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THURSDAY August 6, 2009

Hometown Weeklies Volume 54 Number 11 75 CENTS

NOVI NEWS

online at hometownlife.com



NUTSHELL

Free music/art

Twelve Mile Cross at Fountainwalk is hosting a free Summer Sidewalk Series with art and music from 4-7 p.m. every Saturday in August at the mall's roundabout.

Schedule includes: Aug. 8 - Randy Brock Group (rock) with artists Tracy Vitkay and Mark Wittinger; Aug. 15 - Gia Warner & Bobby Lewis (pop) with artists Peggy Kerwan and Patty Dombecki; Aug. 22 - Grievous Angel (Americana) with artists Mary Tassone and Peter Jackson; Aug. 29 - Spangler/Tope Trio (jazz). Artists who wish to participate on this day should contact artsnovi@yahoo.com for more information.

Please bring a lawn chair for this fun outdoor event (Lucky Strike will host in the event of rain).



The Randy Brock Group will perform Aug. 8 in the Summer Sidewalk Series of free concerts.

Diabetes support

Are you looking for support to help manage your diabetes? You are not alone. Everyone needs some encouragement and a helping hand. Botsford Hospital's diabetes support group offers hope, camaraderie, as well as a valuable learning experience for those with a chronic disease.

The new support group meets the first Thursday of every other month from 7 to 8 p.m. starting August 6. The free sessions are held at the Botsford Wellness Complex located at 39830 Grand River Ave. in Novi.

Kay Sweeney, Diabetes Educator at Botsford Hospital, says, "Diabetes is a chronic disease that has to be monitored daily. Managing diabetes can be difficult and getting encouragement from others going through the same situation is extremely beneficial."

Community members faced with diabetes are encouraged to attend this support group. For more information, please call (248) 477-6100.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Roland St. Pierre has his dog 'Meeka' weave between the legs of a group of Girl Scouts that were taking part in the Puppy Love Day Camp on Wednesday. St. Pierre was there along with other dog handlers from Novi's Rock-N-Roll K9s to entertain the girls who spent the day at Family of Pets learning about dogs, safe behavior and about a possible career in animal husbandry.

Girl Scouts get taste of 'Puppy Love'

BY NATHAN MUELLER STAFF WRITER

The day went to the dogs for a group of Girl Scouts visiting Novi from the greater Detroit area on Wednesday.

And judging by the smiles on their faces and the approving "oohs" and "aahs," they were happy it did.

The girls were in town for seventh annual Puppy Love and Puppy Love X-Treme Day Camp held at Family of Pets in the Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk. Activities throughout the day included, caring for puppies, dog safety, a visit with a veterinarian and watching a performance by the Rock-N-Roll K-9's.

"It is all a lot of fun," said Jennifer Wardell, 13, who was making her second trip to the camp with her sister, Maria, 15. "Our parents won't let us have (a dog) so playing with the puppies is the best part."

The day camp was started by Family of Pets owners John and Debbie Stottele, who wanted to provide something that taught girls about animals and how to interact with them. They also wanted to give them strong female role models, as evident by the fact that all the instructors were women.

For the oldest Girl Scouts, the Stottelses added Puppy Love X-Treme, which gave them a behind-the-scenes look at the life of a veterinarian, took them on a tour of the Novi Veterinarian Hospital, showed them a procedure being done and allowed them to give an animal a shot.



Laura Kosnak performs with her Yorkie 'Jazzy Lee' along with other members of the Rock-N-Roll K9s during the Puppy Love Day Camp at Family of Pets on Wednesday.

"We try to do this so girls can look to animal husbandry as a career," John Stottele said.

Jennifer plans to work with animals some day, and said the time with the veterinarian was helpful.

The younger scouts got educated on dog safety by Debbie Stottele, who taught them how to protect themselves from an attack and what signs to look for from a dog to know if they are safe to go near.

Please see SCOUTS, A3

Tri-party program expected to be cut by county

Grand River project will halt without funding

BY NATHAN MUELLER STAFF WRITER

The city of Novi has been a major benefactor from participation in the Tri-party Program for road funding during the past 20-plus years.

So when news came that Oakland County is intending to eliminate its participation, thus ending the program, Novi officials were concerned.

"We were counting on those monies to improve Grand River Avenue east of Novi Road, and the planning for that to get queued up would now stop," said city manager Clay Pearson. "We understand everyone has budget constraints, but it's one of the basics we need to keep investing in. They affect residents, businesses and are important for economic development. It's on the top of everyone's priority lists."

The Tri-party Program -- which allows communities to choose road projects funded equally by the Road Commission for Oakland County, the county government and the municipality -- has made several projects in Novi possible since 1985.

In a letter to county commissioners Jeff Potter and Kim Capello on July 29, Novi Mayor David Landry said, "with-

out the county's financial participation on county roads, many of these projects would have remained unfunded." The county allocated \$2.25 million to the program for the current fiscal year and is expected to honor current projects. One such project in Novi is improving Novi Road between Grand River Avenue and Ten Mile Road. The project calls for the widening of Novi Road from two to five lanes and the addition of a bridge over the railroad tracks.

"Fortunately this project is slated to be bid this fall and constructed in 2010 with 'banked' existing Tri-party funds," Landry said.

NO TO GRAND RIVER

The project that will not happen is improving Grand River between Novi and Haggerty roads. Landry said this stretch of Grand River has one of the worst pavement condition ratings among similar roads in the county and completing the project would "result in a significant public safety enhancement."

But with Oakland County facing uncertain times, funding for the Tri-party Program is not a top priority. Potter, district 8 commissioner, said he believes the program should be one of the last to go but understands the same arguments can be made for other programs that are being cut.

"Prospects are uncertain," he said. "We have had a budget year like nothing you could ever imagine and for the most part the way the budget is going to pass is if everyone takes their lumps."

"And this is a big one." The Oakland County Board of Commissioners have until Sept. 30 to decide on the budget for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, and while Landry said he understands their financial responsibility, elimination of the program puts all local governments at a disadvantage.

"...we now find ourselves in the position of having to reevaluate planned local road improvement projects to compensate for the loss of this essential funding program," he said.



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Police identify driver who may have caused double-fatal accident

Palacios, 44, believed to have fled the scene on foot

BY NATHAN MUELLER STAFF WRITER

The Michigan State Police have identified a suspect in connection with the hit and run accident on July 24 in Novi that killed two Illinois residents.

Artemio Andrade Palacios, 44, is wanted by police after crashing his truck into a car that was stopped near the exit ramp of Twelve Mile Road on southbound M-5. The impact caused both vehicles to catch fire, and the two people inside the stopped car -- Anthony T. Fulton, 43, of Chicago and Michelle A. Griffin, 42, of Dunlap, Ill. -- could not get out of their car and were pronounced dead at the scene.



Palacios

According to the Michigan State Police, a witness stopped at the accident site and assisted Palacios from his vehicle before watching him flee the scene on foot. The witness could not get to the people in the other car because of the fire.

Law enforcement officials from the Novi Police Department, the Oakland County Sheriff's Office and the

Please see ACCIDENT, A3

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# LTU seminars offer networking, resume help to unemployed

Lawrence Technological University will host a free networking reception and panel discussion for displaced workers with college degrees from 5-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, on its campus at 21000 West 10 Mile Road in Southfield.

The networking reception and panel discussion are not restricted to Lawrence Tech alumni and students. Job-seekers will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from approximately 40 companies, according to Peg Pierce, director of Lawrence Tech's Office of Career Services.

A panel with representatives from several employment sectors will discuss what different employers are looking for from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and again from 7-8 p.m.

"This is a chance to talk to people in different sectors about the knowledge base and skill sets they are looking for," Pierce said. "Job seekers can get a better idea of how to prepare themselves for today's challenging job market."

Displaced workers with college degrees should register in advance at [ltu.edu/recovery/receptions.asp](http://ltu.edu/recovery/receptions.asp). Questions can be sent to [recovery@ltu.edu](mailto:recovery@ltu.edu). There are no fees to participate.

To help displaced workers prepare for the networking reception, The Ayers Group of Southfield — a career transition management firm and a division of Kelly Services Inc. of Troy — is teaming up with

Lawrence Tech's Office of Career Services to offer a free workshop on networking from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11, in the Science Building auditorium on the Lawrence Tech campus. Participants should register for these workshops in advance at [ltu.edu/recovery/receptions.asp](http://ltu.edu/recovery/receptions.asp).

Ayers also will hold a workshop on using social media in a job search from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 18, at the same location. Additionally, from 1-3 p.m., Kelly recruiters representing specific industry sectors will review resumes with individual job applicants and provide feedback.

The networking reception and workshops are part of Lawrence Tech's \$3 million "Recovery Starts Here" stimulus package for displaced workers. The initiative includes 400 "Recovery Grants" that provide 50 percent of tuition for eligible displaced workers or their dependent children through the completion of a degree program. These grants will enable displaced workers to take advantage of Lawrence Tech's expanded academic programs in areas such as sustainability, alternative energy and life sciences.

Students may also be eligible for further tuition assistance through the "No Worker Left Behind" program administered by Michigan Works!, essentially allowing them to attend Lawrence Tech tuition-free.

"These workshops and the networking reception are an important part of our outreach and service to the community during these difficult times," said Lawrence Tech President Lewis N. Walker. "Our goal is to help match displaced workers with available jobs and help workers retool when necessary to take advantage of opportunities in emerging economic areas."

The Ayers Group, headquartered in New York City, operates five offices in New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Michigan. Through its partnership with Career Partners International, The Ayers Group/CPI has offices in more than 175 locations throughout the United States, Europe, Canada, South America and the Pacific Rim.

Kelly Services Inc. is a world leader in workforce management services and human resources solutions with headquarters in Troy. Kelly offers temporary staffing services, outsourcing, vendor on-site and full-time placement to clients on a global basis.

Lawrence Technological University, [ltu.edu](http://ltu.edu), offers nearly 100 undergraduate, master's and doctoral degree programs in colleges of architecture and design, arts and sciences, engineering and management.

Lawrence Tech's 102-acre campus is in Southfield, and programs are also offered in Detroit, Lansing, Petoskey and Traverse City.



Novi United Methodist Church Rev. June Smith, right, and her congregation have opened their sanctuary to Amen Korean Methodist Church Rev. Joonsik Yoo, left, and his members as the Korean congregation has outgrown their existing space inside NUMC's Memorial Hall.

## Growing together

Novi Methodist continues strong bond with Korean church

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

DETAILS  
For more information about NUMC, call (248) 349-2652 or visit [www.umcnovi.com](http://www.umcnovi.com). For more information about Amen Korean Methodist Church, call (248) 974-5459.

Amen Korean United Methodist Church is back in the sanctuary it started worshipping in six years ago.

But this time, the church has enough members to make it worthwhile.

When the church first started, Rev. Joonsik Yoo and his family of four made up the congregation. They worshipped in the sanctuary for a short time before realizing it was too large and moved to a smaller room in the Novi United Methodist Church.

They quickly outgrew that space and transferred their worship services to the Memorial Hall. Again the congregation grew — now it's at about 70 members — and a move back into the sanctuary in July proved to be the best solution for both congregations.

"The energy put into (making the situation work) has

made the relationship so much more rich," said NUMC Rev. June Smith. "This gives us the opportunity to push ourselves on what it means to be welcoming to diversity."

However, letting another church into the sanctuary was not an overnight deal.

Mark Clark, a member of NUMC, said there was some anxiety among the members because any type of change is difficult, but ultimately "many churches have more than one service, and that is all this was."

