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December 31  
2009

Happy New Year

# NOVI NEWS

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## NOVI NUTSHELL

### Recycle trees

Thinking about what to do with that evergreen in your living room now that Christmas has passed? Oakland County Parks has an idea: recycle it at one of its 11 park locations.

The recycling program runs through Jan. 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Two locations, Independence Oaks and Orion Oaks, will accept trees through Jan. 24.

"Recycling holiday trees is a great way to preserve and reuse natural resources," stated Dan Stencil, executive officer. "Oakland County Parks processes the trees to make compost and wood chips, making this a gift that truly keeps on giving."

Free wood chips are available to the public at Orion Oaks on select dates this spring.

Self-serve recycling sites include Addison Oaks near Oxford; Catalpa Oaks in Southfield; Glen Oaks Golf Course in Farmington Hills; Groveland Oaks near Holly; Independence Oaks near Clarkston; Lyon Oaks in Lyon Township; Orion Oaks in Orion Township; Red Oaks Golf Course in Madison Heights; Springfield Oaks in Davisburg; Waterford Oaks Activity Center in Waterford; and White Lake Oaks Golf Course near Pontiac.

There is no charge to drop off trees. Plastic, tinsel and wire must be removed. Large quantities from commercial lots will not be accepted.

Bordine's Nursery Limited co-sponsors the recycling program. Call (248) 858-0906, or visit [www.destinationoakland.com](http://www.destinationoakland.com) for more information.

### Chamber board installation

The Novi Chamber of Commerce will be holding its directors installation luncheon at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 6 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Cost is \$20. To register, phone (248) 349-3743 or visit [www.novichamber.com](http://www.novichamber.com).

### Contact Dr. Ziff

A Regional Marketplace feature in the Dec. 17 edition listed an incorrect phone number for Dr. Adam Ziff's Farmington Hills office. Dr. Ziff, offers general OB/GYN services and also specialized urogynecology services. Reach Dr. Ziff, a Beaumont Hospitals medical staff member and OB/GYN, in his Farmington Hills location at (248) 489-1070.



Miss Michigan 2009 Nicole Blaszczyk, a Novi High graduate, talked with Novi Director of Communications Sheryl Walsh and Mayor David Landry at the opening of Fuerst Park In Novi.

## 2009: Year in Review

A few highlights from January through June, 2009; look for our July-December recap in next week's edition.

### JANUARY

#### Fire station No. 2 gets a facelift

Novi Fire Chief Frank Smith said he felt like a mother who had given birth when the renovations of Fire Station No. 2 were complete.

The 28-year-old facility received a 900-square-foot expansion and reconfiguration of the existing 4,100 square feet thanks to the result of a study assessing the state of the four stations.

Cost of the project was estimated at \$800,000.



#### Gatt announces run for Senate seat

Novi Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Gatt is looking to take the next step in his political career in 2010.

In late January, Gatt, who serves as chief of operations for Oakland County Community Corrections, announced his candidacy for the Michigan

Senate representing the 15th District of Commerce, Highland, Holly, Lyon, Milford, Rose, West Bloomfield and White Lake townships, and the cities of Northville, Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wixom.

Sen. Nancy Cassis, a former Novi school board member, currently holds the position but will vacate the seat in Dec. 2010 because of term limits.

### FEBRUARY

#### Library construction begins

The new addition to Novi's Civic Center area began to take shape in February when construction on the new Novi Public Library



Novi Fire Chief Frank Smith stands in the newly-renovated Fire Station No. 2 on Thirteen Mile. The second-most busiest fire station in Novi underwent a \$800,000 renovation and includes a brand new locker room/staging area seen behind Chief Smith.

began. The 77,000-square-foot facility is two-stories high and will feature many up-to-date amenities. It is expected to be open in summer 2010.

#### Council puts together ballot proposal for Signature Park

"By a unanimous decision, the Novi City Council moved forward with a ballot proposal to hold a special election in May regarding Signature Park.

Signature Park was a proposed 73-acre project that would potentially include a 66,000-square-foot indoor recreation center and more. The city was asking residents to approve a 25-year millage at 10.87 mills to cover the initial investment estimated at \$15 million.

In May, the residents spoke and their decision also was overwhelming.

### MARCH

#### Stimulus funds boost Novi roads

Three Novi roads underwent rehab in 2009

Please see REVIEW, A3

## Police usher in new technology

Digital fingerprinting will save time, bring in revenue

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

It appears that ink-stained fingers could be a thing of the past at the Novi Police Department as it recently received a digital fingerprinting system to obtain prints.

The Live Scan fingerprinting system allows for immediate transmission of an applicant's fingerprints to the state and federal system, thus increasing the processing time and saving time for the department.

The system was obtained by the department through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, which funds projects that will provide economic benefits to communities. The grant the department received was worth \$23,604, and since the system cost less than that amount, the department did not have to provide additional funds.

"We felt like the Live Scan system would be a good fit," said Deputy Police Chief Tom Lindberg. "It will allow us to generate revenues and also be a benefit to the residents of Novi."

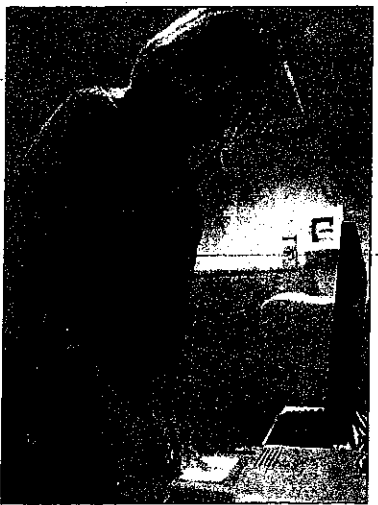
The applicants that typically have to be fingerprinted are health care workers, day care workers, school employees and criminal justice employees to name a few. Prior to installing the system, people had to go to other communities for the service.

Police Chief David Molloy indicated the department anticipates getting five applicants per week, and the cost per person is \$30. The estimated annual increase in revenue is projected at \$7,800.

On top of the convenience to residents, the department also will reap the benefits.

"Once our clerks get used to doing it, it is more efficient than old ink prints," Lindberg said. "We can do more in a shorter period of time."

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Novi Police Department records specialist Gerylann Garris demonstrates how the new Indentix fingerprint device digitally scans in prints. The device can then upload the prints to federal or state databases, as needed.

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## Grant allows for work on Novi Way

New turn lanes, lights to improve safety

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

With the help of a federal safety grant, the city of Novi will be able to complete additional work on a construction project slated for the area of Novi Way and Ten Mile Road.

The initial project was a scaled-down version that only included adding a right turn lane on Novi Way and other minor improvements. With the grant, the city now plans on adding a right turn lane for eastbound Ten Mile Road, street lighting at the intersection, sidewalk ramp improvements to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and traffic signal reconstruction which includes

pedestrian signal upgrades. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$200,000 with \$160,000 of the work being covered by the grant. The city had already budgeted \$55,000 for the project.

"We thought it was a good opportunity because of the proximity to the school, and there was some crash statistics that showed safety concerns at that intersection so it made it a good candidate for the project," said Brian Coburn, senior civil engineer for the city of Novi.

Coburn said some of the issues they currently have at the intersection are the back up of traffic on Novi Way because the left turn

Please see GRANT, A3

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12/31/2009

# Area offers plenty of outdoor fun during winter months

BY AILEEN WINGBLAD  
STAFF WRITER

Baby, it's cold outside! But that doesn't mean you have to huddle up indoors until the spring thaw. Take a tip from snowboarders and skiing enthusiasts who eagerly anticipate wintertime: Celebrate the white stuff. Don't slum the snow, embrace it — or at least use it to have some fun. And you don't have to travel far to do it.

**HITTING THE SLOPES**  
"I pretty much think about snowboarding all year. I can't wait for the snow to fall," said Rachel Anderson, 16, of White Lake with a grin. Rachel strapped on her first pair of downhill skis at age 4, but switched over to snowboarding when she was in seventh grade. She counts the slopes in Colorado and Northern Michigan among her favorites, but said Alpine Valley Resort in White Lake offers a great local alternative. During the winter months, she's there almost every day.



Nick Yonker was among those taking advantage of the groomed cross country ski trails at Maybury State Park in Northville.

"It just gives me that feeling in my gut — racing, free and fun," Rachel said. "They have pretty good jumps, and it's the place my friends always go." Alpine Valley, located off M-59 at Bogie Lake Road, offers 25 tree-lined slopes for

various skill levels, nine chair lifts, four rope tows, four terrain parks — with boxes, rails, half-pipes and more to challenge skiers and snowboarders — and a "magic carpet" conveyor belt to transport beginner skiers to the top of the bunny hill.

Lessons and equipment rentals are available at Alpine Valley, as well. For rates, snow base levels and other information, call (248) 887-4183 or visit [www.skialpine.com](http://www.skialpine.com).

## CROSS COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

Despite the popularity of Alpine Valley Resort, soaring down White Lake's version of a snow and ice mountain isn't for everybody.

For a tamer outdoor winter experience close to home, consider cross-country skiing. Local spots with varied terrain include Maybury State Park in Northville and

Proud Lake State Recreation Area in Commerce, as well as Kensington and Indian Springs Metroparks. "We get a lot of cross-country skiers, especially on the weekends," said Tom Bissett, Maybury's park supervisor. "We have a very loyal and dedicated following of cross-country skiers — people who come back here year after year, and lots of families."

## EASY DOES IT

Of course, if you're looking to keep it really simple, nothing

beats the time-honored winter diversion — sledding. Bundle up, grab the saucer, inflatable or wooden classic, and then head to one of the area's top sledding sites. The Meadowlark picnic area in Indian Springs Metropark is a family favorite in White Lake.

"It's pretty popular, especially for younger kids," said Jill Martin, Indian Springs interpreter. "For those age 10 and under it's wonderful." Kensington Metropark offers a terrific sledding spot at the Orchard picnic area, where visitors will find beginning, intermediate and advanced hills, as well as a special bunny hill for the youngest sledders. Snowboards are prohibited, though, and saucers and inflatables aren't allowed on the advanced hills. Hours are 11 a.m. to dusk on weekends, and 10 a.m. to dusk on weekdays, weather permitting. Contact the park office at (800) 477-3189 for hill conditions and additional information.

In Novi, sledders often enjoy the hill at Lakeshore Park on South Lake Drive, which encircles Walled Lake. Northville's big draw is the hill near American Elementary School on Center Street near Eight Mile. Bissett also encourages people to head over to the disc golf area in Edward Hines Park. "That's where you will find some of the best sledding around," he said.

Blue Care of Michigan announces open enrollment for its nongroup product: **PERSONAL PLUS**. Open enrollment dates are January 1 - 31, 2010 for a March 1, 2010 effective date. Please contact Blue Care Network's Customer Service department at 1-800-662-6667 for additional information.

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## REVIEW FROM PAGE A1

thanks to \$1.8 million in stimulus funds the city received from Oakland County.

Restoration occurred on Nine Mile Road, from Novi to Taft roads; Meadowbrook Road, from Eight Mile to Nine Mile; and Nine Mile, from Meadowbrook to Haggerty. Novi also benefited from the more than \$800,000 awarded to the Road Commission of Oakland County for the rehabilitation of Novi Road, from I-96 to Twelve Mile Road.

## 50's Festival put on hold

With the economy cited as the culprit, the annual Michigan 50's Festival did not take place in Novi for the first time in 21 years.

The estimated cost to put on the event is \$150,000, but organizers were unable to secure stable funding to put on a quality event.

Plans are in the works for the 50's Festival to return in 2010.

## Large donation helps Providence complete neurosciences center

Providence Park Hospital's neurosciences program was something the hospital saw coming together years down the road. But thanks to a generous donation from Art Van Elslander, owner of Art Van furniture stores, the hospital was able to expand its neurosciences center and purchase several million dollars of capital equipment.

## County commissioner pleads guilty to indecent exposure

Kim Capello, Oakland County commissioner and former Novi mayor pro-tem, was charged with indecent exposure following an incident that occurred on April 18. He pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced on June 3 to two years' probation, alcohol treatment and community service. According to the police



Tanaz Naterwala, 10, left, and Mallory Maxton, 10, practice their back-and-forth juggling skills during The Circus Amongus Circus Camp held at Novi's Ella Mae Power Park.



Novi City Councilman Bob Gatt announced he will run for the 15th District state senator seat currently held by Nancy Cassis of Novi.

## Novi High School receives top honors

For the first time in district history, Novi High School was one of 50 schools nationwide to receive the Siemens Award for Advanced Placement. The school was the only one in the state to earn the honor, and it received a \$1,000 grant for doing so.

## Residents say no to Signature Park

Plans for creating a 73-acre park to address indoor and outdoor recreation needs. At the special election, 3,411 voters opposed the .5 mill increase of the parks, recreation and forestry levy, while 1,512 were in favor. The 25-year limited millage, estimated at \$76 a year for a resident with a home value of \$300,000, would have been used for the building, operating and maintenance of the park. Discussions about the park began in November 2008.

## GRANT FROM PAGE A1

turn areas, and will provide relief at the schools and Novi Civic Center continue to get busier. It provides an extra measure of safety and traffic flow in that area," he said. The city is expected to solicit bids in the spring and begin construction when school ends in June. The estimated completion date is prior to Labor Day when school begins.

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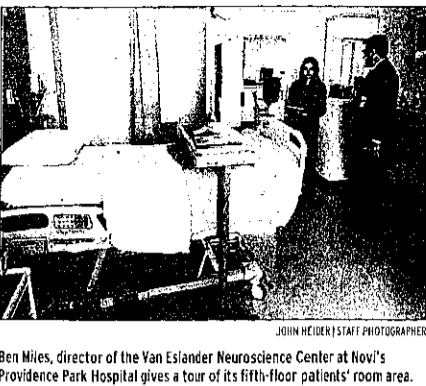
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Ben Miles, director of the Van Elslander Neuroscience Center at Novi's Providence Park Hospital gives a tour of its fifth-floor patients' room area.

between the city and the school district about a possible land swap and creating the park. Since the proposal failed, the land remains with the school district and city officials said it is unlikely an opportunity to do something like Signature Park will happen again.

