

World War II veterans get to visit memorial honoring them, A2

THURSDAY
July 16,
2009

Hometown Weeklies
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NOVI NEWS

online at hometownlife.com



Boys
All-Area
Track
Team
Sports, B1

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY 7/16/09

NUTSHELL

Band Booster golf outing

The Novi High School Band Boosters will be holding a fund-raising golf outing at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 2 at Tanglewood, 10 Mile Road (three miles west of Wixom Road). The format will be an 18-hole scramble; \$100 per player (includes gift packet, golf and lunch). Hole sponsorships are \$100; corporate sponsorships are \$500 (includes four playing spots and hole signage); lunch only is \$30. After the tournament there will be an awards luncheon, and door prize raffle.



The Novi Band Boosters is a non-profit organization and the funds are used to support all band activities for the coming year. Entry forms are available on the Novi HS Band web site, <http://www.novi.k12.mi.us/parentscomm/orgs/WebPages/HsBand/Hsband.aspx>.

For more information, contact Mike Colaccino at Colaccino@sbcglobal.net or (248) 880-1919.

Show your garden

"Garden fairies come at dawn, bless the flowers, then they're gone!" If your garden, or that of a friend, has been blessed with a bounty of blooms and/or a bevy of vegetables, The Gardeners of Northville & Novi would like to take a peek. The group will be treading down garden paths for the next few weeks in search of gardens that we will feature in our 2010 and 2012 Garden Walks. If you are interested, please call Audrey Murphy at (248) 349-0376.

E-Newsletter

The Novi News will offer E-Newsletters on Thursdays, and local business and entertainment newsletters will come out once a week. To sign up, click on the E-Newsletters tab on HometownLife.com (top left of the home page).

Coffee chat

Come and have a cup of coffee with the Novi News editor, Cal Stone, and discuss the newspaper, story ideas and issues in Novi at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 16 at Biggy Coffee (northeast corner of Novi Road and Grand River Avenue).

The strive to survive

Business owners optimistic despite rough times

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER



'As the economy is down, people are spending less. It's a sign of the times, not indicative of the city or where we are located. Business is still coming, just coming in at a slower rate and it has challenged us all to be more open-minded.'

ARA TOPOUZIAN, City of Novi economic development director

Novi business owners know the lean times they are enduring now don't appear to be easing up any time soon.

That realization leaves them with two options, close or find a way to make it. Most owners are choosing the latter, and while it's not easy, many are enjoying success.

Ara Topouzian, economic development director for Novi, said the economy has changed how everyone does business, which might be a good thing because business owners are being forced to look at different options.

"As the economy is down, people are spending less. It's a sign of the times, not indicative of the city or where we are located," he said. "Business is still coming, just coming in at a slower rate and it has challenged us all to be more open-

mind."

Some of the main businesses effected by the economy are those in entertainment or recreation.

Jerry Harris, owner of Novi Bowl, said business is down by about 10 to 20 percent, and is worse in the summer because people want to spend their time outside.

To combat those factors, Harris has created several specials, including coupons for five out of the seven days a week.

"People still have to recreate and we offer a lot of value for the dollar," he said. "It's still the cheapest thing in town and it's a family event that

everyone can enjoy."

At Imagine Novi, much of the success revolves around the quality of movies. Ruth Daniels, vice president of sales and marketing, said the year has been good because of movies like Transformers 2, Star Trek and The Proposal.

The theater group even opened a fourth location in Woodhaven recently and plans are in the works to open another in Royal Oak.

"We are pretty much business as usual," Daniels said. "It's more about treating people well and offering a good product at a good price."

Sal Afzian, general manager of Bar

Louie, said their success is a result of good prices and making the customers feel welcome.

"In tough economic times, the best way to get people to eat out is to make it cheaper than eating in," he said.

For Boo Sadikot, owner of Fitness Together, aggressive marketing and networking has been key in keeping his one-on-one personal training business afloat.

"It has been challenging but we are not at dire straights," he said. "A lot of people still value health and fitness. And when (clients) see themselves moving in the right direction toward their fitness goals, they pass the word on."

Another niche business seeing success is Advanced Vein Therapies. The specialty clinic has been in Novi for just over two years, but has increased its staff to 10 and is in the

Please see SURVIVE, A2

Enjoy a day at the gardens

Tollgate hosting annual free open house

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

A passion for the outdoors led Tom Gray to the gardens at the Michigan State University Tollgate Education Center when he moved to Novi in 2005.

Gray, like many of the more than 150 Tollgate Garden Volunteers, was attracted to the lush landscape and chance to give back to others.

Now he hopes that on July 18, the entire community will come and enjoy a "tremendous" part of the area.

"It is just a wonderful 160-acre piece of rural America right here in metro Detroit," he said. "People are going to see beautiful gardens, activities with women making quilts and a display of the hard work by a lot of volunteers."

The garden that Gray works in is called Plant-A-Row. The produce, which ranges from carrots to lettuce to tomatoes and more, is donated to Forgotten Harvest, a non-profit that takes prepared and perishable food and donates it to emergency food providers.

This is the eighth year Tollgate has hosted the free open house.

Please see GARDENS, A2



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Roy Prentice, manager of the MSU Tollgate Farm, stands near its rain garden along Meadowbrook Road. Tollgate Farm is hosting an open house this Saturday - July 18 - so visitors can explore its various gardens and open spaces.

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Local music fills the air at Fountain Walk

Summer Sidewalk Series for everyone

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

The economy has been to blame for the cancellation of several events in the Novi area this year.

But it also is the reason behind the creation of an inaugural event, the Summer Sidewalk Series. The event, which will feature live music, artists and more, is a collaborative effort between Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk and ArtsNovi.

It is slated to kick off Aug. 1, and will run every Saturday

in the month from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the roundabout in the Fountain Walk.

"I think right now with the economy the way it is people are looking for things to do with their families that are free or inexpensive," said Whitney McClellan-Stone, president of ArtsNovi. "This is something that parents can bring their kids to because it is definitely being geared toward families."

With the Michigan 50's Festival canceled this year

Please see SERIES, A2

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Library group gives people chance to share their work

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Novi resident Karen Kittrell had recently finished writing a manuscript when she came across the Novi Library Writer's Group in 2007. She knew her work needed editing and thought she might find some guidance through the group. And find it she did as the piece advanced to the finals of a writing contest in 2008.

Kittrell, who cites writing as one of her hobbies, is a regular member of the group, saying it has even encouraged her to write more.

"This group has been very dynamic in the people it has attracted. They constantly are

WRITER'S GROUP
The Novi Library Writer's Group meets one Saturday a month, usually the last Saturday, from 10 a.m. to noon. There is no fee to join the group and no attendance requirement.

changing and that change is very stimulating because you get to see a lot of different ideas," she said. "We are all waiting for that one day when some gets New York published and we can say 'we knew you!'"

The Novi Library Writer's Group is coordinated by active Novi resident Kathy Mutch. Mutch has found the group to be "incredibly encouraging" to

herself and enjoys heading it because everyone is so eager to be there and share what they have been working on.

Anyone who has an interest in writing is welcome, and they must be willing to present their own work for comment or provide helpful feedback for others.

"Everyone needs some motivation once in a while and that is what groups provide," Mutch said. "While people may tend to learn a lot, it is not intended to be a class. But it is meant to be participatory."

The group, which has about 12 regular writers, is always welcoming new members to its Saturday meetings. They meet once a month, usually on the last Saturday, from 10

a.m. to noon. An additional critique session is held on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., but that is only open to people who have attended the Saturday sessions and are looking for additional feedback on work they presented then.

Kittrell, who enjoys writing contemporary pieces, said during her time with the group she has grown exponentially as a writer.

"It keeps you humble because you keep realizing how much more you have to learn," she said. "It is a very supportive, very encouraging unique group of people."

For more information on the writer's group, visit www.novilibrary.org.



The cast of "Kwame A River: The Wrath of Conyers" includes Amise, Sharon Brooks, Jason Echols, Jamaal Hines, Ava Rodgers and Renell White.

Theater serves up second Kwame saga

■ Kwame A River 2: The Wrath of Conyers

The Andiamo Novi Theatre has announced the highly-anticipated new revue "Kwame A River 2: The Wrath of Conyers." Previews for the show can be seen Saturday, August 1 (7 p.m. and 9 p.m.) and Sunday, August 2 (8 p.m.) with opening night slated for Thursday, August 6 at 8 p.m.

Following the critically-acclaimed success production "Kwame A River: The Chronicles of Detroit's Hip Hop Mayor," the new revue, "Kwame A River 2: The Wrath of Conyers," is an original satire that picks up and boldly goes where "Kwame A River" left off. Kwame is out of jail and in exile in Texas, and in his absence the unpredictable Monica Conyers has become president of the City Council. "Kwame A River 2: The Wrath of Conyers" is written and directed by Detroit native Maro Warzecha. Currently residing in Los Angeles, Warzecha has appeared on popular television comedies including "MAD TV" and "Reno 911." Warzecha has received many honors including two Joseph Jefferson nominations for "Best Director."

The cast includes Amise, Sharon Brooks, Jason Echols, Jamaal Hines, Ava Rodgers and Renell White. Musical Director is Jennifer Gale and the Stage Manager is Ed Cosgriff.

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Making your retirement plan work during a recession

Whether you're employed or unemployed, chances are the economy has caused you to think about your retirement accounts over the last year. If you've been laid-off or forced to retire early, you may have considered rolling over your retirement account.

If you're still employed, you may have faced a temporary or permanent suspension of an employer sponsored 401(k) contribution matching program. Working or not, you've probably seen a decline in your retirement account value. Whatever your circumstances, there are some helpful hints that can help your 401(k) reach its full potential during the economic downturn.

No Match? Don't sweat it - If your employer has stopped matching your 401(k) contributions, you may want to evaluate how the account is performing to plan your next move. Options to consider include contributing to a Roth IRA. On a Roth IRA, although you pay taxes at the time of contribution, you can

avoid paying any future tax increases come time of withdrawal. There are certain income requirements you must meet to be eligible for a Roth conversion, at least for 2009. Check with a financial planner to see if a conversion like this is right for you.

If you are happy with the performance of your 401(k), you may want to keep contributing as much as you can to build your retirement nest egg. If you think your employer is likely to revisit the matching program once the economy improves, be patient and stick it out.

Common Rollover Mistakes - If you find yourself among those that have been recently laid-off or forced to retire early, you may want to consider rolling over your 401(k) to an account that is not linked to your previous employer. There are a few mis-



takes that are commonly made during the rollover process that retirement savers should be aware of. **Early Withdrawal** - Monies from 401(k) accounts cannot be withdrawn before the age of 59 1/2 without the IRS taking a 10 percent penalty fee. In addition to the early withdrawal fee you will also have to pay income tax on the amount you take out. **Rolling Over in Your Name** - Many people have rollover checks made out in their name, but don't realize that the IRS will penalize you for doing so with a 20 percent withholding fee. When you're rolling over, go for a direct, trustee-to-trustee rollover to avoid the 20 percent withholding trap. **Recovering from Account Loss** - If your account has lost significant value, look at the approach your account takes, is it aggressive or conservative? Then compare that to your retirement goals and your time horizon. If you are closer to retirement, your investment strategy should be more con-

servative - return of principal is more important than return on principal. If you're 10 years or more from retiring, a more aggressive approach could be appropriate. If you're unsure if your account is aggressive or conservative or if you need further advice, ask a financial professional for help.

