

THURSDAY
April 2
2009

NOVI NEWS

Hometown Weeklies
Volume 53
Number 45
75 CENTS

online at hometownlife.com



Novi tennis team eyes successful season

Sports, B1

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NOVI NUTSHELL

Price change

Dear Readers:
Starting April 2, the price of an annual subscription and a single copy of the *Novi News* will increase. Subscribers will notice the increase at their individual renewal time. The annual subscription rate will increase by \$6 from \$26 to \$32 a year for mail delivery. The price for a single copy of the *Novi News* sold at stores and news boxes throughout the community will increase from 50 cents to 75 cents. This is the first single copy price increase in 21 years and I hope you — our loyal hometown readers — understand why it is necessary at this time.

I hope you agree that the price of a local newspaper voice is worth this increase. We want to continue to offer the Novi area news and information on local life — births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries — proposed developments, school news, election information, high school sports scores, local photographs and more.

Thank you for your continued support. As always, I welcome your comments.

Sincerely,
Susan M. Rosiek,
executive editor,
srosiek@hometownlife.com

Burke running for council; Landry to run again

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

Councilman Brian Burke announced last Wednesday he will run for Novi City Council in the November election. Burke was appointed in January to fill the remaining one-year term of former Mayor Pro Tem Kim Capello, who was elected Oakland County commissioner last November.

"I hadn't intended to get appointed and not run again," Burke said. "I'm in all in."

If elected, Burke will serve a full four-year term. Other seats up for re-election include Councilwoman Terry Margolis, Councilman Andrew Mutch and Mayor David Landry, whose name is expected

to appear on the November ballot.

"I'm going to run one more time," he said last Thursday. Landry has been on the City Council since 2001, and is currently serving his second two-year term as mayor.

As of late last week, Mutch had not made a final decision as to whether he would run for re-election and Margolis could not be reached for comment.

Burke previously served on the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission.

"The single most important thing on



Brian Burke



David Landry

everybody's mind is what is going to happen to their taxes," he said. "The taxpayers trust us to make sure their money is going where it's supposed to go. It's important for the city to not cut any services and not raise taxes."

As a taxpayer, homeowner, business owner and a parent of five, Burke said he can relate to the concerns of Novi residents.

"I, like my colleagues, am not any different than anyone in this city," he said. "The decisions we make on City Council affect the whole city, including us."

2007 was uncontested.

"I would expect there will probably be a few more people that will put their names in and make a race of it," said Mutch of the November election.

Zoning Board of Appeals member Justin Fischer already threw his hat in the race in January. The deadline for those interested in running for city council is 4 p.m. June 5. Candidates must file a petition with no less than 100 signatures or pay a \$100 filing fee.

Mayor Pro Tem Bob Gatt, whose term expires in 2011, announced his candidacy in January for the Michigan Senate, representing the Republican Party in November 2010. Sen. Nancy Cassis currently holds the position and is term-limited.



Mighty Readers!

Village Oaks Elementary School students parade around the school on Friday, March 27, with their favorite books held high to celebrate the end of their March is Reading Month activities. Parents and siblings line the parade route.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Like father, like son

Firefighting duo brings their work home

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

Fire protection officer Jim Morris remembers hoisting his son, AJ, up on a Novi fire engine when he was just a boy. Now, his 23-year-old son rides shotgun.

"I've always kind of wanted to do this," said AJ, who was recently hired as a paid-on-call firefighter with the Novi department. "It's probably influenced by growing up around it."

AJ is following in the footsteps of his father, who has been with the Novi

Fire Department for 21 years.

"I wanted to do this since I was a little guy," Jim said. "I grew up (in Novi) so one of my goals was to get on this fire department. This was home."

But Jim wanted more opportunities for his only son.

"His dad told him that he needed to go to college," said AJ's mother, Nancy Morris. "With (Jim's) experience, he felt it helped to be more mature and have some life experiences behind you."

Please see **FIREFIGHTERS, A5**



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

AJ joins his father Jim, right, as a Novi firefighter at Station No. 3 on Nine Mile Road.

Register to vote

Monday, April 6 is the last day to register to vote in the May 5 election. The special election will ask Novi voters if they want to approve a millage proposal increasing the parks and recreation levy by .5 mills.



Mom-son pizzas

California Pizza Kitchen is hosting a mother-son cook off from 3-5 p.m. Sunday, April 19. Mothers and sons will make and eat their own creations at the event, which takes place at the pizzeria in Twelve Oaks Mall.

Orchard Hills

The Orchard Hills Elementary School community and the Novi Community School District invites residents to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Orchard Hills 1-4 p.m. Saturday, May 9. R.S.V.P. by calling (248) 449-1400 or by e-mailing Becky Hurst at bhurst@novi.k12.mi.us.

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Millage proposal goes before Novi voters in May

This is the first installment in a series of stories leading up to the May 5 election.

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

A May 5 special election will ask Novi voters if they want to approve a millage proposal increasing the parks and recreation levy by .5 mills, an estimated \$75 a year for a resident with a \$300,000 home.

Although the ballot language isn't project-specific, city officials said the funds are proposed for the development of a 73-acre Signature Park, at the southwest corner of 11 Mile and Beck roads.

"Obviously, the commitment

Please see **MILLAGE, A4**

BALLOT LANGUAGE

Shall the Novi City Charter be amended to add a new Section 91.a, authorizing the City to levy an amount not to exceed fifty cents (\$0.50) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) (one-half of one mill) of taxable value on all taxable property in the City, for a period of twenty-five (25) years, for the purposes of acquiring, developing, constructing, equipping, maintaining, and operating parks and recreational programs and facilities in the City, such levy to be in addition to the existing parks and recreation levy, resulting in the authorization to collect an estimated \$1,731,547 if first levied in 2009?

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Proud Parade

Ian Kinnard walks outside of Village Oaks Elementary School on Friday March 27 with a copy of "The Bears Picnic" held high as he and other students celebrate the end of March is Reading Month with a parade through the school's neighborhood.

JOHN HEGER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



NOVI BRIEFLY

Curb-side recycling guidelines

The Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County introduced new curbside guidelines, effective Oct. 1, 2008. A much wider array of goods are now accepted for recycling including all numbers of plastic bottles with caps and labels, drink boxes, phone books, ceramics, plastic bags and household scrap metal such as pots, pans and metal toasters. Member communities include Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, Southfield, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wixom. For more information visit www.cityofnovi.org/services/PublicWorks/FieldOperations/RecyclingCurbsideGuidelines.pdf

Mother-son pizza cook off

California Pizza Kitchen is hosting a mother-son cook off from 3-5 p.m. Sunday, April 19. Mothers and sons will make and eat their own creations at the event, which takes place at the California Pizza Kitchen in Twelve Oaks Mall. Register online by April 5 for \$10 per person. For more information, visit www.cityofnovi.org.

SWOCC spring orientation

Don't just view television, do television. Orientation for SWOCC Studios TV pro-

duction classes is scheduled from 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 22. This is the mandatory first class to take in order to become a certified Public Access Volunteer at Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission Studios. Registration is required by Friday, April 17. Contact access coordinator Katherine Georgas at (248) 473-2837 or kgeorgas@figov.com. For more information, visit www.swocstudios.com.

U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra to run for Governor

U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra announced that he will seek the Republican nomination for Governor of Michigan. Hoekstra has represented Michigan's Second Congressional District since 1993 and currently serves as the top Republican and former Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and is a senior member of the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Hoekstra served as vice president of marketing at Zeeland-based Fortune 500 office furniture manufacturer Herman Miller, Inc. for 15 years prior to his election to Congress. Hoekstra holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Hope College in Holland and holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Michigan. For more information on Hoekstra, visit www.HoekstraForGovernor.com, and also follow Congressman Hoekstra on www.twitter.com/petehoekstra or visit him on www.facebook.com/pages/Peter-Hoekstra/6092074705.

City seeks youth volunteers

The City of Novi is looking for young adults to serve as student representatives on boards and commissions, and Youth Council.

Students have an opportunity to serve as an ex-officio representative on five of the city's volunteer committees, including the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission; Historical Commission; Beautification Commission; Library Board; and Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee.

Students involved with the City of Novi Youth Council will serve as a voting member and participate in initiatives, including Project Sticker Shock, Addicted to Movies, not Drugs, and the Senior to Senior Prom.

Applications are available at www.cityofnovi.org, and will be accepted at the City Clerk's Office, inside the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, until 4 p.m. April 17.

The City Council will conduct interviews in Council Chambers 7 p.m. April 27, for all applicants.

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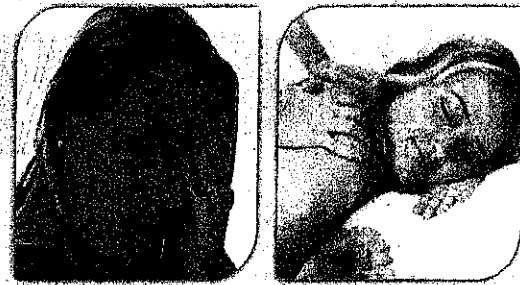
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PUBLIC SAFETY

No testimonies taken in court for Novi's BB shooting case

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

The suspects arrested for the January Novi school bus BB shootings appeared in front of Judge Brian MacKenzie of the 22-d District Court last Wednesday for a preliminary exam conference, but no testimonies were taken during the

session. Novi resident Alexander Jay Schmidt, 21, and 17-year-old Ashley Beane of South Lyon are facing charges of malicious destruction of property, which is a felony carrying a penalty of up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. According to Sgt. Matt Conquest of the Novi Police Department, Schmidt waived

the preliminary exam, and is scheduled to appear in front of Judge Colleen O'Brien of Oakland County Circuit Court in Pontiac April 7. Beane's court date was adjourned until April 15. "They adjourned the trial to gather more information," said Beane's father, Jeff Beane. The suspects were alleg-

edly involved in the incident, which occurred at about 2:41 p.m. Jan. 8 as five occupied Novi Community School District buses were leaving the area of Novi Middle School, at 11 Mile and Wixom roads. Police have also been investigating a Jan. 7 incident where BBs were shot at Novi's Detroit Catholic Central cross

country runners. No one was injured in either of the shootings. Jeff Beane believes investigation will reveal his daughter's innocence and expects the charges will be dropped. "We are still currently investigating the incidents in regards to Ashley Beane," Conquest said. Beane has no previous

criminal record. Schmidt is currently on probation in Wayne County for intent to deliver marijuana. His criminal record also includes a 2006 conviction for identity theft in Novi, and a 2004 conviction for breaking and entering in Garden City. kmurad@hometownlife.com (248) 349-1700, Ext. 263

MILLAGE

FROM PAGE A1

and the plan is to build out the property that has been acquired," said Novi City Manager Clay Pearson. "It's not like a bond issue that would specify a project." The City Council voted in favor of presenting residents with the suggested 25-year limited voted millage proposal, as opposed to financing the project through a general bond, which could not be used toward operation costs. The proposed development requires financing for capital improvements and operation costs, which Pearson said would be supported by the

millage. He said residents leery that the ballot language does not state the money would be used for developing the Signature Park as proposed should understand that is the city's intention. The conceptual plans include a 66,000-square-foot indoor recreation facility including a theater, gymnasium and multipurpose activity rooms; fields (flexible for festivals and sports, such as soccer, cricket and football); and passive recreation opportunities with trails, pathways, woodlands and wetlands. The initial investment, estimated at \$15 million, is expected to cover the costs of the recreation center, fields,

infrastructure, site improvements, trails and other costs. The city acquired the parcel of land, known as the Bosco property, through a land-swap agreement with the Novi Community Schools in November. Even with the current recession, city officials believe now is the time to invest in such a project. If the proposal passes, the city estimates construction to begin in summer 2010. If the proposal fails in the May election, the proposed property would revert back to the school district. kmurad@hometownlife.com (248) 349-1700, Ext. 263

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High school bomb threat

At 3:41 p.m. March 24, a Novi High School student called 911 and reported there was a bomb in the high school. Police and fire department personnel were dispatched immediately to the campus. Shortly after they arrived, high school administration and the police were able to identify and apprehend the student who was responsible for making the call, by using the recently installed security surveillance system. Making a bomb threat is a felony and anyone convicted of the crime faces serious consequences with the judicial system as well as the school system.