## School district makes drastic budget cuts

To combat a lack of funding, the Novi Community Schools District was forced to make nearly \$2 million in budget cuts and make changes to the high school schedule for the 2010-11 school year.

The schedule change will move the campus from the 4x4 schedule to a six-period class day. The change will save the district more than \$650,000 per year.

To make up the \$2 million in cuts, the district eliminated a fifth-grade teacher, restored a high school career counselor, reduced a middle school administrator and cut classroom supplies.

## Breath of life breathed into Ella Mae Power Park

After 23 years, Ella Mae Power Park was showing its age. The fields were lacking and the facility as a whole was subpar. But a \$1 million project in June gave the facility new life and has helped the city attract leagues from all over the United States that want to use the grounds. The upgrades included irrigation, field surfaces, fencing, lighting and more.

## Novi grad crowned Miss Michigan

It was a dream come true for Nicole Blaszyk when the crown was placed on her head and she became Miss Michigan 2009. Blaszyk, who graduated from Novi High School, overcame back-to-back runner-up finishes at Oakland and Wayne county pageants in 2007 and 2008 to win the state's top honor in 2009.

She has made several appearances at Novi events during her reign and will compete at the Miss America pageant in January in Las Vegas.

Completed by staff writer Nathan Mueller

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# TODAY'S HEALTH

## THE ROAD TO A NEW YOU

ADVERTISING FEATURE

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## HEALTHIER FOOD HABITS

All the gravy has been ladled. The cookies have crumbled. The red and green candies are on the clearance rack.

That can only mean one thing: people all over the country are resolving to eat better, if not less often. The start of the New Year — and with it, a new decade — means that consumers are focusing on their resolutions to live a healthier lifestyle for themselves, their loved ones, and, for that matter, the planet.

Indeed, there is no time like the present to follow up on your pledge to finally shed those nagging extra pounds, add healthier foods to your diet or slowly incorporate natural, organic and sustainable products into your shopping lists. January is the high point of the year for making such changes.

The hardest part about New Year's resolutions, of course, isn't making them, it's keeping them.

To that end, changing a diet or lifestyle should not be viewed from the outset as a hurdle or a chore. Making it easy, affordable — and fun — helps make a resolution stick.

### The next best thing — or maybe just the best thing.

We've all seen illustrations along the lines of "eat this... not that," that show a bag of chips which should be replaced by, say, a raw handful of vegetables. But for those of us who like to crunch on some salty snacks as we unwind after a busy day, such lunch in the middle of the day, each substitution can seem more like a penalty than a reward.

If you're feeling that way, look for foods that offer some attributes of traditionally craved snacks. Snyder's of Hanover, for instance, recently introduced new Pretzel Chips that



### Good for you and green

Feel good about yourself and what you're doing for the planet by doing more with less. Use a non-disposable container to pack smaller portions of healthy snacks to contain calories, costs and waste. You can also take advantage of packaged products designed to be at once better for you, flavorful and eco-friendly. Snyder's of Hanover, for its part, recently introduced the markets first 100 percent compostable outer bags for its 22 count variety packs of 100 calorie pretzels and 1 ounce pretzel sandwiches.

### Buddy system

Teamwork can really mean the difference between sliding back or moving forward. Engage a friend, family member or even a large group of friends to help you in your goals to improve your diet and lifestyle. Compare shopping lists and diet tricks — all the better over a brisk walk or during an exercise class.

### Reward yourself

If you make it to Grounding Day on the way to your goal of eating better and feeling more fit, reward yourself with something that's both healthy and indulgent — and something you don't have to feel guilty about afterwards. Dip a whole-grain pretzel rod into some melted dark chocolate for some sweet and salty satisfaction, not to mention a dose of antioxidants (from the chocolate) and whole grains (from the pretzel). Roll the chocolate-covered pretzel in some crushed pistachios, which are rich in vitamins and minerals like copper, potassium, phosphorus and B6. Or top one scoop of reduced-sugar vanilla ice cream with a half-cup of crushed pretzels and a drizzle (not a drench) of caramel syrup; or top one scoop of dark chocolate ice cream with fresh blueberries and raspberries.

Make the last day of every month a reward day, and that way, you'll be surprised that you're still focused on eating healthy when Memorial Day rolls around.

— Courtesy of ARAccontent

### BYOT — Bring your own treats

Why be tempted when standing in front of a vending machine filled with chips, snack cakes and puffs or when scanning the menu at a quick-service restaurant? Controlling your diet means literally and figuratively controlling what you eat. By packing a lunch with proportioned servings, such as a sandwich made with lean protein, snacks like bagged pretzels, pretzel chips or veggie crisps and some fresh fruit, you can ensure a healthier meal and snack, and at the same time save on the extra expense of eating away from home. For variety — and fun — mix it up with a variety of foods.

There are many other quick and rewarding substitutions that can be made when the craving for something crunchy and satisfying starts in earnest, from fruit and vegetable crisps to 100-calorie packs. Meantime, if it's something sweet you're craving, seek out portion-controlled 100-calorie ice cream novelties or grab a square or two of antioxidant-rich dark chocolate.

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### NOVI COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Vander Ark in Wixom

As lead-singer, songwriter, and guitarist for "The Verve Pipe", Brian Vander Ark has sold over 3 million albums. Their 1997 hit "The Freshmen" not only reached #1 on the Alternative Rock charts it helped to define the 90's sound. In 2005 he started his Lawn Chairs and Living Rooms tour as a way to connect with his fans in a more intimate setting. He has now performed close to 400 of these house concerts.

On Saturday Jan. 16, Comfy Couch Concerts will host Brian Vander Ark on his first Lawn Chair & Living Rooms concert of 2010. The show will be held at Newport Furnishings, 5250+ Grand River Avenue.

Wixom. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students ages 8 to 18. Contact (248) 910-4541 or [stevenjohnson@nichiganfolklore.com](mailto:stevenjohnson@nichiganfolklore.com) for tickets, and visit <http://www.comfy-couchconcerts.com> for more information.

#### Flag Line

The Novi Flag Line, a group of fourth-seventh grade students who will learn how to spin flags and dance at an entry-level of the colorguard activity, will be holding an informational meeting at 6 p.m. Jan. 7 in the high school band room. Practices will be on Thursdays, and there will be three performances.

E-mail Betsy Pilon ([betsy\\_richards@hotmail.com](mailto:betsy_richards@hotmail.com)) for more information or questions.

### ANNOUNCEMENT



**Tara Grace Wilhelm**  
 Todd and Carrie Wilhelm of South Lyon welcomed their new daughter, Tara Grace Wilhelm, on Sept. 29. She was born at Huron Valley Sinai Hospital in Commerce. Proud grandparents are Robert and Angeline Trinka of South Lyon and Francis and Wendy Wilhelm of Brighton. Great-grandparents are Leonard and Iris Smith of Sterling Heights. Tara was welcomed home by her big sister, 3-year-old Serena Wilhelm.



### Little shoppers

Parkview Elementary PTO volunteer Yekta Dastmalchi (above) helps Joey Karr wrap up his Holiday Shop purchases on Dec. 9. The shop, run by the PTO, allows kids the opportunity to buy holiday gifts for their friends and family in anonymity. Roxanne Lalain (left) helps Parkview Elementary first grader Alekhya Pratapa through this year's Holiday Shop on Weds., Dec. 9. The shop, run by and staffed by PTO volunteers is held every year at Parkview and allows its students to shop for inexpensive items for their friends and family in anonymity.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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- Minimally invasive GYN surgery
- Menopause management

**Obstetrical**

- Prenatal care & delivery
- Reproductive medicine
- High-risk pregnancies

**New Novi Office**  
 39475 Lewis Drive Suite 130 Novi, MI 48377  
**248-374-0502**

**Farmington Hills Office**  
 28555 Orchard Lake Rd. Suite 120 Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
**248-489-1070**

Enroll now for Winter classes, Touch<sup>®</sup>Tone and Web registration now through January 8. Final walk-in registration at all campuses is January 6, 7 and 8. Classes begin Monday, January 11.

Fleunt your superior intelligence. Call 248.341.2350. [www.oaklandcc.edu](http://www.oaklandcc.edu)

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# Area haunts can help you, yours ring in 2010

BY PAM FLEMING  
STAFF WRITER

It's time to break out the party hats and noise makers, as New Year's Eve is just around the corner.

Area restaurants and bars are gearing up to offer revelers ring in 2010 with parties and special menu items. It's not too late to make reservations, and don't forget to assign a designated driver or consider booking a motel room or hotel room if you plan to include an abundance of alcoholic beverages as part of your celebration.

### Novi

Andiamo Novi/Dirty Martini Lounge/Andiamo Theater, 42705 Grand River Avenue, (248) 348-3838 will offer dinner, drinks and a special New Year's Eve showing of "Kwame A River 2: The Wrath of Coyers" at 7 p.m. showing on Dec. 31. As part of the New Year's Eve package offerings, guests can choose to dine pre-show (5 p.m.) or post-show (8:30 p.m.). The post-show package also includes the opportunity to stay through the New Year with a bad, dancing and a champagne toast. Tickets for the 5 p.m. dinner/7 p.m. show package are \$74.95 per person and tickets for the 7 p.m. show; 8:30 p.m. dinner are \$69.95 per person. Space is limited and reservations are required. Party-goers who want to just relax with friends can hang out at the Dirty Martini starting at 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve and listen to a DJ over a few cocktails. There will be a \$20 cover charge.



Northville residents will be toasting in the New Year on the night of Dec. 31 all around town. Here Pool's Tavern employee's Airone Lanereta and Ashley Lewis raise a glass.

In advance at the box office only or day-of for the Dirty Martini.  
**Liquor Store**  
Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44325 Twelve Mile Road, (248) 305-8135.  
New Year's Eve celebration starts at 9 p.m. on Dec. 31. \$10 cover.

**Mbarpo**  
Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44325 Twelve Mile Road, (248) 305-8135.  
New Year's Eve celebration starts at 9 p.m. on Dec. 31. \$10 cover.

Year's Eve fun starts at 8 p.m.; open dinner buffet; late night breakfast buffet; live music and DJs; giveaways; packages start at \$25.  
**Mix Lounge**  
43155 Main Street, (248) 367-0499 or mixnovi.com.  
New Year's Eve celebration requires reserved seating, \$20 in advance; champagne toast at midnight; party favors and late night pizza; DJ and dance.  
**Novi Public Library**  
King in the New Year Craft from 2-3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 30. Get ready for 2010 in style. Come to the library at 45245 Ten Mile Road to create your own party hat and decorate other stylish essentials for your New Year's party. Registration required at (248) 349-0720. All ages welcome.

and tax. No drinks or tips are included in this price. To make reservations, call (248) 349-0522.  
**Table 5**  
Table 5 Restaurant at 126 E. Main Street will offer early seating on New Year's Eve, starting at 5 p.m., for those who would like to have an early dinner before going to their New Year's party. For reservations, call (248) 349-6555.  
**Pool's Tavern**  
Pool's Tavern, 157 E. Main Street, will close at 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve, which allows partygoers to have a meal downtown before ringing in the new year. The restaurant offers two menu specials daily. For more information, call (248) 349-1715.  
**Deadwood Restaurant**  
Deadwood Restaurant, 18730 Northville Road, will be open until 10 p.m. on New Year's Eve. Call-ahead seating will be offered at (248) 347-4353, with the full menu available, including prime rib.  
**Rocky's of Northville**  
Rocky's of Northville, 41122 W. Seven Mile Road, will have the kitchen open

until 11 p.m. and feature entertainment by pianist Dave Weathering. Reservations are recommended by calling (248) 349-4434. Some special menu items will be provided that night, including such specialties as stuffed flounder.  
**Tiramisu**  
Tiramisu at 146 Main Centre will feature a smaller menu on New Year's Eve, with the restaurant open until 11 p.m. For reservations, call (248) 735-0101.

### South Lyon

Tanglewood Golf Course, along with the Tanglewood Homeowners Social Committee, will host a New Year's Eve party on Dec. 31 from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Tanglewood Golf Course clubhouse, located at 53503 W. Ten Mile Road. This event is open to the public.  
Music will be provided by Treble Clef Entertainment. Pizza, salad, drink tickets and a champagne toast will be offered. Reservations must be prepaid at \$40 for each individual or \$75 for a couple, to Tanglewood Homeowners Association, P.O. Box 215, South Lyon, MI 48178. Please include your name and phone number. For more information, call Glen at (248) 437-4649 or Hugh at (313) 501-0469.

### Milford

The Sons of the American Legion will sponsor a New Year's Dinner Dance Party from 7 p.m. Dec. 31 until 2 a.m. Jan. 1 at the American Legion Hall, 510 W. Commerce in Milford. Tickets are \$45 per person, which includes a full sit-down dinner, live band and all drinks. Cocktails will begin being served at 7 p.m., with dinner at 8 p.m.  
Tickets Available at the American Legion Milford. For more information, call (248) 684-9919.

### Highland

At the 59 West Bar & Billiards, 785 W. Highland Road (M-59) in Highland, a New Year's Eve Carnival is planned. The party starts at 9 p.m. No tickets are required, and cover is only \$5. The event includes food, games, entertainment and giveaways. Watch the ball drop under 59 West's Big Top. For more information, call (248) 889-3004.