By following the tips provided above, you can protect your retirement savings from the ups and downs of the economy.

Richard W. Paul, CFP®, RFP®, CPA and Investment Advisor Representative, is president and owner of Midwest Financial Consultants, an Oakland County based independent financial and retirement planning company. For more information, please call (248) 305-9911 or visit www.midwestfinancialconsultants.org. Registered Representative offering securities through American Portfolios Financial Services, Inc. Member of FINRA & SIPC. Investment Advisor Securities products/services offered through American Portfolios Advisors, Inc. a SEC Registered Investment Advisor.

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Support Novi's parks through putts Aug. 6

It's one of the most popular golf outings in the city, and best of all, everyone in Novi benefits. The 5th annual Novi Parks Foundation golfing event is set for Thursday, August 6 at

The Links of Novi. Solo golfers can play for \$125 and foursomes are \$300. The price includes breakfast, lunch, a steak dinner, golf and lots of prizes. Registration and

sponsorship information can be found on the foundation's Web site, www.noviparks.org. Organizers expect to surpass last year's totals of 160 golfers and \$39,000 raised. The funds go to support park enhancements, recreation opportunities and scholarship programs for local children in need.

Parks Foundation member and event organizer Angel Heard says a strong parks system makes for a strong community. "In tough economic times like these, it's comforting for a lot of families to know they have a great park system that can use any time, at very little cost," Heard said. "Best of all, a good parks system makes for both a higher quality of life and often mean higher property values!" The Novi Parks Foundation is a charitable organization run by local volunteers to help

support the city's parks and recreational facilities through fundraisers like the golf outing and a naming rights program which allows sponsors to purchase the naming rights of city recreational facilities. "Recreational programs and services are particularly strong in Novi, and we must continue to find ways to support, enhance and maintain our facilities to better serve residents," said Randy Auler, Director of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services.

On July 6, Grogan waived her right to jury trial before District Judge Dennis Powers, according to the court. Last month, Capello was sentenced to two years of probation after pleading guilty to indecent exposure. At the hearing, he denied having sex outside and said he was urinating.

Bench trial for exposure case set for Aug. 17

Sheila Grogan, the Novi woman charged with indecent exposure after police said she was engaged in a sex act outside a condominium complex with Oakland County Commissioner Kim Capello, R-Novi, is to appear Aug. 17 for a bench trial in Novi.

On July 6, Grogan waived her right to jury trial before District Judge Dennis Powers, according to the court. Last month, Capello was sentenced to two years of probation after pleading guilty to indecent exposure. At the hearing, he denied having sex outside and said he was urinating.

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Bid proposals for Musical Instruments will be received by the Novi Community School District, located at 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan 48374, by mail or hand delivered by 11:00 a.m. local time on Thursday, August 6, 2009, when the bids will be opened and read publicly. Bids received after the specified date and time will not be considered or accepted. Faxed or e-mailed responses will not be accepted. All bids must be submitted on the official form provided. All submissions should include One (1) original and one (1) printed copy, and shall be delivered in a sealed package, addressed as follows:
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BID, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
Attn: Gail Credit, Asst. Superintendent-Business
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Bid documents will be available for examination and distribution beginning July 13, 2009. Specifications and bid documents may be obtained and/or examined at Novi Community School District, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan 48374, and are also available on the district web site at <http://www.novischools.org>.
Your bid proposal form shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement declaring any familial relationship that exists between the Owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board or the Superintendent of the school district.
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, either in whole or in part. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding and to accept bid alternatives. The Owner also reserves the right to award a contract in any manner deemed by the Owner to be in the Owner's sole discretion, to be in the Owner's best interests.
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A toast to new opportunities

■ Novi's Hotel Baronette gets rebranded, renovated

If you've visited the Hotel Baronette in Novi lately, you may have noticed some changes. Over the next several months, the almost two-decade old hotel will undergo extensive renovations and join the Marriott family as The Baronette, a Renaissance Hotel.

The Baronette has long been known as the standard for affordable luxury in Metro Detroit. After the renovation, the Baronette will be reintroduced as a top of class boutique hotel with several new amenities including Marriott reward points, an extensive concierge service and sensational dining. In addition, guests traveling for business or leisure will continue to enjoy the hotel's close proximity to corporations, world-class shopping and entertainment.

Managed by the renowned Sage Hospitality Group, the Baronette's transition to the Renaissance family began in June with extensive renovations to the guest rooms and hotel lobby.

"When entering the renovated lobby, guests will feel as though they have stepped into a spacious, welcoming cabin - a crackling fireplace, comfortable chairs and friendly smiles await," said Jim Mikula, general manager. "Our helpful concierge staff, known as 'personal hosts,' will do more than just greet guests - they will get to know our visitors."

In addition to changes around the hotel, the restaurant will also receive a facelift. While the name is still to be determined, the steakhouse-style venue will be an independent venture through the Sage Restaurant

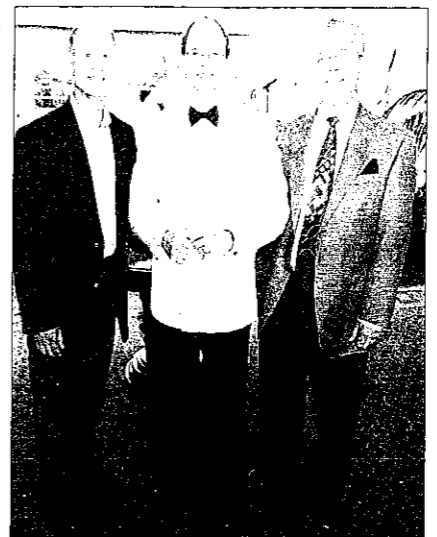


The well-known Baronette Hotel in Novi is undergoing some large-scale renovations as part of its rebranding to become a Renaissance Hotel (Q1 2010) - rooms, lobby, new restaurant ... you name it, it's changing.

Group. The restaurant will boast a fun, modern design, mouth-watering cuisine and a wine market.

"With our rebranding, the Baronette will become a modern retreat representing the best of American progressive design and warm hospitality," said Mikula. "Sage Hospitality operated hotels deliver one-of-a-kind guest experiences and we are excited to bring that same level of service to the metro Detroit area."

With a portfolio ranging from large, urban, full-service hotels to select-service suburban properties, Sage Hospitality manages approximately 50 hotels in the United States. Known for exceeding guest expectations, Sage has won several awards and recognitions, including the 2008 Condé Nast Traveler Top 10 Hotels. Hotels in America listing for the Blackstone Hotel in Chicago and the Nines Hotel in Portland.



Hotel owners Pete Hinz (left) and Steve Wickens (right) with the general manager, Jim Mikula.

House, Senate put health reform plans on the table

BY BRAD KADACH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Mar Corvieve understands the new administration in Washington, D.C., has a health care plan.

He just doesn't think it's going to come fast enough or do enough to help Michigan residents who can't afford the skyrocketing costs of health care or are, worse, completely uninsured.

That's why Corvieve, the second-term Democrat from Northville who represents the state House's 20th District, is a sponsor of a health care reform package Democrats say would guarantee health care access to all Michigan citizens, prohibit insurance companies from rejecting or jacking up rates on the sick, and expand coverage for Michigan children. The plan would also rein in the skyrocketing cost of health care by creating a catastrophic health care fund to protect the sickest individuals.

"We're mindful of what D.C. is trying to do ... I was of the opinion we needed to move and move quickly," said Corvieve, whose district includes Plymouth, Canton and Northville. "I started to break it down and look at it as a statewide problem."

The House Democrats' plan to guarantee access to health care takes aim at a key element of Michigan's health care crisis. As more and more workers lose their jobs and employer-based health care coverage, many find themselves being rejected by insurance companies because they have an existing medical condition, adding to the state's more than 1.1 million uninsured residents. Michigan leads the nation in unemployment - 12.6 percent in March according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

State Sen. John Pappageorge, (R-Troy), one of the sponsors, said the MI Health package is an innovative approach that provides consumer protections and has the potential to cover half of the more than 1.2 million uninsured people in the state. "This legislative package will help expand health care coverage to more of Michigan's uninsured people," said Pappageorge, R-Troy. "The Senate plan also will allow health care," Corvieve said.

According to Corvieve, the House Democrats' plan will, among other things:

- Guarantee access to health care by requiring insurance companies to cover people who have pre-existing conditions, such as diabetes or cancer.
- Prohibit insurers from raising rates on individuals who become sick.
- Ban unfair market practices like cherry picking the healthiest individuals to cover, which drive up insurance rates and prevent some of the most vulnerable residents from obtaining care.
- Expand the state's MIChild program to help cover every child in Michigan.

"Our plan requires all insurance companies to guarantee health care coverage to Michigan citizens, and ends the outrageous practice of insurance companies refusing to cover the sick or elderly," said House Speaker Andy Dillon (D-Redford Township). "Health care reform is too important to wait for Washington to act - we need to take action here in Michigan to guarantee access to protect each and every Michigan citizen."

Senate Republicans have a plan of their own in committee. Central to the plan, according to Republicans, are its two programs to expand coverage for the uninsured. MI Access covers uninsured patients earning under 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, while MI Coverage protects those earning between 200 and 300 percent of that level.

State Sen. John Pappageorge, (R-Troy), one of the sponsors, said the MI Health package is an innovative approach that provides consumer protections and has the potential to cover half of the more than 1.2 million uninsured people in the state. "This legislative package will help expand health care coverage to more of Michigan's uninsured people," said Pappageorge, R-Troy. "The Senate plan also will allow health care," Corvieve said.

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NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Unknown suspect steals from car

A Novi woman had over \$800 in items stolen from her Honda Odyssey between 1 a.m. and 8 a.m. on July 9.

The car was parked at the home on Sleepy Hollow Drive when the incident occurred, and the woman said she did not lock her car prior to going to bed for the night.

There was no damage to the vehicle, and the stolen items included a black Coach purse, Sony digital camera, wireless headphones and more.

Police have no suspects at this time.

Window smashed, CD player stolen

A vehicle parked on the east side of the Post Bar, off Grand River Avenue, had a broken window and missing CD player after an unknown suspect stole from the car between midnight and 4 a.m. on July 12.

According to the police report, the driver's side window was smashed and there was damage to the dash where the CD player was located.

The owner of the vehicle, an employee at the business, said nothing else was taken from the car and he had no idea who did it.

Drunk driver arrested

A Novi Police officer arrested a driver for drunk driving at 2:38 a.m. on July 11 in the area of Twelve Mile and Meadowbrook Roads.

