

Money-saving coupons inside

Marines' homecoming spurs call for donations - A8



THURSDAY  
March 25,  
2010

# NOVI NEWS

online at hometownlife.com

Volume 54, Number 44, Hometown Weeklies 75 CENTS

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY

## NOVI NUTSHELL

### Bunny hops to Twelve Oaks

The bunny trail leads to Twelve Oaks this spring as the Easter Bunny hops into the Central Park Garden in the Lower Level Center Court through Saturday, April 3. Photos of the children with the Easter Bunny will be available for purchase. Each child who visits will receive a free gift. Photo operation hours will be Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Easter Bunny does take brief carrot breaks during the day. For a complete list of photo packages and prices, visit [www.shoptwelveoaks.com](http://www.shoptwelveoaks.com).

### Support the Choralaires

The Novi Choralaires are having their annual Patron Drive now through April 10. It is their most important fundraiser of the year and will allow them to continue to provide quality musical entertainment to residents of the greater Novi area. The non-profit group is asking business and individuals to consider supporting the Novi Choralaires during their annual Patron Drive with a financial donation in one of the following categories:

- Major Contributor: \$500 and up
- Gold Patron: \$250 to \$499
- Silver Patron: \$100 to \$249
- Bronze Patron: \$50 to \$99
- Patron: \$25 to \$49

As a contributor, you will be listed in the concert programs as well as on their Web site ([www.novichoralaires.org](http://www.novichoralaires.org)), and you will receive a decal with their logo. Major Contributors and Gold Patrons are entitled to a full-page or half-page advertisement, respectively, in the concert programs. If you contribute at Bronze level or above, you will also receive two complimentary tickets to the Spring Concert.

If you wish to make a contribution, please contact Patron Drive Chairperson Margie Shaul at (248) 349-1841.

### Eggs-citing!

There will be over 8,000 eggs for children to hunt at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 3 at the Easter Eggstravaganza at First Church of the Nazarene (east side of Haggerty Road, north of Eight Mile Road). Enjoy an "Egging" show by Big Blast Ministries; photos with the Easter Bunny; games, crafts; prizes, hot dogs, chips, cookies and drinks. Save time by registering online ([dcmnazarene.org](http://dcmnazarene.org)) until March 31. After, please plan to register at the door.

## Life after layoffs: Former custodians still looking for work



Former Novi Community School District custodian Al Potts talks about how his life has changed since being laid off near Christmas as the district looked to save money. To his right are fellow former custodians Tammy Nance and Jan Wilson.

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

It has been three months since the 39 custodial workers in the Novi Community School District lost their jobs to a private company. Of that group, only one is employed -- Tom Marcus chose to join GCA Services Group because he needed to support his family and did not want to leave the students he formed close relationships with behind.

The other 38 are still picking up the pieces. Roughly 33 of them are collecting unemployment, one was forced to leave his home and the state, and the majority hold a grudge against

district officials they believed had it out for them from the beginning.

"To throw us out the way they did broke our hearts," said Laura Barduca, who worked for the district for 17 years. "We went over and above the job description, and deep in our hearts we never believed they were going to do it."

"They kept giving us a little hope, and it makes me mad they are accepting lower quality of work."

A typical day for the former employees consists of looking for jobs and trying to stay busy to keep their minds off the struggles. Several of them hadn't looked for jobs in years and didn't even know where to start.

Brad Spencer spent 24 years with the district and even months later still gets emotional when talking about his time there.

"It was an end to a big part of my life," he said fighting back tears. "Things will never be the same."

Spencer now considers himself a burden on society because prior to the layoffs he was a taxpayer and now he takes taxpayer money. His wife is working two jobs to keep the family afloat while he searches for employment and contemplates going back to school.

Al Potts, who worked there

Please see **CUSTODIANS, A2**



A worker cleans some of the light fixtures of the new Novi Public Library on March 9.

## Out with the old, in with the new

### Library closing its doors April 1

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Public Library will officially lock its doors for the final time two weeks from today.

And while staff members understand it will be an inconvenience for the more than 800 people who visit the library each day, the two-month closure is needed to ensure the new facility opens on time.

"We know it will be tough but the end result will be worth it," said assistant director Mary Ellen Mulcrone.

The end result, which is expected to open on June 1, is a two-story, \$10-million state-of-the-art facility that will give patrons more options and improved service.

Director Julie Farkas said people will not be disappointed when they step foot inside the new building, which features new amenities such as a drive-thru window for picking up and dropping off books, the Read-A-Latte Café, additional group space and study rooms and more.

"I'm just so excited for this community," she said.

During the two-month transition period, library users can head to four other local libraries that have agreed to take on Novi's

Please see **LIBRARY, A9**

**EVERYTHING MUST GO**

The Novi Public Library will be auctioning off several items from the old library that will not be taken over to the new facility when it opens in June.

Doors open at 4 p.m. and the auction begins at 6 p.m. on April 14 at the library. Some of the items being auctioned include computers, book shelves, magazine racks, desks, chairs, work stations, show cases, work cubicles, file cabinets and more.

For a full list of items and terms and conditions of sales, e-mail [snewton@midwestautoauction.com](mailto:snewton@midwestautoauction.com).

Payment can be made by cash, cashier's check, money order and company checks with banks' letter of guarantee. No personal checks, debits or charges. There also is a 5-percent buyer's fee. All items must be taken by noon on April 15.

### Contact Us

- News/Advertising: (248) 437-2011
- Classified Advertising: (800) 579-7355
- Delivery: (866) 887-2737
- Mail: 101 N. Lafayette St. South Lyon, MI 48178

SUBSCRIPTIONS AT LOWEST COST  
 NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY  
 45245 N 10 MILE RD  
 ANNU BI  
 48375-3014

### Index

- APARTMENTS ... C2
- AUTOMOTIVE ... C6
- CAREER BUILDER ... C1
- CROSSWORD PUZZLE ... C2
- EDUCATION ... A5
- OBITUARIES ... A6
- OPINION ... A10
- REAL ESTATE ... C2
- SERVICE GUIDE ... C5
- SPORTS ... B1
- STRICTLY BUSINESS ... A12



## Dion finalist for superintendent position in Washington state

### Decision expected first week in April

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

Novi Superintendent Peter Dion is one of two finalists for the top job at Federal Way School District in Washington state.

Dion, who headed to Washington to start the interview process Monday morning, is in his fifth year in Novi. He is competing for the job with another Michigan candidate, Waterford School District Superintendent Robert Neu.

Novi Board of Education President Ann Glubzinski said she understands Dion's desire to continue to develop his career,



but his departure could be tough as Novi - like all other districts throughout the state - faces financial uncertainties.

"Pete has a lot invested in our district, and it's a critical time for our district," she said. "To be adding to that work a superintendent search, it is going to put some extra work on the board. But if that is the position we are in, we will be diligent in finding

Please see **DION, A3**

# Free Checking

Convenience you expect.

Outstanding service you deserve.

