt. Matt Conquest was officially appointed as the Commander of the West Oakland Major Crime Task Force.

Lyons and White Lake Township are among the many communities involved with the task force, who routinely share resources to enhance investigative services.

Commander Conquest will direct criminal investigations on behalf of the organization along with the investigator in charge from the agency with jurisdiction over the incident.

In addition, he will continue to coordinate monthly intelligence meetings between law enforcement personnel on the federal, state and local levels.

"I am privileged to have the opportunity to work with my colleagues from other agencies in

OBITUARIES

EDWARD FRANK DOBEK

Longtime resident of Novi, MI, Dr. St. Peter's Hospital. At age 87, passed into heaven at his home on June 14, 2008.

Thief rode away with the mower

According to a recent police report, a red Honda lawnmower was stolen from a residence on Buckminster Drive, near 11 Mile and Tait roads, between May 24-June 1.

Mis-matched license plates

A Novi man was stopped by a police officer in East Lansing at about 5 p.m. June 3 because the license plate on his car didn't match the one registered to the vehicle, reports said.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: 7 p.m. tonight inside the Educational Services Building on Tait Road

Victoria Mitchell, editor (248) 348-1700, ext. 102

MY EDUCATION REPORT CARD A+

Thursday, June 19, 2008 www.hometownlife.com

Elementary school renovations and construction under way

By Chris Jackett STAFF WRITER

Bridget Zahradnik has spent the past seven years teaching first grade in the same classroom at Parkview Elementary School.

Parkview is one of three Novi elementary schools, along with Orchard Hills and Village Oaks, to undergo both renovations of current classrooms and the additions of a new gym, music and art rooms at each school this summer.

New rooms

The total renovation and construction process will cost about \$21.1 million, via a May 2007 approved bond.

"Some big improvements will be made," Zahradnik said. "I'm ecstatic. The classrooms are challenging as they are. It's fabulous. I don't mind doing any of the packing because I know the reward at the end."

"We started a month ago with things that could be packed up that are not in use. The classrooms are pretty bare with most things packed," Zahradnik said last Thursday.

"Twelve classrooms, including Zahradnik's, on the southern pod of Parkview will be renovated along with all classrooms at Orchard Hills and Village Oaks. The 12 Parkview rooms, are what Assitant Superintendent Gail Business and Operations Gail

Credit believes are the smallest in the district, and will be renovated from 900 square feet to 1,200 square feet, has survived the additions of doorless locker cubbies for lunches, jackets and winter clothing, as well as improved student computer work centers and other features.

"We're going to have a built-in computer center so it won't take up a lot of the classroom space," she said. "There'll be a drinking fountain in each classroom. Having it in the classroom will alleviate transition (after recess)."

The building with construction traffic along the fire drive on the west side of the building.

"That's a huge blessing because our gym is shared with the lunch room. The larger kids had to be scheduled at certain times and it had a domino effect," Zahradnik said. "The new wing will be bigger, better, nicer. It will also help us with scheduling because we'll have a lunch room that won't be shared with the gym classes."

Zahradnik was part of a committee of faculty and parents that went to each school and analyzed what needed improvements. Credit said each school will also receive new ceilings, lighting, and heating and cooling systems.

"I think the community always wants more recreation facilities. They're nice gyms with wood floors the community can use," Credit said. "The renovation piece will be done in time for school. (Construction is) more likely the end of September. We're still targeting the opening of school, but it's a little less likely because of permit delays and weather. It was a cold spring."

"Orchard Hills will add to the northwestern corner of the school, which requires the northern part of the playground to be moved. Construction traffic will come in northwest of the school down a service drive east of Run Street to avoid traffic entanglement.

Village Oaks' western corner will gain the addition. Construction traffic will come in from Village Wood Road, southwest of the school. Parkview will add its new gym and classrooms to the south end of



The concrete base of the walls is finished at Parkview Elementary School.



With stacks of crates and boxes already behind her, Parkview Elementary School teacher Bridget Zahradnik labels another box of her classroom items as she clears out in anticipation of this summer's major renovation work at the Novi school.

Tanglewood Restaurant Week Specials

Friday, June 20 Saturday, June 21

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OBITUARY POLICY The first seven lines of an obituary are published free of charge. Additional lines are \$15 a line. Postage may be published for \$5.

Wixom Family Health Center proudly welcomes Al Romero, M.D. (Board Certified in Family Medicine) 29600 Wixom Road Wixom, MI 48393 Phone: (248) 668-1900

Arts & Crafts Show Juried Vendors Saturday, June 21st 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Luncheon available from United Methodist Women Novi United Methodist Church The Peace Church 41671 W. Ten Mile Rd. (between Meadowbrook & Novi Rd) Phone: 248.349.2632

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ON CAMPUS

Hope College

The following students were named to the Dean's List for the second semester of the 2007-08 school year: Nicole E. Nordstrom, a junior from Novi; Megan R. Campbell, a junior from Novi; and John P. Van Dusen, a junior from Liberty Twp., Ohio, who graduated from Novi High School.

Corwin, sophomore, Christiane teacher education; Undeclared senior, pre-nursing; Megan Marie Daybird, sophomore, pre-nursing; Caitlin L. Graham, sophomore, pre-nursing; Justin Roy Harvey, junior, criminal justice; Kendall Elizabeth Hubbard, junior, pre-dentistry; Amy M. Hudgins, senior, sign language studies; Jennifer Lauren Kish, senior, dietetics; Brittany Marie Kratz, junior, graphic design; Sean McGuckin, JD, secondary provisional program; Kyung Hi Park, senior, psychology-mental health; Lauren Yane Peaces, freshman, language arts; Jacqueline Marie Puente, freshman, psychology-mental health; Usha Rameswami, senior, nutrition and food sciences; Jessica Sue Scott, junior, child development; Christine JoAnn Skrabulis, junior, freshwater biology; Derek Samuel Hart, PhD, secondary provisional; Christopher Michael Buchheim, senior, hospitality management; Linda Boynton, PD, parajudicial studies; Doreen Ann Brant, senior, social work; Lesley Suzanne Cartwright, senior, forensic science; Megan Evelyn

Landa Renee Wilson, freshman, sport management; Alectia Elizabeth Zanotti, junior, English/journalism; and Nancy Zhao, PD, music.