Police nab area drunk drivers

According to recent police reports, four people were arrested for operating while intoxicated between March 22-24. At about 3 a.m. March 22,

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

High school bomb threat

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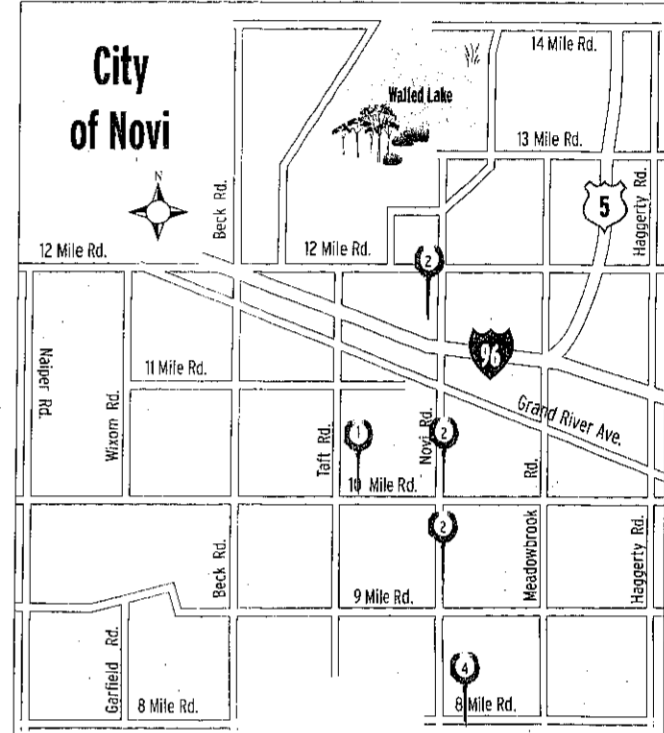
Police nab area drunk drivers

According to recent police reports, four people were arrested for operating while intoxicated between March 22-24. At about 3 a.m. March 22,

officer on patrol traveling southbound on Novi Road, north of Nine Mile Road, observed a black Ford Escort going 55 mph in a 40 mph zone. The officer initiated a traffic stop and smelled an odor of intoxicants coming from the driver, who said she drank one beer. While exiting the vehicle, the woman lost her balance. The officer conducted field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test, which registered her blood alcohol concentration at .12 percent, reports said.

At about 11:15 p.m. March 23, an officer traveling northbound on Novi Road near West Oaks Drive, observed two vehicles stopped at a green light. The first car, which was a Saturn, finally proceeded through the light after it had turned red, reports said. The officer initiated a traffic stop and could smell an odor of intoxicants coming from the driver. According to reports, the woman, who said she had one beer about an hour prior, requested to take off her high heels during field sobriety tests and almost fell as she

took them off. A preliminary breath test registered her blood alcohol concentration at .19 percent. Just before midnight March 24, an officer observed a driver, on southbound Novi Road, turning left on 10 Mile Road, reports said. The officer initiated a traffic stop and immediately noticed an odor of intoxicants coming from the driver, who said he drank three beers. According to reports, a preliminary breath test registered the man's blood alcohol level at .09 percent. At about 3 a.m. March 24, an officer on patrol near Eight Mile Road and Griswold Street, observed a white Honda traveling 68 mph in a 45 mph zone, reports said. The officer got behind the vehicle and noticed the driver was drifting between both lanes of traffic. According to reports, an odor of intoxicants was coming from the woman. A preliminary breath test registered her blood alcohol concentration at .13 percent.



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FIREFIGHTERS

FROM PAGE A1

AJ attended Michigan State University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology. "The deal was if I still wanted to do this when he was done with college, we'd pick up the tab," Jim said. "He held me to it."

While living at home and gaining experience through his paid-on-call position, AJ is going to school to earn certification as a paramedic.

"I do enjoy the medical aspect of it, but I haven't been in a real fire yet," he said. "I'm excited for when it happens because it will be a good test of my endurance."

As a paid-on-call firefighter, AJ responds to calls for Fire Station No. 4 from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Friday, and nights and weekends.

"I like the fact that it's a mentally and physically taxing job and you get to help out the community," he said. "My ultimate goal is to end up in a full-time position."

Since Jim's position is full time, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and he responds to calls from Fire Station No. 3, their paths rarely cross.

"We've been on one run together when he was doing clinical work," Jim said. "There was a little banter going on."

Playful joking aside, Nancy said Jim is proud AJ is following in his footsteps.

"It's something my husband dedicated his life to," she said. "When we're out in the community, I have to tell him to stop looking for fire exits and extinguishers. He feels his job is looking out for the citizens in his community."

And like father, like son, Nancy sees fire services as a good fit for AJ's personality.

"He really likes to help people, and he likes the camaraderie of working with a group," she said. "Safety-wise, I'd love him working in an office every day, but I've always told myself they're trained, they're professionals, and I use that as my logic. When I go to work, I expect them to come home."

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OBITUARIES

CHARLA "CHACHA" ANDRESEN

Charla "Chacha" Andersen, 75, of Northville, passed away peacefully on March 24, 2009 after a long and valiant fight with cancer. She was born July 25, 1933 in Council Bluffs, Iowa to Joseph and Signa (Freeman) Snyder. Charla was united in marriage to Gard on June 10, 1952; they spent more than 46 loving years together. She was a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church since 1955. Charla loved to bowl, she was the President of the Shakes and Spares bowling league at Merrifield for over 30 years. She enjoyed stamp collecting, scrap booking, and golfing; she got a hole-in-one at Loyal Wylde Golf Course. Charla loved to entertain family and friends and was a gourmet cook. She is survived by her husband Gard, her children: Christi (Terry) Cloutier, Johnny (Margaret), and Erik (Lisa); her grandchildren: Kristian, Annela, Ryan, Tyler, Steven, Stephanie, Kara, Travis, and Kimberly; her great-grandchildren Bailey, Bryson, and Emma. She will be missed greatly by Sverre and Unni, brother and sister-in-law in Norway, and many friends and bowling buddies. Services were held last Saturday at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livonia. Pastor Dana Runestad and Pastor William Lindholm officiated the service. Mrs. Andersen was laid to rest at Glen Eden Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to St. John's Hospice or Coburn Autism Network. Arrangements entrusted to Catherine Funeral Home, Inc. of Northville.

GERALDINE J. KOHS

Geraldine J. Kohs, age 97, of Northville, passed away peacefully on March 28, 2009. She was born August 4, 1911 in Detroit, Michigan to William and Blanche Kincaid. Geraldine was united in marriage to George W. Kohs on September 7, 1940, and they spent 52 loving years together until his death in 1992. Geraldine, a homemaker, was an active member of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church for many years. She was also a life member and past president of both the Northville Women's Club and Northville Garden Club. She was very creative and enjoyed working with her hands. She was an avid gardener; liked to arrange flowers, and is described by her family as a pie maker extraordinaire. She is survived by her loving sons Curtis K. Kohs, Gary W. Kohs, and George W. (Sharon) Kohs, Jr.; her grandchildren Greg (Andrea), Carrie, Amy, Brianne, Kate, and Kristin; and her great-grandchildren Grayson, Cameron, Sophia, and Memphis. She was predeceased in death by her husband, her parents, two sisters, and one brother. Funeral Mass will be held today, April 2, 2009 at 11 a.m., with visitation beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, 133 Orchard, Northville. Father Denis Theroux will officiate the service. Mrs. Kohs will be laid to rest at Rural Hill Cemetery in Northville. The family would appreciate memorial contributions to Northville Garden Club, 18341 Larchwood, Northville, MI 48166; attn: Barbara O'Brien. Arrangements entrusted to Catherine Funeral Home, Inc. of Northville.



HAROLD DEAN CULLUM

Harold Dean Cullum, 82, of Northville, passed away on March 22, 2009. He was born in Detroit, Michigan, and graduated from the University of Michigan. He served in the US Air Force as a 1st Lt. in the European Theater during World War II. He was married to Ruth (Bennett) Cullum. He is survived by his wife Ruth, two daughters, and several grandchildren. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2009, at 11 a.m. at the Northville Garden Club. Burial will be in the Northville Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Catherine Funeral Home, Inc. of Northville.

CLEMENT "MIKE" LIEDEL

Clement "Mike" Liedel, 80, of Northville, passed away on March 28, 2009. He was born in Northville, Michigan, and worked for the Ford Motor Company. He is survived by his wife and several children. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2009, at 11 a.m. at the Northville Garden Club. Burial will be in the Northville Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Catherine Funeral Home, Inc. of Northville.

FRANK XAVIER MERCECA

Frank Xavier MercECA, 80, of Northville, passed away on March 22, 2009. He was born in Northville, Michigan, and worked for the Ford Motor Company. He is survived by his wife and several children. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2009, at 11 a.m. at the Northville Garden Club. Burial will be in the Northville Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Catherine Funeral Home, Inc. of Northville.

CAROL KAY ROSEY

Carol Kay Rosey, 80, of Northville, passed away on March 22, 2009. She was born in Northville, Michigan, and worked for the Ford Motor Company. She is survived by her husband and several children. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2009, at 11 a.m. at the Northville Garden Club. Burial will be in the Northville Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Catherine Funeral Home, Inc. of Northville.

LINZY ANNE DUVALL

Linzy Anne Duvall, 21, of Northville, passed away on Saturday, March 28, 2009. She was born in Northville, Michigan, and was a student at Grand Valley University. She is survived by her parents and several siblings. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2009, at 11 a.m. at the Northville Garden Club. Burial will be in the Northville Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Catherine Funeral Home, Inc. of Northville.

HENRY E. "HANK" SULKOWSKI

Henry E. "Hank" Sulkowski, 85, of Northville, passed away on Saturday, March 27, 2009. He was born in Northville, Michigan, and worked for the Ford Motor Company. He is survived by his wife and several children. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2009, at 11 a.m. at the Northville Garden Club. Burial will be in the Northville Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Catherine Funeral Home, Inc. of Northville.