The two churches had several meetings over a six-month span to iron out the details, which called for Amen Korean Methodist Church to hold its service at 11:30 a.m. on Sundays following the NUMC 9:45 a.m. service. Moving the Korean members into the sanctuary also proved to be a benefit because the Memorial Hall is now available for other activities.

Phillip Neff, a member of Amen Korean Methodist Church, said he thinks the move will make people feel more comfortable coming to church, and is thankful to the NUMC congregation for opening their doors to them.

"It takes a while for people to accept change and realize we aren't much different from each other," he said. "We are all worshipping the same God in the same manner, we just use a different language."

Clark said he has already noticed the positive interaction between the two congregations in between services, and Smith said she believes the relationship will allow them to do mission work and other activities together down the road.



Members of the band Tumbao Salsa (above) enter a Thursday night gathering at Novi Lakeshore Park on July 30. Reva Dittmer (left) has his hands full with his kids Maddie, 5, and Will, 2, as they enjoy the salsa sounds.

### Sounds of summer

Members of the band Tumbao Salsa (above) enter a Thursday night gathering at Novi Lakeshore Park on July 30. Reva Dittmer (left) has his hands full with his kids Maddie, 5, and Will, 2, as they enjoy the salsa sounds.

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### SCOUTS

FROM PAGE A1

"If we can teach these girls to be careful I think it will save them from being attacked," John Stortels said. "Hopefully some of this sticks in their minds."

But the highlight of the day for all the campers was the performance by the Rock-N-Roll K-9's, a group of dogs and their owners that performed tricks and interacted with the crowd. The trainers also were available for questions after the show.

Said Rose Callahan, volunteer director, about why she enjoys the program so much: "I love seeing the smiles on the girl's faces."

[scout@gnnet.com](mailto:scout@gnnet.com) (248) 437-2011, ext. 255

### ACCIDENT

FROM PAGE A1

Michigan State Police conducted an extensive search of the area, including a K-9 search, but were unable to locate the suspect. The investigation closed the freeway for about six hours.

According to Novi Police Chief David Malloy, the victim's car was stopped in the gore area around 11:20 p.m., the area between the exit ramp and the road way, when it was struck by Palacios' Chevrolet Silverado that was reported to have been "driving erratically from Fourteen Mile Road."

Palacios faces two counts of homicide-manslaughter with a motor vehicle and two counts of failure to stop at a scene of accident resulting in serious impairment or death.

Anyone with information or knowledge of the whereabouts of Palacios is asked to contact the Michigan State Police at (248) 584-5740 or call 911.

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**Nearing completion**

Work continues on paving and laying out the walk paths of Novi's Fuerst Park. Most of the landscaping is complete, and a 150-seat amphitheatre is finished near the old Township Hall. The tentative grand opening for the park is slated for August 21.

**Improvements paying off at Ella Mae Power Park**

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

The \$1.2-million worth of upgrades to Ella Mae Power Park over the last two years is already paying dividends for the city of Novi.

Not only are the thousands of softball players in recreational leagues enjoying the vast improvements, but the enhancements also have drawn the attention of the Amateur Softball Association.

The complex hosted the ASA state tournament for the Junior Olympic level June 25-28, took on the women's class B state tournament last week-end and is the host site for the 2010 National ASA girls 18 and under tournament. Bids have also been put in for future state and national tournaments.

"They have done an outstanding job and it was well-received by the teams that participated there," said Stu Alderman, ASA associate commissioner for metro Detroit. "From the fencing to the well-manicured fields to the new concession stands and landscaping it is a pleasant place to be. It has that atmosphere."

The Junior Olympic level tournament in June, which brought 42 teams to the area, had a significant effect on area businesses.

Randy Auler, director of parks, recreation and cultural services, said more than 130 hotel rooms were reserved and estimated the economic impact to be between \$300,000-\$350,000.

That number should be even higher next year when the national tournament comes in August, featuring about 50 or more teams from the northern region, including teams from North and South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa.

"The investment we made will be paid back through that economic benefit," he said.

Alderman said Novi is a perfect fit for these types of tournaments because of the vast array of restaurants, shopping centers and activities that cater to everyone.

"People come in with parents and other family members and will be looking for other things to do," he said. "If they come to a place that has nothing, that is the impression they have of not just Novi but of Michigan. It's huge to bring people back to Michigan."

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**Auto show staying in Detroit no surprise**

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

The North American International Auto Show is staying in Detroit after the Detroit City Council refused to vote against a \$288-million expansion of the Cobo Center on July 28.

An option, if council decided to vote against the deal that turned operation of the facility over to a regional authority, was expanding the Rock Financial Showplace in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, and state tobacco tax revenue to be put toward the renovation of the 49-year-old facility.

Landry said it "would have been exciting" to have the auto show in Novi and it would have taken a lot of work, but he is not disappointed it didn't work out.

At the very least, the public-

ity was a benefit to the Rock Financial Showplace and the city.

"From an economic development side if you are a business looking to locate in western Oakland County, you are going to think to yourself, 'I should look at Novi because they obviously have the wherewithal to handle the (auto show), it should be a good place to locate my business,'" Landry said. "It tells the world we are able to handle that sophisticated of an operation."

Blair Bowman, president of Rock Financial Showplace, could not be reached for comment as of press time.

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**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Teen caught with marijuana**

1 An 18-year-old Novi man was arrested at 1:15 a.m. on July 29 for possession of marijuana after leaving the parking lot of the Novi Expo Center.

According to the police report, the officer observed the man pull into the parking lot and turn off the lights on the car. When the officer moved closer to observe the car, the driver turned his lights back on and left the parking lot, turning south on Novi Road.

The officer then initiated a traffic stop and asked the man if there was anything in the vehicle he should know about. The man hesitated before saying there was not, and was informed by the officer that the K-9 officer was on his way. At that time, the driver said he had marijuana in his center console.

The drugs in the vehicle field tested positive for marijuana and weighed 1.3 grams.

The driver was issued a misdemeanor citation for possession of marijuana and released after posting bond.

**Property stolen from parked car**

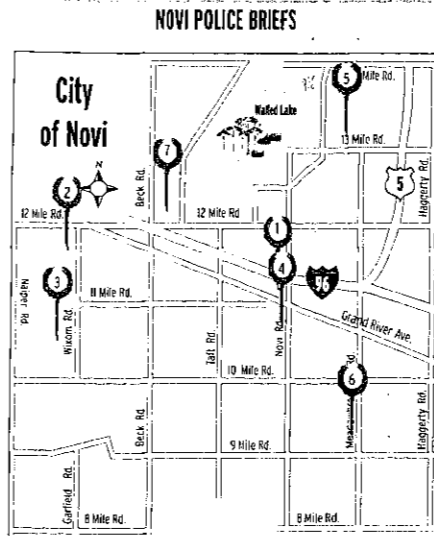
2 An iPod Touch and Scotty Cameron putter were stolen between 6 p.m. on July 26 and 11 a.m. on July 27 from a two-door Toyota parked on Fieldstone Drive.

The victim, a Novi resident, said the key entry on the car was forced open on the driver's side door leaving it dented.

Estimated value of the two items is \$600, and police have no suspects at this time.

**Navigation systems taken out of unlocked vehicles**

3 A pair of cars parked in the driveway of a home on



Island Lake Drive were broken into between 11 p.m. on July 27 and 8 a.m. on July 28.

According to the report, both cars — a Saturn Ion and Buick Rendezvous — were left unlocked overnight, and a GPS unit was taken from each car.

The victim estimated the value of the two items at \$315. Police have no suspects.

**Vehicles broken into, damaged**

4 Two vehicles belonging to a Novi resident and her son were damaged, and the son's car was broken into between July 26 and Aug. 1 while parked at the residence on E. Glen Haven Circle.

According to the report, the cars (and also wooden and metal benches at the home) were sprayed with a clear sticky substance that would not come off when washed.

On Aug. 1, the woman noticed the CD player and several CDs were taken from her son's car.

**Police catch drunk driver**

5 A 32-year-old Walled Lake man was arrested at 11:40 p.m. on Aug. 1 after being caught by a Novi police officer for drunk driving.

The officer on patrol observed the man's vehicle cross the center line six times between Owenton and Charlotte before being pulled over at the intersection of Thirteen Mile Road and Martin.

According to the report, the man smelled strongly of intoxicants and said he had one beer at a friend's house in White Lake.

The man failed field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .23 percent. The limit for adult drivers in Michigan is .08 percent.

The driver was arrested for operating while intoxicated and taken to the Novi Police Department where he was lodged until sober.

**Woman nabbed drinking and driver**

6 A 27-year-old Fraser woman was arrested for drunk driving after leaving the Post Bar around 3 a.m. on July 30.

According to the report, an officer on patrol observed the woman's vehicle ride on the center line for several seconds while traveling south on Meadowbrook Road near Nine Mile Road. The license plate light on the car also was out.

When the officer stopped the car, he could smell a strong odor of intoxicants and the woman admitted to drinking at least eight beers that night.

The woman failed field sobriety tests and a PBT registered a BAC of .20 percent. The passenger in the vehicle was also too drunk to drive and another friend came to pick up the car.

The driver was arrested for operating while intoxicated and released when sober.

**Car broken into at theater**

7 A GPS system and amplifier/stereo were stolen from a car between 11 p.m. on July 28 and 1 a.m. on July 29 while it was parked in the parking lot of Engauge Theater.

The victim, a 42-year-old Farmington Hills woman, told police it appeared the suspect tried to enter the car by prying the door open, but eventually smashed the rear driver's side window to get inside.

The two items are valued at \$600 and police have no suspects at this time.



Officials from the Novi Police Department are in talks with officials from Farmington, Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield about possibly forming a central dispatch center for the area.

**Communities looking into shared dispatch services**

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

Discussions are underway between officials from the city of Novi and three surrounding communities about the possibility of forming a regional dispatch center for emergency calls.

Novi Police Chief David Molloy was approached recently by an official from Farmington Hills who brought the idea to the table. The other potential communities are Farmington and West Bloomfield.

"The parties are in the 'data gathering stage,'" Molloy said, but were expected to meet on Wednesday to identify a potential consultant to help with the initial leg work.

"With the state of the economy and with shrinking state shared revenues, everyone is looking at every possibility where they can capitalize on their costs and provide the same high level of service," Molloy said. "We are trying to be as fiscally responsible as

we can, and we cannot afford to not look at something like this."

Currently the city of Novi handles dispatch for its police and fire departments, the police and fire departments of South Lyon and the fire department of Lyon Township. The Novi Regional 911 Center is the Public Safety Answering Point for the region, serving approximately 70-square-miles. It is staffed by 16 full-time dispatchers and one dispatch manager.

Novi currently budgets about \$1.6 million a year for the center, and the communities being assisted are charged for the service. Since 2005, more than \$620,000 has been invested in new equipment, updated technology and installation of the next generation 911 service among other things.

"The goal, if the communities get on board, would be to combine services in one central location, staff it with the existing personnel and add employees as needed.

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"Thanks to y'all at Hal's Auto. You saved us money and did it right. We love your service!" - Rick & Debbi Cole

Hal's Auto Clinic is a family owned full service automotive repair shop with full certified Technicians committed to quality repairs done honestly. Hal's Auto Clinic has been serving the Farmington Hills/Novi area for over 25 years. See why many of your neighbors have been enjoying the "peace of mind" service that Hal's Auto provides daily. Call for an appointment before this offer expires on September 17, 2009.