The following students from Novi graduated this spring from Madonna University: Amy M. Hudgins, sign language studies; Kuniko Koisuma, math for elementary teachers; Krystal A. Migrina, math for elementary teachers; Jennifer Marie Warner, merchandising management; Elizabeth Anne Wilhelm, nursing; and Nicholas London Williams, business administration.

Northwood University

Patrick M. Schlenke will be a freshman at Northwood this fall and is a recipient of the Free Enterprise Scholarship for the 2008-2009 academic year. The Free Enterprise Scholarship is \$5,000 per year with renewal options yearly if criteria is met. The Free Enterprise Scholarship is awarded to a student who has exhibited academic excellence during their high school years. Heard graduated from Novi High School this spring and will work toward a business degree from Northwood University. He is the son of Mark Heard of Detroit and Angel Heard of Novi.

Northern Michigan University

Rachel E. Watson of Novi was named to the Dean's List for winter semester 2008 at Northern Michigan University.

Albion College

The following Novi students were named to the Dean's List for spring semester 2008: Noa Kocan will be a senior majoring in economics and management and minor in mathematics, son of Richard and Lynn Kocan and a graduate of Novi High School; and Janet Schlenke of Novi and Mark J. D. Heard will be a

freshman at Northwood this fall and is a recipient of the Free Enterprise Scholarship for the 2008-2009 academic year. The Free Enterprise Scholarship is \$5,000 per year with renewal options yearly if criteria is met. The Free Enterprise Scholarship is awarded to a student who has exhibited academic excellence during their high school years. Heard graduated from Novi High School this spring and will work toward a business degree from Northwood University. He is the son of Mark Heard of Detroit and Angel Heard of Novi.

majoring in economics and management, is the daughter of Steven and Kathryn Schulte and a graduate of Novi High School.

Anna Williams, who will be a sophomore, is the daughter of Daniel and Kathy Williams of Wixom and a graduate of Walled Lake Western High School.

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Madonna University

The following students from Novi were named to the Dean's List for the past semester at Madonna University: Raghad Alshidjali, junior, undeclared teacher education; Sharon Ann Ales, sophomore, nursing; Dominic Benavides, freshman, biology; Kristina Anne Bidmou, senior, history; Derek Samuel Hart, PhD, secondary provisional; Christopher Michael Buchheim, senior, hospitality management; Linda Boynton, PD, parajudicial studies; Doreen Ann Brant, senior, social work; Lesley Suzanne Cartwright, senior, forensic science; Megan Evelyn

Samuelson honored for academic achievements

Katie Samuelson of Novi and a sophomore at Benedict Academy was recognized during an honors and prizes ceremony held in May for outstanding academic achievement.

Samuelson was awarded the Esther Lord Page Scholarship, the Lower School English Prize and the Lower School Math Award.

The Esther Lord Page Scholarship is given to the most promising returning member of the sophomore class. In presenting the award, Head of School Dr. Michael E. Conper said of Samuelson, "Her dedication and motivation to do well are evident through her



Katie Samuelson
grades and her athletic successes. She's a quiet leader who

faces each academic, extracurricular activity with an incredible vigor and vitality."

The Lower School English Award is awarded for excellence in the study of English.

The Lower School Math Award is presented annually for exceptional effort and achievement in mathematics studies.

In sports Samuelson received the Coaches' Award in cross-country running in the fall and the Most Valuable Player Award in girls' varsity tennis and won the singles' title in the Lakes Region tournament this spring.

She is the daughter of Jon and Joanie Samuelson.

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Children 18 and under free when accompanied by an adult
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Visit www.michigan50sfestival.org or call 248-349-1950 for up to date schedule

MinuteClinics offer free kits for summer-camp bound kids

With summer camps just around the corner, MinuteClinic is offering a free "camp starter kit," complete with sunscreen, hand sanitizing spray, lip balm, a first aid kit, water bottle and disposable camera, all in a backpack-style drawing bag to families who bring camp-bound kids in for their physical examinations. There are 16 MinuteClinics in Greater Detroit (see list below). They are all open nights & weekends with no appointment necessary for the convenience of busy families.

To complete the camp physical, MinuteClinic practitioners review the patient's health history, ensure all necessary immunizations are up to date and provide a brief physical exam to determine if the child is able to safely participate in typical camp activities. At the conclusion of the visit, practitioners give each patient a MinuteClinic camp physical form stating the results of the exam. MinuteClinic will accept cash, personal check or credit card for payment of the camp physical offered at \$59.**

MinuteClinic health care centers are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the following CVS/pharmacy locations:

- Northville, Farmington Hills - 39350 Nine Mile Rd.
- Northville, Plymouth - 44300 Five Mile Rd.
- Walled Lake - 100 West Maple Rd.

MinuteClinic health care centers are staffed by nurses-prepared, board-certified practitioners. Common vaccinations such as influenza, tetanus, MMR, and Hepatitis A & B are also available. In addition, MinuteClinic administers a series of wellness services designed to help consumers identify lifestyle changes needed to improve their current and future health.

The offer is valid while supplies last and contents may vary. Insurance copays are not accepted for this service.

Walled Lake Consolidated Schools awarded District Accreditation

Superintendent, Bill Hamilton, recently announced that Walled Lake - Consolidated School District was granted District Accreditation from the AdvanceED Accreditation Commission, the national commission that confers the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI). This means that the district and all of its schools are accredited, and that Walled Lake is recognized across the nation as a quality school system. "Walled Lake joins six other Michigan School Districts, and is the first Oakland County School District to attain this honor," reports Kathy Sergeant, State Director of the Michigan North Central Association.

The accreditation process involves three ongoing components: 1) meeting high quality standards; 2) implementing a continuous process of improvement; and 3) engaging in quality assurance through internal and external review. The district's accreditation is for a five year term with regular monitoring of progress and reporting occurring during the term.

Parents and interested community members can learn more about the District Accreditation Process at www.advance-ed.org.