BARBARA K. JACOB

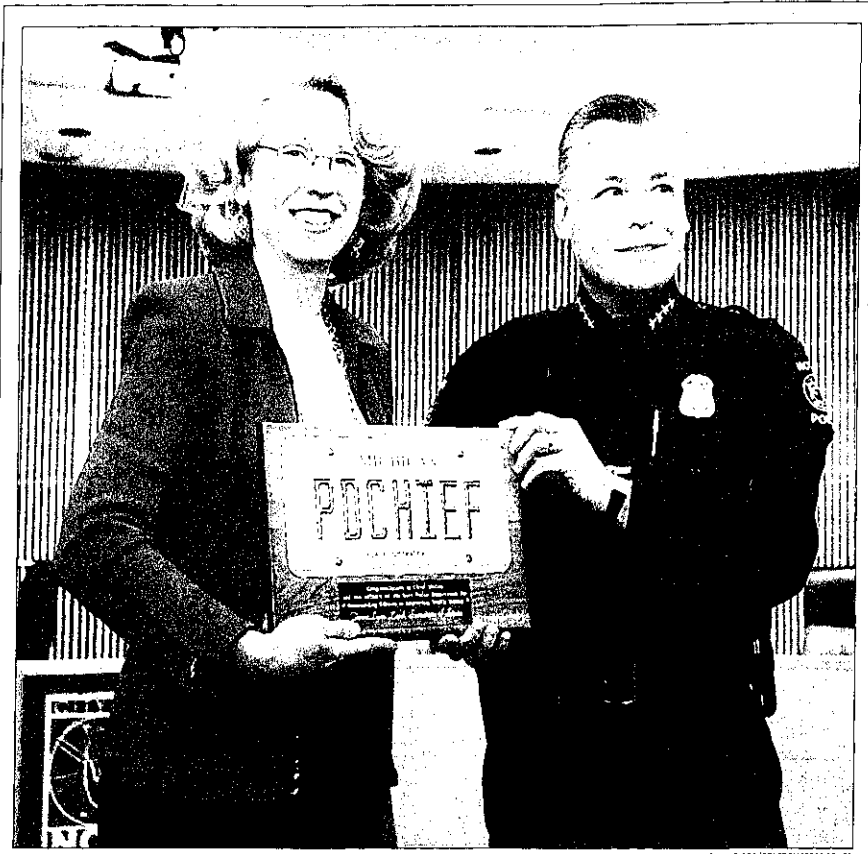
Barbara K. Jacob, 73, passed away March 18th while vacationing in Orlando, FL. Ms. Jacob, 19-year resident of Milford, grew up in Royal Oak. She was born May 24, 1935 to the late Jack and Leta (Scott) Jacob. An older brother, Jack Jacob preceded her in death. Despite severe physical challenges, Ms. Jacob lived a life full of activity. After retiring from the Social Security Administration, she enjoyed traveling, and will be remembered for her cheerfulness, unwavering faith and concern for loved ones. Survived by brother, Rodney (Charon) Jacob of White Lake, nieces Lori (Mike) Rubino, Lisa (Dennis) Glomski, and nephew R. Scott Jacob. Great-nieces Nicole Rubino, Rachel and Shannon Glomski and great-nephew Michael Rubino also survive. A host of other relatives and dear friends mourn the loss of a truly memorable and unique woman. Memorial Service planned for May 9, 2009 at the Milford Senior Center, 1050 Atlantic, 1-4 p.m.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituary notices are published at no cost. Additional lines will be charged at \$2 per line. The early placement of an obituary notice for an additional cost of \$25. Synopses of obituaries will be included at no cost. Inquiries: American Plaza, Michigan Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48226. Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

Novi judge jails ex-Lion Charles Rogers

52-1 District Court Judge Brian MacKenzie jailed former Michigan State and Detroit Lions wide receiver Charles Rogers for violating probation in a domestic violence case. Rogers was arrested in September in Novi, and charged with assault and battery. He later pled no contest to a lesser charge of trespassing and was sentenced to probation, said Novi Police Chief David Molloy. Court records show the 37-year-old Saginaw native falsified records saying he attended Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and tested positive for alcohol. MacKenzie granted Rogers' request last Tuesday to leave a diversion program and serve 30 days in the Oakland County jail, with credit for 15 days served. The Lions drafted Rogers second overall in 2003. But after he struggled with injuries and other issues, the Lions cut him before the 2006 season. He has been out of the NFL since.



Novi Chief of Police David Molloy accepts an award on behalf of the department from Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land on March 31. Land gave Novi the award for improving traffic safety in the city overall, its efforts to crack down on drunk driving and its continual driver's education program for senior citizen drivers.

Oakland lures, but 2010 auto show stays at Cobo

The North American International Auto Show won't move out of Detroit's Cobo Center, at least not in the near future, said spokeswoman Sam Loeberich. "But if someone has a good idea, we'd be foolish not to listen," Patterson said he's tired of the fight over Cobo and he'll try to get the auto show to an Oakland site if a deal falls apart to turn over operations of the convention center to County if a judge ruled against a regional authority operating the center was a bad idea. The Detroit Auto Dealers Association, which operates the auto show, is focused on remaining at Cobo, said Rod Alberts, executive director. "But if someone has a good idea, we'd be foolish not to listen," Patterson said he's tired of the fight over Cobo and he'll try to get the auto show to an Oakland site if a deal falls apart to turn over operations of the convention center to County if a judge ruled against a regional authority operating the center was a bad idea. The Detroit Auto Dealers Association, which operates the auto show, is focused on remaining at Cobo, said Rod Alberts, executive director. "But if someone has a good idea, we'd be foolish not to listen," Patterson said he's tired of the fight over Cobo and he'll try to get the auto show to an Oakland site if a deal falls apart to turn over operations of the convention center to County if a judge ruled against a regional authority operating the center was a bad idea.

How to invest during a recession

We are now finishing the 16th month of the recession, which began in December 2007, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research. Not only is this a long recession, but it's also a severe one, marked by painfully high levels of job losses, a sharply reduced credit flow and a drop in the value of many investments. Still, despite all the bad news, there are valid reasons to believe that brighter days lie ahead. But you don't have to wait for things to turn around before taking steps to help your own financial future. Here are some actions to consider: • Don't cut back on your 401(k). During difficult economic times, it's hard for many people to assume their jobs are safe. But if you are fairly confident your employment situation is secure, continue investing in your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. The tax advantages of these types of plans — not to mention the employer's match, if one is offered — make them ideal savings vehicles for retirement. Of course, your plan probably has taken a hit over the past year, but that's the case for many investments. If you've chosen a good mix of investments, your plan should recover at some point. • Diversify, diversify, diversify. Generally speaking, it's not a good idea to tie up more than 5 percent of your portfolio in a single investment. Spread your investment dollars among a wide range of stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit and other securities. For a rough idea on how well you've diversified, ask yourself: "If the value of a few of my stocks and bonds declined and didn't recover, would it be extremely painful for me financially?" If the answer is "yes," you probably need more diversification. Of course, diversification by itself cannot guarantee a profit or protect against loss, but it can give you more chances for success and reduce the effects of volatility on your portfolio. • Think long term. Your investments may have lost 30 percent to 40 percent of their value from October 2007 to the present — which may seem like a long time. Yet quality investments often need much longer periods to show significant growth. So while it can be painful to endure short-term losses, you need to develop the discipline to hold your investments for many years. • Don't reach for high yields. When the stock market is down, many investors turn to bonds that offer high yields, reasoning that bonds are always safer than stocks. Don't be fooled into this line of thinking; high-yield bonds mean high-risk bonds. If the issuer defaults, you could lose your principal. Stick with investment-grade bonds. • Look for opportunities. Instead of avoiding the financial markets, look for good investment opportunities. Because investment prices have fallen so much, your dollars can now buy more shares. Historically, buying shares at lower prices has often led to higher returns over the long term. If you're receiving dividends, now is an especially good time to reinvest them. You probably can't avoid all the negative effects of the recession. But by following the above suggestions, you can help avoid getting thrown off track on your journey toward your financial goals. This article was provided by Mark Whitfield, Novi financial adviser, 43290 N. Mile Road, Novi 48375.

Township preparing suit against Novi company that plans to cut trees

Township officials will fight for ITC Transmission to hold neighborhood meetings about the project, remove tree stumps and replace one tree for every one that is cut. The court documents are expected to be filed this week, just after company officials declined to follow the community's suggestions. "When they reached out to us, we were hopeful they might be some willingness on their part to do the right thing for the environment," Soverby said. Instead, ITC told the Board of Trustees last week that it would continue its power-outage prevention plans by cutting trees. Although company representatives said ITC would not remove the stumps or plant new trees, they offered a \$10,000 donation to the community for the purchase of replacement trees. The board rejected that offer and passed a resolution to the same effect the lawsuit is to state.

Senior-Friendly Computers

Dear Savvy Senior: Are there any special computers out there designed for senior citizens? My 70-year-old mother would like to get a laptop computer so she can use the Internet and e-mail but she's not computer savvy at all. Computer Shopping Cindy: There are actually several senior-friendly options on the market that can help your mother join the computer age. Here's what you should know. SENIOR COMPUTERS For your mom and seniors like her who would like to get a home computer but have little or no computer experience, a SeniorPC is the best way to go. These Hewlett-Packard (HP) computers offered through Microsoft that come equipped with simplified software that makes browsing the Web, sending e-mails, and creating letters and files about as easy as it gets. These computers also come with a variety of memory games for keeping the brain sharp, medication management software that provides reminders of when and what medication to take, and a wide range of accessibility features that make them easier to see, hear and operate. Priced at under \$1,300, SeniorPCs are available as desktops or laptops, and each comes with an HP color printer. And for an additional cost you can get an oversized keyboard or trackball mouse that makes typing and mouse pointing easier. For more information, see www.seniorpc.com/enabling/aging/seniorpc.asp or call 866-690-1999. MSN TV Another option to consider that will let your mom access the Web and send and receive e-mails is the MSN TV 2 (www.msntv.com; 866-466-7088). This is a small box (with a wireless keyboard and remote control) that looks up to her TV and into her existing phone line. While this system is limited to Internet and e-mail use, it is very user-friendly and costs only \$200 (or you can get a refurbished unit for \$150) plus a monthly service fee of \$10 to \$22.

tops or laptops, and each comes with an HP color printer. And for an additional cost you can get an oversized keyboard or trackball mouse that makes typing and mouse pointing easier. For more information, see www.seniorpc.com/enabling/aging/seniorpc.asp or call 866-690-1999. MSN TV Another option to consider that will let your mom access the Web and send and receive e-mails is the MSN TV 2 (www.msntv.com; 866-466-7088). This is a small box (with a wireless keyboard and remote control) that looks up to her TV and into her existing phone line. While this system is limited to Internet and e-mail use, it is very user-friendly and costs only \$200 (or you can get a refurbished unit for \$150) plus a monthly service fee of \$10 to \$22.

E-MAIL ONLY If your mom doesn't feel comfortable with the SeniorPC or MSN TV options, she can still join the e-mail world with a Celery (www.mycelery.com; 866-692-3537), which lets her receive e-mails, pictures and documents, as well as send handwritten letters as e-mails, all without a computer. It uses a color fax/printer connected to a standard phone line instead of a computer. How does it work? Sending an e-mail to a Celery is just like sending one to any other e-mail address (you choose a Celery e-mail when you sign up — for example mom@mycelery.com). After you send your mom an e-mail, Celery calls her announcing she has a message being sent and it automatically prints out on paper. Then to reply, she simply handwrites a letter putting your name in block print at the top. She then places the letter into her Celery, pushes two buttons and the letter is sent to your e-mail address as an image document. The system uses handwriting-recognition software to match your name to an e-mail address stored in her Celery address book. And to eliminate spam, Celery only delivers messages from people you allow. The cost is \$10 for the fax/printer machine and a monthly service fee of \$14 or \$140 per year. Another neat device to check out is the Presto (www.presto.com; 866-428-0970). This is similar to the Celery where your mom can receive printed e-mails, photos and even newsletters without a computer, but this device doesn't offer a way to respond, unless she does it the old-fashioned way — by telephone. Presto works using a special HP printer called the Printing Mailbox which costs \$150, plus a service fee that starts at \$12.50 per month. Savvy Tips: If your mom does get a computer and is interested in taking a beginner's class, her local public library, nearby college or area aging agency (call 800-677-1160 to get the local number) are good resources to find out what's available in her area. Also check out SeniorNet.org, a national organization for people age 50 and older, that offers a variety of basic online computer courses as well as instructor-led workshops at 130 training centers throughout the U.S. A first year membership fee of \$40 is required. Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit www.savvysenior.com. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

Your Invitation to Worship. Brighton, Milford, Northville, Farmington Hills, Highland, Novi, Livonia, New Hudson, Oak Pointe Church, Westland, White Lake, Whitmore Lake, Living Water. Includes church names, addresses, phone numbers, and service times.