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**NEW Hal's Auto Clinic, Northville**  
43291 W. Seven Mile Rd., Northville, MI 48167  
(Highland Lakes Shopping Center)  
**(248) 449-5182**

Approved Auto Repair

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

Local events
EVENING IN THE GARDENS
TIME/DATE: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6

LIVE BLUES & JAZZ @ THE GRAPEVINE
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Thursdays; 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays

SUMMER FUN AT BOTSFORD NIGHT AT BOTSFORD
TIME/DATE: 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7

Passages
Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968

WILLIAM J. BERNINGER
Age 86, August 2, 2009. Funeral service was held on Tuesday August 4th at Hope Lutheran Church.

JANE ELLEN BRENNAN
Age 85, July 30, 2009. Funeral Mass was held at Holy Name Church Mon. Aug. 3.

JOHN "JACK" EDELBROCK
Of Milford and previously of Stokes Bay, Ontario (Age 79) July 22, 2009.

BARBARA ANN LAUBSCHER
Age 73, passed away on Monday, August 3, 2009. She was preceded in death by her husband, William John Laubscher Jr.

healthy snacks and wellness tips. A kitesurfer will also be on duty. The cost is \$3 per person.

AUTHOR MARIA DISMONDY
BOOKSIGNINGS
TIME/DATE: noon-3 p.m. Aug. 7

TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Aug. 21
LOCATION: Biggby Coffee, 20570 Haggerty Rd., Northville

JAVA AND JAZZ JAM
TIME/DATE: 9-11 p.m. Aug. 27
LOCATION: Biggby Coffee, 43346 Grand River at the corner of Grand River Avenue and Novi Road

ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE
LOCATION: 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 348-5600

Mustang Memories All-Ford Car Show & Swap Meet
TIME/DATE: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9

NOVI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
The Novi Chamber of Commerce is an active, progressive chamber offering a variety of events, educational programs, an enhanced website, and involvement with local charities.

Richard R. Reid, Jr.
Age 73 of Milford, passed away at his home surrounded by his family on Saturday, August 1, 2009.

Funeral Home, 404 E. Michigan, Milford
On Thursday, August 6 at 11AM with Pastor Richard Reid, III and Pastor Mark Ferrandino officiating, burial St. Mary's Cemetery, Milford. Memorials made to American Cancer Society or Feed The Children are appreciated.



Guy Louis brought his electric guitar and some rock and roll that was a bit too loud for Luke Crain, 5, during a July 14 visit for the Northville District Library's youth summer reading program.

Mike Waltersdorf has committed to continuing the jazz jam through the summer months. \$5 music donation. Musicians bring their instruments and join the jam.

SUMMER MUSIC SERIES
TIME/DATE: 4-7 p.m. Saturdays
LOCATION: 12 Mile Cross at Fountainwalk, 44175 W. Twelve Mile Road, Novi

Mustang Memories All-Ford Car Show & Swap Meet
TIME/DATE: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9

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On Thursday, August 6 at 11AM with Pastor Richard Reid, III and Pastor Mark Ferrandino officiating, burial St. Mary's Cemetery, Milford. Memorials made to American Cancer Society or Feed The Children are appreciated.

41671 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Lunch is \$10 at meeting. Visitors welcome. Check Web site for speaker information; novirovatory.org.

ABWA
99 Ways to shop 'til You Drop
TIME/DATE: 5-9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY LINES
LOCATION: 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
HOURS: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday

WIXOM PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCATION: 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
HOURS: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday

Library Lines
NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY LINES
LOCATION: 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
HOURS: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday

Seniors
NOVI SENIOR ACTIVITIES CENTER
LOCATION: Located in the Meadowbrook Commons Senior Complex, 25075 Meadowbrook Road.

Highland
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH
2550 Harvey Lake Rd. (248) 887-4555

New Hudson
NEW HUDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
5670 Grand River
Rev. Gerry Hunter, Pastor

Northville
NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN
Experience Life Each Week
Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

DATE: Wednesday, August 19
TIME: 10:30-11:5 a.m.
DETAILS: This workshop is for infants and toddlers, who are not yet walking, and their parents or caregivers.

WIXOM PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCATION: 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
HOURS: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday

Seniors
NOVI SENIOR ACTIVITIES CENTER
LOCATION: Located in the Meadowbrook Commons Senior Complex, 25075 Meadowbrook Road.

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5670 Grand River
Rev. Gerry Hunter, Pastor

Northville
NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN
Experience Life Each Week
Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

Living Water
North Campus of St. Luke's Church Ave.
Worship Celebration Sunday 10:15 a.m.

Tax incentives need strict oversight, transparency

Transparency is fundamental to good government and public accountability. It is opening your books to public scrutiny. It is being honest and leveling with the people.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE WITH STATE SEN. NANCY CASSIS
I recently met with the state's Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA) tax incentive programs and the need for legislative oversight.

Recently, the House New Economy and Quality of Life Committee approved SB 71, after amending it at the request of the MEDC.



Worship
Brighton
LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
6024 Pleasant Valley Road • Brighton, MI 48114
9:30 a.m. Communion Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
Rev. Dale Hordbitch, Pastor

# EDUCATION

## Glubzinski seeks re-election to Novi Board of Education

Ann Glubzinski, current president of the Novi Board of Education, said that she will seek re-election for a second, four-year term. Voters will be asked to select two candidates to serve on the Novi School Board at the Nov. 3 general election.



Glubzinski

challenging economic climate." During her first term on the board, Glubzinski served one year as a trustee; two years as the treasurer; three years on the Finance Committee; and one year as the president.

Prior to her service on the board, Glubzinski was the treasurer for the Novi Athletic Boosters for two years. She has taken classes at the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) and received the Certified Board Member Award. Recently, MASB recognized Novi's Board President with an "Award of Merit" for completion of 45 education credits.

Glubzinski further developed her knowledge and leadership skills when she participated in Michigan State University's Michigan Political Leadership Program (MPLP) in 2008. MPLP recruits, trains and inspires future public policy leaders by preparing them with vision, commitment and the skills for effective governance. In a bipartisan learning environment, a diverse group of 24 selected individuals from across the state engage in a public policy and leadership curriculum. The 10-month weekend curriculum incorporates practical politics and public policy analysis and

process, personal leadership development and effective governance. Glubzinski was endorsed by The Novi News four years ago when she ran for public service the first time. She is a 1978 graduate at Michigan State University with a degree in Political Science. She also earned her master's degree in business administration (MBA) from at MSU, majoring in marketing.

### FILING DEADLINE

The filing deadline to run for one of two open seats on the Novi Community Schools Board of Education is 4 p.m. on Aug. 11. And as of Tuesday, only one resident has put their name on the ballot. Current president Ann Glubzinski is seeking re-election to a second term, after spending her first term as a trustee, treasurer and president. Treasurer Jeff Nielson's seat also is open and neither he nor anyone else in the community have filed for the spot as of Tuesday.

To file for the election, candidates must be a registered voter within the school district and have either a petition signed by at least 40 registered voters in the school district or pay a \$100 filing fee. For more information, contact the Oakland County Elections Division at (248) 858-0564 or via e-mail at elections@oakgov.com.

### NOVI STUDENTS ON CAMPUS

#### Bowling Green State University

Two local students were among nearly 3,300 undergraduate students named to the spring 2009 Dean's List at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Green, Ohio: Emily A. Reid of Novi, who was a senior in the Education and Human Development College during spring semester; and Kyle A. Page of Wixom, who was a senior in the Education and Human Development College during spring semester. To be chosen for the Dean's List, undergraduate students must carry no fewer than 12 letter-graded credit hours per semester and achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale.

#### Kettering University

Novi's Ryan Gee, who is pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering, was named to the spring 2009 Dean's List. The Dean's List at Kettering University is an honor earned by students, who in a given term, have attained a minimum weighted grade average of 92.0 out of a possible 100, and have received no grades below 85, and have earned a minimum of 16 credits.

#### Columbia College Chicago

Michael Marsoujian was named to the spring 2009 Dean's List, attaining a grade point average of 4.0 (which he also achieved during the fall term).

#### Concordia College

Novi's Amy Glubzinski was named to the second semester Dean's List. A student must carry a minimum of 12 semester credits and have a grade point average of at least 3.7 to make the list.

#### Spring Arbor University

Wixom's Stephanie Ling graduated magna cum laude with a degree in biology health care.

#### Lycorning College

Amber Aschewanden, a junior archaeology and culture of the ancient Near East and history double major, was inducted into Theta Alpha

Kappa honors society for scholastic achievement in the study of religion. She is a resident of Northville and a Novi High School graduate.

#### University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Novi's Kate McLymont, a senior majoring in English, was named to the spring 2009 semester Dean's List. To qualify, a College of Arts & Sciences student must obtain at least a 3.7 grade point average. McLymont earned a 4.0.

#### Grand Valley State University

Novi's William Woods and Hollie McDonald have both been named recipients of a Faculty Scholarship. To be considered, students must have a 3.0 high school grade point average, a minimum ACT score of 29 and attend a scholarship competition. The award is renewable for three consecutive additional years with a minimum of a 3.5 GPA or better.

#### Central Michigan University

The following Novi students were named to the spring semester Honors List, earning a 3.5 or higher grade point average: Robert Andrews, sophomore; Shannon Barbour, senior; Jeremy Church, sophomore; Stephanie Cios, freshman; Katherine Colocchini, senior; Bradley Cullen, junior; Paul Cunningham, freshman; Jay Edillo, senior; Brittany Filippos, senior; Evan Gaber, senior; Erin Haynes, senior; Kelsi Olkowski, sophomore; Derek Pivetz, sophomore; Marie Ruhl, senior; Matthew Schaffer, freshman; Alexandra Sisson, sophomore; Daniel Spisak, freshman; Kaithyryn Stanford, freshman; Annette Sturla, freshman; Collin Woods, freshman; and Kara Yalack, junior.

#### Niagara University

Novi's Rachele Folino was named to the spring 2009 Dean's List. To qualify, a student must attain a 3.25 grade point average for the semester.

#### Ohio Northern University

Novi's Jacob Ray graduated from Pettit College of Law, receiving a degree of juris doctor. He earned his undergraduate degree from Albion College.

## Cooper-Standard files for bankruptcy protection

Novi-based auto supplier Cooper-Standard Holdings Inc. filed for bankruptcy protection Monday, becoming the latest auto supplier to file for Chapter 11 amid falling sales and unprofitable amounts of debt.

But Cooper-Standard, which employs 840 people in Michigan, said it has made progress in talks with its lenders about a restructuring plan to cut the company's debt.

Cooper-Standard, which makes sealing and fluid systems as well as parts to cut noise and vibration in cars and trucks, is now among more than dozen auto suppliers that have filed for bankruptcy protection this year.

The current and unprecedented global economic crisis has had a crushing effect on the automotive industry and ultimately the company's business," said Cooper-Standard's chief financial officer, Allen Campbell, in a court filing.

During the first three months of 2009, Cooper-Standard's sales fell to \$401.7 million, a 47% decline compared with the same period in 2008.

A recent restructuring proposal that has won the support of Cooper-Standard's lenders involves cutting the supplier's \$1.1 billion in bank and bond debt to \$350 million, the company said. That plan also would include a loan of up to \$150 million to help Cooper-Standard emerge from bankruptcy.

To keep Cooper-Standard operating in bankruptcy, some of the company's lenders agreed to loan the company up to \$175 million.

That Cooper-Standard reached a financing deal with its lenders, rather than turning to customers for financial support, is an encouraging sign, said Kurt Ludtke, senior vice president at CRT Capital Group, in a note to investors.