### Northville

Geniti's Hole-in-the-Wall Restaurant and Dinner Theater, 108 E. Main Street, will feature Neil Diamond and the Blues Brothers Impersonators on New Year's Eve. Cost is \$49.95 per person, which includes dinner, the show

## NORTHVILLE / NOVI CHURCH EVENTS

**Submit:** Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@gannett.com; by fax to (248) 685-2892; or by mail to Church Events/Northville/Novi, 101 N. Lalyette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

**Church of the Holy Family**  
Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Road  
Contact: (248) 349-8847 or visit [holymilford.org](http://holymilford.org)  
Mass Schedule:  
TIME/DAY: 7:30, 9, 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., Sunday, 9 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 6:30 a.m., Monday-Wednesday, Thursday, 7 p.m., Tuesday; 5 p.m. (English), 6:30 p.m. (Spanish) Saturday.  
Holy Days: 9 a.m., 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.  
Reconciliation: beginning 9 a.m., Saturdays or by appointment.  
**ADOPTIVE PARENT NETWORKING MEETING**  
Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. last Wednesday of each month  
Details: Free, informational meeting open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Child care is available. Registration is required.

**Referrals:** Free, informational meeting open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Child care is available. Registration is required.

**Christ of the Nazarene**  
Location: 21260 Hagerty Road, north of Eight Mile Road.  
Contact: (248) 348-6600 or visit [dnazarene.org](http://dnazarene.org)  
Sunday Schedule: 9:15 a.m. Worship service with praise band, children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 10:15 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments; 11 a.m. Traditional worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's program, Youth Worship Service.  
**Tuesday Schedule:** Tuesday 9:30-11:15 a.m. Women of the Word Bible Study with childcare available for through age 5; 6:45 p.m. Ladies Evening Bible Study.  
**Wednesday Schedule:** 5:30 p.m. Family Meal, \$4 per person, \$12 per family; 7 p.m. Children's Caravan, Club 55, Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Blast.  
**Thursday Schedule:** 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group; 7 p.m. Tae Kwon Do.  
**Women of the Word**  
Time/Date: 9:25-11:15 a.m.  
Details: The W.O.W. Tuesday Ladies Bible Study welcomes you to their study of the Book of Exodus. There is a \$15 registration fee, which includes interdenominational study materials. Childcare will be available in the morning for children through age 5.

**Faith Community Presbyterian**  
Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road  
Contact: (248) 349-2345 or visit [faithcommunity-novi.org](http://faithcommunity-novi.org)  
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

**Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross**  
Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road  
Contact: (248) 427-0175 or [churchofthecross.com](http://churchofthecross.com)  
Sunday Worship: 7:45 a.m., 10 a.m., Sunday School and Nursery Care, 10 a.m. Worship Service

**First Baptist Church of Northville**  
Location: 217 N. Wing  
Contact: (248) 348-1020  
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., Tuesdays  
Men's Bible Study: 9 a.m. first Saturday of every month

# Your Invitation to Worship

<b>Brighton</b> <b>LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 5051 Pleasant Valley Road • Brighton, MI 48114 810-227-3113 9:30 a.m. Communion Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School Rev. Dale Hudnall, Pastor <a href="http://www.lordoflife.org">www.lordoflife.org</a>	<b>Milford</b> <b>CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> PRESCHOOL & KIDS - Mo., Synod 5020 Concord Motor, Milford Church office: (248) 684-0852 Froggie Sunday Service: 8:30-11:00 a.m. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Jun-Agg - Sunday Service: 9:30 a.m. Monday Evening: 7:00 p.m. This Rev. Richard E. Papa, Pastor	<b>Novi</b> <b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 1 Mile & Meadowbrook Wisconsin E. Lutheran Synod Sunday School & Adult Bible Class will resume September 13 Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m., Monday 7:00 p.m. Thomas E. Schroeder, Pastor - 348-0565	<b>NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 44875 W. Ten Mile Road • Novi, MI 48075 Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. Rev. James M. Smith, Pastor 348-249-9503 <a href="http://www.noviunited.org">www.noviunited.org</a>
<b>NOVI SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH &amp; SCHOOL</b> www.novirc.com at the corner of Westland Lakes & Hutch Rd. 810-231-9195 Weekend Liturgies Saturday 4:00 p.m. Sunday 9:00 & 1:00 a.m. Please note: Mass at 9:00 a.m. on Dec 28	<b>FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD</b> 130 Detroit St., Milford • 684-5695 Pastor Steve Swartz Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship - 11 a.m. Wednesday: 6:45 - 8:45 p.m. Newest for yrs. old - 5th grade begins Sept. 19 Middle School Group	<b>ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI</b> 46325 10 Mile Rd. • Novi, MI 48374 Saturday 5:00 a.m. Sunday 8, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Reverend George Chmielaj, Pastor Parish Office: 348-8841 • <a href="http://totfamillynovi.org">totfamillynovi.org</a>	<b>CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY</b> 24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375 Weekend Hours Sunday: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 5:30 a.m. Fr. Timothy Hogan, Pastor Rev. Henry Swartz, Associate Pastor Parish Office: 349-8841 • <a href="http://totfamillynovi.org">totfamillynovi.org</a>
<b>Farmington Hills</b> <b>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA</b> Farmington Hills • 2225 Gill Rd. • 248-474-0284 Sunday Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship: 6:30 p.m. Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Pastor: Danny Metzger 889-7253 or 887-4556	<b>SOUTH HILL CHURCH, S.B.C.</b> VICTORYS WELCOME! Sunday School 9:15 a.m. 10:00 Worship 10:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service 5:30 a.m. Children and Youth Groups Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. Call about our current small group studies	<b>ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI</b> 46325 10 Mile Rd. • Novi, MI 48374 Saturday 5:00 a.m. Sunday 8, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Reverend George Chmielaj, Pastor Parish Office: 348-8841 • <a href="http://totfamillynovi.org">totfamillynovi.org</a>	<b>HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b> Hagerty, Novi • Phone: 427-1178 Sundays 7:45 a.m. and 10 a.m. 12 mile west of Novi Rd. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Fr. Dr. Ray Bebb, Interior Rector <a href="http://www.churchofthecross.com">www.churchofthecross.com</a>
<b>WEST HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 11166 S. Highway 96, Milford, MI 48360 248-867-1218 Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m., Bible Minutes: 11:00 a.m. Wednesday All Ages: 7:00 p.m.	<b>MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 238 N. Main Street, Milford MI 48464-2805 Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Sunday School: 9:15 & 10:30 a.m. Nursery care available @ 10:00 a.m. Rev. John Harris, Pastor A heritage of love worship since 1835	<b>FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 44400 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-249-2345 12 mile west of Novi Rd. Sundays 8:15 & 10:15 a.m. Worship and Sunday Schools: 10 a.m. *Children, Youth and Adult Ministries*	<b>OAK POINTE CHURCH</b> 50200 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m., Sunday 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Casual, contemporary service Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. www.oakpointe.org

<b>Highland</b> <b>HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 2350 Harvey Lake Rd. (248) 887-4556 Contemporary Service 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Sundays Saturday Night Service 8:00 p.m. Weekend School: 9:15 a.m. 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 8:15 a.m. 3rd & 6th Grade Youth Tuesdays 7-8 p.m. Pastor Rick Butler	<b>New Hudson</b> <b>NEW HOPE - A Unitarian Universalist Congregation</b> 3275 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI 48155 Phone: 248-474-9108 248-847-7127 • <a href="http://www.uucg.org">www.uucg.org</a> Sunday Celebrations of Life: 10:30 a.m. Rev. Suzanne Paul, Minister Website: <a href="http://www.newhopeuuc.org">http://www.newhopeuuc.org</a>	<b>South Lyon</b> <b>CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN Church</b> Pastor Terry Matson 437 North St. • South Lyon, MI 48178 Worship 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m.	<b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON</b> 68020 Margrave Ave. St., South Lyon, MI 48178 Phone: 248-324-8388 Sunday School 8:30 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. • Family Service: 10:30 a.m. • Evening Service: 7:30 p.m. Pastor: Rev. Fred St. Pierre • Pastor: Jimmy Hoyle Website: <a href="http://www.fbcsl.com">www.fbcsl.com</a> E-Mail: <a href="mailto:frstbaptist@earthlink.net">frstbaptist@earthlink.net</a>
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<b>Northville</b> <b>NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP</b> 120 Bishop St., Highland at Milford Rd., 2-7/8 miles N of M-59 • Sunday School 9:00 a.m. • Morning Worship 10:00 a.m. • Bible Study Wed. 7:00 p.m. Pastor: Danny Metzger 889-7253 or 887-4556	<b>Northville</b> <b>NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN</b> Experience Life Each Week Sunday Worship: 9:00 a.m. & 9:15 a.m. Sunday School at 8:00 a.m. Rev. David Griener, Pastor 248-437-2222 • <a href="http://www.northville.org">www.northville.org</a>	<b>South Lyon</b> <b>THE CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 2180 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon, MI 48178 248-437-3586 • <a href="http://www.churchofchrist.org">www.churchofchrist.org</a> 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Praise and Worship Wednesday Midweek Ministries 7 p.m. Rob Caticott, Pastor	<b>South Lyon</b> <b>FELLOWSHIP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 22800 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon (off I-75 and I-96) Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Rev. David Griener, Pastor 248-437-2222 • <a href="http://www.felco.org">www.felco.org</a>
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<b>Highland</b> <b>CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 3700 Harvey Lake Rd., Highland (248) 887-4564 Rev. Leo T. Laska, Pastor Mass Schedule: Saturday 9 a.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 11 a.m., Monday 6:30 a.m., Holy Days 8 a.m., 12:15 p.m., First Saturdays 9 a.m., Christmas, Saturdays 11 a.m. & 6:15 p.m. at the restaurant	<b>South Lyon</b> <b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 840 S. Lafayette (248) 437-6760 Sundays 8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., Noon Services Reverend Sandra Wilbree <a href="http://www.fumcsl.com">www.fumcsl.com</a>	<b>Novi</b> <b>FAMILY LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH A/B</b> 62545 E. Main Road 01432 • <a href="http://www.familylife.org">www.familylife.org</a> St. Pastor: Joseph R. Tabbi Sunday Christian Education 9:00 a.m., Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Christian Education and Family Nite 7:00 p.m.	<b>South Lyon</b> <b>SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH</b> 22163 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon and I-96 10 a.m. Sunday Celebration Pastor: Todd and Sherry Moore (on-going Church) Nursery & Children's program! Office: 248-488-4300 <a href="http://www.solidrockchurch.org">www.solidrockchurch.org</a>
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<b>White Lake</b> <b>WHITE LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 4605 Highway 2 (between Biggs & O'Brien Rd.) (248) 887-4654 • Debra V. Kerr, Pastor Worship Service 10:00 a.m., Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m., Children's Church 10:00 a.m., Oikos Care Provided The "Friendly Church" Established 1835	<b>South Lyon</b> <b>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) OF SOUTH LYON</b> Worship 10:00 a.m., Sunday School 11:30 a.m., Nursery Care Provided Check us out on the web: <a href="http://www.fpcsl.org">www.fpcsl.org</a> 248-437-2225 • 225 E. Lake 10 Mile • Rev. Dr. Antoinette Kessler, Pastor	<b>South Lyon</b> <b>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN</b> Wisconsin Synod • Reynold Sweet Past. at Liberty St. Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m., All Classes 9:00 Pastor Scott Miller; (248) 437-2289	<b>South Lyon</b> <b>BIBLE BELIEVERS CHURCH</b> Gathering in Jesus Name 601 S. Lafayette St. • South Lyon, MI 48178 Sunday 10:30 and 1:30 Thursday 7:00 p.m. Mike Rogan, Pastor 734-347-1983 pastor cell Old fashioned preaching
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<b>White Lake</b> <b>WHITE LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 4605 Highway 2 (between Biggs & O'Brien Rd.) (248) 887-4654 • Debra V. Kerr, Pastor Worship Service 10:00 a.m., Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m., Children's Church 10:00 a.m., Oikos Care Provided The "Friendly Church" Established 1835	<b>South Lyon</b> <b>OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 123 Orchard Dr., Northville WEEKEND LITURGIES Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., Church 9:30-10:30, School 9:30-10:30 Religious Education: 348-2559 Rev. Dennis Theroux, Pastor	<b>South Lyon</b> <b>OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 123 Orchard Dr., Northville WEEKEND LITURGIES Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., Church 9:30-10:30, School 9:30-10:30 Religious Education: 348-2559 Rev. Dennis Theroux, Pastor	<b>White Lake</b> <b>WHITE LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 4605 Highway 2 (between Biggs & O'Brien Rd.) (248) 887-4654 • Debra V. Kerr, Pastor Worship Service 10:00 a.m., Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m., Children's Church 10:00 a.m., Oikos Care Provided The "Friendly Church" Established 1835
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## Hosting the perfect party requires some knowhow

Editor's note: The following suggestions were provided by Margit Erickson of Novi, an etiquette consultant for more than 20 years.

• Invite guests who are compatible and complement each other, such as someone who is a good listener and someone who is a good talker.

- Plan a menu that is not only delicious and nutritious but is also colorful and appetizing.
- Set the dining table a night before and cover it with a bedsheet. It is too nerve-wracking to do this an hour or so before your guests arrive.
- Place a drop of cologne on the light bulbs an hour or so before you turn on the lights.
- Make sure your home is well-lit, and the address is visible for those coming to your home for the first time. Maps or directions to where you live can be included with your invitations.
- As host or hosts, it is your responsibility to greet guests at the door. Do not assume other guests will perform this duty for you. Greet each guest with a smile and firm handshake or a friendly hug.
- If you have young children

mine ahead of time where people should sit. This not only saves time but last-minute confusion and decision-making as well. Place name cards either handmade or store-bought at each place setting.

- After everyone is seated but before dinner is served, it adds a gracious touch for the host to offer a welcome toast to guests.
- It is the host's responsibility to monitor the flow of conversation at the dining table. If a disagreement or argument appears imminent, he or she should steer the conversation in another direction.
- If games or other entertainment is planned after dinner, wait a few minutes after the meal to allow guests to relax, stretch their legs and have a few minutes of conversation.
- If a guest indicates it is time for him or her to leave, do not try to persuade them to stay longer.
- Walk a departing guest to the door, help him or her on with their coat; shake their hand and say something like, "We're so glad you were able to share this evening with us."
- Don't linger with long good-byes. You need to get back to your other guests.