Class NOTES

Novi Preschool Registration

Preschool registration for the 2008-09 school year is now open. Class programs focus on social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. The program follows the State of Michigan Standards and Bench Marks for preschool and pre-kindergarten. Curriculum includes Language Arts, social studies, science, math, music and movement. Children are provided with experiences and opportunities allowing them to meet the State Early Learning Expectations for 3s, 4s, and 5s. Children must be 3, 4 or 5 by Dec. 1. Children also must be completely toilet trained.

Summer C.A.R.E. starts June 18 and ends August 20. Hours of operation are 7 a.m.-6 p.m. The location of C.A.R.E. will be at the Instructional Technology Center on Tall Road.

Register at Child Care Services located in the Community Education Office in the TTC. Registration packets, with fees and scheduling information, can be found on the Web site at www.novi.k12.mi.us. Registration for June is closed.

When registering a child (or children), a parent needs to bring the following:

- A completed registration packet, available on the district's Web site, www.novi.k12.mi.us
- Child's birth certificate or passport, and
- Non-refundable registration fee payment (\$45 for school district residents, \$50 for non-residents)

The all-day preschool classes meet 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Parents are responsible for providing transportation. Tuition can be paid in full, \$6,393.36, or in nine payments of \$710.38 (August through April).

Many options are available for the district's half-day program, ranging from five to two day options.

Child Care (C.A.R.E.) is available for parents needing assistance before or after preschool classes. Registration information and prices are posted on the district's Web site at www.novi.k12.mi.us. C.A.R.E. is also available at all elementary schools for kindergarten through eighth-grade students.

For more information, call Child Care Services at (248) 449-1713.

Young Authors Unite!

Parkview Elementary School student Kanjo Enehaji displays his book at the First Grade Author's Fair held last month.

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

MY OPINION

Thursday, June 19, 2008
www.hometownlife.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Novi News

Victoria Mitchell
EDITOR
Susan Rošek
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Peter Nell
VICE PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER

In Our Opinion: There's something for everyone this summer in Novi

Summer vacation is officially here in the City of Novi and now it's time to get outside and take advantage of many of the programs, classes and opportunities available to all residents.

As a new endeavor this year, the City created a new publication titled "Engage," which lists many of Novi's summer activities. The publication is available online at www.cityofnovi.org or at the Civic Center.

The 67-page catalog is sure to scratch your participation itch.

The newest addition to the line-up of kid's classes is the Cirque Amongus Circus camp.

Cirque Amongus is a hands-on learning camp for youth 7-15, designed to boost self-confidence, build self-esteem, and improve motor skills. Led by professional entertainers and skilled instructors, children will be introduced to the fundamentals of circus acts – juggling, balancing and movement – in a safe, fun-filled and educational environment.

In addition to camps, classes and sporting events, the guide also includes a detailed map of the city's parks and general gathering areas.

The Novi library also kicked-off its "Catch the Reading Bug" summer program Monday.

The library is offering three levels for kids: "Read to Me" (for kids younger than kindergarten age), "Catch the Reading Bug" (for grades K-fourth), and "Metamorphosis @ Your Library" for tweens and teens in fifth-12 grades.

Each level offers rewards for readers who polish off books and the Novi Library will be hosting special visitors and events for the reading program throughout the summer.

The best part? It's free to join.
But don't think summer is only about being young. "Remember When... The Game Show of the Century!" is a Novi Theatre's sponsored variety series for residents 50 or older who love to sing or dance.

No auditions are required to participate and residents may come to any rehearsal during the month of June to register. Rehearsals are 12:30-2:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the summer at the Novi Civic Center.

The Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is also kicking off its Sizzling Summer Arts Series, Saturday with a Movie in the Park.

A 32-by-15 feet movie screen will be set up between the pitchers mound and second base of the Power Park baseball diamond, featuring "Night at the Museum."

Other events to follow include concerts, puppet shows and a preview of the Novi Theatres upcoming production of "The Pied Piper of Hamelin."

Another noteworthy summer program set to begin is the Novi Youth Police Academy.

The week-long session is from noon-4 p.m. July 14-18 at the Novi Police Department, inside the training center and its fees.

Run by school resource officer Mike Wilson, the five-day academy offers teenagers the opportunity to learn about crime scene investigation, traffic laws and law enforcement equipment, as well as simulating traffic stops, Taser training and K-9 demonstrations.

The session ends with a graduation and each student will receive a certificate of completion.

There really is something for everyone in Novi this summer, so get out and enjoy!

Hey, Novi: What's Your Story?

We're looking for you! The Novi News is currently looking to interview local residents regarding the following topics:

- Are you a Novi resident interested in sharing a story about how your religious faith has carried you through tough times?
- Do you spend more than \$200 per week on gasoline?
- Do you have an unusual or interesting hobby?

E-mail Victoria Mitchell at vemtitchel@gannett.com.

What do you think?