Resurrection Sunday, April 12, 10:00 am. Easter Celebration Service. Pastor Andrew Kennedy. Also just for kids. Cornerstone City Church, 39390 Michigan Avenue at Hamman RD, Livonia, MI. www.cornerstonecitychurch.us

NEIGHBORS

Couple wins trip to Hawaii

Novi residents shed 100 pounds using Jenny Craig

BY PHILIP ALLEN
STAFF WRITER

When Colleen Turner visited her husband, Chris at his teaching job last week, she had no idea she'd soon be winning a trip to Hawaii.

The Novi couple entered the Jenny Craig-sponsored "Great Take-Off" challenge, and they were told they were among the finalists. So Colleen, a teacher at Ladywood High School in Livonia, took the day off for interviews related to the contest.

While Chris was out of his classroom at Oak Valley Middle School in the Huron Valley school district, his room was decorated, and his students were all given leis to wear. Even when the Turners walked into Chris' decorated classroom, they didn't realize they'd won.

It wasn't until a video message from Valerie Bertinelli — a spokeswoman for Jenny Craig — was played congratulating the couple on winning the trip that they realized they won.

"Wow! You got us," said Chris. "I definitely didn't expect that."



Chris and Colleen Turner watch a video of Jenny Craig spokeswoman Valerie Bertinelli telling them they won a trip to Hawaii.

"I'm speechless." When the two started the Jenny Craig weight-loss program, Chris weighed close to 300 pounds, Colleen was at 200 pounds. About five months later, the two shed more than 100 pounds with Chris at 229 pounds and Colleen at 153 pounds. That translates to a combined 48 inches lost along their waists. Neither has hit their ultimate weight goal yet.

Joining Jenny Craig was Colleen's idea, who saw some of her colleagues at Ladywood succeed on the program. She had to convince Chris to join the program.

The diet involves provided meals to the couple, who then supplement the food with fruits, vegetables and grains. They also meet with a Jenny Craig consultant every week.

Both agree they liked the program because they met

with a consultant, which made the whole process less impersonal.

Their favorites? Chris likes the fish and chips, and Colleen prefers the chicken carbonara.

"It's been an amazing journey, but we're still not done," said Chris.

Chris admitted that he likes to sit around and play video games, among other things. But this program has helped changed his life, and he realized it's a daily conscious decision.

"You need to balance your life," he said. "Eat healthy. Make little changes. Those add up. I'm finally getting to a point where I can be a role model. I'm leading a healthier life."

As part of the "Great Take-Off" challenge, clients could create a video essay describing their weight loss story

and how Jenny Craig can help turn a dream into reality.

Married last June, the Turners explained how they honeymooned in Jamaica, but because of their weight, most of their pictures were of the scenery.

"We didn't feel comfortable," said Colleen. "We deleted pictures because we didn't like how we looked."

Their video essay made them the first winner of the contest. Five more winners will be selected before the end of the year. People can still enter the contest, but you have to be a current or new client of Jenny Craig. Entries must be submitted by the end of April.

For more information, visit www.jennycraig.com/great-takeoff.

pallen@hannett.com
(248) 437-2011, Ext. 226

Catholic Central graduate makes 'Loser' final eight

BY NATHAN NIELER
STAFF WRITER

The contestants on "The Biggest Loser: Couples" returned to the game switched from a team competition to every man or woman for themselves.

But there was a noticeable difference in the contestants' attitudes, especially Detroit Catholic Central in Novi alumnus Michael Morelli's brown one, in that they were a significantly smaller.

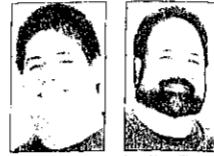
Morelli, who has lost 124 pounds since coming to the house, was amazed when shown his old shirt and handed a new one. What once comfortably fit a 388-pound teenager now easily fit him and fellow contestant Aubrey Cheney.

Mother Becky Morelli also was shocked by the difference.

"When you see him, from week to week on the show it's hard to notice a difference and it's like that with all the contestants," Becky said. "But too look at it like that, isn't that just amazing?"

The emotional episode continued for Michael when it was announced that the contestants had an opportunity to choose their own trainer. Michael and his father Ron worked with Bob Harper when the show started, but Michael switched to Jillian Michaels when teams were formed. Michael had a close bond with Harper, but he also was encouraged by Michaels' ability to push him to the max.

He left it to the flip of a coin, which came up Michaels, leaving Ron to say, "My son is 18 years old. He's an idiot."



Mike Morelli Ron Morelli

Becky also was surprised by the decision, but thinks either trainer would have been fine. She said Michaels gave him more opportunities to do different things that he enjoyed like boxing and surfing.

"I think he had some regrets at the beginning and kind of second guessed himself, but once he got into it he felt like he made the right decision," she said. "But it was hard because I really like Bob a lot and to see he was truly hurt by it, I felt bad for him and I know Michael did too."

The challenge for the contestants last week was to pull a weighted car a half-mile. Michael finished second to Tara Costa, while Ron was helped across the finish line by his son and Cheney.

At the weigh-in Michael lost six pounds, putting him in jeopardy of elimination, and Ron 10 pounds. Michael is now down to 264 pounds and Ron to 327 pounds. However, the last contestant to weigh in, Felipe Fa, lost only four, putting him and Cheney below the yellow line.

Cheney was eventually voted off, and heading into this week's show only eight contestants remained in the fight for the \$250,000 grand prize.

Cheney was eventually voted off, and heading into this week's show only eight contestants remained in the fight for the \$250,000 grand prize.

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EDUCATION

Novi medical students take learning experience to state Capitol

BY VICTORIA MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

Student Ryan Dougherty always knew he wanted to be a doctor. But it wasn't until he took the medical careers exploration course last semester that he began aspiring for a career with the Doctors Without Borders program.

The Novi High School senior learned humanitarian aid would be his medical career path after the class spent time working hands-on with doctors at Providence Park Hospital in Novi.

"I learned I'm not the kind of person who could be in a hospital all of the time," he said.

The course offered to Novi High School students provides them with the opportunity to learn about many of the different careers available in the medical field.

"The class helped expand our views on what is available," senior Kristina Laski said.

Laski said after taking the course last semester she learned every role in a hospital setting is important and it isn't just about being a doctor.

The students' learning opportunities are possible through the Partners in Excellence program that teams Providence Park Hospital and the Novi Community School District.

Dougherty and Laski, along with classmate Erica Tevens, were invited to the state Capitol last week to provide

an informational presentation on the medical careers exploration course, just one part of the Partners in Excellence program.

"I explained why I took the class and how it has benefited me," Tevens said.

Tevens plans on attending Grand Valley State University in the fall and is now positive that nursing is her desired career path.

"She and Laski have spent time in the classroom and in the hospital learning about the different nursing professions and job shadowing."

Bill Dunbar, Novi High School science department chair and partnership coordinator, also made the Capitol trip.

Dunbar explains other components of the state-recognized Partners in Excellence program include special needs students vocational training, the Read and Be Well program and participation with the school's art department.

But Dunbar said the medical exploration course is the cornerstone of the partnership.

Dunbar created the course after realizing his AP biology students all wanted to be doctors, but didn't even know what that really meant.

Now students are learning all of the possibilities a medical career can provide — from an X-Ray technician to a surgeon — through first-hand experience.

"There is power in real-world, hands-on experience," Dunbar said.



Novi High School student Ryan Bell is tended to by paramedic Maureen Wilke, left, and EMT Julie Curry as Bell and his medical careers exploration class learn about ambulance care providers. The class is offered in partnership with Novi's Providence Park Hospital and is part of the Partners in Excellence program.

ON CAMPUS

DEAN'S LIST

Grand Valley State University
Grand Valley State University announces the names of students placed on the dean's list for the fall 2008 semester. The list includes those students who have maintained a 3.5 grade-point average and been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits. Included from Novi are: Kristen Barden, Eric

Baumgarten, Amanda Brandemini, Steven Carr, Aimee Cooper, Tanva Cripps, Jennifer DeClerck, Chase Dehne, Amanda Diacono, Paula Dietz, Jordan Dull, Kristin Fiskus, Andrew Gorty, Ann Graz, Keya Green, Abigail Greulich, Sara Haller, Eric Hepler, Jaclyn Horning, Linda Janik, Chelsea Johnston, Allie Karagozian, Kara Kelly, Lindsay Johns, Natalie Kuczajda, Julie Kuhn, Melissa Ludke, Breanna Malear,

Danielle Matley, April Meyers, Nicole Moisan, Daniel Piliolan, Lauren Ricca, Melissa Schmidt, Katherine Schulhoff, Joseph Shada, Laura Stinar, Andrew Stratton, Jonathan Sulzer and Michaela Wasak.

Ithaca College
Kelly Weickel, daughter of Jeffrey and Janet Weickel of Novi, was named to the Dean's List at Ithaca College's School of Health Sciences

and Human Performance for the fall 2008 term. To qualify for this academic honor, students must attain a minimum grade-point average of 3.5 and complete a minimum of 15 credit hours, of which at least 12 are graded. Ithaca College is a nationally recognized independent college located in Ithaca, New York.

GRADUATION

Kettering University
Matthew James Bobzien of Novi graduated from Kettering University with a computer science bachelor's degree in December 2008.

ACHIEVEMENTS
Central Michigan University senior Becky Goodheart of Novi will participate this April in the world

premiere of Max Busch's "Crystal Beach," a play commissioned by CMU's University Theatre and its Theatre for Young Audiences Initiative. Goodheart, a Novi High School graduate and daughter of Gregory and Christine Goodheart of Novi, will play the role of Becky. She is majoring in speech education at CMU. For more information regarding University Theatre, visit www.cmu.edu/universitytheatre.

Honey Tree Novi	JACK'S WHOLESALE MEATS 37 YEARS IN BUSINESS 41527 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi Plaza • 248-349-8490 Hours: Monday-Saturday 8:00am-6:15pm; Sunday 12:00am-5:00pm Why Pay Retail - Spring Sale - Wholesale - Retail					West Bloomfield Library			
	Honey Tree Livonia	JACK'S FAMOUS GROUND BEEF FROM ROUND 10 LB. \$26.99	CHOICE ANGUS HINDS OF BEEF Quarters \$2.29 LB. Corn Fed Choice Sides of BEEF ANGUS Halfs \$2.09 LB. Includes Cutting, Wrapping, Freezing	CHOICE ANGUS PORTER-HOUSE STEAKS Corn Fed \$8.89 LB.	CHOICE ANGUS T-BONE STEAKS Corn Fed \$8.49 LB.		CHOICE ANGUS BONE-IN DELMONICO Corn Fed \$8.29 LB.	Lakeview Copper Mug Player's Score's Long Shots	
		Meadowbrook Golf Club	GROUND BEEF FROM SIRLOIN 10 LB. \$32.99	CHOICE ANGUS CENTER CUT SIRLOIN STEAK Corn Fed \$5.99 LB.	STORE MADE POLISH KIELBASA Sweet Or Hot ITALIAN SAUSAGE \$2.69 LB.		BEEF PACKAGE 10 LB. GR. ROUNDS 3 T-BONES 2 PORTERHOUSE 3 SIRLOINS 2 POT ROASTS 2 ROUND STEAKS 10 PORK CHOPS \$99.99		CHOICE ROUND STEAK OR FAMILY STEAK \$2.89 LB.
			Genitti's	ANGUS CORN FED GROUND ROUND PATTIES 1/4, 1/3, 1/2 \$2.99	PORK COUNTRY RIBS \$1.99 LB. PORK STEAK \$2.09		LEAN COUNTRY BACON \$2.99 LB. SPIRAL GLAZED DEARBORN HAMS Cured Hams and Country Ribs		CHOICE ANGUS RUMP OR SIRLOIN TIP Corn Fed \$3.69 LB.
Cattails Golf Club	STORE BAKED FRESH BREADS, GARLIC, WHITE, CHEESE, ROLLS					Primo's Pizza			
Glenhurst Golf Club						Athenian Coney Island			
River Banks Golf Club						Great Lakes Coney Island			
Don's Traverse City						Honey Tree Plymouth			
Diamond Jim Brady's									
Novi Library Pub									

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CLASS NOTES

Novi Athletic Booster Meeting

The next Novi Athletic Booster meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, in room 160 at the Novi High School, 24062 Taft Road...