Margit Erickson hosted and produced her own television program, "The Elegant Life," on Time Warner cable network and has conducted seminars and lectures throughout Michigan. Her latest seminar is titled, "Life After the Titanic." Contact her at (248) 471-6170.

## Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

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<b>LORELEI GRACE CRAWFORD</b> Age 56 of Toledo, and celebrated Oboist and Arts activist passed from this life at 9:06 PM on Monday, December 21, after a long struggle with Primary Aphasia, a cognitive disorder. She is survived by her companion, Rev. Dr. Lowell Green, siblings, Frank (Kathy) Crawford of Cheboygan, Michael (Carol) Crawford of Northville, Terry (Patricia) Crawford of South Lyon, Kathleen (Terry) Klein of Caro, Kenneth (Danelle) Crawford of Highland and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by parents, Franklin and Vera Crawford, and a sister, Trudy Crawford. Besides playing principal oboe with the Ave. Arbor and Sagawab Symphony Orchestras, she had served on the staffs of both Perryburg Antiques Market and Materials Unlimited in Ypsilanti, MI. Her long time goal of operating a Bed and Breakfast was realized in the Cummings Home B&B in the Vista District of Toledo. She was also the founder and the principal driving force behind the successful series of historic home tours held in the Vista District. Her B&B was one of the featured houses on the first tour. A Funeral Service was held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, Milford, on Monday, December 28, at 11AM. Burial followed at Oakland Hills Cemetery, Novi. A Memorial Service will be held in Toledo at a later date. For further information please phone 248-584-6845 or visit <a href="http://www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com">www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com</a>	<b>JOHN I. FOX SR.</b> Howell, MI, Age 70, died December
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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

online at hometownlife.com

OUR VIEWS

**Our resolution:  
News you can  
use in 2010**

There are two things that happen Dec. 31 — the crystal ball drops at the stroke of midnight in Times Square and people make their annual New Year's resolutions.

Some people refuse to make resolutions. They believe making long-term promises is just too much. They're in the majority. Only about 40 percent of adults still bother making resolutions, and it's the long haul that proves the most difficult. Studies show that 71 percent of participants kept their resolutions for two weeks, 64 percent for a month and 50 percent for three months.

It goes without saying that most New Year's resolutions are easier announced (or written) than done. People want to lose weight, give up smoking, get their finances in order, but without an attainable target, it's all for naught.

What's a New Year's resolutionist to do? We are not experts, but we think common sense is the best path to follow. Decide what you want to accomplish and then come up with a game plan that's reasonable and manageable. We all know it took baby steps to learn to walk, and such is the case with a resolution. Start small. It's easier to do and can lead to long-term benefits.

That said, we have decided to make a resolution. It's one that we believe will serve us well in 2010. But instead of calling it a resolution, we're calling it our goal. This year has been difficult for all of us. The economy has taken its toll on us, but even with limited resources, we have continued to cover our communities the way the dailies cover the city.

Our goal for 2010 is to continue to provide you with the local news you have come to expect. It is why we are here and it is what we do best. We have never strayed from that and we won't. We fill a news niche that we know is needed.

And while we continue to provide you with your local news, we hope that you will show your support for us. The *Novi News* is committed to you, our readers and your community.

**Let's hold state  
lawmakers  
accountable**

Another year has passed, yet little was accomplished in the Michigan Legislature to solve some of the state's most serious problems.

We encourage voters to hold lawmakers accountable in 2010, an election year.

Instead of just complaining about our state government, voters need to take action — writing or e-mailing state senators and representatives and then voting them out of office in November if they haven't done their jobs.

The state needs to reform the way it pays for essential services, such as public safety and education, now and into the future. It needs to do more to attract and retain businesses that will put Michigan residents back to work. It needs to fix its roads.

We can't afford to keep putting off finding permanent solutions to these problems that threaten the state's economic recovery.

Education funding reform can start with the state aligning its budget year with that of school districts so schools know how much money they'll have at the start of each school year.

Other state budgetary reform can include a serious attempt at getting local units of government, including school districts, to share services to reduce the overall cost of government to taxpayers.

Michigan has a lot going for it, including its unparalleled natural resources, cool cities, great downtowns and resilient residents.

But unless state lawmakers do their jobs, Michigan will continue to spiral downward, losing more jobs, more educated workers and more families who value education to other states.

Let's hold state lawmakers accountable in 2010 and not let another year pass without their solving the problems that are holding Michigan back.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What do you think of New Year's resolutions?



"I think New Year's resolutions are what you should be making year round, not just in January."  
Lauren Sorentino  
Novi



"I used to do them when I was younger, but now I don't see the relevance of them."  
Diane Laitinen  
Novi

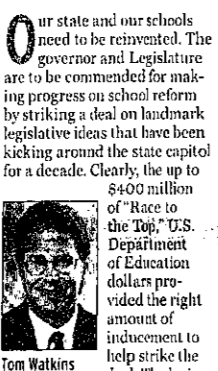


"I always try to do one. I aim for things I'll be successful at."  
Kathryn Knapp  
Novi



"They're made to be broken; that's my first thought."  
Robin Kummer  
Novi

**School reforms - the beginning, not the end**



Tom Watkins

Our state and our schools need to be reinvented. The governor and Legislature are to be commended for making progress on school reform by striking a deal on landmark legislative ideas that have been kicking around the state capitol for a decade. Clearly, the up to \$400 million of "Race to the Top," U.S. Department of Education dollars provided the right amount of inducement to help strike the deal. The legislation expands the number of high-quality charter schools — including two new e-learning "cyber schools" — raises the dropout age from 16 to 18, and gives the state stronger authority to take over 5 percent of the state's academically worst failing schools.

However, regardless of how monumental, these reforms should be viewed as the beginning — not the end. A recent column ("The Do-it-yourself Economy," Dec. 13) by *Novi Times* columnist and bestselling author Thomas Friedman

should be required reading by every educator and legislator in Michigan and America.

This quote by Farooq Kathwari, the CEO of Ethian Allen furniture company, stood out: "Our associates recognize that reinvention is vital to our very survival." Teachers and those who run our public schools need to make this statement part of their DNA.

Sadly, just the opposite attitude permeates too much of the debate. Holding onto the past and protecting the status quo will not prepare our children, state or nation for the hyper-competitive, global, knowledge and innovative economy where ideas and jobs can and do move around the world effortlessly.

Our world has changed in substantial ways and doing what we have always done will not get us where we need to go. What we once had is now gone. Constant and unpredictable change is our new reality.

While we may get momentary reprieves from federal stimulus funds and the federal department of education "Race to the Top" dollars, no one is coming to our permanent rescue. We

can expect the state budget to be strained for the foreseeable future where continuation budgets would be a luxury and continued budget cuts more likely.

What we make of this new reality is up to those that work in our public schools along with all that do not. Currently, Michigan invests \$1 billion per grades for K-12 education. The clamor across the state is that our schools need more money.

Politicians are judged by how much money they pour into or take away from our schools. The more pertinent question should not be how much is given or taken away — it should be what are the results we are getting for the investment we are making?

Clinging to our past successes will not enable us to maintain future greatness. Yes, we were the "arsenal of democracy," the state that "put the world on wheels," and gave the world Motown sounds. The greater question is not what we were — but what we will become?

Don't just blame our school problems on the governor, Legislature or unions. As the old Pogo comic strip character

would say, "We have met the enemy and it is us."

Everyone must demand improved productivity and educational outcomes and find innovative ways to deliver quality education within tax resources available or the public support for the very fabric that helped build this great country of ours, our neighborhood public schools, will continue to fade.

Yes, superintendents and school boards need to adhere to union contracts. Yet, both management and labor must be willing to reopen those contracts when new realities make them unsustainable and undercut the core mission of education — teaching and learning. It is change or die time for our state and our schools.

Michigan and America are teetering on the precipice. Quality education, skills, talent and the willingness to change and innovate will be our salvation.

Tom Watkins served as state superintendent of schools, 2001-05, and state mental health director, 1996-99. He is an education and business consultant in the U.S. and China. Read *China Bridge* at: www.tomwatkins.com.

IN YOUR VOICE

services, transportation spared education business

Here, here on the last sentence of this editorial. Cuts should be made across the board. dan43

McCotter honored by Michigan bankers

McCotter is a Bush lapdog, part of the cabal of repub sociopaths that brought us down so far 2001-2008. ChowOldFat

rebeleftone Thad opposes health care for humans, but for cats and dogs, it's another story. meinschaff

I bet the buildings will be cleaner then they ever were before. Too bad they will probably be foreign workers. timeless04

Oh, I love you left wing haters. You see things getting better under the current administration? What a joke. Obama has the worst approval rating of any president in his first year. Health Care reform going down the tubes because, well, the majority hates it. Your guys will be sitting on the sidelines starting in 2010 :-). rebeleftone

They wanted to get rid of the union so they did. lenny12

Novi schools to privatize custodial Privatizing now-necessary in the

**Cycle show takes over Rock Jan. 1-3**

The Cycle World International Motorcycle Shows brings the hottest rides on two wheels to Novi's Rock Financial Showplace Jan. 1-3. This 12-city nationwide tour is an all-access pass to the world of motorcycling with hundreds of the latest street bikes, dirt bikes, cruisers, scooters and ATVs for both new and experienced riders.

Several manufacturers will showcase hot new models including the 2010 Kawasaki Z1000 Street Superbike, 2010 Harley-Davidson Fat Boy Lo, 2010 Honda VRF200F and more.

Showgoers will also enjoy the latest fuel efficient transportation options with hundreds of vehicles that get 50-plus miles to the gallon. Novi locals will be treated to an up-close look at hundreds of the latest motorcycles and access to the best on-site show discounts on apparel, gear accessories and more," said Group Show Director Jeff D'Entremont. "Although you can't buy a bike at the show, there is no better place to compare all the new models under one roof and then go to your local dealer and take advantage of unprecedented rebates and incentives — making this the perfect time to buy a motorcycle."

Following is a brief description of the exciting features coming to the Rock Financial Showplace:

- **Ducati Freestyle Team** — Motorcycle fans are sure to be thrilled by performances from 2008 XDL Freestyle National Champion Nick Brocha and Hollywood stuntman Ernie Vigil. This action-packed stunt show will feature dazzling stunts on Ducati Monster motorcycles including synchronized wheelies, power slides, endos, headstands and more.
- **TapouT Friday Night Fights** — TapouT's counter-culture will come alive at the show where attendees can meet and get autographed photos from TapouT-sponsored UFC fighters, watch previous UFC fights and select episodes of TapouT's original reality TV-series on big screens and check out the custom TapouT tribute Suzuki Hayabusa built by VooDoo Industries.
- **Bikes & Beats** presented by TapouT — This all-new lifestyle entertainment element mixes music and motorcycles like never before. The latest in moto-fashion will be showcased by hot models and dancers during a high-energy fashion show hosted by 2008 BusaBent Champion MC Jason Pigg. Bikes & Beats will also feature a collection of the hottest, never-before-seen custom sportbikes and v-twin motorcycles.
- **All-New Women's Center** — Both new and experienced women riders will enjoy the Women's Center with gear from Cortech, Icon, Joe Rocket, Shift, Thor and Tourmaster to try out; motorcycles to sit on; and experts from the Women's Motorcycling Foundation available to answer questions and introduce new riders to the world of motorcycling.
- **Explore Motorcycling Welcome Center** — The Welcome Center is the inviting home to



For the 17th consecutive year, Cycle World will sponsor for the motorcycle show at Rock Financial Showplace.

- **Hub** brought to you by Allstate Motorcycle Insurance — A high-energy stage will be jam-packed with great speakers presenting a variety of motorcycling topics for both new and experienced riders including advanced riding techniques, dual sport riding, helmet fit, riding schools, long distance touring and more. Seminars will be led by industry experts including Lee Parks, Lee Parks Design; Bruce Porter, Arai Helmet Company; Sue Slate, Women's Motorcyclist Foundation; and more.
- **2Wheel Tuner Model Search** Presented by LeoVince — Models will compete live, on-stage in a Q&A session, bikini contest and photo shoot for the chance to win a personal feature in 2Wheel Tuner Magazine. Winner will be announced on Sunday.
- **History of Motorcycles** — This retro showcase returns with an expanded collection of rare vintage motorcycles including classic dirt bikes, café racers, cruisers and more from various vintage groups throughout the country.
- **Free Gear Check** — Riders will be invited to check helmets, jackets and other gear at the show's main entrance for free, courtesy of Allstate Motorcycle Insurance.

**Self-development shows you're focusing on the long run**

The practical side of self-development is rarely viewed through the lens of business outcomes. It was, typically, angled as a nice-to-do, fuzzy-wuzzy activity that ranked just below the corporate Nerf Ball tournament. Occasionally, it was dusted off during the annual performance appraisal discussion as a checklist of unrelated tasks that lend further credence to it being taken as seriously as a Flava Flav critique of the Six Wives of Henry the VIII.

During the years of corporate benevolence, millions of dollars were allocated to the pursuit of knowledge enhancement, skill acquisition and self-improvement as part of the employee benefit package. The corporation took responsibility for making the resources available, and it was the employee's option whether or not to seize the opportunity. As an unseen, intangible occurrence, self-development was a source of conversational awkwardness between managers and employees that, oftentimes, was relegated to the last topic discussed after you finished talking about the other 'important' stuff. The perceived softness of self-development is what triggered the hardened resistance from so many business sectors. When the skills, bought and paid for by the organization, rarely resulted in any demonstrable change in behavior or outcome, what followed was the collective perception that it was a waste of time and it 'didn't' take.