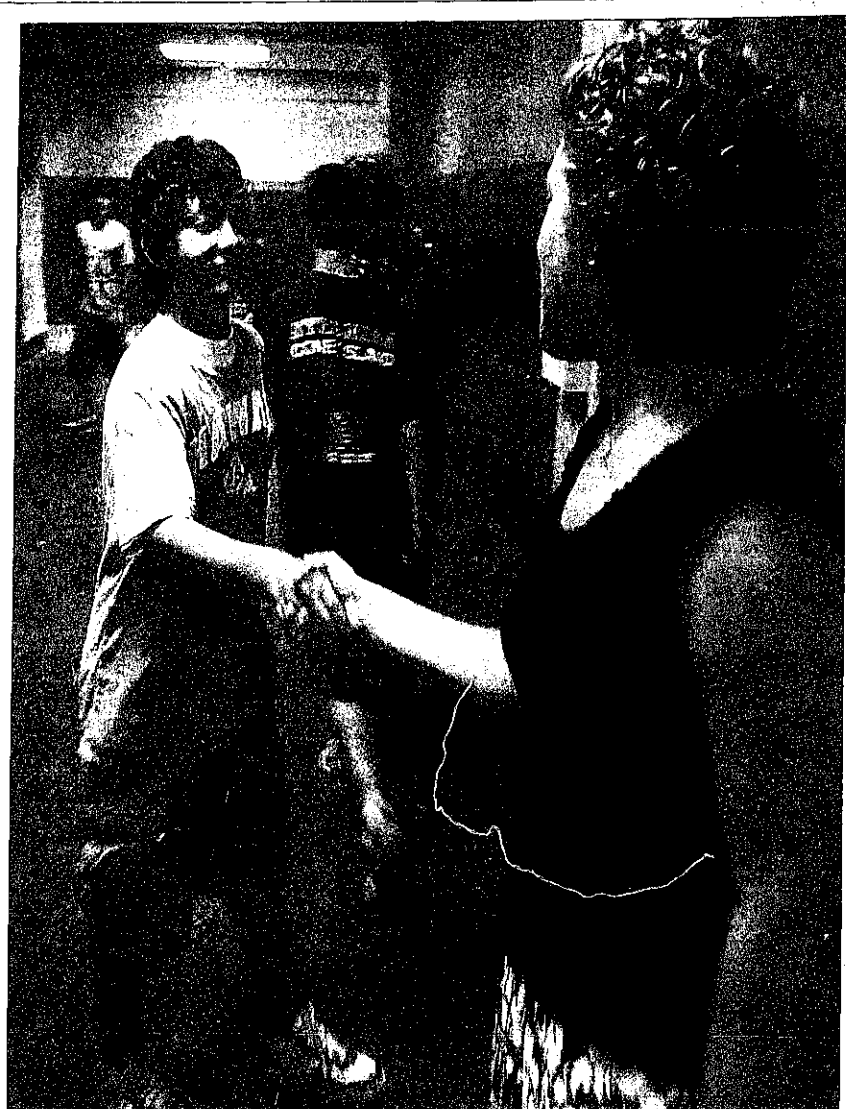
We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

Mail: Novi News, Letters to the Editor, 104 W. Main Street, Suite 101, Northville, MI 48167

Fax: (248) 349-9832

E-mail: vemtitchel@gannett.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 5 p.m. on Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.



Summer Vacation is Finally Here!

As students hurry out of the building, Novi Middle School teacher Megan Gasdlo takes a moment to shake hands with eighth grader Patrick Culler on the last day of classes for Novi Schools - June 12.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

LETTERS

Save the Fuerst Farm

I am in favor of saving Fuerst Farm for many reasons. I would someday like my children to be able to experience Novi's past (other than just going to Twelve Oaks) in a hands-on way. I also think that saving the farm is a tribute to the family that left so much land for the City of Novi and helped make it what it is today. I believe that historic structures link communities and serve as a gathering area. Why not restore the farm and have farmer's markets there, and connect and gardens, etc. etc. It seems that the council is deaf to the pleas of the Save the Farm organization and the many signatures on petitions to save the farm. What else can we do as citizens of Novi to save a piece of our past?

Patti Harpenau
Novi

Help the unemployed

Congress is trying to pass legislation to extend unemployment benefits and I could not agree more with this effort. But Michigan's jobs should not get their hopes up. President Bush says he will veto it and he has done nothing so far to help this Blue State.
What could be done to help our unemployed would be to remove the burden of their having to pay taxes on their benefits. As the Democratic candidate of the 38th district for the Michigan House this is an issue very important to me and if elected I will work to return compensation to those who have lost their jobs to non-taxable status as it was before the Republican John Engler administration. This would certainly help Michigan's jobs stress in these hard times and I don't see how you justify taxing the unemployed in any time.

Chuck Tindall
Novi

Democrat for State Rep. 38th District
Novi

City Council ignores options for Fuerst Farm

Recently city council voted to demolish the Fuerst Farmstead and implement a plan with a cost of \$3 million for the site. A decision made without the knowledge of the Historical Commission. On these separate occasions the city council was invited to attend events which would help to inform them of issues important to a very large group of citizens. This group exceeds the size of the group in the city's own study which also did not recommend demolition.

The first event was a walk around with experts in barn restoration. The second event was an informational meeting with Ron Campbell, preservation architect from Oakland County and Pat McKay from the Rochester Hill Museum at Van Hoosen Farm. Both of these gentlemen discussed viable economic uses for the property and potential financial resources available to Novi to preserve and maintain this property. It was interesting to learn that the county provides free architectural services for any city interested in preservation of a National Historic Site but only when requested by city government. Why did our leaders choose not to use these services when developing a plan for the Fuerst Farmstead?

At the June 9 city council meeting, I personally requested the city council meet with the Friends of Fuerst Farm Board of Directors to discuss the Fuerst Farmstead. We believe that much of the future plans in the Plan B chosen by the city may be accomplished while still preserving the historical site. Architectural services for such a plan and potentially some of the cost to implement may be provided to the City of Novi for free. While we are all aware that city council does not address citizens during audience participation, I am still very disappointed that our leaders chose not to acknowledge the invitation.

I recently met Amy Peterman and came away impressed with both her as a person and her proposals for our community.
The first thing you notice about Amy is that she's thoughtful. She doesn't sound or behave like a politician. She listens closely and speaks only after taking in all the facts. For someone who is tired of the endless pontificating of politicians, I found it a welcome change.

The second thing you notice about Amy is that her proposals for Michigan revolve around a belief in promoting consistency in government. For example, Amy Peterman as our State Representative.

Ginger Barrons Novi

Elect Amy Peterman

I recently met Amy Peterman and came away impressed with both her as a person and her proposals for our community.
The first thing you notice about Amy is that she's thoughtful. She doesn't sound or behave like a politician. She listens closely and speaks only after taking in all the facts. For someone who is tired of the endless pontificating of politicians, I found it a welcome change.
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Sean Walsh
Warren

Fuerst things Fuerst

The City of Novi seems con-

vinced they are on the right path with the Fuerst Farmstead. The problem is that how you get there matters.
It appears that a handful of people are using their positions within the city to implement their vision of what should be done with that corner. One wonders if the unseemly rush to demolition of the Fuerst Farm unwittingly reveals fears that the choices they are making will not hold up if considered more fully.
It is a fine thing to have a vision for the city; we expect that of our leadership. Novi can be proud of what it has done on our behalf. However, city actions on Fuerst Farmstead represent an abandonment of their usual good stewardship. We've entrusted them with this property. They've turned off the heat. They've kept volunteers out. It's called demolition by neglect, about to be harnessed along a little with bulldozers.