**COMMUNITY FINANCIAL**

(734) 453-1200 (877) 937-2328 toll free [www.cfu.org](http://www.cfu.org)

PLYMOUTH CANTON NORTHVILLE NOVI

NCLIA Your savings, federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. Equal Housing Lender. ©2009 Community Financial

**CUSTODIANS**  
FROM PAGE A1

10 years, said his partial second income keeps him afloat, but if it weren't for that and the little savings he has, he would have lost everything. "It's pretty tough right now," he said. The former employees believe Superintendent Peter Dion and Assistant Superintendent Gail Credit had their minds made up from the beginning and that GCA Services Group should have been competing against the custodian union and not the other way around. The custodians came close to matching the private group dollar for dollar, but in the end it was not enough for the board of education to save their jobs. Phil Light, who spent 17 years with the district and was the union steward, said that with roughly 33 peo-



Former custodian Phil Light, left, listens as his fellow former custodians talk about how their lives have been impacted after being laid off by the school district in December. To his right is Todd Golding.

ple collecting unemployment, the savings the school district thought it was going to see will

be reduced. "I feel horrible for everyone involved but we did the best we could," he said. "I think we could have told them we would

have worked for \$3 an hour and it wouldn't have made a difference." Light recently registered with No Worker Left Behind

to go back to school and get a degree in the environmental science field. He, like many of his former co-workers, chose not to join GCA Services Group because they make more on unemployment than they would have made working for the private company. He called the entire process of negotiations "the most difficult thing he had to encounter," and thanks Assistant Superintendent Bob Schram and Director of Maintenance Jeff Sotzen "because of the support they attempted to give us."

"It was an uphill battle," he said. George House, a custodian with the district for 18 years who retired in 2006, said it upsets him that these once dedicated employees now face home foreclosures, loss of medical benefits and more because of the cuts.

"It may be argued that it had to be done, but I don't think so," he said. "Other schools have similar or even worse financial problems but they creatively found other ways to cut costs by working together." Cleaning the schools was not just a job to these people,

it was their passion. They took pride in their work and enjoyed seeing the smiles on the children's faces every day. It is especially hard when they hear from teachers and others in the district that they are missed and that the new company isn't as good.

"When we offered to match and they turned us down, it said to me they didn't want us there," Potts said. "It's pretty tough." Tammy Nance went through the layoff process once with the district in 2007, but this time it's different because it's permanent. She waited in line at a job fair recently for three hours with no luck and spends her days crying and pacing the floor.

However, she has managed to find a silver lining. The bond these former employees formed during their time at the schools has no price tag. Sure, they all hope to be employed and successful, but the friendships and memories they have cannot be taken away.

"Even for a short ride I have gained a wonderful family," she said. "And I left richer in my heart."

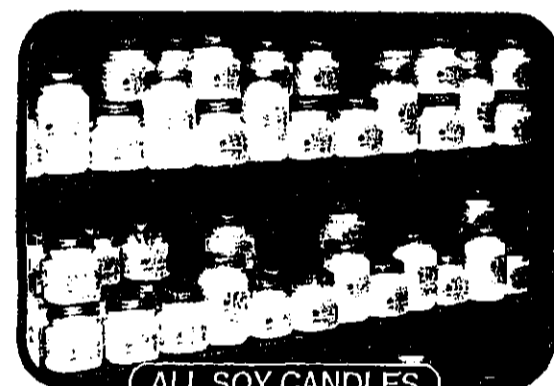
**RIVERSIDE COMMONS RANCHES - COLONIALS**  
In the Village of Milford from the 1990's  
A Riverfront Community offered by **OMEGA HOMES**  
Visit [OmegaHomes.com](http://OmegaHomes.com)  
Or call (248) 685-2020

**NO SAD DOGS!**  
When you leave home, your pet doesn't have to.  
**Platinum Pet Service**  
Insured, Bonded, Pet Tech Certified  
- References Available  
Pet Sitting, Dog Training, Dog Walking  
15% Discount for New Clients  
Monthly Specials  
Serving Plymouth, Northville, Canton, Livonia and Ann Arbor  
Phone 734.737.0009  
e-mail: [call-wag@platinumpet.com](mailto:call-wag@platinumpet.com)  
Website: [www.platinumpet.com](http://www.platinumpet.com)

**THE NOVI NEWS**  
Published Each Thursday  
By The Novi News  
101 Lafayette  
South Lyon, Michigan 48176  
Periodical  
At South Lyon, Michigan  
Mail Subscription Rates:  
In-County: \$32 for one year. Out of County (in Michigan): \$47 for one year. Out of State: \$58 for one year. For delivery call 888-968-3742.  
The Novi News is published by Federated Publications, Inc. a wholly owned subsidiary of Gannett Co. Inc. Postmaster, send address changes to: The Novi News, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170. POLICY STATEMENT: All advertising published in The Novi News is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department, The Novi News, 101 Lafayette, South Lyon, Michigan 48176. (248-349-1700). The Novi News reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. The Novi News reserves the right to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.  
Publication Number USPS 388920

Discover truer, richer colors  
**Banjamin Moore**  
Ace Family Hardware  
22104 Novi Road  
Novi, MI 48175  
248-349-0199

**Great Spring Finds**



ALL SOY CANDLES

**The Aubergine Gallery**  
338 N. Main St., Milford  
248-684-9340  
[www.auberginegallery.com](http://www.auberginegallery.com)

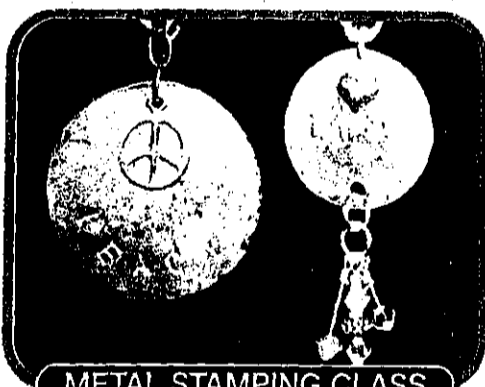
- All soy candles
- Local artists
- Pottery, jewelry, paintings and fibers
- And much more



ALL NEW PHOTO FRAMES

**Main Street Art**  
432 N. Main St., Milford  
248-684-1004  
[www.mainstreetartmilford.com](http://www.mainstreetartmilford.com)

- Brand New Photo Frames
- Sizes available: 4x6, 5x5, 5x7, 8x10
- Beautiful Custom Framing



METAL STAMPING CLASS

**Beading Friendlyz**  
141 N. Milford Rd., Highland  
248-742-8440

Use alphabet stamps on metal to create your own customized jewelry  
Create your own class - custom scheduling available  
Go to [www.beadingsfriendlyz.com](http://www.beadingsfriendlyz.com) for details



NEW SPRING ARRIVALS!

**Uptown Threads**  
405 N. Main St., Milford  
248-684-7346

Beautiful spring jackets  
New denim line  
Unique one-of-a-kind finds  
20% Off one item with this ad  
Expires 4/15/10



CHANGE YOUR LOOK

**Franklin's Hair Salon**  
13561 Main Street, Farmington Hills  
248-383-7700

- Men's and women's haircuts
- Bangles - Combs - Hair ties
- Extensions - Straightening - Styling
- More than 20 hair color options
- More than 20 hair products



SPRING HAS ARRIVED!