The officer was on routine patrol when he observed the driver traveling 61 miles per hour in a 40 mph zone on Novi Road near the I-96 ramp. The officer followed the vehicle, observing it weaving in and out of traffic, before initiating a traffic stop on Twelve Mile Road.

According to the report, the driver smelled strongly of intoxicants and said he was trying to get to his hotel in Farmington. He said he only had one beer about an hour and a half before

the traffic stop. The man failed field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .14 percent.

He was arrested for operating while intoxicated and taken to the Novi Police Department.

Radar detector stolen from SUV

An unknown suspect caused \$500 of damage and stole a radar detector worth \$350 from a Ford Explorer parked in the driveway of a home on Coventry. The incident occurred between 12:10 a.m. and 6 a.m. on July 10, and the driver's side window was smashed to gain entry to the vehicle. Police were unable to find fingerprints or evidence on the scene.

Passed out driver arrested for OWI

A 27-year-old man was arrested at 5:13 a.m. on July 10 in the Springs Apartments complex, Pontiac Trail and Beck Road, for operating while intoxicated after he was found passed out at the wheel.

According to the report, police were not notified about the man by a driver who tried to wake him up but couldn't. When the officers arrived, they saw the man unconscious at the wheel with the car running and the brake lights on.

The officers shook the man several times to wake him up after they gained entry to the car through the passenger door. The man admitted to drinking and said he did not know how he got to the parking lot. He also did not know where he was.

Officers put him through field sobriety tests that the man started but did not want to finish. He was then administered a PBT that registered a BAC of .20 percent.

He was taken to the Novi Police Department and released when sober.

—Compiled by Nathan Mueller



89 and counting
Former Novi Chief of Police Lee Begle (above, left) receives a standing ovation from a July 9 Rotary Meeting as they celebrate his 89th birthday and decades of dedication to the city of Novi. State Senator Nancy Cassis (left) hands Begle a resolution noting his years of dedication to the city of Novi and its people.



NOVI COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tollgate Farms Open House & Garden Tour

M.S.U. Tollgate Farms will be holding a free open house/tour from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday. Located at 12 Mile and Meadowbrook roads (entrance on Meadowbrook), the tour of the extensive gardens that will be decorated with hanging quilts from local quilting groups. Free lectures given throughout the day with a raffle for beautiful quilt and free refreshments. For more information at www.tollgate.msu.edu or (248) 947-3860.

* Halsted Road in Farmington Hills is closed over 1-696. Full closure between Hills Tech Drive and Howard Street is expected until late August. Halsted traffic will be detoured to Haggerty Road.

* Ramp from southbound M-5 to westbound I-96 until late July. Westbound I-96 traffic will be switched towards the median to maintain three through lanes of traffic during peak travel periods on westbound I-96 from the interchanges with I-275/M-5 to Beck Road.

Chamber golf outing

The Novi Chamber of Commerce's 22nd Annual Golf Outing is Tuesday, Aug. 28 at Tanglewood Golf Course. Fee per golfer of \$145 includes 18 holes of golf, coffee-and-danish breakfast, lunch by Carrabba's Italian Grill and a pig roast dinner; foursomes are \$560. Call the chamber at (248) 949-3743.

'Oliver' auditions

Novi resident Barbara Bloom will be directing the Spotlight Players upcoming presentation of "Oliver" at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill (5042000 Cherry Hill Road, Canton). Auditions will be held at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, July 12 (ages up to 16) and at 6:30 p.m. on July 13-14 (ages 16 and older).

Performance dates are Sept. 18-20, at the West-27 Follow Oliver, an orphan, from the workhouse of his birth to an upper class neighborhood in London and meet all the strange, wicked, miserly and nice people that enter his life including Fagin, Nancy and the Artful Dodger through wonderful songs and a light hearted approach to a very dark Dickens tale.

"Over the past month, interest in the competition has really picked up," says Mary Jane Scott, Director of Sales for the Rock Financial Showplace. "In the world of BBQ, \$1500 plus prizes is a sizable first place purse, and contestants are really fired up about it. We are also getting a lot of interest from area restaurateurs who are eager for the bragging rights, as well as first-time local competitors who want to test their skills against seasoned teams. It's going to be great fun for all!"

"Experience West Oakland," a committee of the Novi Chamber of Commerce, was granted a sanction from the Memphis Barbecue Network for this inaugural event. A panel of twenty professional and amateur judges will determine the contest results. The Grand Prize Winner will be invited to compete in the "Memphis in May" Barbecue Network Finals, May 2010. More information on the sanctioning body can be found at www.MBNBBQ.com

Registration information for interested contestants can be found at www.experiencewco.com.

Restaurants located in Western Oakland County are invited to participate in the fun by offering samples of their most popular dishes. The Exhibitors featuring cooking and barbecue related products are also welcome.

Also on Sunday August 9, the Rock Financial Showplace welcomes the Mustang Memories All-Ford Car Show, featuring more than 500 Mustangs, and the Your Whip Midwest Showdown, a high performance automotive show offering 150,000 square feet of hot-rod heaven.

For more information, please contact Nancy Schoenheide-Phares at (248) 486-3424 or nshow@cblespeed.com.

Road work update

The Meadowbrook Road bridge over I-96 will be closed for rehabilitation until mid-August. Continuing local construction includes: * Northbound and southbound Novi Road entrance ramps to eastbound I-96 are closed until mid-September.



Brick by brick
The exterior of the new Novi Public Library is being cinderblock in this photo from July 2009.

Healthy Tips for Aging Golfers

Dear Savvy Senior
I used to think golf was a leisurely game, but at age 65, my back and wrist sure don't think so. Do you have any tips or know of any equipment that can help seniors?

Aching Golfer
Dear Aching,
Most golfers don't think much about it, but the game played by about 25 million Americans — can take a surprising toll on the body. And for older golfers especially, who aren't as strong or flexible as they once were, it can lead to multiple aches and pains as well as injuries. Here's what you should know.

SAVVY SENIOR

A Rough Game

According to the National Safety Council, last year golfers suffered around 35,000 injuries that required a trip to the emergency room or doctor. This is due to the simple fact that golf is a physical game that requires lots of twisting and turning, gripping and swinging, and bending and stooping, which places a lot of stress and strain on lower backs, hips, knees, shoulders, hands, wrists and elbows. And while walking 9 or 18-hole rounds of golf over hilly terrain is great exercise, it

too, can take a physical toll on the body. On top of that, many golfers drink caffeinated or alcoholic beverages before and during play, and aren't aware that prescription medications, especially some heart medications, interfere with the body's ability to cool itself — all of which increases the risk of heat sickness.

What to Do

You can beat some of the physical stresses that come with golf by improving your golf fitness and by warming up before you play. Older golfers especially need to take time stretch their muscles, focusing on their

legs, shoulders and back (see MayoClinic.com/health/golf-stretches/5000089 for a slide show of golf stretches).

And for instruction on how to improve your golf fitness and reduce injury there's a variety of resources you can turn to such as the Titleist Performance Institute (www.tpi.com), where you'll find tips on golf exercises, stretching and injury prevention. It also offers a searchable database to find a fitness pro, lets you solicit expert advice online and more. Golf Fitness Magazine Web site (www.golffitness-magazine.com) is another good resource that offers a golf fitness survey, blog, online exercise videos and a wide variety of helpful fitness articles. There are also dozens of books that provide tips on golf fitness such as "Dr. Divo's Guide to Golf Injuries" and

"Golf Rx" which you can find online at Amazon.com.

In addition to improving your fitness, there's also a variety of golfing gadgets and equipment that can help too. Here are some different items that can help, depending on your problem: * Stiff, achy back: Because golf is a game that requires a lot of repetitive bending and stooping, back problems are a common problem for older golfers. To address this issue, the Uprightgolf company (www.uprightgolf.com; 319-208-0939) offers a variety of affordable products that eliminate the bending and stooping that comes with teeing the ball up, repairing divots, marking the ball while on the green, retrieving the ball, picking a club up off the ground and more.

Gripping a golf club can be challenging for golfers who have carpal tunnel syndrome, hand or wrist arthritis or limited hand strength. To help, there are specially designed golf gloves (see www.bioniclegloves.com, www.powerglove.com and www.suregripsports-glove.com) you can purchase that can enhance your grip. Or you can get larger, softer grips installed on your golf clubs, for around \$5 to \$10 per club, which makes them easier and more comfortable to hold onto. Your golf shop manager should be able to help you with this.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit www.savvysenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC-TV show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

Your Invitation to Worship
Brighton: LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH, HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL, ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA
Milford: CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD, SOUTH HILL CHURCH, S.B.C., WEST HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
Farmington Hills: ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA
Highland: HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH, NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
New Hudson: NEW HUDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, NEW HOPE - A Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Northville: NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) - SOUTH LYON, IMMANUEL LUTHERAN, STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
South Lyon: CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON, FELLOWSHIP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) - SOUTH LYON, IMMANUEL LUTHERAN, WESTLAND GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, WIFE LAKE WHITE LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Westland: STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, WIFE LAKE WHITE LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Whitmore Lake: LIVING WATER

Passages
Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968
email: oeobits@hometownlife.com
www.hometownlife.com

MARICO "MAC" BRUNETTI
Age 77 of Milford, died on July 11, 2009. He is survived by Jacqueline, his beloved wife of fifty years; children, Anthony, Jeannette, Jennifer, Steven (Angela), and Matthew; ten grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and many dear friends. Mac worked at Cobo Hall with Teamsters Union 299 for over thirty-five years. A Funeral Liturgy will be held at St. Mary's, 1855 E. Commerce Rd., Milford, on Thursday, July 16, at 11 a.m. Friends may visit at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty, Milford, on Wednesday 2-9PM. For further information please phone 248-684-8645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

DOLORES JEAN FEIGLEY
Age 77 of Milford, died peacefully surrounded by her family, June 30, 2009. Funeral Services were held at the Milford United Methodist Church on Tuesday, July 7, 2009. Memorials may be made to the church. For further information please phone 248-584-5645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

ROBERT ALAN CURVIN
In Memory of... A HUSBAND, A FATHER, A FRIEND, A MENTOR... It is with great sorrow the Curvin family announces the passing of Robert Alan Curvin, husband to Jeanne, father of Kimberly, Todd, Chris, Laurie and Robert. Bob Curvin, born Sept. 12, 1937, passed away on Friday, June 12, 2009 after a 3 year battle with cancer at the age of 71. Bob was a life long member of the NPA, an avid outdoors man and successful farmer who lived life fully on his own terms. He will be remembered as a man of great character and presence and will be missed by all that knew and loved him. The Curvin family will be holding a celebration of Bob's life on September 12th, 2009 in Belleville, OH. Bob we miss you and love you and will see you again in time. "Because we have loved life, I shall have no sorrow to die." - Amelia Barr

NORMAN CHRISTENSEN
Age 46, died on July 10, 2009. Preceded in death by his brothers, SSG Thomas W. Christensen and Chris Christensen. Survived by his father, Thomas and the late Mary Lou Christensen of Highland and mother Janet Sorey; his sister, Heidi Christensen of Scottsdale, AZ, and brother, Norman of Detroit; step-sisters Ruth Ann (Greg) Stover of Lima, OH, Nancy Clay of Dexter, Barbara (Robert) Betting of Pawman, and step-brothers Donald of New Hudson, Richard (Sheila) of Fort Wayne, IN, Peggy (Kirby) Wicks of Grand Prairie, TX, also sons, uncles, nieces and nephews. Memorial Services will be held privately. For further information please phone Lynch & Sons, Milford, at 248-684-8645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

MARTIN KEVIN DUNLEAVY
Of Hollywood, FL and Highland, MI, died suddenly, July 11, 2009 in Deerwood, MN, Age 54. Preceded in death by his parents, James and Margaret Dunleavy and by his brother, Michael (Bridget) Dunleavy. Survived by his brothers and sisters, Peggy Ann (the late Kevin) Hopkins, James (Janice) Dunleavy, John (Margaret) Dunleavy, Thomas (Patricia) Dunleavy, Sally (Roc) Verrier, Patricia (Michael) Oga, and Brian Dunleavy. Also many nieces, nephews, and extended family. Funeral from Church of the Holy Spirit, 3700 Harvey Lake Rd., Highland, Friday 10 AM. Fr. Leo Lukic will officiate. Cremation will follow. Friends may visit at Lynch & Sons, 404 E. Liberty, Milford, Thursday from 2-9pm.