One of the arguments advanced by the experientialists is that experience is the best teacher and that the best development occurs when you actually



Lee E. Meadows

grab a tiger by the tail as opposed to chasing it through a video game. The flip side of the argument is found in the writings of the 'reflexionalists' who believe that reading, discussion and critical thinking are the path to self-development. Far from thinking about self-development is the overworked, overstressed, 9 a.m.-to-midnight employee, whose primary concerns are the hallucinations that come from lack of sleep. Somewhere in the middle of the debate, the pendulum swings between self-seeking advancement and reactive business necessity. Is it better to immerse oneself into a self-designed, inner-driven broadening of skills and knowledge? Or, is it better to wait until the organization identifies what you need to (quickly) learn and direct you toward that activity?

At a time when external venues stretch the once unshakable foundations of business, all roads lead inward. The practical side of business demands a concrete, connected path to survival and growth. The monetary reward that comes from putting in long hours will stagnate when left unbalanced by personal attention to self-development. There is more than a compelling notion that has business leaders rethinking how they approach the design and delivery of business outcomes. When practical necessity dictates a different mindset from business leaders, it right-

fully follows that employees are expected to make the same shift. The only difference is that the benevolence of the organization will not serve as the platform for the shift in mindset. The demonstrated willingness of the employee to broaden their knowledge base and master new skills will send a clear message that they are thinking beyond the long hours and focusing on the long run.

Self-development was never a waste of time, as it is sometimes portrayed, but was maligned by hundreds of wasted activities that never connected with the business cycle. The real path to self-development is in identifying those activities that connect both knowledge and skill to some kind of business problem. Hypotheticals make for great legal, philosophical and psychological debates, but rarely lead to practical business solutions. Active engagement in individual self-development is a message to the organization that you are paying attention. Keep in mind — from the organization's point of view, insisting that you learn something new is the equivalent of being told to wear a belt with your pants so your underwear don't show. You're supposed to already know it.

Lee E. Meadows, Ph.D. is a professor of management at Walsh College working at the Novi Campus. He teaches leadership and management in the MBA and Doctoral programs and provides a number of consulting services for the surrounding community. He is the author of the leadership fable, "Take the Lull by the Horns: Closing the Leadership Gap." He can be contacted at leemeadows@walshcollege.edu. Visit his website at www.leemeadows.biz.

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In the meantime, we are having a major sale to keep from having to move everything.

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**NOVI NEWS**

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Director of Advertising

# Golden anniversary

The Novi Rotary Club celebrated its 50th year of service with a Cuban-theme dinner party at the Hotel Baronette on Dec. 12. Members will be holding a special event, Race in Amazing Novi, on May 15. Visit [www.RaceInAmazingNovi2010.org](http://www.RaceInAmazingNovi2010.org) for more information.



Rotarian and former Novi Chief of Police Lee Begole speaks at the group's 50th anniversary party.



Rotarians celebrate at Novi's Hotel Baronette.



Novi Rotarians including past President Max Sanghvi, right, assemble for a photo during their 50th anniversary party at the Hotel Baronette.



Novi Rotarians, including current Novi Mayor David Landry, center, celebrate the 50th anniversary of the group.



Past Novi Rotary President Victor Cassis enjoys their 50th anniversary party Dec. 12 at the Hotel Baronette in Novi.



Rotarians Anne Marie Mieth, Gary Sobotta (President), and charter member Lee Begole cut a cake at the Baronette Hotel last Saturday to celebrate their 50th anniversary.



Novi Rotarians celebrate their 50th anniversary at the Hotel Baronette.



A couple hits the dance floor to some salsa music during the Novi Rotary's Cuban-themed party to celebrate their 50th anniversary.



Rotarian Wayne Bullen speaks at the Novi Rotary's 50th anniversary party on Dec. 12 at the Baronette Hotel in Novi.

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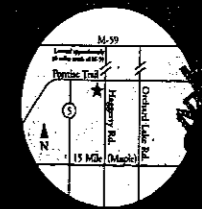
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 Time/Date: 7-8:30 a.m. every Wednesday  
 Location: On the Border Restaurant, 21051 Haggerty Road (north of 8 Mile), Novi  
 Details: BNI is a structured networking environment for professionals. The Metro Novi BNI team members are committed to providing bona fide referrals to each other. Members learn how to create and refine an "elevator speech," develop a broad network of other business professionals in the community and receive training/education on networking more efficiently. Guests are invited to attend free of charge. Continental breakfast provided.  
 Contact: For more information, contact Julie Paquette at 248-797-1665 or juliepaquette67@gmail.com; www.metrobninovi.com.

**LOCAL EVENTS**  
**Gardeners of Northville & Novi Club Meeting**  
 Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11  
 Location: Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady Street  
 Details: Social time and garden lecture on "Full Bloom: Flowers & Plants in Art." Guest will be Linda Well of the Detroit Institute of Arts. The public is welcome.  
 Contact: gardenersnorthville-novi.org or Renee (248) 231-2334

**American Legion Post 19 Monthly Meeting**  
 Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. on third Tuesdays  
 Location: Rock Financial Showplace, Grand River Avenue between Taft and Beck roads  
 Details: Conrades and fellow veterans, please join these monthly meetings; attendance is needed to maintain and grow the Post.  
 Contact: Commander Dennis Strikulis (248) 378-7841 or dstrikulis@amli.org or Service Officer Paul Erickson (248) 344-7193 or pnerick@aol.com.

**Novi Chamber of Commerce**  
 The Novi Chamber of Commerce is an active, progressive chamber offering a variety of events, educational programs, an enhanced Web site, and involvement with local charities.  
 Location: 41875 11 Mile Road, #201, Novi  
 Contact: For more information, call (248) 349-3743 or www.novichamber.com.  
**Monthly Networking Luncheon**  
 Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. Jan. 6



**Sharing with seniors**

Novi firefighters were performing a routine inspection of Walton Wood Retirement Village recently and struck up conversations with some residents, who asked if they could return and share fellowship. Several of the firefighters, including Marc Thesen, went back to serve the seniors breakfast and share Novi stories.

**Location:** Crowne Plaza Hotel  
**Details:** Donald Kitson and Paul J. Hindeking with discuss Health & Wealth Secrets for 2010; lunch served courtesy of Dell Unique. Must pre-register by 4 p.m. Jan. 5.

**Novi Toastmasters Club**  
 Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., every first and third Tuesday  
 Location: Novi Civic Center, Activities Room, 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375  
 Details: Novi Toastmasters is a community-based club which is part of Toastmasters International. Our diverse group provides a mutually supportive atmosphere in which all can develop and refine their public speaking and leadership skills. Our members also have fun while building confidence in day-to-day communications and mentoring toward professional and personal excellence. Guests are welcome - and bring a friend! Visit www.novi.freehost.us.

**Novi Rotary Club**  
 Time/Date: Noon every Thursday  
 Location: Novi Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road  
 Details: Lunch is \$10 at meeting. Visitors welcome. Check Web site for speaker information: novirota.org.

**NIGHTLIFE**  
**Andiamo Novi / Dirty Martini Lounge / Andiamo Theater**  
 Location: 42705 Grand River Avenue, Novi  
 Contact: (248) 348-3838  
**New Year's Eve**  
 Details: Catch "Kwame A River 2: The Wrath of Conyers" in 2009 with a special 7 p.m. showing on Dec. 31. As part of the New Year's Eve package offerings, guests can choose to dine pre-show (5 p.m.) or post-show (8:30 p.m.). The post-show package also includes the opportunity to stay through the New Year with a band, dancing and a champagne toast. Tickets for the 5 p.m. dinner/7 p.m. show package are \$74.95 per person and tickets for the 7 p.m. show; 8:30 p.m. dinner are \$99.95 per person. Space is limited and reservations are required. Partygoers who want to just relax with

frinds can hang out the Dirty Martini starting at 9 p.m. on New Years Eve and listen to a DJ over a few cocktails. There will be a \$20 cover charge (in advance at the box office only or day-of) for the Dirty Martini.  
**Andiamo Lounge:** local entertainers 8 p.m. Wednesdays; Old Vegas Night 6:30 p.m. and Dave Croon 8:30 p.m. Thursdays; Pete Dimasio 8:30 p.m. Fridays; Laurie Johnson 8:30 p.m. Saturday.  
**Andiamo Theater:** Kwame-A-River 2: The Wrath of Conyers 8 p.m. Wednesday, 8 and 10 p.m. Friday, 7 and 9 p.m. Saturday, and 5 p.m. Sunday  
**Dirty Martini Lounge:** Killer Flamigos 10 p.m. Thursday, DJ Whip 10 p.m. Friday; Paul Martindale 10 p.m. Saturday.  
**Liquor Store**  
 Location: Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44325 Twelve Mile Road, Novi  
 Contact: (248) 305-8135  
**New Year's Eve**  
 Details: 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31; \$10 cover  
**Mbargo**  
 Location: Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44325 Twelve Mile Road, Novi  
 Contact: (248) 374-3420  
**New Year's Eve**  
 Details: \$20 cover; Boston's DJ Influence  
**Bar Louie**  
 Location: Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44375 12 Mile Road, Novi  
 Contact: (248) 662-1100  
**New Year's Eve**  
 Details: 8 p.m.; open dinner buffet; late night breakfast buffet; live music and DJs; giveaways; packages start at \$25

**The Grapevine of Novi**  
 Location: 43155 Market Street, Novi  
 Contact: (248) 344-4044; www.thegrapevineofnovi.com  
**Live music Saturdays:** 8:30-midnight  
 Dec. 31: The Sen-Say-Shuns; Jan. 2: Michael May & The Messarounds  
**The Post Bar**  
 Location: 42875 Grand River Avenue, Novi  
 Contact: (248) 465-9600  
 Wednesdays: "NYLD" Wednesday with DJ Joey "A" & mc Jevon Hollywood  
 Thursdays: DJ Tommy Holiday

**Library Lines**  
**Novi Public Library**  
 Library Hours  
 Location: 45245 W. Ten Mile Road  
 Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 a.m.-5 p.m. (September-May). The Library will be closed Monday, Jan. 18.  
 Details: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the Library.  
 Contact: (248) 349-0720  
 Website: www.novilibrary.org  
**Story Times:** Please see the Library website or story time brochure for details.  
**Tech Time**  
 Time/Date: 2 p.m., 2:30 p.m., Thursdays, Jan. 7, 14 and 21; 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 12 and Jan. 19  
 Details: One-on-one tutoring with either a librarian or computer tech on a topic of your choice. Investigating your family tree? Microsoft Word have you stumped? We have the tools to help. Registration required.  
**Welcome Back 2010 Euchre Tournament**  
 Time/Date: 3:55 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7.  
 Details: Welcome back to classes and the library. Sign up to enter our welcome back euchre tournament. Prizes will be awarded to the top winners. Grades 7-12 welcome. Registration required.  
**Genealogy Roundtable Discussion**  
 Time/Date: 12 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9  
 Details: Join us for a meeting of fellow genealogists to share hints, resources, and solutions to dead ends. This is not a class, YOU decide the topics. For all genealogists; beginner to advanced.  
**Snack Tales**  
 Time/Date: 7:45 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11.  
 Details: Each time we meet you will get a chance to listen to some great stories and cook up a tasty snack. Registration required.

**Notice to Bright House Networks Cable Customers**

Bright House Networks has launched a new digital video delivery technology known as **Switched Digital Video (SDV)**. SDV is a robust bandwidth-management system that makes it possible to offer more digital video programming services than before including new HD channels. To be able to offer more new video services, Bright House Networks will be moving some existing programming services to the SDV system.

Beginning **February 8, 2010**, the following services will be delivered on the SDV system:  
 Sports Packages - channels 701-727  
 Sports Packages in HD - channels 701-714  
 Hits Sports - channels 851-856  
 Adult PPV - channels 881-886  
 HD Pack - channels 690, 691, 693, 694 & 695  
 International Channels - channels 580-585

These services will not be available on uni-directional retail devices as of the date(s) noted above. If you want to subscribe to these services, you will need a digital set-top box or similar bi-directional (two-way) equipment from Bright House Networks. Customers may continue to use their uni-directional retail device and CableCARD to receive video programming other than the programming delivered on the SDV system. Customers will be notified in advance of any other programming changes.

For more information on Bright House Networks programming, please call 1-866-898-9101 or visit our website at www.brighthouse.com.

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Warm and fuzzy staff <b>ALWAYS</b> ...	Every once in a while	...
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## Savor the flavor of Mexico!

Rio Grande serves up authentic Mexican plus healthy, flavorful American cuisine at unbeatable prices

BY ALISON BERGSIKER  
ADVERTORIAL WRITER

Deciding where to eat is easy when one place in town has everything from sizzling fajitas and oversized burritos to burgers and fish n' chip platters, specialty drinks and amazing desserts.

The easy choice is La Casa Del Rio Grande, West Oakland County's premiere Mexican restaurant, where the menu is only the beginning of what is offered to satisfy even the pickiest of appetites.

The New Hudson eatery features authentic recipes straight from Mexico, family friendly service and a convenient location on Grand River Avenue near the I-96 exit at Milford Road.

"All of the food at Rio Grande is awesome," Owner Dawn Salvati said. "You can't get a better meal for our prices."

### A local favorite

It's no surprise that Rio Grande is winner year after year of the South Lyon Herald's People's Choice award for best Mexican food.

"Our recipes are straight from the Chihuahua, Mexico region," Salvati said.

Fajitas are an absolute customer favorite at Rio Grande. The dish is served up on a sizzling skillet with skirt steak or chicken and piled high with frijoles borrachos, rice, pico de gallo and sour cream over a warm tortilla. Guests can include sautéed vegetables such as green peppers, tomatoes, onion and mushrooms — in any combination, or leave them out all together. It is truly a culinary delight.