**The Village Florist**  
401 N. Main St., Milford  
248-685-9012

- Candles - European style
- Custom Silk Arrangements
- New Home Décor
- New Pumpernickel Press Greeting Cards



PALOOZA! FRAME SALE

**Wind River Gallery**  
423 N. Main St., Milford  
248-684-6044

- 30% Off Custom Framing With This Ad Expires 4/30/10
- Includes Frame, Glass and Mats
- Frame Up Photos, Prints and Artwork



PLAYMOBIL

**Village Toy Shoppe**  
400 N. Main St., Milford  
248-684-TOYS (8697)

- Come see our new products from the 2010 Toy Fair
- Kumon Books, Guide Craft Furniture, Melissa & Doug, Sophie La Girafe and much more
- Ask us about our Frequent Buyer Program & Free Gift Wrap

**DION**  
FROM PAGE A1

the right individual that can continue to move our district ahead." Dion spent time as a superintendent in Birch Run and Grosse Ile before coming to Novi in 2005. Glubzinski said Dion told her he was approached in February by a consulting firm for Federal Way and told her on Saturday he was one of two finalists for the job.

She said the financial situation in Michigan could be one of the reasons behind his interest in the job as well as a proposal by Gov. Jennifer Granholm that encourages school employees to retire but takes away their vision and dental insurance as well as requiring them to contribute more toward their retirement.

If Dion does leave, it could make finding a replacement tougher.

"Would there be people from out of state wanting to come here?" she said. "How attractive it is to be a superintendent

in Michigan right now?" But because of Novi's success in recent years, Glubzinski also sees it as an attractive job.

"This is obviously a very high achieving district, and I think there would be interest from several individuals to be a superintendent here," she said. "I would be optimistic we

could find a good selection of individuals interested in helping us progress."

Dion and Neu were scheduled to complete their interviews this week, with public sessions Wednesday and Thursday. Officials from Federal Way also are expected to make visits to the two districts. An offer is expected by

the first week in April. Federal Way, located south of Seattle and north of Tacoma, has more than 23,000 students in 37 schools. Current Superintendent Tom Murphy is retiring after 10 years in that job and 22 years in the district.

[nmuller@gannett.com](mailto:nmuller@gannett.com) | (248) 437-2011, ext. 255

**Rasa Yoga**  
25875 Novi Rd  
Novi, MI 48175  
City Center Plaza  
(at Grand River)  
**Anusara Yoga A Grand Opening**  
First Class Compliments  
(248) 344-YOGA(9642)  
[www.rasa-yoga.com](http://www.rasa-yoga.com)

Check us out on the Web every day at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

31st Annual  
*Handcrafters*  
MICHIGAN'S PREMIERE ARTISAN MARKET

Juried, indoor fine art and fine craft show featuring the best one of a kind goods & gifts.

\$1.00 off

Bring this ad in to receive \$1.00 off the price of one regular admission. Regular admission price is \$3.00 per person.

For more information visit: [www.handcraftersunlimited.com](http://www.handcraftersunlimited.com)

*Spring Thing*  
March 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Northville Community Senior Center  
303 W. Main • Northville, MI 48167  
Hours: Friday 9am-9pm  
Saturday 9am-5pm • Sunday 11am-4pm

**NOVI Community School District**  
Kindergarten Parent Orientation  
Kindergarten Parent Orientation will take place in each elementary building on **March 31, 2010** at 7:00 p.m.  
Contact the building principal for information.

**Deerfield Elementary**  
Richard Njus, Principal  
[rnius@novi.k12.mi.us](mailto:rnius@novi.k12.mi.us)  
248-449-1700

**Novi Woods Elementary**  
Pamela Quitquit, Principal  
[pquitquit@novi.k12.mi.us](mailto:pquitquit@novi.k12.mi.us)  
248-449-1230

**Orchard Hills Elementary**  
Paul LePlac, Principal  
[pleplac@novi.k12.mi.us](mailto:pleplac@novi.k12.mi.us)  
248-449-1400

**Parkview Elementary**  
Jennifer Michos, Principal  
[jmichos@novi.k12.mi.us](mailto:jmichos@novi.k12.mi.us)  
248-449-1220

**Village Oaks Elementary**  
Sue Burnham, Principal  
[sburnham@novi.k12.mi.us](mailto:sburnham@novi.k12.mi.us)  
248-449-1300

For Additional information, call the Educational Services Building at 248-449-1200.

*Celebrate Spring*  
Live here for the best of your life!  
**LUXURY Senior Living at AFFORDABLE Prices**

**MARCH SPECIAL!**  
Save \$4800 in Rent in the First Year!

Services You Should Expect.....**Abbey Park**..... Other Communities  
We make your bed.....DAILY.....Once a week...at all  
We remove your trash.....DAILY.....Once a week...if at all  
Two delicious meals.....DAILY.....For an additional fee  
Wash all your linens.....WEEKLY.....For an additional fee  
Full cleaning service.....WEEKLY.....For an additional fee  
Warm and fuzzy staff.....ALWAYS.....Every once in a while  
Unlimited access to fitness center, theater with free movies & popcorn.....ALWAYS.....For an additional fee  
Comprehensive activity program, scheduled transportation, 24-hour staffing and a full facility generator.....ALWAYS.....Not always available  
Medicare certified services, physical therapy and podiatry available within the community.....ALWAYS.....Not always available  
Weekly entertainment, free happy hour, free ice cream socials.....ALWAYS.....Not always available  
Affordable prices.....ALWAYS.....Once a year specials

**Lyon Township**  
28413 Abbey Lane  
New Hudson, MI  
Across from Coyote Golf Club  
(248) 437-6550

**Grand Blanc**  
3221 E. Baldwin Rd.  
Grand Blanc, MI  
At Genesis Health Park  
(810) 606-1110

**Abbey Park**  
LUXURY SENIOR LIVING  
248-437-6550

[www.abbeypark.com](http://www.abbeypark.com)

An ounce of prevention could save your life.

Call 866-501-DOCS  
[www.doctors.com](http://www.doctors.com)

Are you managing your diabetes or is it managing you? Diabetes is treatable. Today, there are more options for treating diabetes than ever before. Simple lifestyle changes learned through education can have a positive, lasting impact on diabetes management and prevention. At the Joslin Diabetes Center, an affiliate at Providence Hospital, we significantly improve the lives of diabetic patients through a multidisciplinary approach, ultimately providing the highest level of care. Learn from certified diabetic educators and other clinical staff that will provide tools and resources in the prevention and management of diabetes related health concerns. For more information, call 248-849-3903 or visit us at [www.stjohn.org/joslin](http://www.stjohn.org/joslin).

**STJOHN PROVIDENCE HEALTH SYSTEM**  
**PROVIDENCE**  
A PASSION FOR HEALING

**Joslin Diabetes Center**  
Affiliate at Providence Hospital

Call 866-501-DOCS  
for information

Not just *any* doctor can wear this.