ATANASIO CANDIDO FAJARDO, MD
Age 90. Passed away July 7, 1990 in Honesdale, PA. For more information and to send condolences please go to www.phoenixvillefuneralhome.com

JAMES B. SHOLLENBERGER
A resident of Milford, and former resident of Redford and Livonia, fell asleep in death on July 6, 2009 at the age of 78. He is survived by Kay, his beloved wife of over 50 years, son, James C. Shollenberger; daughters, Stephanie (Ted) Malires, Rebecca (Joel) Hoffmann, Heather Shollenberger, Holly (Thomas) Whell; grandchildren, Kyle and Grant Malires, Dakota, Ariel, and Lacey Hoffmann; and Dylan and Sarah Whell. He was preceded in death by his parents, James A. and Marie Inman Shollenberger, and sisters, Eleanor Meyers and Helen Sharer. Jim worked as a Systems Analyst for Ford Motor Company for over fifty years. A Memorial Service will be held at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 55985 Ten Mile Road in South Lyon on Saturday, July 18, at 4PM. Memorials may be made to the Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. For further information please phone 248-684-8645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

LOCAL OPINION

online at hometownlife.com



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

Career and life management skills

I recently attended my 35th college reunion, and participated in a discussion group on Making Meaning & Charting New Courses. As I met my former classmates, my classmates are dealing with a common dilemma — planned and unplanned transitions from current jobs/careers in a tough economy when retirement accounts have been hard hit.

What do we do next? Is there a realistic chance to find a job in harmony with your inner values, that you look forward to each day, that allows you to follow your dreams, make a difference, make a salary large enough to cover expenses and rebuild retirement funds, and create a new look to retirement as we live well into our 80's or 90's?

I believe there is. One key to doing this is to examine your current life and identify the areas and roles that are important to you and assess how you stand with them. Start with identifying your values — what is important to you in your work and life. Values are often motivators — what you drive for when performing a job or living your life. If you are in tune with your values, you feel energized, optimistic and content in your work.

Next, look at the important areas of your life — Health & Habits, Family & Friends, Career & Association, Geographic Location & Preferences, Personal Growth & Development, Leisure & Recreation, Money Matters. These areas impact your work/life in many different ways. Taking charge in these areas can help you feel more energized and empowered. Set some achievable short and long term goals in each area.

Martha D. Adamson is a consulting professional with a diverse background in Human Resource Management and Career Development. She is a Certified Career Development Facilitator, a Certified Career & Job Search Coach, and a Certified Professional Resume Writer. She is the co-author of Job Search Navigator, a workbook-style guide to assessing yourself and managing your job search (www.jobsearchnavigator.com) which was first published in 1999 by Prentice-Hall and revised and republished by Success Press in 2005. From 1992 to 1996, she authored a monthly column "Your Job Search" in the Saratoga Springs, N.Y. newspaper - The Saratogian.

YOUR NEXT JOB

of your life to maintain those elements that are positive and take steps to change those that are negative.

Get in touch with your personal wishes and dreams. These often hold clues to core interests and goals that you yearn to fulfill. Can you realistically begin to reach your wishes and dreams by beginning to make a plan?

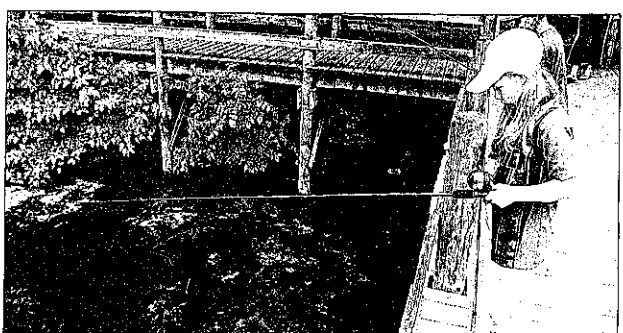
Finally, create your Personal Mission statement, taking into account the work you've done on your Values, Life/Work balance and Wish Lists. This exercise should integrate your self-examination findings and serve as a guide for evaluating future choices. If you revisit your personal mission statement whenever you have to make major decisions, you are more likely to stay on track for your future.

Life is truly a journey. We rarely are able to plan our careers and personal lives in a predictable fashion. Life events happen that take us off course, but the more in touch you are with your true self — your Mission — the more you will be able to take advantage of unexpected opportunities that will help you grow and develop and meet your core needs.

Martha D. Adamson is a consulting professional with a diverse background in Human Resource Management and Career Development. She is a Certified Career Development Facilitator, a Certified Career & Job Search Coach, and a Certified Professional Resume Writer. She is the co-author of Job Search Navigator, a workbook-style guide to assessing yourself and managing your job search (www.jobsearchnavigator.com) which was first published in 1999 by Prentice-Hall and revised and republished by Success Press in 2005. From 1992 to 1996, she authored a monthly column "Your Job Search" in the Saratoga Springs, N.Y. newspaper - The Saratogian.

Gone fishing

Emma Phillips, 7, was one of a dozen Maybury State Park day campers that hit the park's pond on July 10 for some fishing. Armed with rods and reels, bobbers, hooks and worms the kids worked the water along the pond's west side and caught a good amount of bluegill and small largemouth bass.



JOHN HODGERS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

How should my company be taxed?

In my last column, I discussed the differences between corporations, LLCs, partnerships and sole proprietorships. I left out the discussion on the tax consequences of these entity types.

So where do they differentiate? Taxes? Well, that is the starting point, but not the final answer. You see, an LLC can be taxed as a partnership, as an individual (meaning you report on Schedule C of your 1040), as an S-corporation, or as a C-corporation. A corporation is taxed either as an S-corporation or a C-corporation.

That's complicated, so let me break this down.

The letters "S" and "C" come from the subchapters S and C in the Internal Revenue Code. Subchapter C means that there is a corporate level of income tax. For every dollar the C-corp earns, it must file a tax return and pay income tax at the corporate rate (up to 35%). The left over money is distributed to the shareholders as dividends and they must pay income tax on that money at the capital gains rates. So there are two layers of income tax on the same dollars.

For the S-corporation, the dollars are passed directly through to the shareholders, so the money is only taxed one time at the shareholder's personal income tax rate. LLCs that are taxed like partnerships or under subchapter S pay taxes the same way as S-corps (as a pass-through).

Here's an example of the double tax for C-corporations: C-corp has \$1 million in taxable income (putting it in the 34% rate for corporate income tax) and will pay out its after-tax income as a dividend to Shareholder. Shareholder is in the 35% rate and 15% dividend rate (capital gains rate). The tax consequences are as follows:

TAKIN' CARE OF BUSINESS

Corporate Tax	\$340,000
Dividends Distributed	\$660,000
Dividend Tax Rate	15%
Shareholder Tax	\$99,000
Total Tax Paid on Income = \$439,000	
Total Tax Rate on Income = 43.9%	

Using the same example, but under the pass-through tax rules for S-corps or partnerships, see how this works:

Taxable Income	\$1,000,000
Individual Tax Rate	35%
Owner-Level Tax	\$350,000

Then, for tax purposes, why would anyone want to be a C-corp? Let's change the facts around, assuming instead of \$1 million in taxable income, let's make it \$50,000.

Taxable Income	\$50,000
Corporate Tax Rate	15%
Corporate Tax	\$7,500
Dividends Distributed	\$42,500
Dividend Tax Rate	15%
Shareholder Tax	\$6,375
Total Tax Paid on Income = \$13,875	
Total Tax Rate on Income = 27.75%	

As a pass-thru (S-corp or partnership)

Taxable Income	\$50,000
Individual Tax Rate	35%
Owner-Level Tax	\$13,875

So the numbers can be deceiving when it comes to the double-tax.

Other tax reasons for selecting one entity versus another type include whether or not the business will generate losses in the beginning stages. Losses for pass-thru entities are reported directly on the individual's return, subject to strict rules based on the type of loss and

COMMENTARY

A community that loses its local paper loses part of its community soul

What if our local newspaper went out of business? What would we lose as a community the day our newspaper dies? If our local paper dies, could it be resuscitated?

It hit me watching the Fourth of July parade in downtown Northville. I thought I would enjoy reading the local newspaper, the *Northville Record*, next week to capture the simple joys of a parade — kids marching, the smiles on young and old faces as the crowd came by, and the salutes from the war veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the recent heroes back from fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But what if our hometown paper ceases to exist? No, I haven't even heard a rumor to this effect — but given what is happening to the newspaper business across the country — the thought is not that far-fetched.

We are losing great newspapers and writers to budget cuts. What makes us believe our local community paper will be immune? This would be an enormous blow to our collective freedom and our democracy. The great news reporter, Walter Cronkite, remarked, "Freedom of the press is not just important to democracy. It is democracy."

What if the *Observer & Eccentric* and the *Hometown* weeklies go the way of far too many good newspapers across the country and disappear with the latest wave of economic bad news? Sure, you will still get the Tigers, Lions and Red Wings scores, the latest problems from our State Capitol and updates on the most recent national scandal. You don't need the local press to be inundated with the Michael Jackson stories of the world — unless you want the "local angle."

Our newspapers and our democracy are dependent on the our economy and advertising dollars. Both are in a sharp decline. The reality is that ad revenue is down for newspapers. Advertising reportedly represents 75 to 80 percent of most newspaper companies' revenue. It is a sad and unfortunate reality that the cost of our freedom and knowledge is dependent on the bottom line. But a community that loses its local paper loses part of its community soul.