Other house specialties include the popular Willanese Sandwich, four layers of beans, rice, meat and cheese layered between tortillas, and Flaming Cheese served up with ground beef, chorizo and poblano peppers, rancho sauce and munster cheese for a Mexican twist.

Specialty drinks like Rio Grande's "Voodoo Coffee" can't be found anywhere else, served up warm or frozen with Kahlua,

Bailey's, Hazelnut and vodka. Almost every entrée on the menu pairs perfectly with the house drink, "Spyder," a margarita without sour mix and a citrusy zing.

"We have basically every American bottled beer there is, and a selection of Mexican beers including Dos Equis Amber and Lager, Carta Blanca and Bohemia," Salvati said.

As for dessert, a local secret is Carmen's Cookie Dough Xanga. It's a flour tortilla filled with chocolate chip cookie dough, then deep fried until golden brown. Yum! The crispy creation is drizzled with chocolate and served with a mound of ice cream.

### Order it your way

Resolving to eat healthier this year? Rio Grande can help you stick to your goal year-round with healthy fare guaranteed to satisfy any craving.

"You can order anything you want and we will make it for you if we can," said Salvati. "Our chef loves to create things that customers want that aren't even on the menu."

The restaurant is happy to work with special diets and allergy concerns. Those needing gluten free or dairy free food can be accommodated. Vegetarians can dine without worries, as no lard or chicken stock is used in the beans and rice.

Several items on the menu accommodate vegetarian eaters, including the Ultimate Botana platter, heaping with loads of nacho fixins. Veggie burritos, fajitas, chimichangas and tacos are spread throughout the menu.

Most menu items can be adapted to follow low-carb or low-fat diets. Salvati recommends the Seafood Salad as an easy choice for dieters.

### Catering and community support

All of the famous Rio Grande food is also available for take-out and catered events.

"No one beats our catering prices," Salvati said.

Want something that's not on the menu? Rio Grande can cater just about anything. Menus for local businesses have included Chicken Piccata and lasagnachilli, a Mexican favorite. The restaurant happily caters parties from 10 to 100 people.

Large and small carryout includes

set-up and teardown, utensils and all serving materials.

Rio Grande is proud to host fundraisers annually for community and school groups, non-profit organizations and those in need. The restaurant has hosted fundraisers for the American Diabetes Association, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, local residents that needed assistance with medical bills, South Lyon Community Schools, Catholic Central High School and a food donation to the Howell Nature Center.

Visit Rio Grande soon for your next family dinner, night out with friends or lunch break!



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PHOTOS BY ALISON BERGSIKER

La Casa Del Rio Grande is celebrating its ninth year in New Hudson, featuring authentic Mexican and specialty American cuisine. Let Rio Grande cater your next lunch or special event!

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# LOCAL SPORTS

online at hometownlife.com



All-Area  
CROSS  
country  
team, B2



Assistant coach Ken Stark stands with son Matt Stark, a junior, during a recent boys swim practice at Novi High School. The father/son pair and the rest of the Wildcats prepare for a tough season in the KLA Central Division.

## Family ties breed competition within Novi High swim team

### Father and son duo help Wildcats prepare for season

BY CHRIS JACKETT  
CORRESPONDENT

It's not unusual for a pair of siblings to end up on the same team in high school, but it's not nearly as often that a parent and child find themselves paired as coach and athlete within the same high school program. Assistant boys swimming coach Ken Stark and junior Matt Stark will experience that combination as a young swim and dive team looks to improve on last season's fourth-place Central Division finish.

"Our league is one of the toughest in Michigan. Probably five of the top 10 in state (are from our conference). Northville and Stevenson are going to be top in our division. We're going to give South Lyon (unified) and Salem a run," Ken said. "We've got some good freshmen that came in this year. Probably the strength of our team is juniors."

One of those juniors is Ken's son, Matt, who missed most of his sophomore season due to a four-wheeler accident that required surgery.

"Personally, I would like to make it

to the state meet. As a team, I want to send more kids to the state meet to place higher," said Matt, who swims the 200-yard individual medley and 50- and 100-yard sprint freestyles, but considers the 100-yard backstroke his main event. "I want to get under a minute."

Matt's best breaststroke time is 1:03, not far behind his dad's times from his 1981 senior season at Redford Union. His dad swam all the same events under the guidance of current West Bloomfield coach Bob Crosby and retired Livonia Stevenson coach Doug Buckler.

"His sophomore times were very close to my sophomore times," Ken said. "This is my second kid to come through the program here. It's just really cool to see him excel and know I had a hand in it."

Matt enjoys having his dad around the pool and says he will be a big part of the young team's development.

"It's a good thing. He's always there to motivate me and keep me focused. He gives good advice in the pool and at home. He's a good coach," Matt said.

Head coach Eric Lynn said having Ken around has helped Matt more than

anything. "Ken's pretty good about not being dad. He will get on Matt's case more to keep him going. He definitely doesn't play favors to Matt," Lynn said. "Same thing with the different sets of brothers. They're pretty good about pushing each other."

The team features two pairs of siblings: sophomore Jong Min Kim and junior Jong Chan Kim, along with junior Spencer Kim and freshman Dennis Kim. There are several other team members with the same last name, including three other Kims, but none of the others are related.

Ken expects Dennis Kim, along with fellow freshmen Andrew Ao and Kenta Onimura, to quickly develop into effective members of the varsity squad.

"Freshman Andrew Ao is going to contribute right away (in freestyles, IM). Kenta has a lot of potential in him," Ken said. "It's kind of cool having them come in and be ready to go."

Leading the team into the season is

Please see **FAMILY, B3**

NOVI HIGH - YEAR IN REVIEW: WINTER 2008-09

## Boys hoops, hockey fall short of hardware as others search for stable footing in competition

BY CHRIS JACKETT  
CORRESPONDENT

### BOYS BASKETBALL

The Wildcats raced to an impressive 19-4 record last season, but were stopped from reaching several of the trophy marks.

With Chris Bellamy, Brandon Bryant and Samir Ozejr leading Novi throughout the season, the Wildcats lost their district final game against Detroit Catholic Central by a 72-53 score on March 13.

Novi lost the KLA Central Division title to South Lyon 62-42 earlier in the season behind a 19-point performance from the Lions' Jordan Short.

Novi is 4-1 this season heading into the new year.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

A young Novi squad accomplished a 15-7 record, losing in the district final March 6 to a Canton team that improved to 20-2 with the 42-27 win.

Led, in part, by current players Caroline Johnson, Kelsey Masserant and Alyssa Armiak, the Wildcats also saw strong performances by Heather Armiak and Chantel Hill.

Undefeated at 5-0 this season so far, the Wildcats are poised for an exciting next two months.

### HOCKEY

Reaching the Division II MHSAA semifinal, Novi dropped a 2-1 decision to Muskegon Moira Shores on a goal in the final minute. Ranked among the top four teams in Division II and top

15 in the entire state, the Wildcats won the Regional title March 6 with a 2-1 victory over Birmingham Brother Rice. The team finished with a 16-7-5 record last season.

At a program-best 9-1-1 this season, the Wildcats are poised for a deep playoff run if they can take care of business in January and February.

They are currently ranked fifth overall in the state behind Division I Detroit Catholic Central, Division II Warren De La Salle, Division II Trenton and Division III Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, who handed Novi their lone loss of the season, 3-1, two weeks ago. Novi's 4-4 tie came against Division I Livonia Stevenson, ranked eighth overall and sharing the KLA Central Division as Novi's main competition for the division title.

### SWIMMING

The team finished 27th in the state last season behind a strong effort by Joon Chung, who earned All-State honors for his 59.57-second breaststroke that earned him sixth in the state on March 14.

Teaming with Alex Zabinski, Tyler Vincent and Wes Smith in the 200-yard medley relay, Chung and his teammates set the school record at 1:41.31 during a 17th-place performance. Chung, Zabinski, John Lu and Smith also set a season-best 1:31.49 in the 200-yard relay during an 18th-place showing during preliminaries. Vincent also had a career best in the 100-yard butterfly and

Please see **WINTER, B3**

NOVI HIGH - YEAR IN REVIEW: SPRING 2009

## Netters thrive as swingers struggle in spring session

BY CHRIS JACKETT  
CORRESPONDENT

### GIRLS SOCCER

The Wildcats won a thrilling district title match May 29 against Brighton by a 2-1 overtime decision to improve to 18-2-2 behind the steady goalkeeping of Erin Zerio. The team finished 8-1-1 in the Central Division to share the title with Northville, but the Mustangs went on to win the KLA Kensington Conference championship.

### GIRLS TENNIS

Novi tied Northville for fourth in the state May 30 and won the Kensington Conference title May 9, beating the Mustangs out 32-31. The team was 9-1 in division dual meets, sharing the division title with Northville.

The Wildcats had all four singles players and the one doubles team make it to the state quarterfinals or further. Amanda Border won the conference and regional titles behind a 18-5 record at one singles before falling in the state quarterfinals. Sara Carlson was 21-4 at two singles, winning conference and regional championships before losing in the state semifinals.

The team's deepest run came from Abby Wang, who finished second in the state at three singles after going 22-7. Jennifer Felcher was 24-4 at four singles en route to the state semifinals and Julia Thomas and Lauren Felcher teamed for the one doubles conference and regional titles in a 19-6 state-quarterfinal campaign.

### GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

The girls sped to a Kensington conference title.

May 9 before winning their Regional behind 110 points, ahead of Brighton's 71. They went 5-0 in division dual meets.

Elle Robinson was a regional runner-up in the 3,200 meter, while Jasmine Ward won conference and regional titles in both the 100-meter dash and 4x100-meter relay. Brittany Davis was regional runner-up in the 200-meter dash and 4x200-meter relay, as well as a 4x100-meter relay champ. Kelly McCloskey was a regional champ in the 300-meter hurdles and runner-up in 4x200-meter relay. Katelyn Shelar was the conference, county and regional runner up in the pole vault.

### BOYS TRACK & FIELD

The guys squad was seventh at the May 9 Kensington Conference meet with 52 points (Livonia Stevenson won with 116.33) and ninth at Regionals with 32 (Detroit Catholic Central won with 130.5). They went 2-3 in division dual meets, but finished third at the division meet. Mike Blaszczyk was 10th in the state 3,200-meter race after a personal best of 9:33.44 at Regionals. He won the conference and regional titles. Brett Kuhn won a regional long-jump title with 21-7.5 and earned 22nd at States.

### BOYS LACROSSE

The team won the KLA Kensington Conference with a 9-1 record. The Wildcats were led by the tandem of Matt Mandeville (48 goals, 22 assists) and Paul

Please see **SPRING, B3**

## Pair of Wildcats destined for collegiate ball

### Volleyball, tennis athletes both sign college letters of intent

BY CHRIS JACKETT  
CORRESPONDENT

Two of Novi's young athletes spent their holiday break with their future already planned-out, at least to some extent. Seniors Amanda Border and Julia Thomas both recently signed letters of intent to play collegiate sports, an opportunity that will allow them to continue doing what they love while helping pay for a college education in the process.

Border, the top singles player on the girls tennis team since her sophomore year, signed to play tennis at the University of Toledo next year.

Thomas, a volleyball captain and Regional one-doubles champion on the tennis team last season, signed to play volleyball at Saginaw Valley State

University next fall.

Both Novi athletes got offers from multiple schools, ranging from as close as Michigan State and Oakland universities, to more distant locations like Eastern Kentucky and Xavier universities. In the end, both opted to stay a little closer to home in choosing schools with solid programs, nice campuses and strong academic programs.

"I was choosing between two colleges, Saginaw Valley and Eastern Kentucky. Eastern Kentucky is six hours away, but its Division I. One of my best friends, Sarah Robb, goes (to SVSU). I like the coaches a lot better and the dorms were brand new," Thomas said. "I ended up realizing it didn't

Please see **LETTERS, B3**



Novi seniors Amanda Border (left) and Julia Thomas are all smiles after recently signing to play collegiate sports. Both are members of Novi's girls tennis team, but Thomas will play volleyball at Saginaw Valley State University, while Border will take her tennis skills to the University of Toledo.

# Novi freshman Mullins leads the pack

BY JEFF THEISEN  
SPORTS WRITER

Novi's Jackie Mullins didn't finish the year like a typical freshman.

The Wildcat turned in the top performance from the area athletes and finished 19th at the State Finals, earning All-State honors. Mullins conquered the course at Michigan International Speedway in 18:42.2.

Mullins is the 2009 girls cross country Runner of the Year.

"I have had a blast coaching Jackie so far," said coach Marsha Reid. "She has natural talent and has the experience of running previously. The biggest adjustment for Jackie was learning how to run a complete 5,000-meter race. She ran well in the middle school, but the distance is different. "I think she always knew that she could run the way she did, but I think she spent a lot

of time learning how to race." Reid said she knew Mullins had the talent to be a special runner, but it was something Mullins had to figure out for herself.

"I actually did have an idea that Jackie was capable of putting in the performances she did. I think Jackie was more unsure than me," said Reid. "I am looking forward to seeing what she can do in the future. She has the potential to continue to improve. "I guess we can just wait and see what comes next."

### First Team

**Lauren Kettle, Milford**

The junior Maverick pushed hard for Runner of the Year honors. She finished KLAAs Conference runner-up, hitting the finish line in 18:29. She ran through the flu at regionals and still placed 10th to help the team qualify for states. She finished 19th in team scoring

and 24th overall to achieve All-State honors at the State Finals. During the season, she won titles at the Fremont Hill and Lake Erie and at the Linden Cross Country Classic.

"Lauren is the classic good to great story," said head coach Brian Salyers. "After two qualifying seasons, she took her training and competition to another level this year. This progress yielded a couple Invitational wins, a plethora of medals, a trip with her teammates to the State Finals and the highly coveted All-State distinction."

### Rachel Hofess, Milford

The Maverick senior put in a solid season capped with a trip to the State Finals. One of her best finishes came at regionals, where she claimed 10th place to help the Mavs advance and finish 18th at state. Her personal best time was 20:08 against Pinckney.