Cooper-Standard, which has cut its workforce by 1,300 jobs in the last year, employs 16,000 people.

The company has five plants in the state as well as offices in Auburn Hills, a research center in Farmington Hills and its headquarters in Novi.

—By Jewel Gopwanji | Detroit Free Press



### For a good cause

City of Novi employees Linda Gaertner, Kathy Crawford, and Lauren Sorrentino were each "jailed" for awhile on July 22 at Mezza on Grand River and charged with raising money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Funds raised in Novi were to remain in the city and will be used to help send kids with muscular dystrophy to camps, fund research and purchase equipment like wheelchairs. By 2 p.m. Crawford had raised about \$800 for MDA.

### MILESTONES

#### The Nelsons

Arthur and Margaret (Method) Nelson of Livonia will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with a Detroit Tiger game on Saturday, Aug. 29 followed by mass at St. Aiden and a luncheon celebration at Walnut Creek Country Club on Sunday, Aug. 30.



Their children are Mark & Jay Nelson, Northville; Ron & Margaret Long, Plymouth; Jim & Diana Nelson, Crystal Lake, Ill.; Art & Marianne Nelson of Novi; Michael & Becky Nelson, Hiron, Ohio; Jane Nelson, Livonia; and Dan & Kristin Nelson, Okemosland Twp., Ohio. They have 22 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



#### Shusta & Anglin

Announcing the engagement of Alice Elizabeth Shusta and Douglas Anglin II. Alice and Doug were in the same graduating class from Novi High School in 1999. They did not meet again until approximately seven years later in 2006.

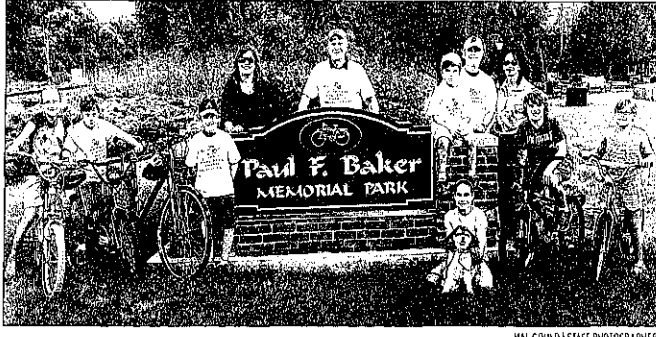
Alice, daughter of Mitchell Shusta of Dearborn Heights, is 27. She graduated from Western Michigan University in 2003 and immediately obtained a teaching position at Rochester High School. She then went on to get her master's degree in 2007.

Doug, son of Sue Anglin of Novi and the late Douglas Anglin Sr., is 28. He graduated from Ferris State University in 2003 as a civil engineer. He is president of Anglin Construction Company of Novi.

Following their marriage on July 18, Doug and Alice will begin their life together at their new home in Northville.

### KNOW THE SCORE

check out the numbers in today's SPORTS section



Mike O'Neill and family members at the Paul Baker Memorial Sign at Memorial Park. O'Neill is organizing the annual charity bike ride in Baker's memory.

## Event remembers Paul Baker, raises money for charity

BY VICTORIA MITCHELL STAFF WRITER

When Mike O'Neill thinks of his dear friend, Paul Baker, one word comes to mind — selfless. "It was always helping," O'Neill said. "When you said charity, he was always on the top step."

The duo goes back about 20 years when Baker owned the Goat Farm in Novi, the town O'Neill worked in at Marty Feldman Chevrolet. Baker was also owner of the South Lyon Hotel, Baker's of Milford and the Comeback Inn.

O'Neill said the South Lyon, Milford and Novi communities mourned when Baker tragically died July 6, 2005 at the young age of 56.

To honor Baker's memory, O'Neill is hosting the third annual Paul Baker Charity Bicycle Event at 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, two days before what would have been his birthday. "This is actually the fourth

### PAUL BAKER CHARITY BICYCLE EVENT

When: 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 8  
Cost: \$25  
For more information: Mike O'Neill, (248) 421-7977; Gary at South Lyon Cycle, (248) 437-0500.

Foundation in the name of O'Neill's granddaughter, Gina. Event two will begin and end at Baker's of Milford, utilizing the Kensington Metropark bike path.

Proceeds from the second route will benefit the Breast Cancer Foundation in the name of O'Neill's daughter, Michelle Ebel who is a cancer survivor.

Routes and maps will be made available the day of the ride, and a complimentary breakfast will be provided by Baker's of Milford following the event.

There will be a shuttle service provided from Baker's to the South Lyon Hotel courtesy of South Hill Church of Milford. A \$25 registration fee will be due at registration the morning of the ride. Participants will receive a free T-Shirt while supplies last.

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**Be A Tiger For Kids**  
Tuesday, August 18  
Comerica Park

Help a Cornerstone child go to school. Cornerstone has a 95% high school graduation rate, providing children with an excellent education in Detroit.

**Support Cornerstone and as a thank you, you'll receive:**

- A ticket to the Detroit Tigers game on August 18th at 7:05 pm
- Admission to the private Rock-N-Roar tailgate picnic at Ford Field at 4:30 pm
- A commemorative event tee shirt
- For an additional \$50 donation at the tailgate, receive an official MLB and meet former Tiger alumni Gates Brown, Willie Horton, Dave Bergman, Dan Petry, and Dave Rozema.

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- Women's health and wellness
- Preventive care and chronic disease management

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Elizabeth Morelli, M.D.  
Board Certified Family Physicians

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\*The Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 8/2/2009. This promotional rate applies to new 9-month IRA accounts opened by 8/31/2009. Funds must be deposited by 9/15/2009. Funds must be held in the account for the full term. Funds may be withdrawn at any time without penalty. There is a penalty for early withdrawals. Additional restrictions may apply. See your sales representative for full details.

**OUR VIEWS**

**Why is struggling state subsidizing moviemakers?**

At a time when Michigan government is cutting school funding, laying off state troopers and even closing its offices to give state employees six unpaid furlough days, why are we still subsidizing Hollywood moviemakers?

Worse yet, this subsidy for filmmakers has somehow become the one sacred cow in the state budget process that everyone is refusing to talk about. Ask a Republican in this state why the film subsidy isn't being considered for budget cutting, and you'll be told that it is Gov. Jennifer Granholm's special pet program. It was her baby, so it isn't even on the table.

We understand Republicans are in the minority in state government; what we don't understand is why the opposition party is afraid to point out the fact that the boondoggle has no clothes.

The state initiated its film industry incentive tax credit last year, which doesn't just trim the amount of taxes that moviemaking companies owe, it actually reimburses them for up to 42 percent of the cost of their operations in Michigan. As a result, the state wrote checks worth \$48 million to filmmakers for 35 movies shot here last year. That figure is only expected to get bigger this year.

Meanwhile, the state is looking for all kinds of places to cut. State workers were just given unpaid furloughs for six weeks to balance the current-year budget. Each furlough day is estimated to save \$22 million. Compare that to the \$48 million we are giving the movie moguls.

The state Senate recently proposed cutting school funding foundation allowances for the coming year by \$110 per pupil. Needless to say, that's a major hit to local school districts and is expected to send a number of schools into a real financial tailspin.

The cut will save the state \$174 million. One Senate Fiscal Agency analyst has estimated cost of the film credit will grow to as much as \$250 million this year. That's almost a direct trade. Which do you want to do — maintain current school funding levels or subsidize Hollywood?

Recently, the state laid off 104 state troopers to save the state budget \$1.7 million ... just a fraction of what we are spending to promote movie making. We just don't understand that.

There has been a lack of information about how the credit is applied, about the lack of transparency in the Michigan Film Office. Under the legislation that created this credit, the office and the tax credit were exempted from the Freedom of Information Act. So information has been sparse.

For all the money state taxpayers have poured into this program already, there is little information about what the film companies have actually spent in Michigan, on what, with whom. While the film office has given us a number for the jobs supposedly created, no information has been given about how long those jobs have lasted, what they were paid and what kinds of jobs they were.

If the state doesn't want to let taxpayers how their money is being spent, fine, just cut the program. Let's put the priorities back on these services the state should be providing ... not subsidizing the starmaker machinery.

**Landings Property fiasco**

"We (Novi) are going to hire a consulting firm to help tell the city (us) what to do with the property on South Lake and Old Novi Road. Give me a break, will you. What about the two city-sponsored Lake Shore committees that were ignored in the past? Both recommended that the land become a park of sorts.

What about the failed attempt to get the land developed (by Jay Eldridge, I think). How much did that failed attempt cost the city?

I have to ask, what the heck are we paying our city officials for? Mr. Mayor, you are a lawyer — does this make sense to you, sir?

The only good thing about this whole mess is that we have had contractors cut the grass all of this time instead of city employees on overtime. Cut costs, Novi."

Gary Reamer  
Novi

**COMMUNITY VOICE**

Are you able to find any silver lining in the dark cloud of this recession?



**The getting together of minds, that we have to do something about it. Getting somebody strong-willed, Obama, in there to do something.**

Gerald Haran

**I'm going to school here, but when I finish I'm moving south where there are more opportunities.**

Leslie Disch

**Maybe a new General Motors and being able to correct problems of mismanagement. They might come out stronger and more viable.**

Mike Bortel

**Yes. Families are having to spend more time together, and that can only be a positive. More meals at home talking about the challenges of life.**

Keith Wimbush

**LETTERS**

**City should save, not spend**

The financial projections just recently included in the City of Novi's 2009-2010 adopted budget assume a 1.24 percent reduction in taxable value for 2009-2010, a 2.9 percent reduction for 2010-2011.

**Concert kudos**

We would like to thank all the members of the community who turned out for the Northville Summer Choral concert Thursday night; musicians, audience, and even those who sent contributions if they couldn't make it. Attendance was far greater than hoped for and the outpouring from the community was thoroughly heartwarming.

The result of that outpouring is that Northville Civic Center received several truckloads of canned and boxed goods plus more than \$7,000 in donations. While these are tough times in a lot of people, this community is most generous. We are proud to be part of it. Thank you!

Sue and Paul Hoernschmeyer  
Novi

**Landings Property fiasco**

even though the city assessor has said that Oakland County's estimate is closer to 6 percent and a 2.4 percent reduction for 2011-2012.

On the expense side, the city is generally assuming a 1.5 percent increase in salary adjustments each year, and a 2.5 percent increase for other expenses. The Community Development Department budget reflects the reduction of two staff in 2010-2011 and an additional two staff in 2011-2012. These positions are yet to be determined.

Capital spending assumptions include only limited vehicle replacement and PC refresh programs, even though there appears to be numerous unfunded capital improvement needs in the police, fire, DFS and parks and recreation departments alone.

At a time when it is going to be very challenging to keep our existing parks well maintained, and to meet the needs of other essential departments, the Landings Property land use study currently underway at the cost of almost \$21,000, and the \$50,000 Master/Design Plan for the Landings Property in the 2009-2010 budget, hardly seem like spending priorities.

I believe that the other capital improve-

**Here's an opportunity to save taxpayers cash**

**COMMENTARY**

Wayne County has lost significant population over the years and, like the state which is a billion or two in debt, are hundreds of millions in debt — and like the state, with no relief in sight.

Given these facts, it is logical to ask, "Why do we need two separate police functions or, for that matter, a separate city and county clerk, health, road and other duplicative departmental functions in our two largest city and county governments that are shrinking in Michigan?"

Could these governmental functions be combined without losing vital services while saving significant resources for the taxpayers?