No, our world will not come to an end if we don't read about the newest flavor at Guetter's Farm Dairy, that the cow had a new calf at the Farm in Maybury State Park, the Tuscan Cafe's women's softball team made the playoffs (even though all teams that sign up make the playoffs), what's happening at Jack's Barber shop, what is playing at the Tipping Point or Marquis Theater, the father-daughter St. Valentine Day's dance will be held at the Rec Center again this year, or our local schools produce nationally recognized students while struggling financially due to the state's economic woes.

This is our hometown community, family, friends, connections. The true simple pleasures in life that happen close to home are what truly matters. It is good to see the news about our local communities, and what our hometown mayor, City Council, County Commission or Township Board are doing.

The *Detroit News*, the *Detroit Free Press* and the *Oakland Press* all do an admirable job attempting to cover the multitude of small communities that make up southeast Michigan. Yet, as hard as they try, they cannot capture the local culture and makeup, nuances and the small things that make our local communities unique. Nor will they devote the ink or newsprint to cover the PTA, VFW, Rotary, Optimist, Lions, Moose, new school bus routes, police blotter, the new technology at our local library and the many other events that document the wonderful things about our local community.

DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU GOT TIL IT'S GONE

What can you do to help? Do you believe having a hometown newspaper adds value to your hometown? If the answer is yes, I highly encourage you to take the following action:

- 1) The first and easiest thing we all can do is to renew or take out a subscription to your hometown paper.
- 2) Encourage your neighbors to sign up for a subscription.
- 3) Advertise in the local paper.
- 4) Frequent the local merchants that advertise. These businesses give back to our community in many ways and need our support and help to stay in business during these tough economic times.
- 5) Send news to the local editor. Like most businesses, our local papers have cut back and don't have enough reporters to "dig up" the news — so send it to them. Tell them about how Grandpa is turning 100, that the new baby has arrived, the baseball team went undefeated, how the Robotics or Odyssey of the Mind team did at the national competition, and the acts of kindness shown by the local high school students.
- 6) Send a letter to the editor telling them how you value your hometown news.

The time to act is now. Our community newspaper is a business. Like all businesses it needs our support to survive and prosper. We should do all we can to help keep our local newspapers alive and covering the good, the bad and ugly to keep us informed about our town.

Let's not let the ink go dry in our community.

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant in the U.S. and China. He subscribes to the *Northville Record*. He was Michigan's state superintendent of schools from 2001-05. Read Watkins' recent China/Change blog at: <http://www2008.prosper.com/tomwatkins>.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What food do you most like to grill?



Salmon. Usually I marinate it in teriyaki and leave the skin on. It's quick and easy.

Carolyn Bailey



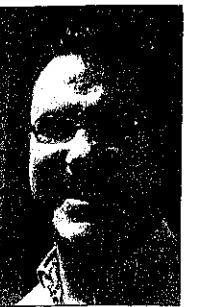
Chicken, burgers and zucchini. We use Montreal seasoning for the burgers and a marinade for the chicken.

Don Fils



I like to do beef and lamb kabobs, but separate from the vegetables because they cook at different rates.

Steve Magnan



Steaks, chicken and ribs on a propane gas grill.

Kevin O'Connell

LETTERS

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats: Web: www.hometownlife.com Mail: Letters to the Editor, Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette St., South Lyon, MI 48186. Fax: (248) 437-3386. E-mail: cstone@gannett.com. Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com. Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

ger over her lips ... but with an impish grin. Laree is the only other person besides my mother and three sisters who ever called me "Kathleen." I'll miss her greatly as I miss all of Novi's early entrepreneurs: the Tucks, Harrows, Mitchells, Wards, Gaffneys, Trickeys, Bells, Harndens, Buttons, Crawfords, Watsons, Cotters, Klasmers, Trotters, and too many more to mention. Laree ran the beauty shop on Grand River where I got my first hair cut, next to Trickey's Hunting and Fishing. Her dad was Mr. Trickey, and her husband, Duane Bell, ran the bait shop where many Novi kids got their first job.

I realize now that my values were shaped in large part by my hard-working farm family who came to Novi trying to duplicate the land they left in Tennessee — but the community and neighbors I lived with played as much a role as my parents. Novi raised youngsters who felt guilty to miss a Memorial Day Parade and who were taught by example to help people and take an active role in the business of the city as well as the community activities.

I don't ever want to go back to the early Novi days where we had to leave the city for virtually everything such as doctors, groceries, Scouts, schools, etc. But we are now what we were then, and I will never — nor should anyone else — forget the special people who got us here.

Kathleen (Kathy) Cotter Crawford
Novi

Capello's taxes

On June 18, *The Detroit News* ran an article under their Tax Watchdog Column titled "Oakland Co. official owes \$65K in back taxes." The official they were referring to was Kim Capello, former Novi city councilman and present Oakland County commissioner. According to the article, the exact amount of back taxes owed by Mr. Capello and his wife is \$68,509.00. It further stated that the IRS filed a lien of \$65,220.00 in the Oakland County Register of Deeds Office on Monday, June 15. The lien states that the couple owe income taxes for the year 1996 and the years 2003 thru 2007.

I'm not certain but I sort of think that during a number of those years, Mr. Capello was a sitting member of

our City Council. In that capacity he would probably be active in determining the city budget and how and where the funds (taxes) were derived and how and where they would be allocated. Nothing wrong with that; after all, that's one of the functions we expect our elected officials to perform. What sticks in my craw is Mr. Capello or anyone else deciding where the taxes would be spent when they haven't even paid their fair share.

Mr. Capello does have an excuse for the blind he's in and feels it's not really his fault. He is quoted as saying "I'm in private practice. I don't always get paid on time or on a consistent basis. If everybody paid me on time, I could pay my bills." In other words, it's those deadbeats who owe him money who are to blame for his tax problems.

He further states that his inability to pay taxes on time does not reflect on his ability to serve Oakland County. "One has nothing to do with the other," he said. Can you believe that statement? I've often wondered just how damned dumb these politicians think we are? Know what? I think they have us pegged about right. We are awfully damned dumb. After all, we keep electing these clowns to public office.

I've never met Mr. Capello, wouldn't know him if we passed on the street. But if I was a friend of his I'd do what friends are supposed to do and tell him what he needs to hear and not what he wants to hear. I'd tell him that he should give some serious consideration to resigning his office with the Oakland County Commission. The people of Novi deserve better.

Dave Shingler
Novi

Watkins columns void of specifics

Tom Watkins' past two columns beg the question: Why is he constantly telling readers of his columns about things that need to be radically changed?

Recently he wrote about the need for radical change in state government, and most recently he writes that our schools must be radically changed.

There is nothing wrong with improving a school or a curriculum, a government, but Mr. Watkins seems to have President Obama's campaign mantra about change you can believe in continually echoing in his head. But his columns are empty and meaningless.

Mr. Watkins offers no solutions on how to "radically change" state government or public schools. He merely drops that phrase into a column and then quotes other people's opinion about the subject. But he hasn't shown the courage to plainly write who and what he would change in state government, or Michigan's public schools.

It's easy to repeat what other people say, but perhaps one day Mr. Watkins will be man enough to come out from behind his past titles and positions and lay it out for all to read.

I ask you, Mr. Watkins, what specifically would you change in our government, our schools, and our economy that would make you happy?

Nathan Menolan
Milford

BELLE TIRE CONCERT SERIES at oakland university **MEADOW BROOK music festival**

LYLE LOVETT AND HIS LARGE BAND IN CONCERT
Fri, July 17 • 8 PM
Lawn 4-pack \$44

CHRIS ISAAK LIVE IN CONCERT
With Special Guest **Michelle Branch**
Sun, July 19 • 8 PM
Lawn 4-pack \$44

GORDON LIGHTFOOT LIVE IN CONCERT
Thu, July 23 • 8 PM
Lawn 4-pack \$60

TICKETS AT PALACENET.COM, THE PALACE AND MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL BOX OFFICES AND ALL **ticketmaster** OUTLETS. CALL 1-800-745-3000.

BELLE TIRE CONCERT SERIES **DTE Energy music theatre**

Smokey Robinson
NEXT THU, JULY 23 • 7:30 PM
LAWN 4-PACK ONLY \$44

an evening with **anita baker**
FRIDAY, JULY 31 • 8 PM
LAWN SEATS ONLY \$10!

BELLE TIRE CONCERT SERIES **DTE Energy music theatre**
AUGUST 6 • 7:30 PM
LAWN SEATS ONLY \$10!

TICKETS AT PALACENET.COM, THE PALACE AND DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE BOX OFFICES AND ALL **ticketmaster** OUTLETS. CALL 1-800-745-3000.

NOVI NEWS
GANNETT
Cal Stone, Editor
Susan Resick, Executive Editor
Grace Perry, Director of Advertising

For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Novi Calendar online at www.hometownlife.com.

Local events

TOLLGATE FARMS OPEN HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Saturday, July 18
LOCATION: M.S.U. Tollgate Farms is located at 12 Mile and Meadowbrook roads, entrance on Meadowbrook.

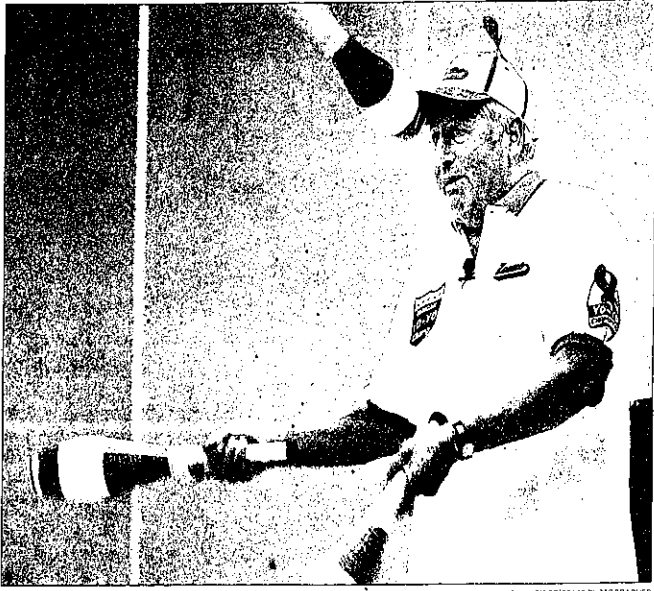
LIVE BLUES & JAZZ @ THE GRAPEVINE
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Thursdays; 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays
LOCATION: The Grapevine of Novi, 43155 Market Street
DETAILS: Live music on the patio on Thursdays, inside on week-ends; no cover. Schedule includes The Messarounds, July 16; Keith Kaminski, July 17; Motor City Shaks, July 18; Doug Deming & The Jewellones, July 23; Bon Tom Roule, July 24; Spangler/Tope Trio, July 25; Trio Organic, July 30; Diego Rivera, July 31.