Anniversary of Orchard Hills from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, May 9. Event activities include: 1-2 p.m. tours of Orchard Hills...

Oakland Schools Summer Programs

Are you looking for exciting, innovative, relevant, affordable learning opportunities for your children this summer? Oakland Schools Career Focused Education is offering 72 classes throughout the summer...

Novi Quiz Bowl

On Saturday, March 28, Novi Quiz Bowl competed in the March Madness Tournament at Michigan State University. Two Novi teams competed in Varsity competition...

Novi's teams consist of Stephanie Chen, Peter Jiang, Eitanline Masfield, Yumbo Nie, Andrew Phillips, Count Robbins, Anand Salem, Eshwar Sundararaju, Zhao Wang, Chai Weber and TJ Weininger.

Orchard Hills is Having a Birthday

The Orchard Hills Elementary School community and the Novi Community School District invites residents to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Orchard Hills from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, May 9...



Crossing the Finish Line

Cub Scout Pack 54 had its annual Pinewood Derby races Saturday, March 21. With the primary focus of "Doing Their Best," fun was had by all that participated...



Counting on Success

This weekend, Akhil Nistala, Nishant Kakar, Mark Xu and Raj Raina from Novi Middle School participated in the Mathcounts State Championship. The team exhibited an outstanding performance...

LOCAL EVENTS

Food Drive DATE: March 28-April 4 LOCATION: Salon D'AMARS, 24079 Meadowbrook Road...

Leadership Assessment TIME/DATE: 9 a.m. to noon Friday, April 3 LOCATION: Walsh College Novi campus...

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny! TIME/DATE: 8-11 a.m. Saturday, April 4 LOCATION: Novi Applebee's...

Professional Children's Theater Series TIME/DATE: All shows 7-8 p.m. Roland the Midget: Pig, Wild Swan Theater...

2009-11 Economic Forecast for Oakland County At 24th Annual Economic Luncheon TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30...

LOCAL EVENTS

LOCATION: Novi Middle School Performing Arts Center. DETAILS: Providence Park is sponsoring a Novor Community Education offering a Professional Children's Theater Series...

How to Backpack Around the World TIME/DATE: 3 p.m. Saturday, April 18 LOCATION: Borders Books & Music in Novi...

Novi Rotary Club TIME/DATE: Noon every Thursday LOCATION: Novi Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road...

American Business Women's Association Meetings TIME/DATE: 6:15 p.m. second Wednesday of every month...

2009-11 Economic Forecast for Oakland County At 24th Annual Economic Luncheon TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30...

LOCAL EVENTS

LOCATION: Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. DETAILS: Top economists from the University of Michigan will present their report on the economic future of Oakland County at the 24th Annual Economic Outlook Luncheon...

Novi Public Library LOCATION: 4245 N. 10 Mile Road. HOURS: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday...

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Proud to be a part of this great community O'BRIEN SULLIVAN FUNERALS, CREMATIONS, PREARRANGEMENTS 41555 Grand River Avenue Novi, Michigan 48375-1822

Novi/Northville MEDICAL SERVICE directory

Cosmetic & Family Dentistry Toomajanian & Bowers DDS, PC 201 East Main St. Downtown Northville 248-348-6780

Hand and Wrist MICHIGAN HAND & WRIST, P.C. 26750 Providence Parkway Suite 220, Novi, MI 48375 Phone (248) 598-0412 Fax (248) 598-0418

Urgent Care Northville Urgent Care For Fast & Reliable Service A doctor is always on duty! Weekdays 9-9pm Weekends 12-9pm 47311 Five Mile Road Just east of Shell station at Beck Rd. 734-254-0665

Acupuncture Susan Jakary, M.S., L.Ac. "Nationally Certified" ACUPUNCTURE CHINESE HERBS 26179 Novi Rd., Novi, MI 48375 Ph# (248) 380-7522

Family Therapy Northville Physical Rehabilitation, P.C. a tradition of excellence Fully Licensed & Accredited Staff 215 E. Main & 300 E. Cady, Downtown Northville 248-349-9339

Optometry TOWN & COUNTRY EYECARE Focusing on Your Family's Total Eye Health High-tech eyecare • unique eyewear specialty contact lenses 248-347-7800

Family Practice Early Morning & Saturday Hours M-F 6 a.m. - 7:30 p.m., Sat. 9-2:30 Medical Clinic of Northville 308 South Main Street 248-349-1900

Cosmetic Surgery Plastic Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery Rebecca Studinger, M.D. 26850 Providence Parkway, Suite 125 Novi, MI 48371

Womens Health Complete Women's Health Care Metro Partners in Women's Health 38550 Providence Parkway, Suite 300 Novi, MI 48375 Same and next day appointments! Phone: 248-662-4388

Walkout at Twelve Oaks Retirement Community
 Independent Living Residence; Licensed Assisted Living; Licensed Memory Care
 LOCATION: 27475 Huron Circle (adjacent to Twelve Oaks Mall)
 CONTACT: (248) 735-1500 or email walkout@twelveoaksretirement.com
 Open House
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily
 DETAILS: Join us for tours and refreshments.

For Run
 LOCATION: 41000 W. 13 Mile Road
 DETAILS: More than 800 people live at For Run in Novi, an Erickson full-service retirement community that combines a vibrant maintenance-free, active lifestyle with an ever-expanding host of amenities, social activities and wellness and medical centers.
 CONTACT: Please call (248) 926-5200 for additional information on the community's apartment homes. For general information, call (248) 668-8610.

SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT

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

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting
 TIME/DATE: 6 p.m. first Tuesday of each month
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Novi Community Education
 CONTACT: To register, call (248) 449-4206 or visit novi.k12.mi.us/district/communityeducation

NOVI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 LOCATION: 41875 W. 13 Mile Road, #201, Novi
 CONTACT: For more information call (248) 349-3743 or www.novichamber.com
 Business to Business Breakfast
 TIME/DATE: 8-9 a.m. Wednesday, April 15
 LOCATION: Comerica Bank, 41440 Grand River, Novi
 DETAILS: Networking and a light breakfast. \$5 at door

Job Fair
 TIME/DATE: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 25
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
 DETAILS: Hosted by The Reformation Church. Call (248) 767-8626 for more information.

Novi Business and Taste Expo
 TIME/DATE: 3-7 p.m. Wednesday, April 29
 LOCATION: Hotel Barometre, 27790 Novi Road

ONGOING
American Legion Post 19 Monthly Meeting
 TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m. third Tuesday every month
 LOCATION: Rock Financial Center, East Entrance, 46100 Grand River Avenue
 DETAILS: Comrades and fellow veterans, join our monthly meetings. Attendance is needed to grow our Post. If you are not a member, consider joining.
 CONTACT: Commander Dennis Strikulis (248) 378-7841, dstrikulis@twinkl.com or Service Officer Paul Erickson (248) 344-7193, pnerick@aol.com

SWOCC Studio Tours
 LOCATION: 33009 Nine Mile Road, Farmington
 DETAILS: Come in for an up-close look at the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission Studios local community television studio.
 CONTACT: Melissa Cohn (248) 473-2840

Gardeners of Northville and Novi Monthly Meeting
 Gardeners of Northville & Novi Social Time & Garden Lecture on Pruning Plants
 TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m. second Monday of month, Sept-May (April 13)
 LOCATION: Northville Art House at 205 W. Cady Street, Northville
 DETAILS: "Gardeners Know All the Dirt" with Jane and Alan Geisler at the Northville Art House, 205 W. Cady, Northville. Social at 6:30 p.m. and program at 7 p.m. Public welcome.
 CONTACT: Maria (248) 349-2352 or visit www.gardenersnorthville-novi.org

Line Dancing
 DATE: Mondays and Fridays
 TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m. beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m. intermediate
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 DETAILS: No partner needed, pay-as-you-go. Novis residents \$5, non-residents \$6.

Novi Toastmasters
 TIME/DATE: 7:45 p.m. first and third Tuesday of each month
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills; voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.
 CONTACT: Amy (248) 752-8800.

ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE
 46100 Grand River Ave.
 CONTACT: Call (248) 348-5600 or visit <http://rockfinancialshowplace.com/> for more information.
 Parking is \$5 for most events.

Spring Home and Garden Show
 TIME/DATE: April 3, noon-9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, April 4, and 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, April 5, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
 DETAILS: Adults \$8 Seniors \$7, Children 12 and under Free
 CONTACT: <http://www.novihomeshow.com>

Great Lakes Art Fair
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, April 10; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 11-12
 DETAILS: The Great Lakes Art Fair replaces the successful touring Sugarloaf Art Fair, which has visited the area bi-annually for the past 10 years. The Great Lakes Art Fair will combine exclusive and desirable works from local, regional and national artists.

2009-11 Economic Forecast for Oakland County at 24th Annual Economic Luncheon
 TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., April 30
 DETAILS: Top economists from the University of Michigan will present their report on the economic future of Oakland County at the 24th Annual Economic Outlook Luncheon on April 30. The 2009-2011 Employment Forecast for Oakland County, a joint venture of the Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services (PEDS) and the Institute for Research on Labor, Employment and the Economy at the University of Michigan, will be presented at the luncheon. Hosts for the luncheon are Chase, Oakland Community College and Oakland County. The cost is \$40 per person. Online registration begins March 16. CONTACT: Call (248) 858-8706 for information.

Michigan International Women's Show
 TIME/DATE: Thursday & Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, April 30-Sunday, May 3
 DETAILS: Admission for Adults \$9 at the Door; Youth (6-12) \$5; Children Under 6 Free with Paying Adult.
 CONTACT: www.MichiganInternationalWomensShow.com

Great Lakes Mega Meet Scrapbook
 TIME/DATE: Thursday 6 Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday, May 7-Saturday, May 9
 DETAILS: Scrapbookers and Crafters are invited to join approximately 9,000 other guests for the "The Ultimate Cropping, Shopping, Learning Experiences" at the 10th annual Great Lakes Mega Meet. Guests can register for professionally-led classes, evening crop parties and browse booths from over 75 vendors. Scrapbookers and Crafters are invited to celebrate the event's 10 successful years in Michigan on May 6 from 7:30 p.m. for a special last day party. Cost is \$25. Throughout the May 7-9 event, guests will learn new techniques, shop for the latest products, and scrapbook their special memories throughout the weekend. Registration is open now and walk-ins are welcome the days of the event.
 CONTACT: Visit www.megameet.com or call (248) 583-7153 for more information. To register for classes or purchase tickets.