And what is to be done with the property? It appears an amphitheater or gazebo might be features that appeal to city leaders, although the recently established budget will not cover much beyond demolishing the Arts & Crafts bungalow, three barns, and other farmstead structures. New elements could be incorporated into an historic park within the farmstead, putting these tax dollars to better use than destruction of the best-known historic site in Novi, one that former city leaders worked to include on the National Historic Registry of Places.

Once it is gone, it's gone. A blunt use of power to implement your vision, no matter how passionately held it may be, is the wrong way to handle this.
The Friends of the Fuerst Farmstead stands ready to work with the city on a plan to incorporate new ideas that can live harmoniously and beautifully within our historic farmstead, and raise private funds to support preservation.

Let's work together to make it happen. It really does matter how we get there.
Sharie Konkus
Novi

COMMENTARY

Victoria Mitchell, editor
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Thursday, June 19, 2008
www.novnews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

PHIL POWER:

State should embrace shortened work-week

Gas is, as I write this, \$4.19 at my neighborhood station, and they've dropped the \$50 credit card limit on the pump. This is getting pretty serious.

Fortunately, there is somebody taking a common-sense approach to the problem: Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. A month ago, he proposed voluntary rescheduling for county employees so they'd work four days a week, 10 hours a day. That would allow them to save a day's worth of gas. Last week, the Oakland County Commission unanimously approved the idea: "By allowing employees to work four 10-hour days it will save them 20 percent on their commute costs and ease the financial pinch of filling up their cars," a press release from Patterson's office proclaimed.

When I talked with him last week, Patterson was enthusiastic. "Look, we've got about 4,000 county employees. If 1,500 employees take the four-day week, a conservative estimate is they'd save two gallons of gas not commuting the fifth day. At \$4 gallon, that's eight bucks, or \$12,000 a week for all 1,500. Over a year, that adds up in a hurry."

Patterson said the idea first emerged while "some of us were kicking around the big rise in gas prices" several months ago. "We thought about what we could do to ease the financial pressure on our employees, and this seemed a pretty sensible way to go about it." What about scheduling so county offices remain staffed? True, "we have to work out the schedules, but that's the doable," says Patterson. (Jobs that require round-the-clock staffing, such as sheriff's deputies, won't be eligible for the four-day week.)

What about the public employee unions? Do you have to re-negotiate your labor contracts? I wanted to know. Evidently not. "This program is voluntary and it's pretty popular. If the unions wanted to challenge it, they'd be hard-pressed. We'll probably have to sit down and talk, but I don't see a big problem."

Patterson said he's been contacted by "hundreds" of businesses in Oakland County interested in trying the same idea. "This is something that all local government units should be trying. It should spread all across the state."

With that in mind, I called Liz Boyd, Gov.



About Phil Power

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

Jennifer Granholm's press secretary, to see if state government was interested in following suit. Her response: "The Governor met with her cabinet within the past three weeks on this idea. We want to help state employees with gas prices. More than one-third of state employees already work on flexible schedules, including a four-day week. Right now we're compiling information."

Hmmm. Doesn't sound like adopting a gas-saving plan is uppermost in the minds of the Granholm Administration. I tried — and failed — to get the governor's spokesman to be more specific. Yet the potential for savings is very large indeed. When you figure there are around 53,000 state employees, the math adds up pretty quickly.

Adopting Patterson's assumptions, if 37 percent of all state employees adopt the program, that's 19,875. Multiple that by two gallons (\$8) a week, and you get nearly \$160,000 in annual gas savings for state employees. That's at \$4 a gallon, mind you, and prices are already past that barrier and marching north. Still — that sum is a tidy number, and one that certainly should excite the attention of an employer who's interested in helping out beleaguered state employees.

What about state public employee unions? Would a four-day work week require re-negotiating labor contracts with the unions? Alas, the governor's press secretary didn't want to talk about that. So I don't know whether the Granholm Administration is seriously working on Patterson's common sense idea. I don't know whether a public employee union — or anybody else — is standing in the way. I don't know whether other political pressures are at work.

But I do know that a voluntary four-day work week saves financially strapped workers money they would have to spend on gas. And that seems to meet the "let's do something simple and practical" test that all public bodies should have on top of their minds. So me. And, evidently, some sadly don't.

Tom Watkins:

China's minority "problem" is a world problem

With the recent earthquake and uprising in Tibet, China seems confused on the consciousness of most Americans. Yet, few in the west realize there are 65 nationality groups of people that China officially recognizes as distinct minority groups.

There are the Miao Bai, Dai, Xibe, Jinpo, Uzbek, Itui, Mongolian, Yao, Li Wau, Manchu, Dong and Uighurs to name a few. Minorities make up a small percentage of the 1.3 billion Chinese but constitute a large portion of the internal tension. Through the more than 5,000 years of Chinese civilization there have been numerous minority uprisings against majority rule.
Yet I suspect it's the Uighurs (also spelled Uyghur or Uigur and pronounced "we-gar") the world will be hearing more about in the future. I hope for the sake of the Chinese, Uighurs and all of humanity we do not hear of the Uighurs around conflict, terror and bloodshed — yet, I further suspect we will in one fashion or another.
The Uighurs are a Turkish people and were a major empire in centuries past. The Uighurs converted to Islam several centuries ago. The Uighur population is disputed and ranges from 8 to 15 million strong. They are found throughout China but are concentrated in the Xinjiang (meaning "New Territory" or "New Frontier") Autonomous Region in northwest China. Xinjiang is bordered by Kazakhstan to the north, Mongolia to the northeast, and Kirghistan



About Tom Watkins

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served as state superintendent of schools from 2001-2005 and state mental health director from 1986-1990. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

and Tajikistan to the northwest and west. To the west and southwest lie Afghanistan and Pakistan; to the south are Tibet and India. To the east, 1,500 miles away, lies Beijing, Xinjiang is so remote that it is obscure or nonexistent to most in the west.
The Uighurs refer to this area by its historical name, East Turkestan or Uyghuristan.
The faces of the Uighurs share few similarities with what is viewed as the typical Chinese, or Han people. They are proud to be distinct. I remember meeting a Uighur man once in Xian, the ancient capitol of China, and the end-point of the historic Silk Road. I asked him his nationality and he said, "Chinese."
Then, with a full-mouth grin and looking around the market so not to be overheard, he uttered, "I am a Uighur — not Chinese!"
Many call the Uighurs the Tibetans' Muslims. The Uighurs, like the Buddhist Tibetans, are asking for more accommodations for their disparate culture and beliefs. The Chinese will respond that many Uighurs are a terrorist faction in bed with al-Qaeda and bent on violent separatist activities. There is fear that Uighurs are planning on disrupting the Beijing Olympics to begin on be-da-ling ba, or 8-8-08, to gain notoriety for "their cause."