**This Doctors' Day, Providence Hospitals celebrates its doctors for their dedication, commitment and passion for healing.**

Being a doctor for Providence Hospitals in Southfield and Novi is more than a job. It's a calling. That's why wearing this coat means so much to them. It represents their commitment to healing the mind, body and spirit. It also embodies the faith we place in them to never stop fighting for their patients. Although our doctors may slip off their coats at the end of a day, their passion for healing remains. That's why they're part of the St. John Providence Health System.

For more information about Providence Hospitals in Southfield and Novi or one of our physicians, visit [stjohn.org](http://stjohn.org) or for a physician referral call 866-501-DOCS(3627).

**ST JOHN PROVIDENCE HEALTH SYSTEM**  
**PROVIDENCE**  
A PASSION for HEALING

ST JOHN HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER • PROVIDENCE HOSPITALS, SOUTHFIELD AND PROVIDENCE PARK • ST JOHN MACOMBE OAKLAND HOSPITAL  
ST JOHN RIVER DISTRICT HOSPITAL • ST JOHN NORTH SHORES HOSPITAL • BRIGHTON HOSPITAL

# EDUCATION

## Students get dose of reality

Career Day helps students think about future

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

Eighth graders at Novi Middle School got a glimpse into the future last week during Career Day.

And what they found out was that life as an adult is much harder than they thought.

The students learned a lot about what their parents go through on a daily basis by attending the Reality Store, an event similar to the board game Life. Each student chose their career, received an income and family and then had to manage the daily necessities of life such as cars, insurance, food and more. They also had to face a "reality check" which either hurt their finances or made them better.

When the students looked at how much money they had at the end, many were disappointed.

"I was \$200 in debt," said Brooke Laney, whose profession was a teacher. "I didn't know that was going to happen."

But the bleak outlook wasn't enough to make her change her future plans. Laney still wants to be a third grade teacher some day, and said she would get a job on the side if she needed to.

Fly Jenkins, one of the many volunteers at Career Day, said the goal is to give the students a realistic preview of what life is like. Many of the students want the fanciest homes and cars, but in the end they cannot afford it. They also want to divorce their



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
FBI special agent Kevin Kane talks to Novi Middle School students while giving them some souvenirs after his presentation during the school's Career Day.



Blake Buzzi begins to learn how to manage his fictitious adult salary with the help of volunteer Lynne Burkhardt during Novi Middle School's Career Day.

significant others and give up their kids, but at the Reality Store, much like real life, there is no turning back.

"It's an eye-opener for the kids," she said.

For seventh graders, Career Day gave them a chance to pick speakers from various industries that peaked their interest. Speakers ranged from doctors, authors, reporters and

photographers to public safety officials, pilots and more.

Shane Stanley, chiropractor and owner of Novi Spinal Care Institute, said he enjoys speaking at Career Day because when he was younger he did not know what he wanted to be and this is his chance to give back.

"If they don't have an idea, maybe we can plant a seed in their head," he said.

Seventh-grader Jared Engbretson attended the programs of FBI agent Kevin Kane, Novi Deputy Chief of Police Tom Lindberg and orthodontist Robert Goodman.

He said after listening to them speak he was leaning more toward FBI and police than becoming a doctor.

"I know now that you have to be in extreme physical shape," he said.

## Novi choirs shine in district competition

Novi High School choral teacher Don Daniels expects nothing less than perfection when he takes his choral groups to competition each year. The Varsity Choir, Concert Choir and the Novi Singers didn't disappoint Wednesday, March 3, as all three choirs, featuring 87 Novi students, earned top honors at Michigan State Vocal Music Association district competition at Waterford Kettering High School.

"Competition season is always my favorite time of year," said Daniels, a 10-year Novi educator. "It gives my students the chance to prepare musical selections, perform together on stage and then have their work evaluated by highly qualified judges. My choirs always rise to the challenge."

Novi Singers, the school's elite, mixed choir, performed a Sephardic Jewish folk song, Adijio Kerida by Joshua Jacobson and the Latin American composition, "Salmo 150" by Ernani Aguiar.

Concert Choir, a select female ensemble, per-

formed a Jewish folk song arrangement by Samuel Rosenbaum, "Dance With Me," and "I Will Be Earth," by Gwyneth Walker.

Varsity Choir, the beginning mixed ensemble, took the stage last, performing "Let the Praise Go Round" by Boyce and a folk song arrangement of "Shenandoah" by Jeff Funk.

During district competition, choirs complete a circuit of tasks, performing on stage before a panel of judges, participating in a workshop with a contest judge who offers suggestions for improving the performance and, finally, attending a session where their sight-reading skills are evaluated. Choirs are scored on their performances and sight-reading and are assigned a ranking for each criteria of I, II or III, plus an overall ranking.

All three Novi choirs received "I's" for their overall scores this year. Because of their superior scores, the choirs will have the opportunity to participate in MSVMA State Choral Festival competition at Rochester High School in April.

Check us out on the Web every day at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

<b>JACK'S WHOLESALE MEATS</b> 41527 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi Plaza • 248-349-8490 Hours: Monday-Saturday 8:30am-6:15pm; Sunday 11:30am-4:00pm <b>Why Pay Retail - Spring Sale - Wholesale - Retail</b> <small>Prices good through April 8, 2010</small>					38 YEARS IN BUSINESS		West Bloomfield Library Lakeview Copper Mug Player's Score's Good-Time Party Store Primo's Pizza Athenian Coney Island Great Lakes Coney Island Honey Tree Plymouth								
Honey Tree Novi Honey Tree Livonia Meadowbrook Golf Club Genitti's Cattails Golf Club Glenhurst Golf Club Gus O'Connor's Don's Traverse City Diamond Jim Brady's Novi Library Pub	<b>JACK'S FAMOUS GROUND BEEF FROM ROUND</b> 10 LB. <b>\$25.99</b>	<b>CHOICE CORN FED PORTER-HOUSE STEAKS</b> <b>\$8.89</b> LB.	<b>CHOICE CORN FED T-BONE STEAKS</b> <b>\$8.49</b> LB.	<b>CHOICE ANGUS BONE-IN DELMONICO</b> <b>\$8.29</b> LB.	<b>CHOICE ANGUS CENTER CUT SIRLOIN STEAK</b> <b>\$5.89</b> LB.	<b>JACK'S FAMOUS GROUND ROUND PATTIES</b> 1/4, 1/3, 1/2 <b>\$2.99</b> LB.	<b>BEEF PACKAGE</b> 10 LB. GR. ROUNDS 3 T-BONES 2 PORTERHOUSE 3 SIRLOINS 2 POT ROASTS 2 ROUND STEAKS 10 PORK CHOPS <b>\$99.99</b>	<b>COMBO PACKAGE</b> 3 T-BONES 2 PORTERHOUSE 2 RIB STEAKS 1 POT ROASTS 2 ROUND STEAKS 8 PORK CHOPS 3 LB. BACON 3 CHICKENS <b>\$99.99</b>	<b>CHOICE ANGUS HINDS OF BEEF</b> Quarters <b>\$2.39</b> LB. <b>CHOICE SIDES OF BEEF</b> <b>\$2.15</b> LB. <small>Includes Cutting, Wrapping</small>	<b>STORE MADE POLISH KIELBASA</b> Sweet Or Hot <b>ITALIAN SAUSAGE</b> <b>\$2.69</b> LB.	<b>PORK COUNTRY RIBS</b> <b>\$1.99</b> LB.	<b>LEAN COUNTRY BACON</b> <b>\$2.99</b> LB.	<b>CHOICE WHOLE BEEF RIBS</b> Cut Into Bone-In DELMONICOS <b>\$2.89</b> LB. <small>Gross Weight</small>	<b>ENGLISH OR ROUND BONE ROASTS</b> Choice-corn Fed <b>\$2.99</b> LB.	<b>CHOICE CORN FED SIRLOIN TIP STEAKS</b> <b>\$3.69</b> LB.
<b>STORE BAKED FRESH BREADS, GARLIC, WHITE, CHEESE, ROLLS</b>															