Motor City Comic Con - 20th Anniversary
 TIME/DATE: Friday, 12:30-7 p.m.; Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, May 15-Sunday, May 17
 DETAILS: Adults One Day: \$20, Weekend: \$50, Kids: One Day: \$10, Weekend: \$25
 CONTACT: www.motorcitycomics.com

St. John Providence Hospital
 LOCATION: 47601 Grand River Ave., corner of Beck Road, use Beck Road entrance
 Providence Center for the Healing Arts <http://www.providence.org>
 CONTACT: Maria (248) 349-2352 or visit www.gardenersnorthville-novi.org

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 TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m. beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m. intermediate
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
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 CONTACT: www.MichiganInternationalWomensShow.com



JOHN HENDER STAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Visit the Easter Bunny

Melissa Christensen poses with her children Soren, 6 months, and Keira, 3, with the Easter Bunny at Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall. Area residents may visit the Easter Bunny at the mall through Saturday, April 11. The Easter Bunny will be located in the Central Park Garden, in the lower level center court from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, with brief breaks throughout the day. Photos of the children with the Easter Bunny will be available for purchase. For a complete list of photo packages and prices, visit www.stoptwelveoaks.com

a recording of the latest in class changes.

Botsford Center for Health Improvement
 LOCATION: 29750 Grand River Ave.
 CONTACT: (248) 473-3100
Agua Boot Camp
 TIME/DATE: 4-5 a.m. every Friday
 DETAILS: Get fit with a combo of strength and cardio in the lap pool. Pool's four feet deep providing excellent water resistance while still being able to touch. Free for BCNI Members. Non-members may purchase a \$75 10-visit punch card. For information or to register, call (248) 473-3100
Yoga Basics
 TIME/DATE: 11:15 a.m.-noon every Tuesday
 DETAILS: Create harmony and balance in your life while becoming stronger, more flexible and balanced. A chair or ball bar is provided for assistance. Free for BCNI Members. Non-members may purchase a \$75 10-visit punch card. For information or to register, call (248) 473-3100.

Oakland Physical Therapy Classes
 LOCATION: 3635 Providence Parkway, Suite 365, Novi
 CONTACT: (248) 380-3550
 Classes are free of charge.

Yoga Classes
 TIME/DATE: 7:15 p.m. Mondays, 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesdays
 LOCATION: Pure Barre Fitness Studio, 133 W. Main St., Northville
 DETAILS: Classes feature "Pure Yoga" to increase one's awareness of breath and body while building a strong, flexible back and core.
 CONTACT: (248) 305-8414

SUPPORT GROUPS
Drugs 101: What Parents Need to Know
 TIME/DATE: 6:30-8:30 p.m. April 9, 16, 23, 30, May 14, 21, 28, 2009
 LOCATION: St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital in Ypsilanti and Howell
 DETAILS: It's so true that parents don't realize what is happening with their teen until it's too late. That is why Saint Joseph Mercy Health System has developed a resource to help parents. This program seeks to educate parents about the various forms of drugs and the peer pressures facing students to use them. Signs, symptoms and current trends of alcohol, marijuana, inhalants, tobacco, heroin, methamphetamine and prescription drugs are discussed. The program will include demonstrations to help parents initiate conversations with their child and to show parents ways they can help their child beat peer pressure. The goal of this program is to empower parents with the knowledge they need to spot warning signs of drug abuse in time to prevent it.
 CONTACT: To register for the program visit www.sjmercyhealth.org and click on Classes and Events. For more information please call, (734) 398-7516

Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting
 TIME/DATE: 10-11 a.m. last Wednesday of each month
 LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church, 2605 Meadowbrook Road
 DETAILS: Informational meeting open

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

Friendship Circle
 TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. second Thursday of each month
 LOCATION: St. James Catholic Church, 46225 10 Mile Road, between Tall and Beck roads
 DETAILS: Social group for all widows and widowers.
 CONTACT: Norbert Monson (248) 851-6730, Florence Vought (248) 477-3032, Joy Iovaldi (248) 348-9138 or joyiovaldi@aol.com

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

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cityofnovi.org

NORTHVILLE / NOVI AREA CHURCH EVENTS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
LOCATION: 200 E. Main St.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0911 or visit first-presville.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:30, 11 a.m.
Working in the Park
TIME/DATE: 10-11 a.m. every Saturday
LOCATION: Meet at the Visitor's Center of Heritage Park (Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads)
DETAILS: Group meets for lunch afterwards.
CONTACT: See (734) 459-0016
Single Place Ministries
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m. social time: 7:45 p.m. ongoing: 9 p.m. program, every Thursday
DETAILS: Informative and entertaining programs of interest to singles, \$5 per person. Check Web site for details singleplace.org.



Bag bunnies

Ben Corrigan, 3, tries out the paper bag bunny that he's made with his nanny Danielle Domanik at last Thursday's spring crafts gathering at the Northville District Library. Kids and parents got to make rabbit puppets out of paper bags to celebrate the coming of the Easter bunny. Youngster Natalia Soss, 10, aided in the preparation for the afternoon's activity.

JOHN HEDELI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DETAILS: All women seeking to strengthen their faith and connect with other women are invited to attend, irrespective of church affiliation.
Logos Youth Club
TIME/DATE: 5:15-8:15 p.m. every Wednesday, through May
DETAILS: For children in grades 4-12. Every week, this fun past program includes Bible study, dinner, choir worship and activities.

NOVI UNITED METHODIST
LOCATION: 4671 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-2652 or visit unmc-novi.com
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:45 a.m.
Healing Service and Holy Communion
TIME/DATE: 9:45 a.m. first Sunday of every month
Peace Vigil
TIME/DATE: Noon, first Sunday of every month
LOCATION: In front of the church
DETAILS: Members of the congregation and the community will stand united in prayer for peace.

WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LOCATION: 40000 Six Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 374-7400 or (248) 374-5978
Sunday Worship
TIME: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Traditional: 9:30 a.m. Contemporary: 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.

CRUCIFIXION OF THE HOLY FAMILY
LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-8847 or visit holyspiritfamily.org
Hess Scheduled
TIME/DAY: 7:30, 9, 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday; 7 p.m. Tuesday, 5 p.m. (English), 6:30 p.m. (Spanish) Saturday
Holy Days: 9 a.m., 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.
Reconciliation: beginning 9 a.m., Saturdays or by appointment
Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting
TIME/DATE: 10-11 a.m. last Wednesday of each month
DETAILS: Free informational meeting open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Child care is available. Registration is required.

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC
LOCATION: 45325 10 Mile Road, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 347-7778
Mats Schedule
TIME/DAY: 8, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday-Tuesday; 7 p.m. Wednesday; 5 p.m. Saturday
Mothers Group
TIME/DATE: 9:30-11 a.m. first and third Wednesday every month, through May 20
DETAILS: Providing fellowship, support and opportunities to grow faith. Childcare available. Suggested donation \$20. Don't have to be a parishioner to join.
CONTACT: Becky at (248) 305-5924 or Please see CHURCH, A17

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-3140
Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. Blended; 11 a.m. Contemporary; 11:30 a.m. Traditional
MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL
LOCATION: 21555 Meadowbrook Road, Yankoski.
CONTACT: (248) 374-5920.
Palm Sunday
TIME/DATE: Traditional Worship Services 8 a.m., Hess Chapel 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sanctuary; Contemporary Worship Service: 9:30 a.m., Knox Hall Easter Concert in the Sanctuary at 5 p.m., April 5
Maundy Thursday
TIME/DATE: Service of Shadows and Holy Communion 7:30 p.m., April 9
LOCATION: Sanctuary (Childcare thru Age 4)
Good Friday
TIME/DATE: Noon-3 p.m., April 10, LOCATION: Sanctuary
DETAILS: Come when you can, leave when you must
Easter Sunday
TIME/DATE: Traditional Worship Services at 8 a.m., Hess Chapel; 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sanctuary; Contemporary Worship Services 9:30 and 11 a.m., Knox Hall, April 12

Energy Tax Credit Plus Energy Savings Equals... Window World Stimulus Package

Our new "SolarZone Elite Window" meets the rigid standards of the newly enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. You will not only save up to 35%* on your energy costs, you can receive a tax credit on the purchase price of your new windows of 30%, up to \$1500. The professionals at Window World want you completely informed because not every one selling windows can meet the required criteria. Call us for details today, and schedule your free in-home estimate.

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Mothers Group
TIME/DATE: 9:30-11 a.m. first and third Wednesday every month, through May 20
DETAILS: Providing fellowship, support and opportunities to grow faith. Childcare available. Suggested donation \$20. Don't have to be a parishioner to join.
CONTACT: Becky at (248) 305-5924 or Please see CHURCH, A17

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CHURCH FROM PAGE A16

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LOCATION: 217 N. Wing
CONTACT: (248) 345-8020
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Ladies Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays
Men's Bible Study: 9 a.m. first Saturday of every month

84TH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN
LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit faith-community-novi.org
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Cantata "I Believe"
TIME/DATE: 4:30 p.m. every Wednesday
DETAILS: A celebration of the Apostle's Creed in scripture and song.
Maundy Thursday and Seder Meal
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m. April 9
Easter Worship
TIME/DATE: 7 a.m. sunrise worship; 10 a.m. traditional worship and reception of confessions

ST. PAUL'S VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
LOCATION: 770 Thayer, Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-2621 or olnorthville.org
Saturday Worship
TIME: 5 p.m.
Sunday Worship
TIME: 7:30, 9, 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

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LOCATION: The Novi Civic Center, Council Chamber's
CONTACT: Rev. Brian C. Sleeth, Pastor (248) 493-3178 or graceville@mac.com, and gracepoint@peca.org
Sunday Worship
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m. every Monday
DETAILS: Eight weeks, \$55 continuous or \$8 per drop in session, Merry Widows Luncheon
TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. fourth Thursday of each month
Spiritual Journey's
TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. every Sunday
Lenten Programs
Palm Sunday
TIME/DATE: 10:00 a.m., April 5
DETAILS: Worship followed by Pancake Breakfast
Maundy Thursday Worship
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 9
Community Good Friday Service
TIME: Noon
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church
Easter Sunday
TIME/DATE: 9 a.m., April 12
DETAILS: Worship with youth participation, 10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt
Easter Sunday
TIME: 11 a.m. Traditional Easter service
Yoga/FIT classes
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m., Mondays
DETAILS: \$55/8 weeks, \$8 a drop in class

ONE SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LOCATION: 140 N. Center, above Tuttle's in Old Church Square, Northville
CONTACT: Pastor Bill Burke at (734) 927-0651
Sunday Worship: 11:30 a.m. with fellowship and food after service

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TIME/DATE: 7-8:15 p.m. every Wednesday
DETAILS: For ages three to six; ongoing event; no need to pre-register; all are welcome.