These are not just questions for Detroit and Wayne County, but all units of government across Michigan.

Never before has Michigan seen the continual contraction in employment that has lasted for nearly a decade. Detroit and Wayne County are leading the way.

Clearly, there has been some restructuring, downsizing, wage concessions and retirement cost reductions among the austerity measures at every level of government. Yet, what has been done to date to beat back the rising tide of economic decline has been anemic at best. Duplicative and overlapping levels of government services exist throughout the state. Our

system of government, like the domestic auto industry, was built for an era that no longer exists and can no longer be afforded.

**CHANGE WE CAN BELIEVE IN**

Millions could be saved and redirected towards providing services if the political will ever catches up with our new reality and serious changes are not only contemplated, but acted upon.

The Townsend lyrics also offer:

*"I'll tip my hat to the new constitution  
Take a bow for the new revolution  
Smile and grin at the change all around me  
Pick up my guitar and play  
Just like yesterday  
And I'll get on my knees and pray  
We don't get fooled again"*

We can't be fooled into thinking we can simply cut or tax our way out of the problems before us. What is required is bold leadership and fresh ideas to reinvent government.

There is a natural inclination to want to sustain institutions once they have been built. Leaders must meet the disruptive transformational change taking place in society with equal change in how we operate government. We have shed population and our tax base while we have resisted the transformational change necessary in our system of gov-

ernment

*"Change it had to come  
We knew it all along...  
But the world looks just the same...  
Then I'll get down on my knees and pray  
We don't get fooled again  
No, no!"*

Change is always resisted until it can be resisted no longer. And when the time does come -- and make no mistake, the time is here -- great leaders seize the opportunity and make changes that add value and make a difference. Speaker Dillion has sparked discussion about change in the government health care benefits.

Whether you agree with what is being proposed with health care reform in Lansing, at least the debate has begun. As the Chinese proverb says, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step."

Can Mayor Bing, Police Chief Evans, Executive Ficano and Sheriff Napoleon start the discussion and take action to bring about necessary change at the local level? Or will it be, "Meet the new boss -- same as the old boss?"

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served the citizens of Michigan as state superintendent of schools, 2001-2005, state mental health deputy and director, 1993-1999 and as an elected member of the Wayne County Charter Commission, 1980-1992. He can be reached at: twatkins@aol.com.



'Miss January' was filmed in Michigan including this scene in Livonia.

**Workers reminded of the 'small stuff' for job success**

Some people will say, "Don't sweat the small stuff," but oftentimes in the workplace the small stuff can make a big difference. The small stuff includes workplace manners and professional etiquette. Old stuff? Yes, Yet, especially in this economy, when there are more workers than jobs and more people after fewer buyers, the small stuff can set someone apart from the others.

Parents and teachers remind children to mind their manners and well-mannered children are rewarded and pleasant to be around. However, the notion of mind-manners should not be just for children. Adults should be mindful of displaying good manners in the workplace. Simple acts such as saying please and thank you are not just common courtesy and reflect one's upbringing and respect of others; they can trigger positive feedback.

Make it a point to be polite and gracious in all work situations, for example, in interactions with your coworkers. People welcome and usually respond more favorably to politeness and graciousness.

Try this: the next time you send an email request, begin your request with the word "please" and end it with a "thank you." Even though it might be part of your coworker's job, including "please" and "thank you" shows that you have respect for this individual, and you will be more likely to engage, the person in your request.

One helpful coworker, after receiving a simple thank you note via e-mail, replied saying, "Thank you! I don't hear many 'thank you's' and your note made my day."

People who treat others kindly and respectfully are more pleasant to be around and are valued by employers

and coworkers. Being courteous to one another and showing respect for each other can lead to civil and happier workplaces.

Other common acts of civility, such as respecting others' time, addressing each other courteously, achieving eye contact when talking, and actually listening when others speak, show dignity and professionalism. Sadly, though, not all working professionals pride themselves in that way. However, that small stuff gets noticed.

Some other ways to stand out are when in the company of others, focus solely on them and the discussion at hand. Be personable, although avoid sharing too much personal information in workplace conversations. Refrain from using your phone or texting someone else when with others.

When differences arise, address the conflict and work with the person or people involved professionally and courteously. Sometimes you will need to take a deep breath and be empathetic to others. If you make a mistake, correct it quickly and apologize.

Despite trying times and others' rudeness, maintain a positive attitude. Positive attitudes, good manners, professional etiquette, and even sincere smiles are catchy and really can make a big difference in the workplace.

Don't sweat it, but it's the small stuff that will set you apart.

**TAKIN' CARE OF BUSINESS**

Linda Hagan, Ph.D., is a professor of business and leadership communication at Walsh College. She teaches courses in the B.B.A., M.S. in Strategic Leadership and Doctoral programs and consults on management/organizational communication issues. Dr. Hagan is an accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America and a member of the board of directors of the PRSA Detroit Chapter. She can be reached at lhagan@walsh-college.edu.

**Educational opportunities for unemployed**

**HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS IN OAKLAND COUNTY**

- Mechanical engineers
- Accountants and auditors
- Mental health counselors
- Computer systems analysts
- Carpenters
- Preschool teachers, except special education
- Dental hygienists
- Registered nurses
- Automotive service technicians and mechanics
- Environmental science and protection technicians, including health
- Financial managers
- Executive secretaries and administrative assistants
- Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers
- Police and sheriff's patrol officers
- Retail salespersons
- Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer

**HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS IN WAYNE AND MONROE COUNTIES:**

- Commercial and industrial designers
- Public relations specialists
- Accountants and auditors
- Cost estimators
- Loan officers
- Management analysts
- Personal financial advisors
- Computer software engineers, applications
- Computer support specialists
- Computer systems analysts
- Network systems and data communications analysts
- Carpenters
- Electricians
- First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction

workers • Plumbers, pipelayers, and steamfitters  
• Structural iron and steel workers  
• Preschool teachers, except special education  
• Self-enrichment education teachers  
• Cooks, restaurant  
• Dental hygienists  
• Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses  
• Medical records and health information technicians  
• Physical therapists  
• Physician assistants  
• Registered nurses  
• Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants  
• Automotive service technicians and mechanics  
• Bus and truck mechanics and diesel engine specialists  
• First-line supervisors/managers of mechanics, installers, and repairers  
• Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers  
• Computer and information systems managers  
• Financial managers  
• General and operations managers  
• Medical and health services managers  
• Sales managers  
• Fitness trainers and aerobics instructors  
• Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic  
• First-line supervisors/managers of production and operating workers  
• Machinists  
• Fire fighters  
• Police and sheriff's patrol officers  
• First-line supervisors/managers of nonretail sales workers  
• Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer

**YOUR NEXT JOB**

Both the Federal Government and the State of Michigan are offering tuition assistance to individuals currently receiving unemployment compensation to obtain job or career related education or training. If you are not already enrolled in school or training, you may be eligible.

The Federal program is offering Pell Grant scholarships up to \$5550 for educational or training programs at universities, colleges, community colleges and some trade and technical schools. To apply, you need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). By completing this application, you may find that you are eligible for additional aid as well. You can also find information about student financial aid at [www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid](http://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid).

The State of Michigan began the No Worker Left Behind (NWLBB) program in August of 2007. This program is administered through the Michigan Works! Office Specific training programs for selected high demand jobs and careers have been identified and approved for each county and funding is available for tuition and, once

enrolled, you can apply for a waiver to the requirement of seeking work while you are in school so you can continue unemployment benefits. More information is available at [www.michiganworks.org](http://www.michiganworks.org) and <http://www.michigan.gov/nwlbb/>.

Interested? Start by applying at your local Michigan Works! office and attending an orientation program. There are family income, educational, and other eligibility requirements. There is also a very tightly controlled 8 step process to get approval for your program, but if you meet the requirements, you can get up to \$10,000 for a two year program. Check it out!

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](http://www.jobsearchnavigator.com)) which was first published in 1999 by Prentice-Hall and revised and re-published by Success Press in 2005. From 1993 to 1996, she authored a monthly column "Your Job Search" in the Saratoga Springs, N.Y. newspaper - The Saratogian.

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# Celani wants to be a Greektown creditor

## Stake in casino is third strategy

Tom Celani is making his third major play for control of Greektown Casino, this time as a creditor instead of a bidder.

In the first two, the Novi businessman and former shareholder in MotorCity Casino was a bidder. Now Celani and his partner, Plainfield Asset Management LLC of Greenwich, Conn., have amassed a \$10-million stake in the casino's debt.

"You have a beautiful asset in

Greektown," Celani said in an interview Friday. "And it should end up with someone with the passion to redevelop Greektown, and that would be me."

Celani is asking U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Walter Shapiro to grant a 30-day delay in a hearing scheduled for Wednesday on the casino's disclosure statement.

Turnaround expert Ken Dalto of Farmington Hills said there is a good possibility the judge would grant the

request to determine which plan is better for creditors.

"Tom Celani is an established force. Not just anyone can do it," Dalto said. Celani, who created Luna Greektown LLC to put forth the alternative reorganization plan, said he wants to close Monroe Street to vehicular traffic and offer outside dining and develop new retail and residential space.

"The plans are in place, and the ownership should be someone in Detroit," he said.

Celani said his plan offers \$450 million to creditors plus lenders retain

70% ownership of the casino for a period of time. Then Luna Greektown and Plainfield would buy them out, he said. The plan filed by the casino on June 1 offers \$540 million.

Under the casino's reorganization plan, lenders would own the casino. That could be problematic, Celani said, as banks are unlikely to be approved for a state gaming license necessary to own the casino.

"At the end of the day, we do not believe they can be licensed," he said. Celani, who is not licensed in Colorado and Nevada.

Charles Moore, the casino's turnaround adviser and senior managing director of Conway, MacKearie & Dunne in Birmingham, said the lenders are working with the Michigan Gaming Control Board to determine how the new owners would be licensed.

He said there are exemptions for certain institutions under state law that might cover the lenders.

"As an adviser to Greektown, we want to see a plan that maximizes the value to shareholders," Moore said.

—By Greta Guest | Detroit Free Press

### NOVI COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Fuerst Park opening

Final touches are being made at Fuerst Park, the City of Novi's new eight-acre park, in anticipation of the grand opening celebration on Friday, Aug. 21 from 7-10 p.m. The free community event will offer live entertainment, refreshments, family activities, the movie Kung Fu Panda, and a meet and greet with Novi's own Miss Michigan 2009 Nicole Blaszyk. All activities begin at 7 p.m. with the official ceremony taking place at 8 p.m. and the movie beginning at 9 p.m.

"Fuerst Park will serve as the inviting gateway to Civic Center campus that includes the Novi Public Library, Civic Center, High School, Ella Mae Power Park and the Police Department, all of which are public spaces that complement each other," said Randy Anier, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director. "I look forward to seeing community members take advantage of the great amenities at the park."

Adjacent to the new Novi Public Library ( slated to open in summer 2010), the park features inviting landscaping with fieldstone walls and hundreds of perennial plants, walkways, a 150-seat amphitheater that incorporates Old Township Hall, and Wi-Fi accessibility. Both the City of Novi and the Novi Public Library look forward to expanding programs to the park, including puppet shows, musicians, theatrical perfor-

#### 'Kwame' reviewers AREN'T needed!

Last week's front page Nutshell brief incorrectly indicated that the Second City was seeking reviewers to attend tonight's opening of "Kwame A River 2: The Wrath of Conyers." The call for reviewers was for media only.

Likewise, the facility is no longer called Second City.