# Novi mom seeking donations for Marines' homecoming

## Battalion expected to return from Afghanistan in May or June

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

Sharon Sahiberg is counting down the days until her son, Ryan, comes home. The first lieutenant in the United States Marines, and Novi High School graduate, has been with the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment in Afghanistan since early October and is expected to return home in May or June. Their current living situa-

tion in the desert is less than ideal, and Sharon and several other families and friends of the more than 800 Marines in the battalion are collecting gifts and essential items to give them when they return. "I didn't know he didn't have a roof over his head and that he sleeps on the ground," she said. "It's pretty primitive as they explained it. And he tells me he is hungry, so that kills a mother when he says that." Ryan, who enlisted in 2003 after finishing school

at The Citadel, spent time in Iraq before heading to Afghanistan. In Iraq, he spent the majority of his time on base, while in Afghanistan he is spending more time in the field. "He will be 'anxious to come home' because of all they have to endure physically and mentally while there. It also will be a relief for her because currently the two get few chances to talk and when they do it is very emotional.

"It's fine when I'm talking to him until I have to end the conversation," she said. Donations for Ryan and the other Marines in the battalion can be made by April 10 by calling Sharon at (248) 719-0053 or via e-mail at ssahiberg@live.com. Information about the battalion can be found at <http://www.timepublic.usmc.mil/public/timepublic.nsf/unisites/2bn2mar>.



First Lt. Ryan Sahiberg has been in Afghanistan with the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment since October. The battalion is expected to return home in May or June, and their families are collecting gifts and personal items to give them when they arrive.

### NOVI COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Young adults with a solution

Wonder if your children are taking drugs or abusing alcohol? Want to learn what signs to look for? Want to know what to do if you suspect signs of drug or alcohol abuse. Get advice of where to turn for help if you suspect your child has a problem. Novi Police Chief David Molloy and Kim T. Capello will host a roundtable discussion for parents with questions about drugs, alcohol and their children at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 6 in the multi-purpose room of St. James Catholic Church in Novi. Learn about Alcoholics Anonymous. Learn what drugs are available to our young adults on the street, at home and how your kids are obtaining them. A short introduction will be followed by a question-and-answer round-table session led by young adults who have experienced addictive problems and are in recovery.

#### Ribbon cutting

Join the Novi Chamber of Commerce and City of Novi in celebrating the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for Healthy Hearing Center from 4-6 p.m. on Thursday, March 25 at 23895 Novi Road, Suite #100. Meet Lisa Berch MA, CCC-A, audiologist/owner of Healthy Hearing Center, along with the mayor and Novi Chamber members. Tour the center and schedule a free hearing screening; refreshments will be provided. Call (248) 348-HEAR for more information.

#### Passport Day

The Oakland County Clerk and several local city and township clerks will be participating in this year's national "PASSPORT DAY in the USA" - opening their doors on Saturday, March 27, to accommodate travelers.

Locally, two Clerk Offices will be open on March 27:

- Walled Lake, 1499 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Wixom, 49045 Pontiac Trail, Wixom, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For the first time ever, the Oakland County Clerk's Office will be offering expanded services during the March 27 Passport Day, including business/assumed names registrations, on-the-spot copies of birth, death and marriage certificates, property records, marriage license applications, notary services and concealed pistol license applications. To assist residents, the Oakland County Sheriff's Office will also be open for several hours on March 27 for fingerprinting service, which is required for CPL applications.

Passport regulations have been tightened in the last several years. Today, U.S. citizens must present a valid passport when entering or entering the United States by air. Citizens entering the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda at land borders and sea ports of entry must present a passport book, passport card or other travel documents approved by the U.S. government. The cost of a passport for applicants age 16 and older is \$100. For applicants under the age of 16, the cost is \$85. Photos, which are required, are available for \$10 at the Oakland County Clerk's Office and at most of the participating communities. Applicants should call their local community to inquire whether photo service is available. For full passport requirements, visit the U.S. Department of State's website at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). Additional information is available on the Oakland County Clerk's website at [www.oakgov.com/clerk](http://www.oakgov.com/clerk).

#### ArtsNovi update

The Great Lakes Art Fair is April 23-25, and artists who would like to participate are being sought. If you are interested (or know someone) in being a part of the ArtsNovi booth, please call (586) 484-8797 or e-mail to [artsnovi@yahoo.com](mailto:artsnovi@yahoo.com). For general info on the art fair go to [www.greatlakesartfair.com](http://www.greatlakesartfair.com).

ArtsNovi is also working on the Twelve Mile Crossing @ Fountain Walk Summer Sidewalk Series, to be held every Saturday this summer. Two to four artists display their work and there is live music in the center area at Fountain Walk from 4-7 p.m. Contact via the above if interested in participating. Band and artists postings will be at [www.2stonevents.com](http://www.2stonevents.com).

The group is starting up the ArtsNovi Round Table again. Anyone interested in talking about upcoming events, supporting bringing more art, dance, theater and music to Novi, or just chatting about art in general - please join on the fourth Monday

of every month (March 22 this month) 5:30-7 p.m. at Bonefish Grill in Novi. Email if you plan on attending for a headcount, but show up anytime as this is a very informal meeting.

#### Two Comfy Couch concerts

Newport Furnishings, on Grand River Avenue, will host a pair of concerts in April. The Concert Series is sponsored by MichiganFolkLive.com and Newport Furnishings and is held on the comfortable furniture in Newport Furnishings' Wixom showroom.

First off is Bill Bynum at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 3. Although a Detroit native, Bill's musical roots are in the south. His parents migrated from Black Oak, Arkansas to work in Detroit's steel industry in the 1940s, bringing—like many others—their love for bluegrass and country music. Bill grew up listening to artists like Johnny Cash and Buck Owens on country radio station, "The Big D." Detroit rock drove Bill's early musical career. But in 1989, Bill turned on the radio and heard "Yours Forever Blue" by Steve Earle and the Del McCoury Band. From that moment on he found himself with a "nonstop desire to hear and play those songs." Soon he was writing them too. Bill is a first-prize winner in the Metro Detroit Songwriting Showcase with his song "Lovin' You." He has collaborated with bluegrass legend Pete Goble, an International Bluegrass Music Association Lifetime Achievement Award winner.

At 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 24, Grievous Angel will perform. The group has been delighting fans at festivals, concert venues and juke joints throughout Michigan for years now, delivering their own rollicking brand of American roots music. Revving up at the fabled crossroads where folk, rockabilly, blues, and all-country were born, they burn rubber through the backwoods and bayous of the American south.