JAZZ AND JAZZ JAM
TIME/DATE: 9-11 p.m. July 30, Aug. 27
LOCATION: Biggy Coffee, 43346 Grand River at the corner of Grand River Avenue and Novi Road
DETAILS: Jazz has found a home once a month at Biggy Coffee. Since the New's Years Eve celebration, the Tony Lannen Jazz Quartet has entertained a growing crowd of jazz lovers on the last Thursday of every month. Owner Mike Waltersdorf has committed to continuing the jazz jam through the summer months. \$5 music donation. Musicians - bring your instruments and join the jam. Sign up sheet at the door.

EVENING IN THE GARDENS
TIME/DATE: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, July 9
LOCATION: MSU Extension Tollgate Education Center, 28115 Meadowbrook Road, Novi
DETAILS: A course for all gardeners interested in learning how to grow rhododendrons and azaleas with instructor Dennis Groh. cost is \$20. CONTACT: Call (248) 858-0887 or email smithlin@oakgove.com.

SUMMER MUSIC SERIES
TIME/DATE: 4-7 p.m. Saturdays
LOCATION: 12 Mile Cross at Fountainwalk, 44175 W. Twelve Mile Road, Novi
DETAILS: Five free concerts in August by the roundabout in front of Lucky Strike and Bar Louie. Bring your lawn chair. Schedule includes: The Messarounds, Aug. 1; Randy Brock Group, Aug. 8; Die Warner & Bobby Lewis, Aug. 15; Grievous Angel, Aug. 23; Spangler/Tope Trio, Aug. 30.

ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE
LOCATION: 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 488-5600
MIDWEST SPORTS Collectors Show
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. July 18-19
DETAILS: Buy, sell and trade sports cards, autographed memorabilia, supplies, collectibles and more; door prizes and raffle. Admission \$5 per day; \$8 for weekend pass; children 10 and under free with paid adult. Free parking.



Sleight of hand

Zeemo entertains a group from the Novi Public Library with his juggling and yo-yoing techniques on July 8 at the Novi Civic Center. The library has been holding some of its summer programs at the center as parking is a bit scarce at the library due to the construction of the new facility.

CONTACT: (248) 574-8000 or visit www.zeemo.com
Gun & Knife Show
TIME/DATE: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Aug. 15; 10-3 Aug. 16
DETAILS: Admission is \$6. Anyone under 18 years must be with a responsible adult to attend this show. Parking is \$5.

Botsford Hospital 1st Annual SEMI EMS Expo
TIME/DATE: 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Aug. 20; 7-5 Aug. 21
DETAILS: This educational conference will emphasize the latest technologies and hot topics in trauma care for pre-hospital care providers. There will be a total of 14 continuing education credits available to attendees including 10 practical (hands-on) sessions. Speakers will include local, regional, and national experts. Credit's for certification will be available at the MFR, EMT, EMT Specialist and Paramedic levels. One- and two-day registration options are available. Two-day registration is \$80 and includes continental breakfast and lunch both days. One-day registration is \$50 and includes continental breakfast and lunch. The online brochure and registration is available at www.botsford.org/ems_expo.

NOVI ROTARY CLUB
TIME/DATE: Noon every Thursday
LOCATION: Novi Methodist Church, 4167 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 624-2512 or visit www.novirotable.org
Museum Adventure Pass
DETAILS: Card holders can check out free passes, for two to four people, to many area museums, cultural centers and historical sites. See detroitadventurepass.org for more information.

CONTACT: (248) 349-3743. Register early - this event sells out every year!
After 5 Networking Event
TIME/DATE: 5-7 p.m. Thursday, July 16
LOCATION: Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, 17400 Hagerly Rd., Livonia
DETAILS: Join us for networking and a wonderful summer evening out. \$15 pre-registration; \$20 at door.

Business to Business Breakfast
TIME/DATE: 8-9 a.m. Wed., July 22
LOCATION: Davenport University, 19499 Victor Pkwy., Livonia
DETAILS: Join us for a light breakfast and summer networking. \$5 payable at door.

Business to Business Breakfast
TIME/DATE: 8-9 a.m. Tues., July 28
LOCATION: Sam's Club, 27300 Wixom Rd., Novi
DETAILS: Join us for a light breakfast and summer networking. \$5 payable at door.

CONTACT: (248) 349-3743. Register early - this event sells out every year!
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mance that kids are bound to enjoy. The free program for all ages will be held in the Novi Civic Center. English Conversation Group
DATE: Wednesday, July 22
TIME: 1-2 p.m.
DETAILS: Make friends while you practice your English pronunciation and conversation skills. No need to register.

Novi Writers' Group
DATE: Saturday, July 25
TIME: 10 a.m.-noon
DETAILS: An inspirational environment for writers to collaborate, critique and create with other writers. The group is facilitated by local writer Kathy Mutch. Writers of all genres are encouraged to participate. For 18 years and older. Registration required.

Library Tech Time
DATE: Monday, July 27
TIME: 7-7:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Fifteen-minute one-on-one tutoring with either a librarian or computer tech on a topic of your choice. Investigating your family tree? Microsoft Word have you stumped? We have the tools to help. Registration required.

Price is Right Summer Finale Party for 5th Grade and Up
DATE: Tuesday, July 28
TIME: 3-4 p.m.
DETAILS: Come and celebrate the end of an awesome summer. Snacks and fun will be abundant! Registration is required.

Tuesday Evening Book Discussion Group
DATE: Tuesday, July 28
TIME: 7-8 p.m.
DETAILS: Join your Novi neighbors in a great discussion of Change of Heart by Jodi Picoult. Please register. Limited to 20 participants.

Making the Band - Craft Edition
DATE: Wednesday, July 29
TIME: 2-4 p.m.
DETAILS: Come and make your own band with friends. Projects will include egg shakers, tambourines, jingle bells, and more. Drop in any time between 2-4 p.m.

Beyond the Mona Lisa: Decoding Dan Brown's Angels and Demons
DATE: Wednesday, July 29
TIME: 7-8 p.m.
DETAILS: Join art historian, Dr. Deborah Kowalski, Ph.D. Princeton University, for an illustrated lecture and analysis of Dan Brown's Angels and Demons.

WIXOM PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCATION: 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
HOURS: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Saturday; and 1-5 p.m. Sunday
CONTACT: (248) 624-2512 or visit www.wixomlibrary.org

Museum Adventure Pass
DETAILS: Card holders can check out free passes, for two to four people, to many area museums, cultural centers and historical sites. See detroitadventurepass.org for more information.

ESL Cafe
TIME/DATE: 3:30 p.m. every Thursday
DETAILS: Coffee and conversation. Improve your English speaking skills by speaking with people from other countries trying to improve their English. No tests; instructor help free.

NOVI SENIOR ACTIVITIES CENTER
LOCATION: Located in the Meadowbrook Commons Senior Complex, 25075 Meadowbrook Road.
CONTACT: (248) 347-0414
Massage by appointment: 1-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 9 a.m.-noon Saturday

Adult and Youth Summer Reading Programs
DATE: Now-August 3
DETAILS: See our website for more details on these exciting summer reading programs!
High School Movie Day
DATE: Friday, July 17
TIME: 2:30-4:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Come check out a recent release on the big screen at the library! Grades 9-12.

Super Smash Brothers Video Game Tournament Plus
DATE: Tuesday, July 21
TIME: 3-4 p.m.
DETAILS: Show off your fighting style with our Super Smash Brothers tournament. If you are not into tournaments, just stop by to enjoy some of our new games. Grades 5+. Registration is required.

Harpbeat-Around the World
DATE: Wednesday, July 22
TIME: 10:30-11:15 a.m., 1-1:45 p.m., 7-7:45 p.m.
DETAILS: Join us for this musical tour around the world. This will be an upbeat, interactive, fun perfor-

NEIGHBORS

Local hero

Novi bicyclist joins Make-A-Wish tour

Novi's Jeanne Buscarino from Novi is preparing to ride in the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan's annual Wish-A-Mile (WAM) Bicycle Tour (July 23-26) for the sixth time. With more than 800 cyclists and 200 volunteers, WAM is the Foundation's single largest fundraiser and since its inception has helped to make more than 1,200 wishes come a reality.

Michigan thanks to the support of friends and family. Buscarino is now the captain for the team famously dubbed "The Biker Babes."



The Biker Babes (l to r): Debbie Thomas, Jeanne Buscarino, Tara Ouellette and Kelly Dwyer.

This is the largest bicycle tour benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation in the country and for the fourth year, the ride will begin in Traverse City and end in Chelsea, Michigan. Riders will begin at the Chelsea Fairgrounds on July 23 and will then be bussed up to Traverse City. They will begin their three-day cycling journey back to the Fairgrounds the next morning.

The ride culminates with the Heroes Hurrah ending celebration on Sunday, July 26 when the riders and volunteers cross the finish line and are congratulated by many wish children, dubbed "Wish Heroes," along with their family and friends.

Buscarino joined WAM in 2003 and has raised over \$10,000 dollars to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation of

Michigan thanks to the support of friends and family. Buscarino is now the captain for the team famously dubbed "The Biker Babes."

"My tennis partner, Debbie Thomas, put together a team of teachers from West Bloomfield to ride in 2001 who called themselves The Biker Babes. I love to ride, loved the idea of supporting this charity and I was really excited to join the team but was unable to ride until 2003 after my twins were born. After that first ride, I was hooked," said Buscarino.

A yearly ritual is for the team to decorate their helmets the eve of WAM. This is a way the team shows their team spirit and a way to bond before the weekend starts. It's also a great way to spot a Biker Babe along the way.

"Every year we have the most amazing team," said Buscarino. "Even though every year the team changes a little bit, the overall spirit is still there. We had the great fortune of having a former Wish Child, Lu, ride with us for two years. Her first year riding with us she was just 16 and had previously had knee replacement surgery due to bone cancer. Her sister, Mo, and mom, Kathy, rode with us and we were all inspired that

year riding with Lu more than ever. And wow, can she ride!" "It can help make a wish come true for just one family, then I've made a difference," said Buscarino. "My contribution is in donations and miles - it's challenging, grueling yet very rewarding. I love the people I ride with, the people I meet and most of all, the people that inspire me. Each year that keeps me coming back for more."

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It's Your Business

This is the first in a series on business and tax law issues facing small business owners.

IF YOU MUST LIQUIDATE DO SO STRATEGICALLY
In a situation unfortunately all too familiar these days, a lawyer receives a call from a business client. "My major customer pulled its business, so the bank 'demanded' my insurance and called it laps, putting me out of business. What do I do?"

First, take a deep breath, and breathe an sigh of relief. Then review the bank loan documents to see if the bank is right in demanding a default.

Assuming there are no grounds to contest the bank's claim of default, shorten your grace period and see if you can develop a modified business plan to continue to operate profitably. If you can, meet with the bank and try to negotiate a modified plan. If that may be tough, the lending environment is very difficult these days, with banks more picky in getting rid of loans than making them. This will change eventually, but that is the current reality.

If your bank refuses to change its position, you may try to secure alternative financing, either from another bank or a loan or equity financing from a source other than a bank.