"Rachel was the senior glue that held this team together," said Salyers. "She was the one always working hard, encouraging others and instilling the traditions into the team. Nobody was more responsible for our team returning to compete at the State Finals than Rachel."

### Gina McNamara, Northville

The Mustang sophomore led the charge at state, finishing in 19:46 to claim 13rd in team scoring and 22nd overall. Northville finished 21st as a team. Her season highlights included a fourth-place finish at the conference meet, fifth at regionals and a few individual titles at meets during the season.

"She had an amazing second year," said coach Nancy Smith. "Gina showed determination and hard work pays off. She was a leader on the team, motivating a young team to improve and advance to the State Finals."

### Katie Vandervoort, Northville

The Mustang freshman made quite a splash down the stretch. She was ninth at the Conference finals and at the regionals before finishing 58th overall at states. "Katie had an amazing first season with no previous experience," said Smith. "She is a naturally talented runner who stepped up for the team and ran competitively each time she stepped on the course."

### Morgan Bridgewater, Lakeland

The Eagle sophomore



Northville's Gina McNamara finished first for the Mustangs in a cross country meet against Salem on Sept. 9.

improved throughout the season. She finished 17th at the count meet, 12 at the KLAAs Conference meet and sixth at the regional meet. She ended the year by finishing 60th at the State Finals.

### Erin Dunne, Northville

The Northville freshman finished seventh at the KLAAs Conference finals and 16th at regionals as the Mustangs advanced to the State Finals. She was the fourth finisher for the Mustangs at state in 11:24 place.

### Maggie Sadler, South Lyon

She was the team MVP for the Lions. Her best time was 20:29, and she finished first at a pair of dual meets during the season.

### Raechel Moore, Lakeland

The Lakeland junior finished 29th at the county meet and 28th at the regional meet. She was one of the top-three finishers for Lakeland throughout the season.

### Mikaela Jalkic, Milford

The freshman Maverick finished 27th at the KLAAs Conference meet, 20th at regionals to help Milford

**ALL-AREA CROSS COUNTRY**  
Runner of the Year Jackie Mullins, Novi freshman  
First Team  
Lauren Kettle, Milford junior  
Rachel Hofess, Milford senior  
Morgan Bridgewater, Lakeland sophomore  
Gina McNamara, Northville sophomore  
Katie Vandervoort, Northville freshman  
Second Team  
Maggie Sadler, South Lyon sophomore  
Alex Rodriguez, Northville freshman  
Erin Dunne, Northville freshman  
Brittany Greenleaf, Milford sophomore  
Reaghan Fisher, Lakeland sophomore  
Raechel Moore, Lakeland junior  
Morgan Kettle, Milford sophomore  
Alexandra Brayback, Northville freshman  
Claire Courtney, Northville freshman  
Emily Sides, Northville junior  
Brodie McWhan, Novi senior  
Callie Miller, South Lyon sophomore  
Christina Swain, South Lyon sophomore  
Gretchen Borman, South Lyon freshman  
Katie Beaber, South Lyon freshman  
Meghan Hoover, South Lyon East junior  
Sarah Sherman, South Lyon East junior  
Courtney Collins, South Lyon East sophomore  
Jennie Feigley, Milford sophomore  
Alana Moore, Milford sophomore  
Shayna Joyce, Milford freshman  
Sara MacDonald, Lakeland sophomore

move to the State Finals. She finished 96th in team point and 106th overall at Michigan International Speedway. Her best time was 20:14 at the conference meet.

### Brittany Greenleaf, Milford

The Maverick sophomore was 29th at Oakland County, 25th at the conference meet and 21st at regionals. She finished 119th in team scoring and 150th overall at the State Finals. Her best time was 20:18 at the conference meet.

### Reaghan Fisher, Lakeland

The freshman Eagle put together a strong season, placing 25th at the county meet, 20th at KLAAs Conference meet and 12th at regionals. She capped the season with a trip to the State Finals where she placed 99th.

### Raechel Moore, Lakeland

The Lakeland junior finished 29th at the county meet and 28th at the regional meet. She was one of the top-three finishers for Lakeland throughout the season.

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## WINTER

FROM PAGE B1

Zabinski a season best in the 100-yard backstroke.

The team placed sixth at the KLAAs Kensington Conference meet Feb. 27 after finishing the regular season fourth of five Central Division teams. Chung took first in the conference meet's 100-yard breaststroke in 59.84 seconds and third in the 200-yard individual medley in 2:01.17. Smith earned fourth in the 50-yard freestyle in 22.93 seconds, while Zabinski, Chung, Vincent and Smith earned third in the 200-yard medley relay in 1:41.53.

The team kicks off the new season Jan. 9 at West Bloomfield's Laker Invitational.

WRESTLING Claydon Caldwell was the only Wildcat advancing to the regional meet, but was eliminated early with two losses to Belleville and Lincoln Park's 130-pound counterparts. He finished 22-15 on season and advanced to the regional meet by placing third in the district. The team saw more success at the Feb. 14 KLAAs Lakes Conference meet. Although Novi's squad tied

Livonia Churchill for ninth at with 79.5 points - Westland John Glenn won with 256.5 and Novi beat out Wayne Memorial (78) and South Lyon East (24) - several Wildcats did well individually. Connor Caldwell took fourth at 112 pounds, while Novi earned fifth-place finishes each from Layton Caldwell at 130 pounds, Glenn Malcar at 140 pounds, Martin Bunney at 145 pounds and Adam Paul at 171 pounds.

With the team fighting injuries early on this season, Connor Caldwell, Bunney and Paul each return looking to improve upon last season, continuing at a Plymouth-hosted dual meet Jan. 6.

CHEER Following an undefeated season in division dual meets, Novi's squad took fifth at districts with a score of 701.44, behind Hartland (760.35), Northville (722.38), Brighton (721.83) and South Lyon (709.29). The top four qualified to advance, but Novi fell from third after a strong first round to fourth before South Lyon edged the Wildcats out by placing third in the final round Feb. 21.

Novi also took third in the Kensington Conference on Feb. 14 with 681.5 points,

which played every position but catcher at some point throughout the season.

SOFTBALL After finishing the season 11-11 (8-8 Central) for fourth in the division, Novi's season ended May 27 with an 11-10 district-semifinal loss to North Farmington.

Maddy Sinkovich led the team with a .316 batting average and just six strikeouts, while splitting time between third base and center field.

BOYS GOLF After a 5-5 fourth-place Central Division finish, the

Wildcats scored 318 strokes at Regionals to end the season but not placing in top three and therefore not advancing to States. Hartland (296), Detroit Catholic Central (298) and Brighton (300) took those honors.

The team was also fourth at the Kensington Conference meet with a 313-stroke performance, behind Northville (301), Plymouth Salem (307) and Livonia Churchill (308).

Tyler Manning earned All-State honorable mention with a season-low 73.

Chris Jactelt is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

## SPRING

FROM PAGE B1

Favorite (30 goals, 24 assists) on offense and Jack Petroskey on defense.

BASEBALL With an 18-12 overall and 11-5 division record, Novi finished second in the Central Division behind Northville (28-11, 15-1), who ended the Wildcats' season with a 9-6 district semifinal loss May 30.

The team was led by Garrett Green (.398, 40 runs) and Nick Regnier (.398, 40 RBI, 26

runs), who played every position but catcher at some point throughout the season.

The team was also fourth at the Kensington Conference meet with a 313-stroke performance, behind Northville (301), Plymouth Salem (307) and Livonia Churchill (308).

Tyler Manning earned All-State honorable mention with a season-low 73.

Chris Jactelt is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE B1

really matter and it was really what I liked better.

Maintaining a 3.5 Grade Point Average at Novi High, Thomas plans to go into "business, probably marketing" at SVSU. Border, who has a 3.55 GPA, is considering going into physical therapy at Toledo because she has seen the profession up close while recovering from spine and wrist injuries in middle school and during freshman year.

"I'm not 100 percent, but I had a lot of experience with physical therapy. Science is probably my favorite subject," Border said. "I'm not expecting to go pro or anything like that. I'm just focusing on college and college tennis."

Both girls have built impressive athletic resumes in their time at Novi High and plan to transition that success onto the courts at their future homes away from home.

"I'm not sure what to expect because we'll have such a new team, really young," said Border, who went a combined 40-30 as Novi's singles player the past two seasons during two trips to the state quarterfinals. "There's a lot of reasons I chose Toledo. I really like the coach. It was a lot closer to home than the others. I was pleasantly surprised with the campus and academic programs, too."

Thomas, who has been a tennis teammate of Border's

the past three years, thinks her friend will do just fine at the college level.

"I think she's amazing. My freshman year, she could beat out almost the whole team. I really expect her to win states, knock on wood," Thomas said.

Racking up about 500 kills and 143 blocks the past two seasons, Thomas expects to play outside hitter and contribute to an SVSU program currently at the peak of its existence.

"This year they won the GLIAC conference and beat Grand Valley for like the first time ever. Last year, Eastern Kentucky did really bad," Thomas said of one of the determining factors in her selection process. "The coach was a big thing. I just like the team, they all seemed really nice when I visited."

Thomas was scouted by SVSU coach Will Stenton while Coach was checking up on one of his current freshmen, Robb, at Michigan Elite club matches in Warren.

"We play at the same club. Her coach would always come see her play and would see me play too," Thomas said.

Thomas will prepare for SVSU by playing with Legacy Volleyball Club in Rochester this winter because Legacy VC had more roster space for an outside hitter, whereas Michigan Elite was already overstocked at the position.

"I'm really happy for her. I know Julia will have a lot of fun and a really good experience," Border said.

A three-time All-Conference selection and the All-Area player of the year her sophomore year, Border has been intensely training since she was 10, having picked up the sport when she was 4-5.

"Tennis is a huge commitment, six to seven days a week, year round. What I've done since second semester sophomore year is take my fourth block class as an online class," Border said. "I'm really looking forward to playing at Toledo."

Training at the Franklin Athletic Club in Southfield and Sports Club of Novi, Border's schedule ranges from a simple hit around and distance jog to individual, group and injury prevention training sessions.

"Ann Arbor is a smooth, all-court player who strikes the ball very well. She builds her points well and is not afraid to move forward to finish points," Toledo coach Tracy Maunter said. Elaborating on her incoming class of recent signees, Maunter said, "(We) believe that they can be impact players right away for us next year. This group has had lots of success during their junior careers. They are a great group of girls with endless potential."

Thomas, who helped the Wildcat volleyball team to three consecutive district titles, realizes the unique opportunity she has.

"I'm really lucky to get a scholarship because a lot of girls can't," Thomas said.

Chris Jactelt is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

## FAMILY

FROM PAGE B1

Junior Joon Chung, who was All-State in both the 200- and 100-yard medley and 100-yard breaststroke last year after making the state meet cut in nearly every event during the season.

"He's been fighting knee problems. The biggest thing is getting more guys to step up. We lost one of our key sprinters last year to (indoor club) soccer," Lynn said. "What I've seen so far looks real good. We had a lot of guys swim in the offseason this year. They have

a better idea what they want, to step it up."

Expected to step up in the freestyle events, among others, are seniors David Gruceck, John Lu and juniors Travis Vincent, Vivek Iyer and Gabe Glenn. Also expected to help out in the butterfly events is junior Thomas Bourque.

With a strong junior and sophomore presence, the young Wildcats hope to build upon last season to secure third place in the KLAAs Central Division, setting the team up for a strong campaign next season. The team would also like to send more swimmers to the state meet, as just three of the six from last season return.

"I have everyone swim together. I don't separate JV and varsity. I like to have the younger guys swim with the older guys," said Lynn, whose program has about 51 total swimmers. "It's going to be Northville and Stevenson fighting for first. My goal is to sneak in and get third. Salem is real strong."

The team kicks off the season Jan. 9 at West Bloomfield's Laker Invitational before hosting South Lyon's unified team 6 p.m. Jan. 14 in the first dual meet of the season.

Chris Jactelt is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

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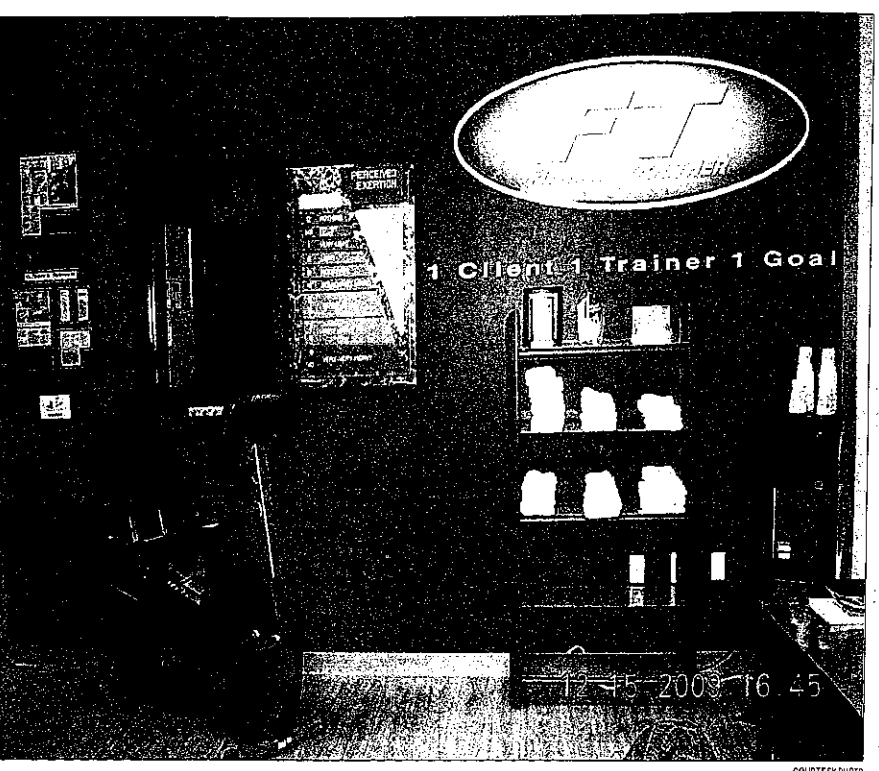
**How did you first decide to open your business?**  
Managed a local Health Club in Northville. After four and a half years, decided to open up a personal training franchise.