For more information, email [stevenjohnson@michigan-folklive.com](mailto:stevenjohnson@michigan-folklive.com) or call (248) 910-4941.

#### Novi receives federal grant to increase energy efficiency

The City of Novi is a recipient of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) in the amount of \$533,100 from the Department of Energy. Funding for this program was made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed into law February 17, 2009. The majority of the EECBG grant funds will be used to implement energy-reducing projects at City facilities. The projects will provide an estimated annual cost savings of \$97,000.

The City of Novi has long been a proponent of sustainability and eco-friendly initiatives. Recently, Novi launched "green pages" on [cityofnovi.org](http://cityofnovi.org). These pages highlight eco-conscious tips for homes and businesses as well as ways for citizens to engage in environmentally friendly practices. To further share the message of energy conservation, a portion of the EECBG grant funds will be used to install a display in the Civic Center that will showcase the building's energy savings and energy program updates. In addition, on Monday City Council considered a First Reading to amend Novi's ordinances with respect to solar panels and wind turbines.

EECBG grant funds will be used to identify a program to link current and future pathways, sidewalks and trails within the city. In 2006, the Pathway and Sidewalk Prioritization Analysis was created to increase connectivity within the City, encouraging more foot traffic and therefore reducing the carbon footprint. Novi is the only community to be named a Promoting Active Communities Gold Level award winner three times consecutively (2007-2009) by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness.

#### Run, it's an emergency!

The City of Novi and the Novi Police and Fire Departments, in partnership with Providence Park Hospital and Running Fit, announce the first annual Emergency Run. This 5k (3.1 mile) run/1-mile walk event will take place Saturday, May 8 on the Providence Park Hospital Campus (Grand River and Beck roads). In addition to the race, a health, wellness and recreation fair will be open to all community members and offer informational booths, displays, interactive offerings, a children's section, and refreshments.

Registration and the fair begin at 8 a.m. with the start of the run/walk beginning at 9 a.m. The pre-registration fee for the run is \$25 and the walk is \$10. Registration at the event is \$30. Those who pre-register are guaranteed an event T-shirt. Awards and opportunities to win door-prizes are included.

Registration forms are available for download at [cityofnovi.org](http://cityofnovi.org) and at the Novi Civic Center, Novi Police Department, Providence Park Hospital and Running Fit-Nov. Proceeds from the event will benefit health and safety initiatives for the Novi community.

For more information regarding the Emergency Run, contact Robin Working at (248) 735-5628 or visit [cityofnovi.org](http://cityofnovi.org).

#### Camp Invention 2010

Creativity and brainstorming are the building blocks to your child's future. Camp Invention® emphasizes those skills and more, and Novi Middle School is proud to be among the select schools in Michigan that will serve as a host site during the week of June 28-July 2.

Children will create exciting new games and transform ordinary household items into extraordinary inventions during this week-long summer adventure for those currently in grades K-5. Children will participate daily in five activity-oriented, hands-on modules focused on science literacy, math, history and the arts. There is also a heavy emphasis on the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

Registration for this camp is limited to 110 children, so register early. Contact Seth Finow, Camp Director, at (248) 449-1600 or [sfinow@novi.k12.mi.us](mailto:sfinow@novi.k12.mi.us) for more information. You may also visit Camp Invention's Web site at [www.campinvention.org](http://www.campinvention.org) to find out more.

### CALENDAR

More: For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Novi Calendar online at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).  
Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to [csone@nove.com](mailto:csone@nove.com); by fax to (248) 349-9832; or by mail to Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

### LOCAL EVENTS

#### Novi Community Schools Kindergarten Parent Orientation

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 31  
**Location:** All elementary school buildings  
**Details:** Contact the school principal for more information: Deerfield, Richard Nus, (248) 449-1700; Orchard Hills, Paul LePae, 449-1400; Novi Woods, Pamela Outquilt, 449-1230; Parkview, Jennifer Michos, 449-1220; Village Oaks, Sue Burnham, 449-1300.

**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.novi-chamber.com](http://www.novi-chamber.com).

**Easter brunch**  
**Time/Date:** 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, April 4  
**Location:** Hotel Baronette in Novi (27890 Novi Road)  
**Details:** An Easter brunch for the entire family. Children will have the opportunity to choose delectable items from their own Bunny Buffet. In addition to visiting the children's activity craft area and having their picture taken with the Easter Bunny. The cost of the buffet for adults is \$28.95 and \$14.95 for children ages 8-14. There is no cost for children age 7 and under to attend. Valet service will be available.

**Networking Luncheon**  
**Time/Date:** 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 14  
**Location:** Carrabba's Italian Grill, 43455 West Oaks Dr., Novi  
**Details:** Featured speaker will be Daniel J. Cherin, president of North Coast Strategies discussing reputation management; \$20 pre-registration by 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 13

**2nd Annual Business & Taste Expo**  
**Time/Date:** 4-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 21  
**Location:** The Baronette Renaissance Hotel Detroit-Nov, 27790 Novi Rd., Novi  
**Details:** Presenting Sponsor - Lotus Bank; keynote speaker - Lisa Barry, WNIC Radio; networking, complimentary appetizers and cash bar. Public welcome; \$5 payable at the door.

**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.toastmasters.us](http://www.novi.toastmasters.us).  
**Contact:** Paulette Alina, VP of Public Relations at [greenspace@mlr.com](mailto:greenspace@mlr.com) or (248) 756-0907.

**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; [novirotary.org](http://novirotary.org).

**Breakfast & Learn Charity Event**  
**Time/Date:** 7:45-9 a.m. April 20  
**Location:** DirectBuy Club of Farmington Hills, 33800 W. 9 Mile Road (just west of Farmington Road), Farmington  
**Details:** What would you discover if you became your own "Undercover Boss"? Simple steps to increasing Employee/Volunteer participation & your bottom line. Can your organization run smoother in a challenging economy? Author, Columnist, and Noted Speaker Dr. Meadows will answer these questions and more. A Professor of Business Management at Walsh College, he is gifted in his ability to entertain while educating. Dr. Meadows has provided training for our Police Departments, Public Schools and many other prestigious organizations. Visit: <http://www.leemeadows.biz/> to find out more about Dr. Meadows. Cost is \$20, \$10 of each ticket is a tax deductible donation to Rotary Foundation. All proceeds will benefit the \$200 Million Polo Challenge campaign.

**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:** Comrades and fellow veterans, please join these monthly meetings; attendance is needed to maintain and grow the Post. **Contact:** Commander Dennis Strickulis (248) 378-7874 or [dstrickulis@amlegion.com](mailto:dstrickulis@amlegion.com) or Service Officer Paul Erickson (248) 344-7193 or [perick1@aol.com](mailto:perick1@aol.com).

### BUSINESS

#### Metro Novi BNI

**Time/Date:** 7-8:30 a.m. every Wednesday  
**Location:** On the Border Restaurant, 21091 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 248-797-1655 or [juliepaquette67@gmail.com](mailto:juliepaquette67@gmail.com); [www.metrobninovi.com](http://www.metrobninovi.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.novi-chamber.com](http://www.novi-chamber.com).