If you are unable to obtain financing, you may be faced with the liquidation of your business. You need to immediately assess your assets, liabilities, work in process, projected income and expenses to see if a strategic liquidation plan. Just like operating a business, closing a business requires a strategic plan. Rather than simply close the doors, for example, it may be better to gradually wind down operations to avoid the contracts and work in process to be completed, not only to generate additional revenue but also to avoid breaching contracts, and the additional liabilities that may occur.

It is important to identify creditors as secured or unsecured, and those to whom there is a potential personal liability on the part of the owners. Secured creditors must be paid to the extent of their security. The bank will typically have a security interest in all of your assets, and will likely control the conduct of the business during the liquidation process.

In the event there are assets remaining after all secured creditors have been paid, unsecured creditors may be paid. Unsecured creditors do not have to be treated equally, however (unless there is a bankruptcy or court supervised proceeding). You should first pay obligations for which the owners would be personally liable. Generally, the owners, corporations and limited liability companies have "limited liability," and are not personally liable for the obligations of their businesses, but there are exceptions.

Next, you may pay creditors with whom you wish to maintain a good relationship ahead of others, and you may pay friends and family ahead of other creditors.

Significant tax issues may arise during a business liquidation. When, as a business begins to fail and funds are scarce, the business falls behind in sales, taxes or payroll taxes. Also, during the liquidation process, a business may generate income as it completes work in process, yet the bank may seize all available funds to apply toward its loan, leaving none to pay taxes.

Certain taxes may result in personal liability for officers, directors or owners of a business. An Offer in Compromise may be submitted to the IRS for certain federal taxes, and it may be possible to negotiate a payment plan with the IRS or State of Michigan.

One thing you may not do is distribute assets to the owners of the business without paying all creditors in full. This will result in personal liability for the unpaid obligations to the extent of the value of the assets received. When facing a crisis, when funds are scarce, the last thing you may be inclined to do is to spend money on professional advisors, yet this may be precisely when the value of their expertise is most needed.

Becky W. Taylor has represented privately-held businesses on business and tax matters for nearly 30 years, and is a shareholder and member of the Board of Directors of Greenhouse, Mullins & Hartshorn, P.C., LLP, a law firm in Novi, Michigan.

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248-348-8770 www.etmnovi.com

NORTHVILLE / NOVI AREA CHURCH EVENTS

OUR SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
LOCATION: 4145 Nine Mile Road, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 349-0565
Sunday Schedule
TIME: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL
LOCATION: 2355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads
CONTACT: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister (248) 349-7757, visit mbccc.org or e-mail to office@mbccc.org
Evening Wespers
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m. Sunday, July 19
Yoga/Fitness Classes
TIME/DATE: 9:30 a.m. every Monday

Northville garden walk



Visitors tour a garden on Randolph Street during the annual Northville Garden Walk.



Visitors of this year's Northville Garden Walk check out some desserts offered by members of the Garden Club inside Mill Race Village's Cady Inn on July 8.

SUMMER SIZZLER SALE
Select TREES AND SHRUBS 25-33% OFF
33% OFF: Rhododendron, Lilac, Azalea, Japanese Maple, Garden Roses
25% OFF: Dwarf Burning Bush, Endless Summer Hydrangea
Select PERENNIALS 3 FOR \$20 Reg. \$9.99
ALL PATIO FURNITURE up to 60% OFF
PLYMOUTH NURSERY HOME & GARDEN SHOWPLACE
734-453-5500
9900 Ann Arbor Rd./Plymouth Rd.

OUR SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
LOCATION: 4025 N. Center, above Tuttle's in Old Church Square, Northville
CONTACT: Pastor Bill Burke at (734) 927-0891
Sunday Worship: 11:30 a.m. with fellowship and food after service
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
LOCATION: 217 N. Wing
CONTACT: (248) 349-9020
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.



This home along Randolph Street in Northville was one of eight that were opened to visitors on July 8 during the annual Northville Garden Walk.



A large white oak ringed with a circle of ivy and flowers sits in the back yard of one of the homes on this year's Northville Garden Walk.

\$5,000,000 Inventory Reduction Sale
24" Prima Complete pool package was \$1,899 now \$999
CORNWELL POOL & SPA
3500 Pontiac Trail - Ann Arbor, MI - 734.662.3117
874 West Ann Arbor Rd. - Plymouth, MI - 734.459.7410

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CHURCH FROM PAGE A12
Preschool/Kids Choir
TIME/DATE: 7:05 p.m. every Wednesday
DETAILS: For ages three to six, ongoing event, no need to pre-register, all are welcome.
CROSSPOINT MEADOWS CHURCH
LOCATION: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 669-9400, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit www.crosspointmeadows.org
Sunday Worship: 11:05 a.m.
BIBLE STUDY CLASSES: 10 a.m. for all ages
DETAILS: Nursery and older children programs available. Worship blends traditional and contemporary elements resulting in a multi-sensory worship experience.
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
LOCATION: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 427-1175 or church@theholycross.com
Sunday Worship: 7:45 a.m., 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Nursery Care
TIME: 10 a.m.
Worship Service
Alzheimer's Support Group
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m., second Saturday of month
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
LOCATION: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills
CONTACT: (248) 474-0554 or visit stjohnlutheran.com
Saturday Worship
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9, 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School
TIME: 10:15 a.m.
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SECTION B
(NN)

Jeff Theisen, editor, (248) 349-1700
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LOCAL SPORTS

online at hometownlife.com

MICROFILM COPY



CC's Hall triples up on All-State performances

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

Catholic Central made a run to third place at the State finals, and junior Spencer Hall was a big part of the success.

The junior speedster was on the State champion 4x800 relay, was on the 4x400 team that placed second and finished fourth in the 400 meters.

Hall is the 2009 Boys Track Athlete of the Year for his three All-State performances.

"He's a dynamic runner who would always put it all out to win," said CC assistant coach Eugene Grewe. "He had the speed to make up distance on the anchor legs of both 4x400 and 4x800 races."

The two relays were in top form at the State meet, setting new school records in both.

The 4x800 team finished in 7:47.57, shattering the old school record by seven seconds.

The 4x400 team placed second in 3:21.67, just a half second behind East Kentwood.

Hall added more points to the cause by finishing fourth in the open 400 (49.73).

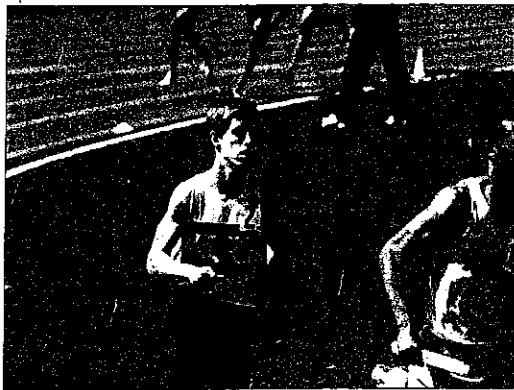
Hall shared the team's top honors for sprinters.

First Team

The All-Area First Team showcases some of the top talent in the State. Most of the athletes not only went to the State finals, but were able to crack the top eight and earn All-State honors.

Scott Sansovich, Catholic Central

The senior hurdler earned all kinds of honors this year, including Team MVP. He was Catholic League, regional and Oakland County champ before finishing fourth at State. He was also league champ in the 300 hurdles, third at the regional and Oakland County champ. Sansovich also helped the 4x400 team to a sec-



SUBMITTED

CC's Spencer Hall recorded three All-State runs at the State finals with the gold-winning 4x800, the runner-up 4x200 and in the open 400 (fourth place).

ond-place finish at State.

He will continue his track and field career at Harvard.

Jake Spuller, Catholic Central

The sophomore broke out in a huge way, being part of the school-record 4x100 team (regional champs), the 4x200 (5th at State) and the 4x400 (2nd at State). He shared the team top sprinter honor with Hall. He also won the 100 meters at the River Rat Relays and was voted male track athlete of the meet.

Brandon Schneider, Catholic Central

The CC senior ran the lead leg of the State champion 4x800 team and qualified for State in the open 800 (1:58.2 at regional). He also filled in on the 4x400.

Ricardo Galindo, Catholic Central

The junior had a best time of 9:30.75 in the 3,200 meters to place third at the Oakland County meet. He ran 9:32.4 to place eighth at State. He also finished third at regionals, second in the league and first at the Ann Arbor Huron River Rat Relays.

Billy Riga, Catholic Central

The sophomore was part of the school-record holding 4x100 and 4x200 teams. The 4x200 team placed fifth at State (1:29.8). The 4x100 team won regionals (43.5).

Dylan Young, Catholic Central

The junior threw a season-best 153-2.75 at the Operation Friendship meet to claim first. He was second in the Catholic League and qualified for States with a throw of 145-9 at regionals. He was named the Outstanding Field Event Performer for the Shamrocks.

Mike Blaszczyk, Novi

His nickname is Blaze, and it's obvious why. The junior specializes in the 3,200, where he finished 10th at the State finals. He was the K.L.A.A. Conference and regional champion. His personal best was a 9.33.4 this year.

Brett Kuhn, Novi

The Wildcat junior had his best day at regionals, flying 21-7.5 in the long jump to capture a title. He placed 22nd at the State finals.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CC's Scott Sansovich competes against a Redford runner in the 110-meter hurdles at the Observerland Relays.

All Arastu, Northville

The junior can usually be found at the front of the pack in the hurdle events. He finished State runner-up in the 300 hurdles (37.78) and had another All-State performance with a seventh-place finish in the 110 hurdles (14.52). He was also on the 4x400 team that won at the K.L.A.A. Conference meet.

Jack Dalton, Northville

The senior was part of the K.L.A.A. Conference champion 4x800 and 4x400 relays. He also finished fourth in the conference in the 800 meters (1:58). The 4x800 team qualified for State.

Kevin Mantay, Northville

The senior cleared 12-10 and qualified for State in the pole vault.

Al Myers, Northville

The Mustang sophomore cleared 6-3 in the high jump and qualified for State. He also placed third at the K.L.A.A. Conference meet.

Robert Swain, South Lyon

The senior distance runner was a

steady force for a team that struggled with inexperience. His top time of 9:55 came at the Oakland County meet. He also competed in the 800, 1,600 and distance relays.

"He was a rock-solid performer for four years of high school," said South Lyon coach Scott Smith. "He was a scoring member of the distance team starting with his sophomore year."

Jake Thompson, Milford

The senior leaves the Mavericks as an extremely decorated thrower. He was the Oakland County champ in the shot put, a two-time State qualifier and a three-time conference champion. His throw of 52-11.75 placed him eighth at State.

"We've never had a thrower more accomplished than him," said coach Brian Salyers. "For four years he competed at a very elite level."

"He's more explosive than he is size wise. He doesn't beat people with brute force. He's very analytical,

Please see **BOYS TRACK, B2**

Quake on the Lake to Celebrate 10th Anniversary

The 10th Annual "Quake on the Lake" Inboard Hydroplane Races return to Pontiac Lake, one of the fastest one-mile race courses in the country, for three exciting days - July 17-19.