**Why did you choose this area?**  
Very diverse population with good income levels. Exciting proposed growth for the city.

**What makes your business unique?**  
We changes people lives by improving the quality of their life through structured individualized workout plans.

**How has it changed since you opened?**  
Our philosophy has never changed - one client, one trainer, one goal. The more lives we change the better quality of life our clients will have.

**Do you have a funny tidbit or story about your experience as a small business owner to share with our readers?**  
I once had a client who told me that she sat in the parking lot for 30 minutes before she plucked up the courage to walk into the studio. She was very nervous and intimidated. She went on to tell me that she hated exercise and had never really done anything physical in her life. After a lengthy conversation, she finally



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became a client and went on to lose 40 pounds and new lives are being changed and telling everyone how great exercising can be for you. So many people underestimate the power of exercise.

**How has the recent economy affected your business?**  
It's definitely got more challenging, but you don't give up - the strong survive.

**Any advice for business owners?**  
Remember, buyers always have a choice as to where and how they will spend their money - more so now than ever before. Always exceed expectations, offer exceptional customer service,

make every experience with your business one that the client will never forget.

**What's in store for the future of your business?**  
We have recently moved to a new location at 10 Mile and Novi Road. We are very happy with our new studio and continue to work hard at helping each of our clients reach their health and fitness goals.

### BUSINESS MILESTONES

**Walsh winter registration under way**  
Registration for winter courses that begin Jan. 4 is under way at all Walsh College campuses, with no appointment necessary on Walk-In Wednesdays. Students can enroll now in a new Master of Management degree program and a new M.B.A. master's in finance dual degree program. Walsh continues "Walk-In Wednesdays", where prospective students can meet with an academic advisor, review transcripts, and register for classes on a walk-in basis at the Troy, Novi, or Clinton Township campuses from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call (800) WALSH-01, or e-mail admissions@walshcollege.edu.

The 33-credit master's degree program in business administration (M.B.A.) and finance (master's in finance) can be completed within a shorter timeframe than enrollment in each separate degree program. Students are required to take 22 classes for 66 semester credits required for both degrees. The distinctive M.B.A. encompasses accounting, finance, management, and related disciplines. The M.S.F. covers all aspects of finance, a blend of accounting, economics, and finance, and the study of economic theory. For more information and a list of courses, visit www.walshcollege.edu/MM.

A new dual master's degree program in business administration (M.B.A.) and finance (master's in finance) can be completed within a shorter timeframe than enrollment in each separate degree program. Students are required to take 22 classes for 66 semester credits required for both degrees. The distinctive M.B.A. encompasses accounting, finance, management, and related disciplines. The M.S.F. covers all aspects of finance, a blend of accounting, economics, and finance, and the study of economic theory. For more information and a list of courses, please visit www.walshcollege.edu/MBA-MSF.

Among the new courses are Real Estate Principles, an undergraduate course focusing residential real estate; and a Entrepreneurship Seminar for business students, exploring the entrepreneurial success process.

**Oakland offers business workshops**  
Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars in January offered at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford. For location specifics and pre-registration, visit www.oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783. Business Basics workshops are now offered in the evenings on alternating months.

**Pre-Business Research**  
Are you thinking of starting your own business and want to research your business idea? Are you a business owner who wants to understand which research sources to use for your business plan and where to find the information you need? The class is held on Tuesday, Jan. 7, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Presented by The Entrepreneur's Source, Oakland County's Business Center, Market Research Department, and Research Librarian. This workshop is free, but pre-registration is required.

**Fundamentals of Marketing Your Business**  
Marketing is an essential of business success. All products/services must be sold to well-targeted audiences with a wide-ranging marketing mix. Our staff/SCORE counselors can guide you through successful techniques and marketing principles helping you to promote your products and services to the most promising customers-your target audience. Presented by The Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center (MISBTDC), Thursday, Jan. 28 from 9 a.m.-noon. For location specifics and pre-registration, visit our Web site at oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783. The fee is \$30. No refunds.

**FUTURE WORKSHOPS**  
(AM) Morning Class 9 a.m. to 12:12:30 p.m.  
(PM) Evening Class 6 p.m. to 9/9:30 p.m.  
9 - Pre-Business Research  
16 - Start A Business (PM)  
17 - Team SBA Financing Roundtable  
23 - Write A Business Plan (PM)  
24 - WBE Certification Orientation  
25 - Small Business Loan Workshop  
The Web site address for Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services Workshops is www.oakgov.com/peds/calendar.

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**MILFORD TOWNSHIP** Clean 2 updated hardwood floors, 2 br., 1.5 bath, near downtown & schools. \$775/mo. Immediate occupancy. (810)255-1433  
**MILFORD** - 2 bedroom, w/d, w/d, w/d, w/d. Sec. deposit \$200. 248-302-6029  
**Northville-Downtown**, charming & efficient, 1 br. w/d, pet friendly. \$450/mo. plus security. (248)349-7482  
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**Apartment/Condo (400)**  
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1 br/m, single story  
Private entry/entry  
Plymouth/Livonia area  
**MOVES YOU INVITE**  
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www.companionat.com  
Call to details

**Apartment/Condo (400)**  
SOUTH LYON  
SOUTH LYON - 1 & 2 br starting at \$525. Private entrance, washer/dryer hook-up. Pet welcome! 517-225-3333

**Condos/Townhouses (400)**  
NORTHVILLE - 7 Mile & Northridge Condo - 2 Bedrooms, 1 Master Bedroom/private bath, full carpet, central air, laundry facilities, pool, Spacious Upper, Northville Schools, Water included. One yr lease, New Carpet & paint throughout. No pets. Immediate Occupancy. \$900. 248-91-1341  
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HAMBURG/PLYMOUTH AREA  
2 br duplex, \$550. No dog. 734-662-8669 734-878-8984  
**HARTLAND** - 2 br, ranch unit, air, garage, no pets. \$700/mo. 12 mo. lease. 430 days w/d. \$100 lease. NICE! 734-467-9260

**Condos/Townhouses (400)**  
MILFORD VILLAGE - 2 bdrm, 2 bath, luxury condo. Totally renovated. Call: Hardwood floors. \$1,255. 248-46-9154  
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NEW HUDSON - 2 BR, 1 bath, private entrance, 1q yard. Pet own utilities. Immediate occupancy! \$800/mo + \$500 sec. dep. 248-437-1890  
**NORTHVILLE** Private, cute, garden setting, 1 br., new carpet, washer & dryer. \$625 incl. utilities and lawn care. Parking for car, only, no pets. 248-690-9233  
**NORTHVILLE** - 2 br, ranch unit, air, garage, no pets. \$700/mo. 12 mo. lease. 430 days w/d. \$100 lease. NICE! 734-467-9260  
**NORTHVILLE** - 2 br, ranch unit, air, garage, no pets. \$700/mo. 12 mo. lease. 430 days w/d. \$100 lease. NICE! 734-467-9260

**Homes For Rent (400)**  
BRIGHTON, 3 br, 1 bath, attached garage, new flooring \$850/mo. 517-218-7744  
**CONCERGE TWP**  
3br, 1 bath, W/ited Lake schools, fenced yard, \$700/mo. \$150/Sec. 245-624-9470  
**Hartfield 18 Shavano** across Spectra's. 4 br, 3 bath 2 car. \$1700/mo. 810-875-0025  
**BRIGHTON**  
640 E. Grand River  
3400 2 br. Heat incl. No pet. Security deposit, \$200 with 3 mos. at 50% off w/dog credit. 810-359-6776 810-227-2200  
Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL (7355)

**Homes For Rent (400)**  
HARTLAND: Copy into 2 bdrm home on Lakefront, all sports Tysons Lake, Clean, all sports \$550. \$1500 Monthly Rent \$700/mo. 248-685-1408  
**HOWELL** 2700-8000 sq. ft. low rent, across from Piquette, ample parking. 810-225-5570  
**SOUTH LYON** \* 2000 sq. ft. \$700/mo. With 10x12 covered rear deck. (248) 756-5472  
**SOUTH LYON**, 1250 Sq. Ft. w/dishes, \$600/mo. Larger units avail. 248-756-3509  
**SOUTH LYON**, For lease, 6,000 sq. ft. storage space, no heat. \$800/mo. 248-756-3939

**Mobile Home Rentals (400)**  
HOWELL, Rent to own, 4 units available. Starting at \$400/mo. 517-545-2268  
**ROSEMOUNT** 3 br. 2 bath, w/d, w/d, w/d, w/d. \$700/mo. 248-681-1065  
**NEW - FAIRLANE MOTEL**  
Clean rooms, H/D, fridge, microwave, in room coffee makers. Free local calls & wireless internet. Weekly rates. (248)437-9599  
**HOWELL CHERRY**  
1 & 2 br., \$499 to \$550/mo. incl. carpet, Oak county setting, close to downtown. \$450/mo, central air, \$200 sec. dep. w/dog credit. (817) 548-3733

**ANN ARBOR**  
Quality affordable independent living now renting safe, quiet housing for adults 62+. Monthly rent includes all utilities and 5 dinners.  
**Immediate Occupancy starting at \$506/mo.**  
**Lurie Terrace Apts.**  
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2 bedroom starting at \$825  
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GARAGE • SUDEN'S  
CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS • POOL  
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Call for our Monthly Specials!  
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# Don't Drink & Drive Celebrate Safely!

The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Newspapers along with these area businesses would like to wish everyone a SAFE New Year's Eve and New Year's Day!  
Remember to drink wisely and have a designated driver!

**VILLAGE PARTY TIME**  
303 South Main • Milford, MI  
(248) 684-8965  
*Be safe this Holiday Season!*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
Northville Collision  
700 Doheny • Northville  
(248) 349-1090

*Don't Drink & Drive This Holiday Season*  
**WATER WHEEL SPRINKLER**  
P.O. Box 749 • Milford  
(248) 685-8473

*Have a wonderfully safe holiday season!*  
**LARSON JEWELRY DESIGN**  
43155 Main, Suite 304 Novi  
(248) 347-4653

**STEVE'S EUROPEAN AUTOMOTIVE**  
*Automotive Services Excellence Since 1983*  
(248) 674-2770  
www.StevesEuropeanAuto.com  
4920 Pontiac Lake Rd • Waterford, MI 48328

**BROOKWOOD FARMS APT.**  
200 Brookwood Dr.  
South Lyon  
(248) 437-9959  
Happy New Year!  
www.apartments.com/brookwoodfarms

**BEST STORAGE OF NEW HUDSON**  
5360 Grand River  
New Hudson  
(248) 437-1660  
*Have a Happy and Safe New Year!*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
**LAPTOP XPRESS**  
2330 S. Milford Road, Suite 102  
Highland  
laptopxpress@comcast.net  
(248) 685-0317

**BOGIE LAKE GREENHOUSES**  
1525 Bogie Lake Rd.  
White Lake  
(248) 887-5101  
*"Have a Great New Year!"*

*Happy New Year!*  
**HOUSE CLEANING SERVICES**

**2010**  
Happy New Year  
ADVANCED DENTAL  
42450 W. 12 Mile Suite 200  
Across From 12 Oaks Mall Novi  
(248) 348-8808  
www.advanceddentalmi.com

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
**CONSIGNMENT CLOTHIERS**  
42937 Seven Mile • Northville  
HIGHLAND LAKES SHOPPING CENTER  
(248) 347-4570

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
*Have a Safe and Happy New Year!*  
**COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCES**  
22271 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon (248) 437-1304

**BEDARD SHADE TREE CO.**  
57855 Travis Rd.  
New Hudson  
(248) 437-9320

**LOWEST RENTAL RATES!!!**  
APARTMENTS FOR RENT: LINCOLN PARK: 313-386-6720  
**ROOMS FOR RENT: LUXURY MOTELS**  
• Comfort Suites (248) 504-5080 • Fairlane (248) 347-9999  
• Royal (248) 544-1575 • Days (734) 427-1500

*Have A Safe and Happy New Year!*  
**DICK MORRIS CHEVROLET**  
2199 Haggerty Rd. • Walled Lake, MI 48390  
(248) 624-4500

**Flamingos in the Yard**  
*Happy Holidays!*  
(800) LAWN FUN  
*Celebrating Special Occasions All Year Round!*  
www.flamingosbytheyard.net

**HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
**WAGON WHEEL LOUNGE**  
212 S MAIN ST • NORTHVILLE, MI 48167  
248-349-8686

**EDWARD JONES**  
800 N. Milford Rd. Ste 400 • Milford  
(248) 685-1600  
*Happy Holidays!*

**PAT'S FIELD OF FLOWERS**  
22331 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon  
(248) 437-7997  
*Have A Safe and Happy New Year!*

*Wishing Everyone A Safe and Happy New Year!*  
**CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH, SOUTH LYON**  
Worship: Sat: 6:00pm, Sun 9:30 & 11:00am  
28900 Pontiac Tr.  
www.ecrossroads.net  
(248) 486-0400

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
**Andrew Tree Service**  
Canton, MI 48187  
734-459-4655

*Have A Safe and Prosperous New Year!*  
**NORM'S TOTAL AUTOMOTIVE**  
115 West Lake St.  
South Lyon  
(248) 437-2086

*Have A Fun & Safe Holiday!*  
**JAMES J. CAREY CPA, PC**  
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**Comfort Keepers**  
995 N. Mill St. • Plymouth (734) 397-1111