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LOCATION: 25000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 12 Mile Road
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Sunday Worship: 11:15 a.m.
Bible study classes: 10 a.m. for all ages

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
LOCATION: 40706 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 427-1175 or church@holycross.com
Sunday School and Nursery Care
TIME: 10 a.m. Worship Service
Alzheimer's Support Group
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. second Saturday of month

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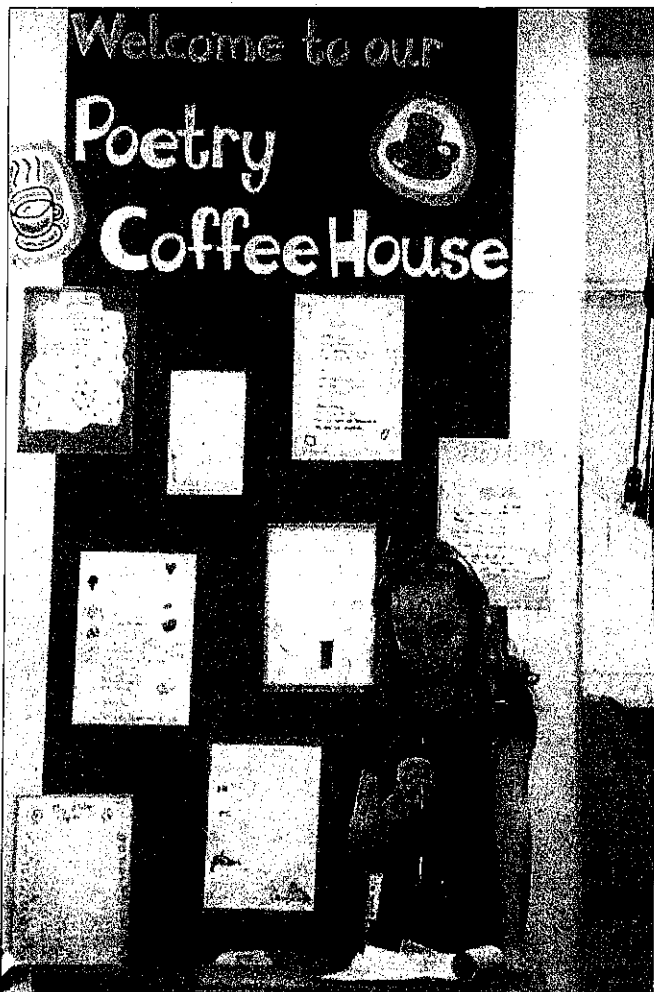


Novi Woods student Austin Morton shares from his poetry book with his mother at the school's fourth-grade Poetry Coffee House event held last month. At the Coffee House, the fourth-graders shared poems that they authored ranging from couplets to pattern poems to nonfiction poems to free-verse poetry. About 100 parents or grandparents came to watch their fourth-graders share their works. Local businesses including Bigby Coffee, McDonald's at Twelve Oaks Mall, Meijer and Kroger donated items to help make the event a success.

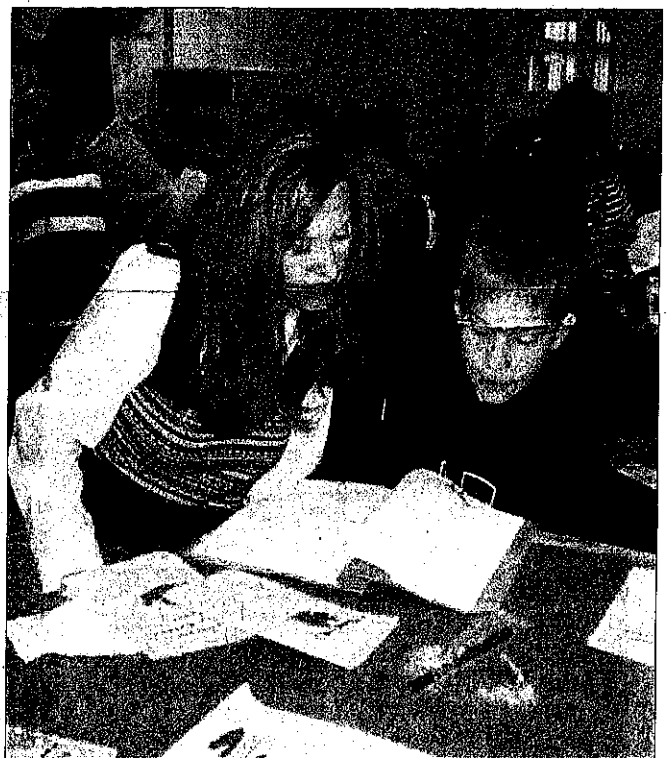
SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Compelling prose

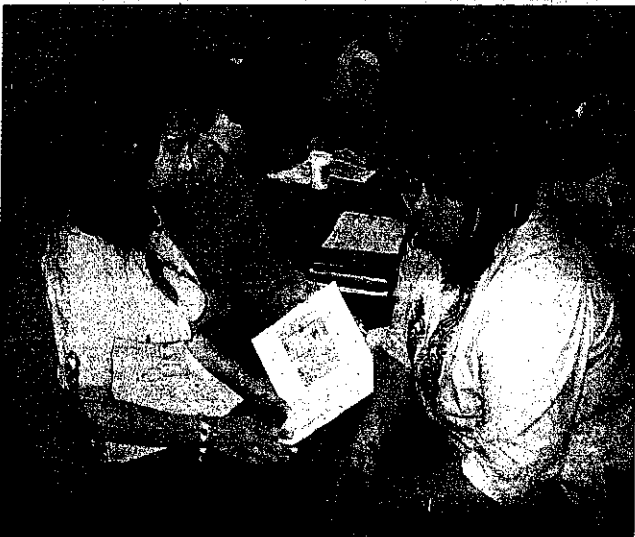
Novi Woods holds fourth-grade Poetry Coffee House event



Fourth-grader Alyssa Lindenmuth shares her favorite poem at the Novi Woods Poetry Coffee House event.



Jason Hansen and his mother, Ann, share a poem together that Jason wrote.



Novi Woods student Gabrielle Broche shares some poetry with her parents.



Novi Woods students Katie McMaster, left, Brandon Kour, Ryan Welch and Jessica Lypka are eager to share their poems with their parents at their coffee house event.

THURSDAY
April 2
2009

SECTION B
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MICROFILM COPY

Spartan Aquatic places 8th at State

Page B4

Young Cats bring loads of experience

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

Novi's tennis team will look very familiar.

The Wildcats fill all but one spot in singles through third doubles with returnees.

"We have nine kids back," Jim Hanson said. "I'm pleased with how things have gone so far. The kids have worked on their games."

Amanda Border, now a junior, returns to the top singles spot. She went 22-5 last year with a trip to the quarterfinals at State.

Sara Carlson (25-3) made a run to the State semifinals at No. 3 singles, and moves into the No. 2 spot, vacated by the graduated Jackie Wang.

Ably Wang, Jackie's younger sister, will play No. 3 singles as a freshman.

Senior Jennifer Felcher (20-4) stays at No. 4 singles after making it to the semifinals at State last year.

"There is no doubt that the singles players are our best players, but I like to say our doubles are the most important," said Hanson.

What Hanson is referring to is every point counts the same, whether at No. 1 singles or No. 5 doubles in team scoring.

Doubles will get quite a shake-up with four girls no longer with the program because of graduation and one moved.

Lauren Felcher (No. 2 doubles last year) will team with Julia Thomas (No. 4 doubles) to form the No. 1 doubles tandem.

Megan Wenzl will pair with Jenna Snyder at No. 2 doubles,



Novi senior Jennifer Felcher returns to the No. 4 singles position.

and last year's No. 5 doubles duo of Adrea Lollo and Meggie Riegel moves up to No. 3 doubles.

The No. 4 and 5 doubles teams are still being worked out with heavy competition from six girls for the four spots.

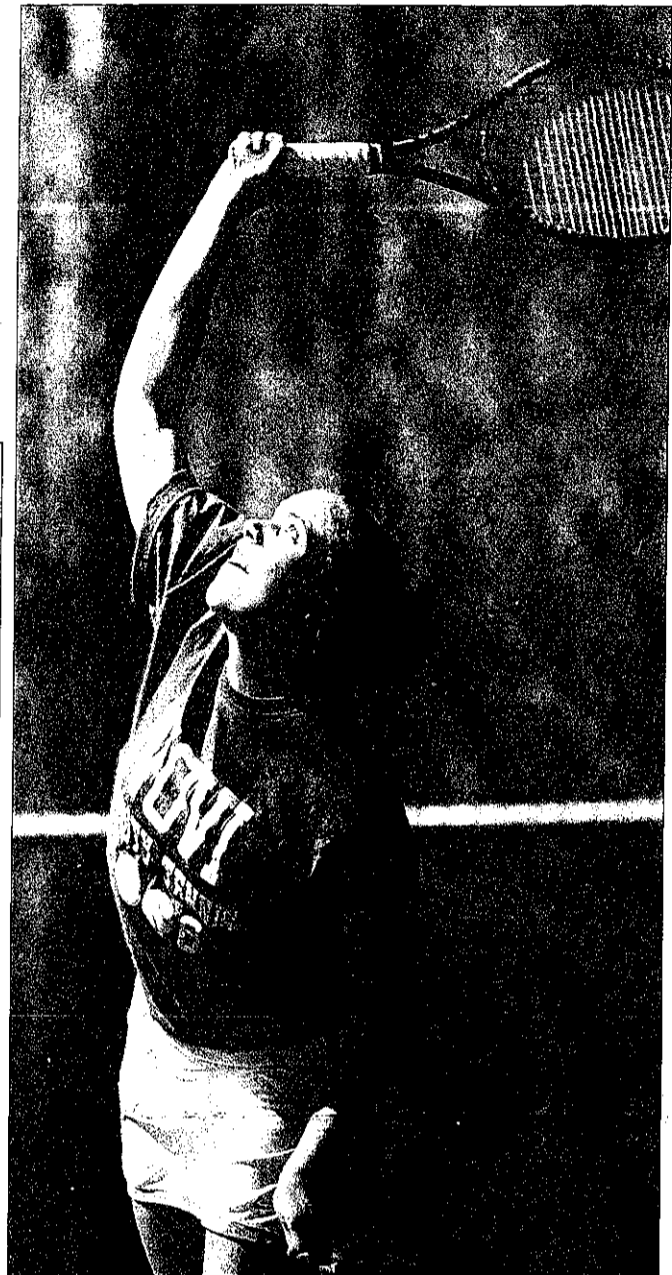
From singles through No. 3 doubles, the Wildcats only have two seniors in the lineup.

"We're experienced, but we're still young," Hanson said. "I'm looking forward to it."

Novi finished tied for fourth at State, matching its best finish ever.

Hanson would like to win the first KLA Central title, with rival Northville expected to be the main competition. But bigger goals still remain.

"We want to try to win the conference meet," Hanson said. "We're hosting the regional. We want to win that and make some noise at the state meet."



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Novi No. 1 singles player Amanda Border eyes a serve during a match last season.

GAME WRAPS

NOVI TENNIS 2ND IN TOURNAMENT OPENER

Despite missing its top two singles players, Novi managed to finish second at the Okenos Invite on Saturday.

The Wildcats placed first at No. 1 (Lauren Felcher, Julia Thomas) and No. 2 doubles (Jenna Snyder, Megan Wenzl).

Winning two matches on the day were Jennifer Felcher at No. 2 singles, the No. 3 doubles team of Andrea Lollo and Meggie Riegel and the No. 4 doubles team of Ashley Aljadah and Natalie Murphy.

Okenos won with 15 points, with Novi one-point back in the four-team invite.

WILDCAT SOFTBALL FALLS IN OPENER

Novi struggled in the season opener Friday against Canton.

The Chiefs won the first game of the doubleheader 8-0, tossing a no-hitter.

The Wildcats played much better in the second game, trailing 3-2 after five innings, but ultimately falling 6-2.

"We played much better defense in the second game," Novi head coach Bob Lulek said.

Meaghan Robinson and Aubrey Quinley had two hits each for Novi in the second game.

NOVI'S JV SOCCER TEAM UNDEFEATED AFTER FIRST WEEK OF PLAY

The Novi junior varsity soccer team ended its first week of regular season play undefeated after matches against Grosse Pointe South, Ann Arbor Pioneer and Livonia Stevenson.

In the March 23 season opener against Grosse Pointe South, the Wildcats claimed a 1-0 victory. Novi freshman Andrea Rybicki scoring the lone goal late in the first half. Freshman goalkeeper Maddie Hautstein secured the shut-out with a critical save in the final minutes of play.

After Ann Arbor Pioneer handed the team its first tie in a scoreless match March 25. The Wildcats returned to earn a second shutout Friday against Central Division foe Livonia Stevenson in the KLA Kensington Conference. Wildcat sophomore Naonni Kiura opened scoring with a header goal early in the second half, and freshman Katie Seelenbinder provided the insurance goal with an assist by sophomore Laura Subject.