There have been historical crackdowns on the Uighurs that have been stepped up since 9-11. Many believe the Chinese have used the "international war on terror" as justification to tighten the grip on the Uighur people.
Human rights groups contend the Chinese government exaggerates Uighur terrorist threats so it can clamp down on the Uighurs and arrest and torture those they suspect of being dissidents.
Like the Tibetans, the Uighurs believe the Chinese government has instituted cultural genocide against them. The Chinese would respond by claiming that after the 1949 liberation, old feudal religious habits and privileges were abolished and they have removed the control of the "reactionary ruling class" while today the Uighur people enjoy a higher standard of living and more economic opportunities. The Chinese Government sees some Uighurs as terrorists espousing separatist ideology linked with the larger Islamic Jihadist goal to overthrow existing government and install a religious theocracy. They claim it is for these reasons China must clamp down.

Given these extreme views between the ethnic minority Uighurs and the Chinese government it is just a matter of time before the scab will be removed and the internal Chinese festering sore will come into full view. When the scab is removed, it is likely to be ugly and diffi-

cult for the world to ignore. Will the cause be seen as oppression, cultural genocide, employment and economic deprivation as charged by the Uighurs; terrorist attacks of a people longing for independence; or linked to al-Qaeda or Muslim extremists as an act of civil war against the Chinese government?

China's history has been plagued by foreign invaders and internal divisions. Perhaps the greatest fear the Chinese Ruler has is losing control that would splinter China like their old ally, the Soviet Union. The months leading up to the 2008 summer Olympics in Beijing will continue to put the spotlight of the world on China. Forces internal to China and from without are jockeying to share that limelight. China's desire to have a "harmonious rise" will be profoundly tested with the world watching over the next several months.
The Chinese have vowed to never again be splintered by external or internal forces. These realities dictate that we will be hearing more about the Tibetans and Uighurs in the future.
Let's be clear, unlike Las Vegas — what happens in China — does not stay in China. Unrest in China will impact us all.

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SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: SPRING IN REVIEW
VOICES & VIEWS: WHAT DO YOU THINK? TELL US AT WWW.HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

THE LAST KVC CROWNS

Novi soccer, lacrosse, tennis win final titles

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

The end of the year has come, and the final KVC titles have been handed out. Novi earned the final league three league crowns in girls soccer, lacrosse and girls tennis.

Next year, the KVC will join with teams from the WLA to form the new 24-team KLA conference.

Tennis
To say the Wildcats have owned the KVC title would be an understatement. Novi closed out the league by winning seven of nine flights.
Novi won three of four singles flights and four of five doubles flights.
Capturing singles titles were No. 2 Jackie Wang, No. 3 Sara Carlson and No. 4 Jennifer Felcher.
Doubles titles went to Amy Chiang and Lauren Felcher at No. 2, Teodora Gavril and Kelli Walton at No. 3, Jenna Snyder and Julia Thomas at No. 4 and Andrea Lollo and Claudia Micallef at No. 5.
Amanda Border finished runner-up at No. 1 singles, as did Lauren McCloskey and Megan Wozniak No. 1 doubles.
The Wildcats went on to win six individual regional titles and a team title, sweeping singles and winning No. 2 and No. 3 doubles.
Carlson and Jennifer Felcher went on to reach the state semifinals in singles play as the Wildcats finished fourth overall — the highest-ever placing for a Novi girls tennis team.
"Our main goal every year is to make it to the state finals and do the best we can," Novi head coach James Hanson said. "I really felt we did that."

Soccer
Wildcats soccer continued its dominance of the KVC title, winning it for the sixth-straight time.
"Our main goal every year is to win the KVC championship," head coach Brian O'Leary said. "This is our sixth consecutive league title. I believe this speaks highly to the

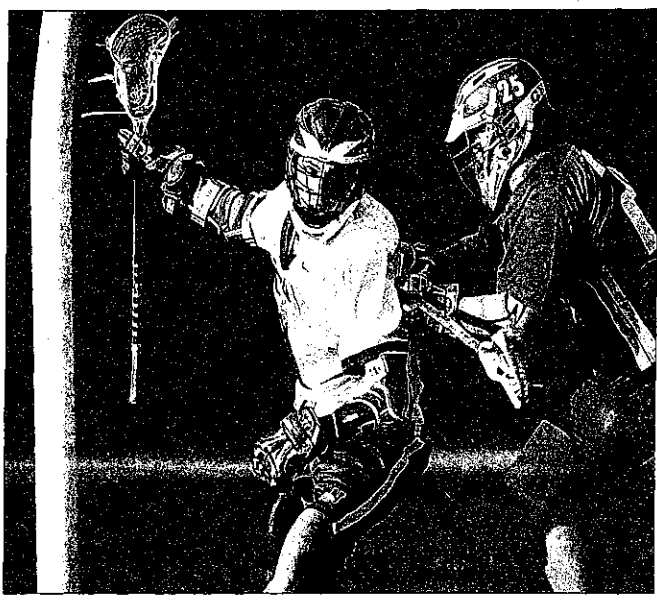


Wildcat Shannon Cody leaps in the air to control the ball as Mustang Loren Lokey tries to catch up. Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News/Novi News



Novi's Sara Carlson lines up a shot to return to her Northville opponent. Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

■ SPRING
continued from front
The Wildcats went undefeated in league play, finishing 8-0-2, sharing the final title with Brighton.
The last soccer crown came down to a showdown between Novi and Brighton on May 22.
The teams played to a 1-1 draw, leaving the teams with identical league records and a share of the title.
Making the All-KVC team were Matt Mandeville and Craig Howell on attack, Andrew Dowatto and Eric Gutman on defense and George Riegel and Paul Favorite for midfielders.
Novi lacrosse continued its dominance in league play, closing out the KVC with a fifth-straight league title.
The Wildcats went undefeated in league play to close out the final title.
The Wildcats went undefeated in league play, closing out the KVC with a fifth-straight league title.
The Wildcats went undefeated in league play, closing out the KVC with a fifth-straight league title.