**Networking Luncheon**  
**Time/Date:** 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 14  
**Location:** Carrabba's Italian Grill, 43455 West Oaks Dr., Novi  
**Details:** Featured speaker will be Daniel J. Cherin, president of North Coast Strategies discussing reputation management; \$20 pre-registration by 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 13

**2nd Annual Business & Taste Expo**  
**Time/Date:** 4-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 21  
**Location:** The Baronette Renaissance Hotel Detroit-Nov, 27790 Novi Rd., Novi  
**Details:** Presenting Sponsor - Lotus Bank; keynote speaker - Lisa Barry, WNIC Radio; networking, complimentary appetizers and cash bar. Public welcome; \$5 payable at the door.

**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.toastmasters.us](http://www.novi.toastmasters.us).  
**Contact:** Paulette Alina, VP of Public Relations at [greenspace@mlr.com](mailto:greenspace@mlr.com) or (248) 756-0907.

**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; [novirotary.org](http://novirotary.org).

**Breakfast & Learn Charity Event**  
**Time/Date:** 7:45-9 a.m. April 20  
**Location:** DirectBuy Club of Farmington Hills, 33800 W. 9 Mile Road (just west of Farmington Road), Farmington  
**Details:** What would you discover if you became your own "Undercover Boss"? Simple steps to increasing Employee/Volunteer participation & your bottom line. Can your organization run smoother in a challenging economy? Author, Columnist, and Noted Speaker Dr. Meadows will answer these questions and more. A Professor of Business Management at Walsh College, he is gifted in his ability to entertain while educating. Dr. Meadows has provided training for our Police Departments, Public Schools and many other prestigious organizations. Visit: <http://www.leemeadows.biz/> to find out more about Dr. Meadows. Cost is \$20, \$10 of each ticket is a tax deductible donation to Rotary Foundation. All proceeds will benefit the \$200 Million Polo Challenge campaign.

**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:** Comrades and fellow veterans, please join these monthly meetings; attendance is needed to maintain and grow the Post. **Contact:** Commander Dennis Strickulis (248) 378-7874 or [dstrickulis@amlegion.com](mailto:dstrickulis@amlegion.com) or Service Officer Paul Erickson (248) 344-7193 or [perick1@aol.com](mailto:perick1@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.novi-chamber.com](http://www.novi-chamber.com).

**Networking Luncheon**  
**Time/Date:** 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 14  
**Location:** Carrabba's Italian Grill, 43455 West Oaks Dr., Novi  
**Details:** Featured speaker will be Daniel J. Cherin, president of North Coast Strategies discussing reputation management; \$20 pre-registration by 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 13

**2nd Annual Business & Taste Expo**  
**Time/Date:** 4-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 21  
**Location:** The Baronette Renaissance Hotel Detroit-Nov, 27790 Novi Rd., Novi  
**Details:** Presenting Sponsor - Lotus Bank; keynote speaker - Lisa Barry, WNIC Radio; networking, complimentary appetizers and cash bar. Public welcome; \$5 payable at the door.

**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.toastmasters.us](http://www.novi.toastmasters.us).  
**Contact:** Paulette Alina, VP of Public Relations at [greenspace@mlr.com](mailto:greenspace@mlr.com) or (248) 756-0907.

**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; [novirotary.org](http://novirotary.org).

**Breakfast & Learn Charity Event**  
**Time/Date:** 7:45-9 a.m. April 20  
**Location:** DirectBuy Club of Farmington Hills, 33800 W. 9 Mile Road (just west of Farmington Road), Farmington  
**Details:** What would you discover if you became your own "Undercover Boss"? Simple steps to increasing Employee/Volunteer participation & your bottom line. Can your organization run smoother in a challenging economy? Author, Columnist, and Noted Speaker Dr. Meadows will answer these questions and more. A Professor of Business Management at Walsh College, he is gifted in his ability to entertain while educating. Dr. Meadows has provided training for our Police Departments, Public Schools and many other prestigious organizations. Visit: <http://www.leemeadows.biz/> to find out more about Dr. Meadows. Cost is \$20, \$10 of each ticket is a tax deductible donation to Rotary Foundation. All proceeds will benefit the \$200 Million Polo Challenge campaign.

**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:** Comrades and fellow veterans, please join these monthly meetings; attendance is needed to maintain and grow the Post. **Contact:** Commander Dennis Strickulis (248) 378-7874 or [dstrickulis@amlegion.com](mailto:dstrickulis@amlegion.com) or Service Officer Paul Erickson (248) 344-7193 or [perick1@aol.com](mailto:perick1@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.novi-chamber.com](http://www.novi-chamber.com).

**Networking Luncheon**  
**Time/Date:** 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 14  
**Location:** Carrabba's Italian Grill, 43455 West Oaks Dr., Novi  
**Details:** Featured speaker will be Daniel J. Cherin, president of North Coast Strategies discussing reputation management; \$20 pre-registration by 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 13

**2nd Annual Business & Taste Expo**  
**Time/Date:** 4-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 21  
**Location:** The Baronette Renaissance Hotel Detroit-Nov, 27790 Novi Rd., Novi  
**Details:** Presenting Sponsor - Lotus Bank; keynote speaker - Lisa Barry, WNIC Radio; networking, complimentary appetizers and cash bar. Public welcome; \$5 payable at the door.

**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.toastmasters.us](http://www.novi.toastmasters.us).  
**Contact:** Paulette Alina, VP of Public Relations at [greenspace@mlr.com](mailto:greenspace@mlr.com) or (248) 756-0907.

**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; [novirotary.org](http://novirotary.org).

**Breakfast & Learn Charity Event**  
**Time/Date:** 7:45-9 a.m. April 20  
**Location:** DirectBuy Club of Farmington Hills, 33800 W. 9 Mile Road (just west of Farmington Road), Farmington  
**Details:** What would you discover if you became your own "Undercover Boss"? Simple steps to increasing Employee/Volunteer participation & your bottom line. Can your organization run smoother in a challenging economy? Author, Columnist, and Noted Speaker Dr. Meadows will answer these questions and more. A Professor of Business Management at Walsh College, he is gifted in his ability to entertain while educating. Dr. Meadows has provided training for our Police Departments, Public Schools and many other prestigious organizations. Visit: <http://www.leemeadows.biz/> to find out more about Dr. Meadows. Cost is \$20, \$10 of each ticket is a tax deductible donation to Rotary Foundation. All proceeds will benefit the \$200 Million Polo Challenge campaign.

**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:** Comrades and fellow veterans, please join these monthly meetings; attendance is needed to maintain and grow the Post. **Contact:** Commander Dennis Strickulis (248) 378-7874 or [dstrickulis@amlegion.com](mailto:dstrickulis@amlegion.com) or Service Officer Paul Erickson (248) 344-7193 or [perick1@aol.com](mailto:perick1@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.novi-chamber.com](http://www.novi-chamber.com).