The Wildcats will enter a second busy week of play, facing three competitors at home: Kensington Central Division rival Northville, Lakes Conference's Walled Lake Northern and Kensington South Division's Canton. Novi's record stands at 2-0-1.

Huge numbers out for Wildcat boys track team

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

Novi track head coach Chris Payton enters his second year with the team, and it's a good thing it's not his first year with 140 kids out.

Payton admits his second year with the team is going much smoother.

"Knowing how to handle the numbers is pretty tough," said Payton. "It's pretty tough to get to everybody. You've got to be creative in practice. It's only going to get better."

"The first year was pretty hectic." Novi will continue to lead with its powerful distance team.

Mike Blaszzyk returns after a trip to the State meet (last year) in track and cross country earlier this school year.

Dan Egner will be another key contributor, along with Will Mikkelsen helping out in middle



JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the Novi High School boys track team take a run around the field in preparation for the 2009 campaign.

Novi girls track team features depth

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

Coaching the cross country and track teams gives head coach Marsha Reid the inside track on getting a strong distance group out in the spring.

The Wildcats will feature the top seven runners from the cross country team that qualified for state out for the track team.

Elle Robinson is the leader of the distance runners. She was All-State in cross country.

Brooke McMahan and Abby Chandler (No. 2 and No. 3 cross country runners) went out for track instead of soccer this year, giving Reid more depth in distance.

"I am looking forward to this year," Reid said. "We are returning several veteran athletes."

Distance won't be the only events with a strong core.

Brittany Davis returns as the top sprinter, Emily Hall will run middle distance, Katelyn Shelar is back at pole vault and Heather Armiak will handle high-jumping duties.

"All of these athletes have the potential to be state meet athletes," Reid said. "In addition, we only graduated one athlete from our state qualifying 4x100 meter relay."

The Wildcats move into the Central Division of the KLA with rival Northville, Stevenson, Salem and both South Lyon schools.

Reid expects Northville and Stevenson to be the main competition in the division.

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Please see TRACK, B2



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Novi baseball scores first win

STORY SUBMITTED

The Novi baseball team lost its season opener 7-3 to Canton in the first game of a double-header.

Dan Kilger led the Wildcat offense with two hits, including a double. Other Novi players with hits were Garrett Green, Nick Regnier, and Michael Krusz.

The nightcap featured strong pitching performances from both teams. Novi's Adam Paulk was getting the better of his Canton counterpart and took a 1-0 lead and a no-hitter into the top half of the fifth inning.

As darkness began to settle in, Canton was able to push across the tying run on its only hit of the game.

The umpires suspended the game at that point, with the score 1-1.

Kilger again led the hitting attack with two more hits and Green contributed with a triple.

GABRIEL RICHARD 3, NOVI 1; NOVI 11, SWARTZ CREEK 1

Novi faced off against Gabriel Richard and Swartz Creek in a doubleheader at Eastern Michigan University.

Novi again had strong pitching performances in both games.

In the first game, Alex Karas pitched well, only surrendering one hit. Unfortunately, the hit was the difference in the game - a three-run homer which plated all Gabriel Richard's runs in a 3-1 victory.

Novi's offense managed seven hits, but was unable to put them together. Masaru Nagami and Bobby Mitchell each had two hits to lead the hitting and Jake Walker added a triple.

In the second game, Novi was strong in all three facets of the game hitting, defense and pitching to defeat Swartz Creek 11-1.

Mike Leppek started for Novi and earned the win, giving up the one run in four innings of work.

Novi batters accounted for 10 hits in the five-inning game. Kevin Zak had two hits and an RBI to go along with some steady fielding at third base. Kilger contributed two RBI.

Extremely good

Club Extreme ASICS U13 regional volleyball team won its first tournament of the season at the Mt. Morris AAU tournament March 21. The team consists of seventh graders from Novi, Northville, Farmington Hills, Milford and Commerce Township.

Pictured are (front row, from left) Jaclyn Ruffolo (St. Fabian), Jacqueline Kirouac (St. William), Theresa Micallef (St. William), Emma Noble (Hillside MS), (back row) coach Alisse Lowman, Sarah Garon (Novi MS), Megan Buckingham (Hillside MS), Christa Greenwood (St. Fabian), Julia Colasanti (Hillside MS) and coach Kara Fiorey.

CC baseball has very familiar look

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

Expectations are up for Catholic Central baseball, and the cause is 17 returning players from last year's 15-19 squad.

"Several of these players have been on the varsity level for three years," said head coach Kevin Walters. "We have all of our pitchers back from our injury-prone season last year."

Returning pitchers are seniors Gordy Hao, Brett Gossett, Eric Becker and Jack Nelson to fill out the rotation.

Key position players include outfielder Tony Thomas, infielder Steve Harding, utility man Tim Dzelicki, infielder John Rose and infielder Kennan Hart.

Competing in the Catholic League is no easy task. Brother Rice and Divine Child both captured State titles last year. U-D also brings a tough squad each year.

"I have to believe that Rice gets the nod as the pre-season favorite given their success last season and the strength and experience of their lineup," Walters said. "Our team goals are to win the Catholic League and State Championship."

"Our goal is always to have success at this level but, more importantly, to prepare them well for the next level."

The Shamrocks will get a first-hand look at some past glory this year as the 1979 and 1999 State Championship teams will be honored on their 30th and 10th anniversaries May 2.

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TRACK

FROM PAGE B1

distance.

"I think our strength is going to be in the middle distance and distance," said Payton. "That's just Novi's tradition. Our distance crew is going to be good."

Leading the sprinters will be Tyler Barnes, DeAndre Fordham-Jones, Brett Kuhn, Kevin Kerwin and Matt Thompson.

"Our speed is very young. When a couple of these guys get a little older we're going to be super solid," Payton said. "I'm not sure if we've got the flat-out speed, but we've got consistent guys that are going to do real well."

Mark Zheng and Evan VanBuhler will be the key hurdlers.

Key players in the field events include Gautam Muthusamy, Shane Dunbar and Joe Betro in the throws. Kevin Pasquale is a big freshman who could also make some noise in the throws.

Also helping in the field will be Garrett Farley in the pole vault, Justin Horton in the high jump and Kuhn and Fordham-Jones in the long jump.

The Wildcats enter the K.I.A.A. Central Division with rival Northville, Salem, Stevenson and both South Lyon schools.

"I'm super excited. I think the team is going to surprise itself," said Payton. "With the new league, I think we match up really well. We're used to going against a distance-dominated league."

"This year, when we go up against the other teams, our strength - distance - is going to pull a lot of points."

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Bell's Landscaping transforms homes with exquisite design

BY ALISON BERGSEKER
ADVERTORIAL COORDINATOR

It's no secret that many Metro Detroiters are facing some important decisions about their homes. In a tight housing market, homeowners across the region have decided to keep their homes rather than sell them. Many are looking for ways to increase the value of their homes while making them more comfortable and livable.

By adding on exciting new outdoor living areas and architectural landscaping, Michigan homeowners can take pride in their well-maintained scenery.

One local landscaping company is ready to help any homeowner spruce up their home with manicured lawns, custom decks, gorgeous gardens and more.

Bell's Landscape Services of Wixom has served customers in the Metro Detroit area for 30 years.

Owner Mike Bell, his son Scott, and an experienced staff area ready to turn any home into a palace by designing and building award-winning landscapes and outdoor living areas.

"Our goal is to make your existing home an oasis," Mike said. "Many homeowners today are looking for the same amenities that are being offered in new homes. When you drive up to something that's maintained and manicured, you feel good and uplifted when it looks taken care of. Bell's Landscape Services can help homeowners get these new looks in their own existing homes."

These great looks include the newest products and designs on the market today.

"Why not enjoy evenings outside in your outdoor living room and have full services including a controlled fireplace and cooking in a complete kitchen?" asked Mike.

One-stop quality workmanship

It is no surprise that Bell's Landscape Services has been the choice for residential homeowners, as well as homeowner associations, con-

dominium and apartment managers, retail and industrial building owners, all who have trusted Mike and his staff to design, construct and maintain common areas.

Mike has always said, "I want to provide clients with quality services and not have them deal with several contractors. We can do it all; one call can have your property managed for the entire season."

While his company has always worked in the new construction market, and works very closely with new homebuilders, Mike continues to stress the important role his company plays in the renovation and remodeling markets.

As a fully licensed builder, Bell's Landscape Services can install a custom deck, retaining wall or gazebo

complete with brickpaver walkways and patios and outdoor living spaces. By having Bell's install landscape lighting, homeowners can enjoy evenings outdoors and improved security.

Water features, such as ponds and fountains, create a relaxing atmo-

sphere. If more play areas are needed, a custom playscape can be added.

Want to cook outdoors in award-winning style? Bell's can add a custom barbecue grill or stove to satisfy the needs of even the fussiest chefs.

BELL'S LANDSCAPING SERVICES

Award winning landscape design, construction and maintenance services.

28401 Haas Road
248-486-0960
www.bellslandscape.com

TIPS ON SELECTING A LANDSCAPER

- Select a landscaper with whom you feel comfortable working.
- If starting new construction, be prepared with an idea, concept and budget.
- Determine what needs to be done to complete the project, such as what steps or materials are required.
- Get a true cost so you won't be surprised with additional charges or low quality materials.
- Check for credentials! Landscaper should be licensed, bonded and insured.
- Get references from former customers.
- You get what you pay for. If the price seems to good to be true, it usually is.

And speaking of award winning, Bell's designs have been recognized from their peers in the industry as award winners. Most of the awards are given to design/build projects that Mike and his staff have created. Because their goal is customer satisfaction, much of their business comes from repeat customers who have stayed with Bell's for years.

Mike knows his customers are busy and they trust him to handle all of the details.

"Hiring a dependable landscape service can remove one task from a busy schedule," Mike said. "Bell's Landscape Services can keep your property looking beautiful with a complete schedule of landscape maintenance programs."

It starts with the basics

Bell's services are much more than just award-winning custom designs. Its landscape maintenance program begins with basic like lawn cutting and fertilization.

In addition to lawn service, they

install and repair sprinkler systems, provide shrub and tree care, mulch installation, pruning, and bed care to maintain beautiful flowerbeds. Seasonal services include big jobs like fall or spring cleaning that requires a lot of heavy work.

For Bell's commercial customers — who have received many beautification awards from city officials (thanks to Bell's designs) — Mike and his staff provide routine maintenance and professional parking lot sweeping. They also offer snowplowing and salting during the winter months.

Bell's philosophy is simple: offer a complete range of services with professional results. While some landscape companies come and go, quality workmanship and professionalism never out of style, and Bell's Landscape Services will never compromise its solid reputation. Now more than ever, customers can enjoy the best at affordable prices.

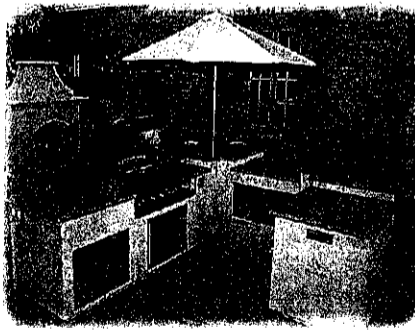
Mike and his staff support their reputation by being known as the "Landscape Experts," which means that each employee must complete an extensive training program and be supervised by on-site professionals. His staff also participates in continuing education in order to give customers the very best.

Dedicated to the highest standards, Bell's Landscaping received an award from the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) for no safety violations in 2008.

"It's part of an effort to show a higher level of professionalism," Mike said.

For more information call 248-486-0960 or visit www.bells-landscape.com.

— Special writer John R. Hall contributed to this report



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