"In a mutual decision, the partnership with Second City, Inc. was not renewed at the Andiamo Novi Theatre. Under the specific agreement we had with Second City, Inc., the theater was to be used specifically for Second City productions. While we are sad to see the partnership end, in these economic times, we felt the theater could be and should be utilized for a wider variety of programming opportunities, such as stand-up comedy, live bands and corporate functions," said Andiamo Novi Theatre partner Dan Linnen.

# First car pool lot opens in Novi

## MDOT constructed lot located at I-96, Beck Road

Drivers in the Novi and Westland areas looking for a convenient place to park while car pooling finally have a location.

The park-and-ride lot, which is located off I-96 and Beck Road, was constructed by the Michigan Department of Transportation with some help by the cities of Novi and

Wisom.

"Park-and-ride lots are becoming increasingly popular as people become more conscientious about sharing cars and saving gas when they can," said Novi City Manager Clay Pearson.

This is the first lot of its type in Novi, as it extends into both communities. Pearson said Novi did not pay for any of the construction, but it is paying for a portion

of the lighting bill because "we want it to be as safe as possible."

The lot, which opened on July 16, can accommodate 165 cars and is open every day of the week.

"It's a nice option for people, especially around the holiday shopping season when it will get used even more," Pearson said.

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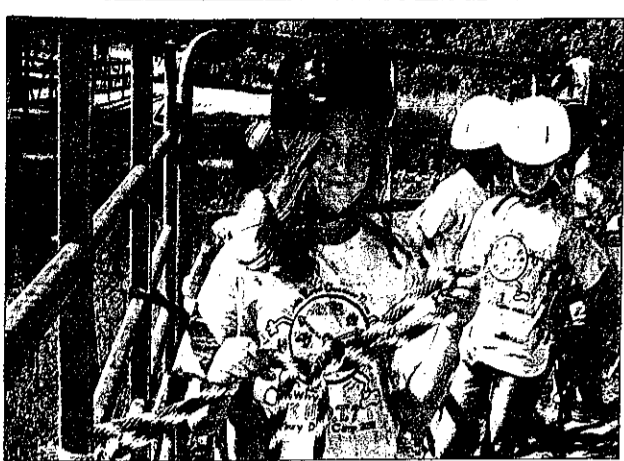
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SUBMITTED BY TRACY BIRN

Why KNOT?

Northville Junior Girl Scout Helena Bryans displays her successful slip knot July 17 at the annual Girl Scout day camp at Maybury State Park, Helena, an incoming fifth grader at Ridge Wood Elementary School, was a member of one of the camp's two horseshoe riding units. This year's week-long camp, titled "Why KNOT (Knots Need Outdoor Time)?" featured crafts, outdoor skills, flag ceremonies, hikes, Leave No Trace, outdoor cooking, horseback riding and an overnight for older Scouts.

How to bring your old memories back to life

Dear Savvy Senior, What tips can you recommend for putting old photographs on a DVD? My wife and I have acquired hundreds of family photos over the years, and would like to put them in a format that makes them easier to share with our kids, grandkids and other family members. We also have several dozen rolls of old home movies from the 1960's on 8mm film, and stacks of old vinyl albums we'd like to convert too. What can you tell us?

SAVVY SENIOR

upgrade, try ScanCafe.com (866-745-0392) which offers a higher 600 dpi (dots per inch) resolution scan and will make color corrections for 27 cents per picture. These services can also convert old slides and film negatives too. Or, you can also do-it-yourself if you have a home computer and a scanner.

can use a video-conversion service like Digmypics.com which will transfer a two-hour VHS to DVD for \$15. Or, you can do it yourself if you have a DVD recorder and a VCR. If you don't have a recorder, consider Sony's compact DVDirect VRD-MC3 for around \$200. This nifty device lets you plug in your VCR, pop in a DVD, and record. It also lets you transfer high-definition home videos directly from a camcorder to a DVD, as well as record digital photos to a DVD as a slideshow or just for photo storage.

HOME MOVIES

The best way to convert your old home movies from film to DVD is to outsource it. Companies like MyMovieTransfer.com (800-865-7173) and Movie2File.tv (800-966-4664) digitize 8mm, 16mm, and super 8 film for around \$20 for a 50-foot reel of 8mm film, which is about 4 and a half minutes of running time. Or, if you have bunches of old film try HomeMovieDepot.com (866-386-8843), which converts a box full for \$199.

OLD RECORDS

A great way to convert your old vinyl albums is with the Ion ITTUSB (www.ionaudio.com; \$120), a specialized turntable that plugs directly into your PC or Mac via a USB port. To convert cassette tapes you'll need the Ion TAPE 2 PC (\$150). These devices let you easily transfer music from records or cassettes to your computer. Once it's on your computer, you can listen to your music, record it to CD, or transfer it to an iPod or MP3 player and take it with you.

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 "Today" show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

Modernizing Mel Dear Mel, Converting old photographs, home movies and even vinyl records into DVD or CD format is known as digitizing, and it's a smart move that will help protect and preserve your family memories as well as make them a lot easier to share. Here are some good resources and tips to help you get started.

PHOTOS

If you have hundreds of snap shots your easiest option is to send them to a bulk scanning service. Scanmyphotos.com (949-474-7654) is one of the quickest and least expensive costing \$60 (including shipping) for 1,000 photos, or 5 cents each. You'll get JPEG files on a DVD in a few days, along with your original pictures.

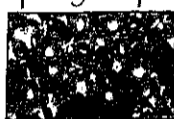
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Large advertisement for Belle Tire Concert Series listing various musical acts and performance dates.

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST OF NORTHVILLE A Stephen Ministry church LOCATION: 777 W. Eighth Mile Road CONTACT: (248) 349-1144 or funorthville.org ... Details: Pastors: Rev. Dr. Steve Buck and Rev. Steve O'Angelo

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Advertisement for Invisible Fence, 'Coming to a yard near you!', featuring a \$150 off or \$250 of upgrades/add ons.



JOHN HEDERSTAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Artistic effort

Amanda Polydoras, 7, works on a drawing of a rainbow outside of Northville Square on July 28 during the "Buy Michigan" event in downtown Northville. There were plenty of activities for young and old alike and kids got the chance to draw with chalk on the sidewalk or create a masterpiece on paper that they could take home with them.

NOVI UNITED METHODIST LOCATION: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road CONTACT: (248) 349-2652 or visit unmcovi.com ... Details: The annual Community Bazaar Bazaar to benefit Village Banking at First United Methodist Church Northville. This is a great opportunity to showcase talent or business to hundreds of local customers.

Advertisement for Stride Rite shoes, featuring 20% off entire stock of children's shoes.

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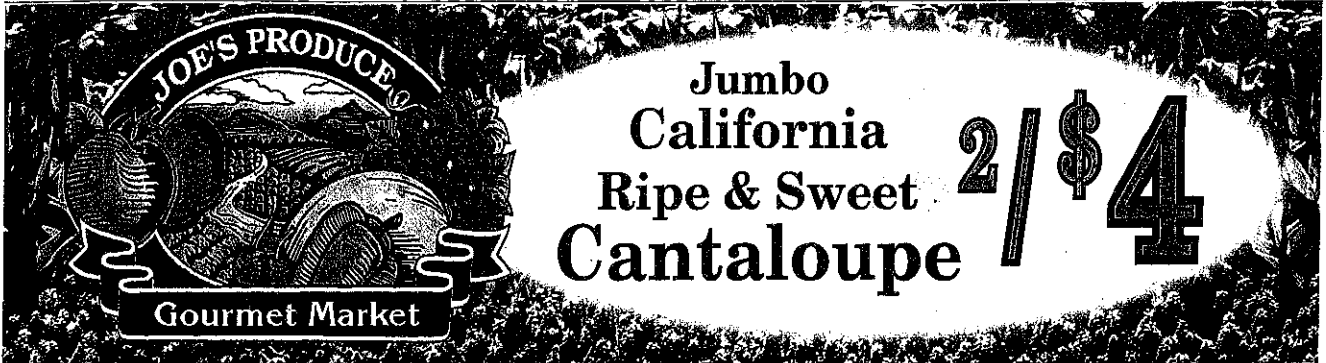
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# LOCAL SPORTS

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Josh Gatt, a soccer standout for Novi-Detroit Catholic Central and the Michigan Wolves, now is making an impact in the Discover Europe International Showcase.

## Catholic Central's Gatt in 'Discovery' mode in Europe

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There's no denying that Josh Gatt is in the midst of a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Gatt, a Plymouth resident, is an elite soccer player at home with Novi-Detroit Catholic Central and the developmental Michigan Wolves.

But he currently is competing until mid-August at the U.S. Football Club SuperElite Discover Europe International Showcase in places like Austria, Germany and Belgium.

"It is a huge honor to make it into such a great tournament," said Gatt, a talented outside midfielder for the Shamrocks and Wolves who one day would love to do a World Cup. "It is something that I have always dreamed of and for it to be a reality is simply amazing."

"To play with this much talent from all over the U.S. and to then take that team (Discover Europe) and compete against the top youth talent in Europe is something that I did not believe was possible. Now that it is here, I can only say that I am as fired up as I have ever been about soccer and playing at the next level."

Gatt said he earned a spot with Discover Europe by way of his performances at the Michigan Wolves/Derby County Wolves Academy Showcases and Adidas ESP (Elite Soccer Player) Camp.

"They have seen me play in all those showcases and apparently liked the way I played," noted Gatt. "It was a process that has taken over a year."

The Michigan Wolves were considered the top U18 team during the U.S. Development Academy regular season.

### LOOKING TO FUTURE

Meanwhile, there was plenty to like, namely Gatt's ability to attack from the outside or leave defenders in the dust with his combination of speed and power.

Of course, the current tour (which began on July 24 and is designed to spotlight U.S. talent to European pro scouts) is whetting Gatt's appetite about how far he can go in soccer.

First comes his senior season at Catholic Central.

"The impact this would have on my team is being able to take all my knowledge and experience I learned in Europe," Gatt said, "and see if I could relate what I learned to my fellow teammates and make us a stronger team and a contender for a state title."

He already has verbally committed to playing collegiate soccer at Indiana beginning in fall 2010 but is also at least thinking about turning pro someday.

"I am trying to put this all in perspective and be realistic about it and take whatever comes from this as a positive stepping stone for my soccer career," added Gatt, who certainly wouldn't mind returning to Europe to compete in the World Cup.

But first, there's some unfinished 'discovering' for Gatt to do.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



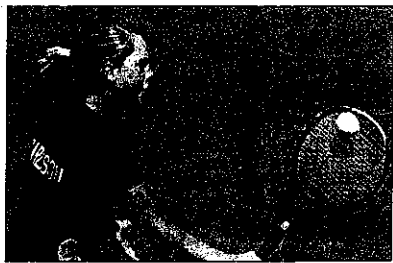
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi's Matthew Mandeville moves upfield with the ball during a home game against South Lyon.



Wildcat Lauren Forche leaps into the long jump pit.

Wildcat Sara Carlson in action at South Lyon East.



## Ideas spring forward for KLAA

BY JEFF THEISEN  
SPORTS WRITER

The spring season wrapped up the first full athletic year for the KLAA.

Much like the other seasons, the new league showed its strength throughout the season, including several deep playoff runs.

Spring was also much like the other seasons in things went well for the most part, but a tweak here and there will make things even better the next time around.

One of the biggest complaints came from baseball, where the schedule forced teams into pitching struggles.