Novi's Craig Howell works around a Canton defender. Photo submitted

Livonia Public Schools
Open Renowned Academically Talented Program to Out-of-District Students
Ten seats are open to students entering 3rd grade in fall 2008.
Limited Registration window: June 24-July 8
Livonia Public Schools is opening its Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (ACAT) program to Limited Schools of Choice for the 2008-09 school year.
This program is geared toward academically talented students looking for a specialized learning experience.
Registration will be open from June 24-July 8 at the Department of Instruction, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia 48154 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
All candidates MUST meet the ACAT selection testing criteria.
For complete information on the application process, visit www.livonia.k12.mi.us or contact Charlotte Worden, Director of Instruction at 734-744-2589.

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Grigg saved best for last

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

Northville golfer Trevor Grigg saved his best golf for last, and it paid off with a league title, district title, regional title and an eighth-place finish at state.
The most amazing part of the story, Grigg played as Northville's No. 4 golfer all year. Grigg averaged 37.5 for nine-hole matches and 75.5 for 18. He medaled in four of nine matches of nine holes.
The Mustangs finished third at state, posting the lowest second-day score for Division I.
"He had always been playing well in nine-hole matches," Northville head coach Matt Stetson said. "In terms of the 18 holes, it really didn't come on until about mid-May. There was always a hole or two that kept him from a good score."
Grigg is another of the long-

All-Area Golf
Golfer of the Year
Trevor Grigg, Northville soph.
First Team
Chris Cunningham, Milford so.
Wes Gates, Northville junior
Steve LaRoure, CC junior
Joe Fransted, CC junior
Alex Lyall, Novi senior
Nick Prokop, Novi senior
Second Team
Jayson Cronk, Lakeland junior
bombers on the Mustang squad, but his mental side of the game went through the roof in the latter part of the year, starting with the league medalist.
"He was playing with a lot of confidence," Stetson said. "He was playing well right from the start. He knew if he had a bad hole, he could fight back."

With Grigg just a sophomore, the sky is the limit for his potential.
"The end of the year showed him he can compete on the top level," Stetson said. "I think he'll use that as motivation to keep working hard during the off-season."
First Team
Novi places a pair of seniors that will go on to play at the next level on the All-Area First Team in Nick Prokop and Alex Lyall.
The two were at the top of the scoring list for the Wildcats throughout the year and helped lead Novi to the final KVC title.
"I knew they were special players as freshmen," Novi head coach Brad Huss said. "You could just tell by their look, by their



See GOLF, 16A Trevor Grigg tees off at the state finals. Submitted photo

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Golden Girls
The Michigan Elite U15 Titanium volleyball team placed first in the Level 1 Division for the AAU States Volleyball on May 31 and June 1. The girls played seven matches to win the title. Team (from left), top row: Coach Tricia Hankerson, Maddi Phinister (Novi), Katie Binger (Canton), Erica Robb (Novi), Julie Sirgedas (Novi); second row: Paige Jefferson (Northville), Nicole Saccone (Canton), Laura Subject (Novi); third row: Devin Meadors (Novi) and Andrea Phillips (Farm. Hills).
Submitted photo

GOLF

continued from 14A

denominator and by their play. Coming into their senior years, just phenomenal talent for both Nick and Alex."

Loyal averaged 75.6 for 18 holes and was in the top 10 eight of 11 events. He was voted First-Team All-KVC for the third year in a row and was co-medalist with Prokop at the first KVC match. He will attend Louisville next year.

Prokop is off to Northwood after averaging 76.8 for 18 and 38 on nine-hole matches. He was voted All-League and All-County. Both will be in the running for All-State honors that have yet to be declared.

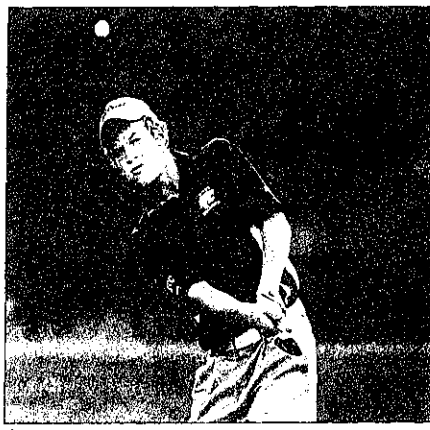
"I'll be lucky if I ever have two that good again," Huss said. "I'm sure we're going to hear from these boys again."

Catholic Central also lands a pair on the First Team in Steve LaRoure and Joe Fransted.

LaRoure averaged 37.8 for nine and 76.9 for 18 holes. He was medalist at the Oak Pointe Tournament, shot a 74 at districts and a 75 at regionals before placing sixth individually at the state meet. He was the captain of the team and carried a 4.5 grade point average.

Fransted averaged 38.4 for nine. His 18-hole highlights included a 74 at the Oak Pointe and a 75 at Oak Pointe and a 77 at districts and followed that with a 71 at regionals. He also carries a 4.0 GPA.

Milford's Chris Cunningham took home First Team honors. He is a sophomore and averaged 77.6 in 18-hole tournaments while earning a First-Team All-KVC selection. Cunningham was also



Novi's Alex Lyall chips.

in the top 10 six times out of 12 tournaments.

Catholic Central also lands a pair on the First Team in Steve LaRoure and Joe Fransted.

LaRoure averaged 37.8 for nine and 76.9 for 18 holes. He was medalist at the Oak Pointe Tournament, shot a 74 at districts and a 75 at regionals before placing sixth individually at the state meet. He was the captain of the team and carried a 4.5 grade point average.