The venue for this year's world-class event is once again the beautiful and spacious Pontiac Lake Recreation Area located in White Lake and Waterford Townships at M-59 and Williams Lake Road.

To celebrate Quake's 10th Anniversary, the American Power Boat Association's (APBA) Inboard Hydroplane Eastern Divisional Championships will be contested. Race teams from across the United States and Canada will compete for extra divisional points and championship trophies.

"Quake on the Lake has become one of Oakland County's signature summertime events," said Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. "Over the past nine years, Quake has attracted 300,000 spectators, including 35,000 last year alone."

Fifteen APBA records have been set on Pontiac Lake in five different racing classes since Quake's inception. Drivers compete in eight classes including Grand Prix, Grand National, National Modified, 5 Liter, 2.5 Liter Modified, 2.5 Liter Stock, 1.5 Liter Modified, and 1.5 Liter Stock.

Added attractions this year will be

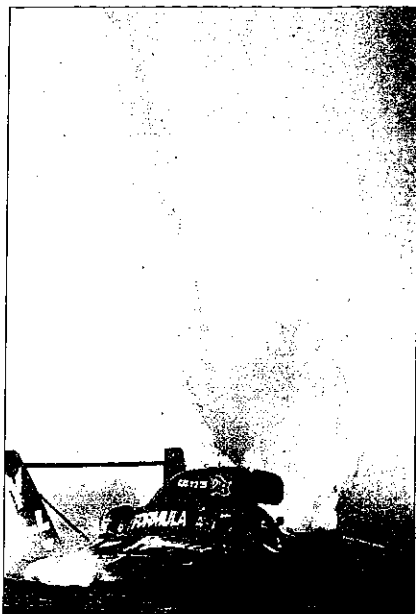
the J-Hydro Class featuring drivers aged 9-14 and the Vintage Class.

Proceeds from the three-day event will benefit the Rainbow Connection, a charity founded by Patterson which grants wishes to children with life threatening or terminal illnesses, as well as numerous other local grass root initiatives. A special wake boarding competition and exhibition will be held on July 18th. Other highlights of this year's event are the Genisys Credit Union's Family Fun Zone, musical artists performing Saturday afternoon on the Village Lakes and White Lake Marketplace's live entertainment stage, the Mopar Direct Connection rig which allows race enthusiasts to view and interact with tech-savvy tuners and web-based technologies that enhance the performance of vehicles of all kinds and the Navy Accelerate Your Life Tour which provides a first hand look at Navy life.

Saturday evening will also feature the Republic Services / Allied Waste of Michigan Fireworks beginning at dusk.

Event hours are Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-10:30 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Ticket prices are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 5-12 and free admission for kids 4 and under.

For additional information and schedule of events go to www.QuakeOnTheLake.org.



FILE PHOTO

Hydroplanes will be featured July 17-19 at the 10th annual Quake on the Lake at Pontiac Lake.

High school sports participation above 300K

For the fifth straight year in 2008-09, participation numbers for sports in which post-season tournaments are sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association topped the 300,000 mark, even as overall numbers dropped less than a percentage point.

The total for the 2008-09 school year was 304,343, a number that is down 0.9 percent from the 307,112 figure of a year ago and is the fifth highest total in the Association's history. Girls participation was down 1.3 percent from a year ago with 126,366 - its lowest point since 2003-04; and the boys total of 177,977 was down 0.6 percent - its lowest point since 2004-05. The totals count students once for each sport in which he or she participates, meaning students who are multiple-sport athletes are counted more than once.

For the second straight year, records for participation were set in five sports - three for girls and two for boys. Bowling and lacrosse each hit again a high-water mark for both boys and girls; and girls tennis also set a new mark.

Fall participation took the biggest single season dip at 2.7 percent, with football and girls swimming and diving each dropping over 1,100. The drop of 1,121 in swimming represented a 17 percent decrease, while the 1,102 slip in football was a 2.4 percent fall. Girls golf participation dropped 6.4 percent. The only fall sport on the plus side was boys tennis by eight players over the previous year.

Winter and spring numbers were relatively stable with a 0.5 percent increase in participation in the winter; and a 0.03 percent decrease in the spring. Girls gymnastics - one of the smallest sports in terms of participation - rebounded from a drop a year ago with a 156 increase in student-athletes - a 25 percent

Please see **MHSAA, B2**

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Novi Strictly Business

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Brateman Properties knows Novi's a town on the grow

1. Tell us about your business, including types of services and/or products you feature.

I market commercial properties, for sale and for lease, and I represent business owners and individuals looking for locations. My main focus is commercial, i.e. retail or showroom, office and industrial buildings and vacant land associated with these buildings. I have also consulted businesses in working with municipalities in zoning ordinance issues.

2. How did you first decide to open your business?

I grew up in a retailing environment. My father has a men's clothing store. However, I did not want to have my store, but preferred work in real estate as I thought it would allow me to be more creative. Working in real estate with others was fine in a larger company, but having my own company allowed me a way to shape my own path, which I preferred because I could more easily network with people in many different areas and businesses.

3. Why did you choose Novi?

I could see the growth going westward in 1985, so I began to focus my energies in that direction, and when I opened my own business in 1989, I had already had an established client base and network of friends and contacts.

4. What makes your business unique?

I think I have a special sensitivity of bringing together people who are compatible, be

they landlords and tenants, buyer or sellers. I know the players. I try hard to keep up with changes in developments. I have the experience of working for 25 years in the commercial real estate business.

5. How has it changed since you opened?

While I could focus on many issues, the biggest is the Internet. The accessing, presenting and transmitting of information has never been easier or better. In the old days, one had to drive areas, take photos, collect brochures on sites, etc. Today, what took a week can be done in a few minutes.

The days of small retailers and specialty shops is evolving, as well. National chains and big box stores replaced many local companies, but that is changing as some new uses and charming downtowns are giving those with a true entrepreneurial spirit a chance to have a venue to market their service (which also includes those business people finding a way to use the Internet to market their goods).

6. Do you have a funny tidbit or story about your experience as a small business owner to share with our readers?

I met a man at a building who wanted to look at the property I was trying to sell. Following up with a phone call a couple of days later to hear his impression of the meeting, he told me, honestly, that he did not want to buy

that building, but that he was impressed by the way I spoke. He ended up having me list a building he was trying to sell, which I was able to sell, and I was able to sell the original building to another person. Sometimes things work out that way!

7. How has the recent economy affected your business?

Obviously, the number of people opening up new businesses is very limited due to the current situation. However, I am proud of the sales and leases I have done recently, ranging from the Wesley Berry Flowers building on Haggerty in Commerce, to a beautiful medical building constructed on land I sold to Contemporary Imaging near Ten Mile Road and Haggerty Road in Novi on Karim Blvd. and a lease to a workout studio in downtown Plymouth on Ann Arbor Trail.

8. Any advice for business owners?

You can get too low when things are slow, or too over confident when the tempo is hot. Take each day and try to do something positive with the day. Be grateful for the joy of family and friends. Discover when you give how much you receive.

9. What's in store for the future of your business?

I am going to continue my hands-on, positive approach every day, and try to continue to learn something everyday (if it's from my new hand-held, technologically-advanced apparatus or my 15-month-old daughter!)



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jonathan Brateman is glad to call Novi his business home, citing earlier growth westward, an established client base and network of friends and contacts.

DETAILS

Business Name: Jonathan Brateman Properties, Inc.
Address: 40015 Grand River Ave. Suite 105, Novi
Your Name/Title: Jonathan D. Brateman / president
Your Hometown: born in Fort Wayne, Ind., living in Southfield since 1984
Business Opened When: 1989
Number of Employees: one
Hours of Operation: While the office is open 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, earlier appointments and Sundays are welcome, but not Friday night and Saturday
Your Business Specialty: commercial real estate brokerage
Phone: (248) 477-5000
Web site: www.bratemanproperties.com

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Food vendors sought

The Michigan Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Select Michigan Program is seeking Michigan food and agriculture companies to showcase their products in a special Select Michigan Pavilion at the 2009 Michigan Restaurant Show being held Oct. 20-21 at Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. MDA's Select Michigan Program is offering exhibit space within the pavilion to Michigan specialty food companies and food processor for a substantially discounted rate. The deadline for reserving booth space is Monday, Aug. 10.

The Michigan Restaurant Show is a two-day event with 12 hours of uninterrupted networking attracting buyers from restaurants, bars, and food service institutions.

Show hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20; and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21. Twelve 10-by-10-foot booth spaces are available within the Select Michigan Pavilion. Companies can reserve whole booths or half-booth spaces, which feature a table, wastebasket, backdrop/side rails, chair(s), carpeting, parking, exhibitor badges, cooking area, ice, freight handling and limited access to electricity, and company name sign.

Priority will be given to companies featuring products made from Michigan specialty crops; fruits, vegetables, and herbs. These companies will also receive a greater discount for booth space, supplemented by the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant, which is administered by MDA. Non-specialty crop companies are welcome if booth space is available at a slightly higher rate. For more information, contact Erin Groeb, MDA promotional agent, at (517) 373-2469 or groebe@michigan.gov.

Business workshops

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to seminars in offered by the Oakland County Business Center. Business Basics workshops are offered in the evenings on alternating months at the Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford. Call (248) 858-0783.

July 2009

- 16: How To Start a Business Workshop (a.m.)
 - 21: Legal & Financial Basics
 - 22: Listening to Your Business
 - 23: How To Write a Business Plan Workshop (a.m.)
 - 30: Small Business Loan Workshop (a.m.) Morning Class 9 a.m. to noon/12:30 p.m. (p.m.) Evening Class 6-9/9-30 p.m.
- The Web site is www.oakgov.com/peds/calendar.

Snap's Biggest Loser

Snap Fitness in Novi will be running a "Biggest



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Ribbon cutting

Zoupi Fresh Soup Company held a ceremony July 9 at the new Novi Grand River location. Novi City Manager Clay Pearson was in attendance to help owner Danielle Williams cut the ribbon. The band, Rife, of Novi, set the stage for an evening of fun, food, friends and music. College students and Zoupi employees, Dan Nufer, 18 of Walled Lake and Ryan Anderson, 19 of Wixom play in the five-member band each summer. Located across from Providence Park Hospital), the new 2,000 square foot Zoupi seats 50 customers and features all of the company's signature menu items.

"Loser" Contest this summer to help area residents and workers reach their fitness goals. This contest is open to members and nonmembers, with prizes awarded for different categories.

The program ends Aug. 22. All will receive a fitness assessment, nutrition information, water bottle, a workout plan, access to the club, supervised workouts, discounts on personal training, weekly newsletter, and weekly weigh-ins.

The grand prize winner in each category will receive a free membership. Prizes will also be awarded to the second- and third-place winners in each category. The grand prize winner will be the individual who loses the largest percentage of body weight, plus the individual who loses the largest percentage of body fat. For more information, contact (248) 347-1788, visit Snap Fitness located at 41774 10 Mile, Novi, or visit the Web site at www.snapfitness.com/novimi.

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