The teams played single games Monday and Wednesday with a doubleheader on Friday. Only the first game on Friday counted toward KLAA standings, essentially making the second game an exhibition of sorts.

The major problem came when a team scheduled a

tournament or doubleheader on Saturday, resulting in four or more games in a 24-hour period.

Teams struggled to have enough pitchers to stay competitive.

Northville head coach John Kostzewa hopes next year's schedule works more with a Tuesday and Thursday schedule, with one of the two games being a doubleheader and losing the exhibition game.

"It really taxes your pitching staff. You have to have a major-league type pitching staff," he said about last year's format. "This year, there are going to be some changes."

Despite the schedule, the Mustangs only lost three times and were ranked in the top 10 most of the year. Kostzewa was pleased with the competitiveness of the KLAA and was more than pleased with the cut down on travel.

Please see **SPRING, B2**

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# The ins and outs of coaching continued

BY JEFF THEISEN  
SPORTS WRITER

A couple more replies have come in just after deadline concerning the questionnaire that ran last week about coaching.

## TODD KRYGIER

Now hockey. What characteristics does a coach need? Care for the guys, structured program, ability to teach and ability to motivate.

Rewards of being a coach: Relationships with the guys, seeing the guys execute what is practiced and taught and life lessons that have been taught during hockey paying off later in each of the guys lives in the accomplishment of their dreams and goals.

Negatives of being a coach: The biggest negatives are the very few helicopter parents on each team, and anonymous chat sites where people can anonymously make untrue and inaccurate comments with no accountability for those comments.

Advice for a new coach: Play



PHOTO BY JOHN HODGERS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A small crowd forms in front of Novi goalie Michael Pesendorfer.

the sport you want to coach, be a student of the game—read, watch video and the NHL.

Always put yourself in the players shoes, and realize you are there to serve the players they are not there to serve the coaches. It is about helping others accomplish their dreams and goals in and through the sport.

A memorable story: On our team we have an end of year award called "Finding a way to get it done." My first year coaching, it was about 10 minutes before practice was to begin and as I took attendance in preparation for that days practice, I realized one of the guys was missing.

On our team we have guidelines and consequences when the guidelines aren't followed, so when I realized this player was missing and was going to be late, if he showed up, I would have to change my practice plan to skate the whole team for the first 10 minutes because the guy was late. As I went back to my seat, within the locker room but outside of the inner room where the guys get dressed, to begin trying my skates, the locker room door goes flying open and in comes the player with his roller blades. He is breathing heavy and sweating and roller blades right by my to his locker to hurry and get dressed so he is not late and the team doesn't have to skate. He told me his car broke down and he had to roller blade to the rink. I haven't mentioned this was in the middle of January. That kid "found a way to get it done."

## BRIAN SALYERS

Milford CC and track (17 years)

What characteristics does a coach need: Commitment, Communication and Passion.

Coaching takes time, and if you are to be successful you must be able to commit the time necessary to develop the program and the student-athletes. Simply put, you can not ask more of the student-athlete in the form of commitment than you are willing to offer yourself.

Rewards of being a coach: Two things: One is the achievement of success. Two is the development of the young people and knowing you have had a part in that. And remember success can come in many forms and levels of achievement.

Negatives of being a coach: The negatives in coaching are those things that take away from your time of directly working with the kids, whether that be fundraising, athletic department paperwork, phone calls with parents, or other associated activities. If the positives don't outweigh the negatives, then it is time to get out of coaching.

Advice for a new coach: Be positive with the kids and parents and establish your own expectations. Don't allow others

to dictate your success. A memorable story: With our question the highlight of my coaching career occurred in the fall of 2003. Our boys cross country team won the State title. But it was not the winning that was the highlight, it was asking our Athletic Director Gene Balawajder to join us on stage to accept the trophy. Gene was my cross country coach. He gave 25 years of his life to Milford Cross program and the athletes (and later 10 years as athletic director). During his reign the program experienced great success, including the 1984 state runner-up girls team. During Gene's tenure there was one thing that eluded him and Milford High School and that was a State Championship. To share that moment with him reminded me how much our athletes care about their coaches. I don't think I have ever been more proud, and I couldn't not have been more honored to share the moment with Gene.

What characteristics does a coach need: Commitment, Communication and Passion.

Advice for a new coach: Be positive with the kids and parents and establish your own expectations. Don't allow others

jeffisen@hometownlife.com | (248) 437-2001, ext. 228

# Lakers capture Metro title; Suburban Ice to take over reins

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

From beginning to end, the 2009 Metro Summer Hockey League at Suburban Ice Farmington Hills featured very competitive action from all seven teams. But the Lakers finished what they started, as the regular season winners also spanked the Wolverines, 9-3, in the playoff championship tilt July 26.

"They (the Lakers) were the first place team most of the year," said league president Keith Pietila, who is stepping down after 16 seasons at the helm. "And it's probably been a few years since the best regular season team won the playoffs, too."

Pietila, a Brighton resident, said he is relinquishing league control to Suburban Ice (located near Haleside-10 Mile) and is confident the quality of the circuit will be maintained in 2010 and beyond.

"Suburban's going to run it," Pietila emphasized. "It's taking up too much time for me. But the league's going to be exactly the same as it's been through the years."

High-quality players from all over Wayne and Oakland counties lace them up for the summer league, including Wolverine Lake's A.J. Jenks, who plays for the Plymouth Whalers.

In the championship game, the Lakers broke out to a 4-0 lead after one period and built up a 6-0 cushion, more than enough to withstand a second-period surge by the Wolverines.

For the victors, Livonia's John Mays had the hot hand. He scored three goals and set up another. Tallying two goals each were Novi's Ryan Timar (who also collected a helper) and Brighton's Thor Skalski. Other Lakers to score included James Dragescu (Dearborn Heights) and Brandon Contratto (West Bloomfield), who each drew assists as well.

Tallying a goal and an assist for the Wolverines was Farmington Hills' Adam Phillips.

In net for the championship victory was Josh Block, of Northville.

jeffisen@hometownlife.com



The Metro Summer Hockey League champion Lakers celebrate July 26 at Suburban Ice Farmington Hills. In the front row, from left are: James Dragescu, John May (Livonia), Josh Block (Northville) and Alfonso Kulis (Howell). In the back row, from left are: Brandon Fritz (West Bloomfield), Drew Sinnott (Livonia), Houston Kulis (Ann Arbor), Paul Arcott (Holly), Thor Skalski (Brighton), Brandon Contratto (West Bloomfield), Andrew Kruczyanski (Westland) and Ryan Timar (Novi).

## SPRING

FROM PAGE B1

"In our own division it was very competitive with Salem and our rival Novi," he said. "Limiting the travel was very helpful. That was definitely a plus."

Other sports had their ups and downs, but a couple of suggestions have arisen in hopes of improving the K.L.A.A. Milford track coach Brian Salyers would like to see more competition between the Kensington and Lakes conferences.

"In our first year, it was tough to call us a 24-team conference when you never faced 12 of the schools in any kind of competition," he said. "In essence, we are two 12-team conferences operating under one umbrella of rules and regulations."

He also said the division conference for the North Division struggled because of only five teams, no awards

and only a minimal influence on the overall standings. The addition of Grand Blanc to the North will increase the competitiveness and help greatly with scheduling. The downside will be the increase of travel to and from Grand Blanc for everyone else.

South Lyon tennis coach Don Valentine also hopes some changes can be made. The Lions are in the Central with powerhouses Northville and Novi, and a home-and-away schedule format is something he would like to see cancelled.

"It would help to re-align the divisions to create parity," he said. "We were pitted against yearly strong teams and had to submit to being defeated before we stepped onto the court in eight out of 10 scheduled division matches."

The addition of South Lyon East proved a totally different set of circumstances for the Cougar coaches. Despite being a new school, East also had just freshman to

seniors. The lack of seniors left the coaches hamstrung with experience, but also with just numbers of bodies for some teams.

Cougar track coach Mark Kwiatkowski knew what he was going to be up against. "I used to coach in the W.L.A.A., so I had pretty good idea of what to expect coming down here," he said. "Fortunately, my guys were able to compete in certain areas each meet, but as expected, we just didn't have the numbers and physical maturity to go head to head with those teams yet."

"For the girls... we managed to beat Salem in the division meet at the end of the season. Again, our lack of physical maturity hurt us (we had only three juniors finish the season). The nice part with both teams is that we have the chance to get everyone back."

With East being the smallest school in the league, all teams face certain number issues. "We'll never have 200+ athletes on our team like they do

at Novi," said Kwiatkowski. "We're going to have to build by training smartly, rather than just overwhelming other teams with numbers."

He did say the upside to fewer athletes is the ability to give extra attention to the team members. Kwiatkowski also reiterated the same thoughts as Salyers about the divisional meet.

"After competing in the conference and regional meets, it was almost anti-climatic to compete in the division meet," he said. "It would have been nice to have the division meet first so we could have gone from dual meets to the six-team division meet to the 12-team conference meet."

East softball coach Katie Duncan knew her team was going to suffer its lumps, but she got her best surprise late in the season.

"I would like to see single games be moved to 5 p.m. so parents don't have to rush from work to come see their daughters play, and we are able to get warmed up on away games," she said. "Also, we would all like to see the doubleheaders on Fridays stay so the girls aren't up late during the week trying to get their homework done."

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The Novi Wildcats and South Lyon East each fielded extremely young starting lineups during the first year of the K.L.A.A.

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All entries will be judged based on fun and creativity. Email pictures to: cbjordan@hometownlife.com with the subject line "Family Fun" or mail to Choya Jordan, Observer & Eccentric Newspaper, 615 W. Lafayette Blvd, 2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

Contest runs July 26 - Aug 23, 2009. Winners will be notified. Pictures may be selected for publication. Pictures will not be returned. Pictures size must not exceed 10 MB.

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Colt Division champs

The Novi Blue 16U Baseball Team captured the Colt Division Championship this past Saturday. With playoff wins against Birmingham and Waterford, Novi finished with a 14-4 record and brought the title back to Novi. The division is run out of Lakes Athletic Association, and consists of 20 teams from the surrounding area. Front row (from left): Kiefer Paffey, Nick Aprilliano, Tom Heffernan, Matt Stefan and Zach Messerant. Back row (from left): Coach Dave Mully, Matt Brosil, Riki Noogami, Brandon Gillespie, Austin Wertheimer, Chris Wally, Luke Linper, Justin Rush, Derek Mully and coach Tim Bush.

### MHSAA.com gets makeover

The beginning of a new school year will bring a new look, new features and improved functionality to the Michigan High School Athletic Association's website - mhsaa.com - which will be relaunched Aug. 3.

Over two years in development, using input from schools, officials, media and the Have Your Say Survey conducted in the fall of 2007, the redesigned site will offer a variety of new ways for all parties to obtain information and services from the Association, with the new features most requested - schedules and scores - at the forefront.

Beginning with the launch of the revamped site, MHSAA member schools can input their varsity competition schedules and team scores in all sports. Future plans include giving schools a platform for inputting schedules and scores at the club level as well, and for providing additional statistical details from an event.

For the past few years, the MHSAA Website has become a go-to place on Friday nights during the football season for games with more than 80 percent of games being reported by 11 o'clock. The popularity of the schedules and scores page in football led to the well for expansion into other sports.

"Our website statistics show that of over 50 million page views in a school year, approximately 11 million of those views are for football schedules and scores. When we talk to schools, officials, the media, fans and student-athletes, they all tell us the MHSAA Website should be the location that centralizes that information in all sports," said John E. Jack, Roberts, executive director of the Association. "With the relaunch of our website, the cooperation of schools, and the phenomenon of crowdsourcing, we think what has taken place in football will improve and be replicated in all sports."