Second Team

Novi's Gagan Smith lands a spot on the All-Area Second Team. Smith had the unusual ability to make the All-KVC First Team in football and then the All-Area Second Team in golf, missing the First Team by one stroke.

"We used his name in all the big events," Huss said. "He was beyond the point of surprise. At the beginning of the year, I wasn't counting on him. He did a fantastic job."

Catholic Central's JJ Milford's Chris Cunningham took home First Team honors. He is a sophomore and averaged 77.6 in 18-hole tournaments while earning a First-Team All-KVC selection. Cunningham was also

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News



Bringin' the Heat

The U9 Novi Heat finished runner-up at the South Farmington Blues Tournament. The Heat include Alec Bagerie, Scott Beaton, Jac Colliou, Tim Elliott, Nathan Lys, Mitchell Lys, Noah Mathews, Connor Moore, Tommy Pierce, Janet Robson, Michael Ulle, and Anthony Zugaro. Coaches include Jeff Colliou, Dave Beaton (Manager), Bruce Lys and Rod Robson. Bat boys are Brendan Colliou and Jason Robson.

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MY ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, June 19, 2008
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Midnight Sun adds outdoor club to Novi nightlife

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

With Florida's famed nightlife 1,000 miles away, Craig Jelinek and Kevin Cornak decided to bring the atmosphere to Novi by opening Midnight Sun in the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

The South Beach-style cabana bar and club features live disc jockeys spinning dance music from 11 a.m.-2 a.m. every other Saturday, through Sept. 20, eight dates in all. The grand opening was June 14.

"Where else can you go and lay out by the pool and listen to live DJs. We line the pool with black leather couches at night when the lounge chairs come out. There's nowhere else in Detroit that offers a daytime pool party," Jelinek said.

Midnight Sun offers two sides of the Florida nightlife. From 11 a.m.-7 p.m., visitors can sit in swimsuits and sip drinks by (or jockey) spinning dance music from 11 a.m.-2 a.m. every other Saturday, through Sept. 20, eight dates in all. The grand opening was June 14.

"In Michigan, we have a very short window of good weather and, honestly, everyone wants to be by the water. We are a giant outdoor courtyard with a large stereo system and light show," Jelinek said, adding the courtyard pool supplies the water aspect.

"You're on vacation and people tend to loosen up a bit. The mood is going to be more loungey at night. It's going to turn into an outdoor night club."

Jelinek said the location at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, just off Interstate 96 and Novi Road, is ideal for club-goers. The hotel is a big piece of the location as well.

"I think the location is most brilliant about it. It's centrally located, right off I-96. We don't endorse drinking and driving, so why not party in a hotel," he said, noting club-goers don't need to stay at the hotel to come to Midnight Sun. "It's a fun, relaxing way to spend the afternoon. It just makes sense to have it at a hotel. Leave your car keys in your room and come down."

Although Jelinek said he prefers the term "experience"

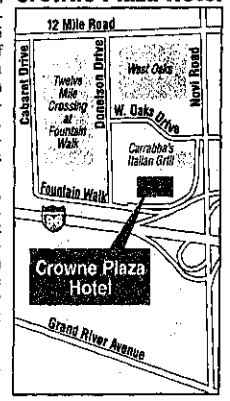
instead of "party," he expects the new venue to fit into the Novi nightlife quickly and easily.

"I think it'll fit in wonderfully with the opening of MBarGo all the way to where Dirty Martini is," he said. "We wanted to set ourselves apart from others. We are an exclusive event. You're open every Friday and Saturday and the novelty wears off."

The club is going to bring the Florida vibe to Michigan, bringing in tropical plants, internationally-known DJ Goldfather, putting shadow-dancers on some of the balconies and a catwalk across the Fountain of Youth pool. A tiki bar, beer tub, museum cabana and VIP area are other features of Midnight Sun.

The venue has different cover charges for day and evening admission. Reserving tickets

Midnight Sun at Crowne Plaza Hotel



Presenting one of the state's best juried shows this weekend

Art in the Sun festival offers hands-on events

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Fine art aficionados should schedule some time in downtown Northville this weekend.

The 20th annual Art in the Sun, Northville's juried fine arts festival, kicks off at 10 a.m. Saturday, with more than 100 artists in all mediums of fine art plus live music and food.

The event runs until 5 p.m. on Saturday and from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday.

More than 20,000 people from across the area will stroll the streets of the downtown area during the festival.

Sponsored by St. Mary Mercy Hospital, all ages of festival attendees will again be able to paint on a mural that will be donated to the Livonia Hospital. The activity is being supported by the Northville Arts Commission.

Festival-goers will also enjoy the unique boutiques, galleries and outdoor dining in downtown Northville. Guests can make an entire day of it with several types of art, music, shopping and dining.

"Art in the Sun is a great way to kick off summer," said Janet Bloom, Northville Chamber of Commerce marketing and events director.

"Adults can view the work and creativity of the artists, and kids can enjoy activities created especially for them," Bloom said. "To have all of it happening in the heart of downtown Northville makes for a perfect weekend."

"We are also eager to have crowd favorites Roy Scoutz, a classical guitarist, and Americamania, who plays South American music, back with us this year," Bloom said.

For the athletically-inclined, Northville's annual Solstice Run will take place immediately prior to the festival. For more information, visit www.solsticerun.org.

This year's Art in the Sun is sponsored by American Laser Centers, Bluegreen Resorts, Gutter Topper, the Northville Record, Renewal by Andersen, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Trigg Family Chiropractic and Varsity Lincoln Mercury.

For more information, contact the Northville Chamber of Commerce at (248) 349-7640 or go to www.northville.org.

ART in the SUN

Northville

Check out the Radio Disney display to see how to win tickets to a Jonas Brothers concert July 5 at DTE Energy Music Theatre.

Several types of music

As far as the music during Art in the Sun, festival organizers are pleased to have the award-winning Sheila Landis Trio perform from noon-4 p.m. Sunday.

"We are also eager to have crowd favorites Roy Scoutz, a classical guitarist, and Americamania, who plays South American music, back with us this year," Bloom said.

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