Schools have been responsible for the input of information in the past for football, and will be the primary force in other sports, but the crowdsourcing element will provide a big boost in pushing the results-gathering process.

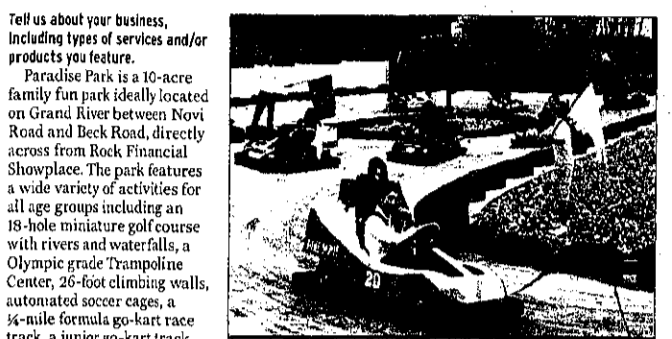
"We expect that schools will take the leadership in making the MHSAA Website the first place that people go for schedules and scores, either through an administrative provider providing the information, or by delegating that task to a coach or responsible individual associated with the team that will feed the information current," said Roberts. "Then through growth, sourcing, followers of a team or sport will be able to help fill the gaps to everyone's benefit."

Individuals will be able to become a registered user at MHSAA.com, enabling them to be able to provide scores. "It would not be unusual for several registered users sitting in the stands at their local games to use their hand-

# Strictly Business

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A | BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS |

## Paradise Park a family fun place



The go-karts are one of the most popular attractions - for any age group - at Novi's Paradise Park.

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

Paradise Park is a 10-acre family fun park ideally located on Grand River between Novi Road and Beck Road, directly across from Rock Financial Showplace. The park features a wide variety of activities for all age groups including an 18-hole miniature golf course with rivers and waterfalls, a Olympic grade "Trampoline Center," 26-foot climbing walls, automated soccer cages, a 3/4-mile formula go-kart track for 4- to 7-year-olds, fully interactive LASER Tag, a premier black light arcade, party/event rooms and a cafe featuring homemade Perky's pizza and hot-baked subs. The park has substantial seating capacity in the cafe, the covered veranda, the patio, and two acres of picnic area.

The park is considered the "Party Capital" for this area and was previously awarded the Entertainment Facility of the Year. The park specializes in great service and great food. From huge corporate events, elegant to casual banquets, thousands of birthday parties, graduation events, end-of-school-year senior all-night events to those oh-so-fun adult parties -- Paradise Park shines with that personal touch and extraordinary service. In 2008 alone, Paradise Park made 1,300 cakes!

Paradise Park is one of the few venues in the United States that is 100-percent handicap-accessible without a single step in the entire facility. Even the LASER Tag is fully wheelchair accessible. How did you first decide to open your business?

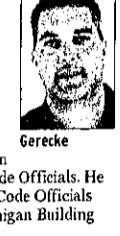
The Waxmights Family was the smallest, the smallest family business. However, with the enthusiasm and encouragement of local leaders and businesses, the project escalated to a much broader scale.

Why did you choose Novi? Novi was on the verge

**DETAILS**  
Business Name: Paradise Park  
Address: 45799 Grand River Avenue, Novi  
Your Name/Title: Jeffrey Waxmights CEO / owner operator; Theresa Waxmights, V.P. Operations / owner  
Your Hometown: Plymouth  
Business Opened When: 2006  
First full year of operation.  
Number of Employees: 125 (many seasonal)  
Hours of Operation: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. daily  
Your Business Specialty: family fun and celebration events  
Phone: (248) 735-1050  
Web site: www.paradisepark-novi.com



Boulard



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of a major transition into the hot spot of decade. The love of Dearborn and West Bloomfield was fading and all studies confirmed that the best overall demographics pointed to either Royal Oak or Novi. The leadership in both Oakland County and Novi demonstrated a strong resolve towards making the Grand River corridor the place to be. The planned road improvements on Grand River between Novi Road and Waxom Road, the new 1/2-mile concrete ramps at Beck, Waxom and Novi roads, as well as the city's aggressive five-year plan for the corridor, left little doubt that extraordinary plans had been laid. Once the funding for these improvements was in place, it was time to move forward with our project.

The Novi Express team and the Providence Hospital team were also watching the same profiles prior to initiating their projects.

What makes your business unique? Paradise Park believes that we must have a relentless pursuit for excellence. From the smallest to the largest family business, however, with the enthusiasm and encouragement of local leaders and businesses, the project escalated to a much broader scale.

How has it changed since you opened? In the past three years, the park has evolved with better processes, better customer service, and a much better understanding on how to manage and nurture youth employees. How has the recent economy affected your business? The softness in the local economy has shown itself with a measurable reduction in large corporate events. Conversely, spending per person in family outings has increased, as well as the frequency of visitation. Most families are hesitant to take expensive vacations, but still seek a quality, value-added family entertainment location. The local families really appreciate that our pricing has remained "unchanged" even through labor rates and state taxes have sharply increased.

Any advice for business owners? We would caution anyone considering a major investment to carefully analyze the impact the new Michigan business tax will have on their financials. This tax will prove to be devastating for a huge number of Michigan businesses and needs to be quickly rescinded. The Michigan economy needs the state government to be a partner in recovery, not the anchor that sinks the ship. It is great to see the state's incentives for attracting new businesses, but this cannot be done at the expense of existing businesses. Wisdom and clear thinking must prevail. Perhaps the state government might take a lesson from the city of Novi -- well managed, financially sound decisions, extraordinary leadership, and excellent planning. What's the store for the future of your business? Paradise Park has four acres of undeveloped land. There is tremendous interest to see us expand and add more venues. We will soon meet with Novi leadership to exchange ideas, explore options, and then develop a well balanced plan. Obviously, this is less than ideal climate to attract financing, but the Park has an excellent reputation with broad customer appeal.

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### Fanning Howey honored

Fanning Howey, an educational facility design firm, with an office in Novi, has earned two of the highest honors in the American School & University 2009 Educational Interiors Showcase. The firm was awarded the coveted Crow Island School Citation, the program's top honor, for its modernization of Phelps High School in Washington, D.C. Fanning Howey's design of the new Warren G. Harding Elementary School in Hammond, IN, earned a Gold Citation in the Libraries/Media Centers category.

Fanning Howey is the only architectural/engineering firm in the nation to earn three Crow Island School Citations, previously claiming the prize in 1995 and 2001.

The only public high school in the nation to offer both college-preparatory and vocational education exclusively dedicated to the design professions and construction trades, Phelps was transformed by the design-build team of Turner Construction Company and Fanning Howey, with Washington, D.C.-based Bryant Mitchell Architects as associated architect. The team completed the design and construction of the ambitious campus renovation and expansion within a 16-month timeframe to enable the school to reopen in time for the 2008-2009 school year. The \$99 million project was completed approximately \$20 million under budget.

### Bright House expands service

Bright House Networks, the home of free high-definition, announced that effective Aug. 4, subscribers will have access to an additional 10 HD channels.

Customers will have access to the following channels all in high definition:

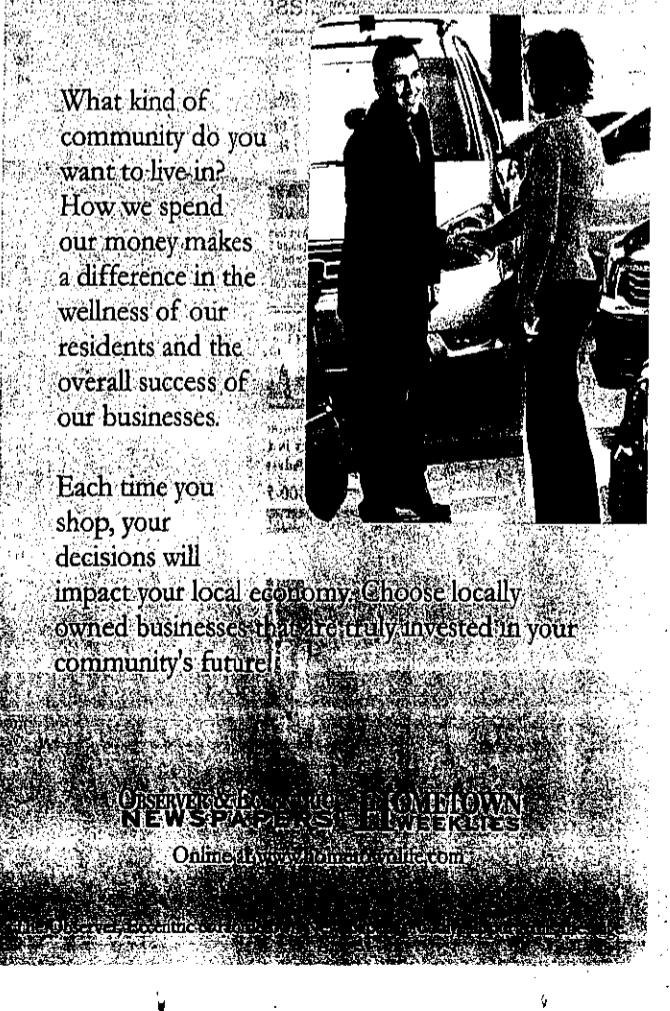
- WGN America HD (Channel 218)
- Fox Business Network HD (Channel 222) and Fox News Channel HD (Channel 224)
- MSNBC HD (Channel 225) and CNBC HD (Channel 226)
- Turner Classic Movies HD (Channel 237) and AMC HD (Channel 238)
- Planet Green HD (Channel 275)
- ESPNews HD (Channel 276)
- Independent Film Channel HD (Channel 284)

### Redford Lock relocates

Redford Lock Company, Inc. of Novi moved July 1 to 46085 Grand River Avenue in Novi. Phone (248) 374-0600 for more information.

### Art Van hosting free design classes

Art Van Furniture will once again host its free design classes. This educational program will be presented by Art Van's Visual Merchandising team and the curriculum will cover four main topics: Determining Your Style, The Impact of Color, Furniture Placement, and Accessorizing. The free Tuesday classes in Novi will start in September (15, 22 and 29) and end Oct. 6. The classes will begin at 6:30 p.m. and refreshments and giveaways will be provided. Reservations are requested for the Art Van design classes. To register for this series or for a particular class, call (888) 619-2199.



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*"The possibilities are endless for those who dance," says Melva Zavisa owner and director of the American Dance Academy. "Besides being fun, dance builds so much more... fitness, self esteem, discipline, confidence, creativity, and accomplishment!"*

Each child has a different reason for taking dance lessons. Some want to twirl like a ballerina, some want to have fun with their friend, some want to perform and go to competitions, and others want to be on stage in the spotlight. Whatever the reason - dance is a great activity for everyone both young and old.

Dance is a wonderful, energetic art for children of all ages to build fitness while having fun. Recommended by leading doctors as a great way to stay in shape, dancing is a physical activity that gets the heart pumping without too much stress on young, growing bodies. Your child can exercise while improving coordination, flexibility, and stamina.

Studies have shown that children who take dance lessons have improved self esteem, discipline and confidence in their academic school. Children also develop important social skills and team work in dance classes. Learning new skills and accomplishing even simple dance steps boosts your child's confidence. Dance encourages children's creativity through expression and a life long appreciation of the arts.

*Whatever the reason - dance will enrich your child's life for many years to come.*

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