**Networking Luncheon**  
**Time/Date:** 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 14  
**Location:** Carrabba's Italian Grill, 43455 West Oaks Dr., Novi  
**Details:** Featured speaker will be Daniel J. Cherin, president of North Coast Strategies discussing reputation management; \$20 pre-registration by 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 13

**2nd Annual Business & Taste Expo**  
**Time/Date:** 4-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 21  
**Location:** The Baronette Renaissance Hotel Detroit-Nov, 27790 Novi Rd., Novi  
**Details:** Presenting Sponsor - Lotus Bank; keynote speaker - Lisa Barry, WNIC Radio; networking, complimentary appetizers and cash bar. Public welcome; \$5 payable at the door.

**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.toastmasters.us](http://www.novi.toastmasters.us).  
**Contact:** Paulette Alina, VP of Public Relations at [greenspace@mlr.com](mailto:greenspace@mlr.com) or (248) 756-0907.

**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; [novirotary.org](http://novirotary.org).

**Breakfast & Learn Charity Event**  
**Time/Date:** 7:45-9 a.m. April 20  
**Location:** DirectBuy Club of Farmington Hills, 33800 W. 9 Mile Road (just west of Farmington Road), Farmington  
**Details:** What would you discover if you became your own "Undercover Boss"? Simple steps to increasing Employee/Volunteer participation & your bottom line. Can your organization run smoother in a challenging economy? Author, Columnist, and Noted Speaker Dr. Meadows will answer these questions and more. A Professor of Business Management at Walsh College, he is gifted in his ability to entertain while educating. Dr. Meadows has provided training for our Police Departments, Public Schools and many other prestigious organizations. Visit: <http://www.leemeadows.biz/> to find out more about Dr. Meadows. Cost is \$20, \$10 of each ticket is a tax deductible donation to Rotary Foundation. All proceeds will benefit the \$200 Million Polo Challenge campaign.

**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

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.

Page A10 (NN)  
Cal Stone, editor  
(248) 437-2011  
cstone@gannett.com

online at hometownlife.com

## OUR VIEWS

### Lawmakers miss mark on pay cuts

On March 15, a poll sponsored by the group Business Leaders for Michigan made news with its results that most voters polled wanted a 3 percent pay bump stopped for unionized state workers.

Last Thursday, the Michigan Senate tried again to stop the raise. The bid failed, again. Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, (salary: \$105,650) has said he hasn't given up on getting the money from the state workers. Two-thirds of both the Senate and House must agree to stop the pay change before April 11.

It's a real shame that Bishop and the rest of the Legislature can't put the same laser-like focus on saving taxpayers other millions of dollars — money paid out via Michigan's No. 2-in-the-nation legislative salaries.

Advocates of the plan to nullify the negotiated pay bump for approximately 35,000 state workers have made an issue of the Business Leaders for Michigan poll. The people have spoken, so to speak.

But does Bishop or any other state legislator have a doubt what a poll on reducing legislative pay would say?

In 2000, base legislative pay — not counting legislators' personal office slush funds — was \$56,981.

In 2010, after Michigan had lost hundreds of thousands of jobs, base legislative pay is \$79,650.

If legislative pay were reduced to its 2000 figure, that would save the state \$3.35 million per year (\$22,669 cut times 148 legislative slots). True, the legislative pay cut isn't a huge bundle in a state that spends billions out of its general fund. But go back to this state-worker rollback. The Associated Press says its nullification would save \$48 million for the general fund.

That is a savings, but still a small one when compared to Michigan's \$1 billion-plus deficit for the upcoming 2010-11 budget year. If it's of vital necessity to get this \$48 million saved, why isn't it better to save another \$3 million?

Legislators will tell you they voted for a pay cut; and they did — for lawmakers taking office in January 2011. Some lawmakers will say they have made voluntary givebacks of salary.

Fine, but the Legislature isn't debating a program to allow state workers to voluntarily give back this 3 percent, or any other figure. State lawmakers want to force these state workers to give up the money.

Yet, for all their acumen, all their integrity, all their concern for the state treasury, they just can't find a way to immediately cut the pay for every single member of the Legislature.

The Business Leaders for Michigan should be asking them why.

lenny12

rebeighton

NOVI NEWS

GANNETT

Cal Stone  
Community Editor

Susan Rosiek  
Executive Editor / Publisher

Grace Perry  
Director of Advertising

## COMMUNITY VOICE

What are your plans for the two months Novi Library will be closed, starting April 1?



"I guess I'll be re-familiarizing myself with the Northville Library. We'll be counting the seconds until Novi reopens."  
Jennifer Stefanek  
Novi



"We're an equal-opportunity library user, so we'll check out Wixom, Walled Lake, even Bloomfield Hills. We'll rotate around until Novi re-opens."  
Raquel Robinson  
Novi



"I'm going to see if I can go to another library until this one reopens."  
Gabriel Young, 7  
Novi



"I guess I'll have to seek another library - maybe Northville."  
J.J. Katz  
Novi

## LETTERS

### The reality in our country

In response to the lack of objectivity articulated by two local progressive-minded letter writers, I would like to respond with a few points of fact.

When the Republicans failed to maintain their majority in the 2006 elections, it was because they had lost the confidence of their conservative base. When the Republicans took over in the 1994 elections, the Gingrich congress brought a level of fiscal discipline that resulted in balancing the budget and creating a surplus. That attitude changed when Gingrich was ousted and Bush 43 was elected president. The Republicans proceeded to behave like liberals with the checkbook and the legislation.

What took the Republicans 12 years to accomplish (getting fired by the electorate), the Democrats will accomplish in a mere four years. This president, who promised us change in Washington's dirty ways, has demonstrated that he is no different than the rest of them, and possibly much worse. In his four years in office, he will propose and spend over \$14 trillion just through the standard

budgeting process. Add at least another \$6 trillion of deficit spending on top of that, all at a time we see Social Security and Medicare going broke. The post office is about to take away services because they are broke. Our new health care legislation collects taxes for four years before providing anyone with any services.

We are broke people, on all levels — our city governments, our school systems, our state government and Washington. You think health care is a crisis, just wait till the pensions all fail and need to be bailed out in full. How anyone in good conscience thinks this is the time to commit our children to a new program is beyond me. But that's the problem with me: I see reality for what it is, not what I pretend it to be.

Brooks Decker  
Novi

### Keep school schedule

The Novi High School policies are fine the way they are, especially the school schedule. Four blocks a day, each around 90 minutes on long days and 60 minutes on

seminar days, is the best schedule I have had in my life. Changing the school schedule to six blocks a day with no seminar days is wrong.

Every day is hard enough as it is. Even though the schedule will be automatic and will start next year, I think it should be changed back to normal after the consecutive year. Next year, when the schedule is in effect, teachers will have to cram what they need to teach into our educational minds. This means more work for students, considering the amount of homework and for teachers to cram their schoolwork into 45-minute class periods.

The 2011-12 year should be back to normal after the new schedule to relieve the students and their hard work. I have already discussed this new schedule with many of my classmates, and they also feel that this schedule will turn out to be worse than the normal school schedule we have now. We, the students, will not have any more seminar periods to get extra help on subjects we need. Please vote to change the schedule after the consecutive year to have the same school schedule we have now at Novi High.

Ryan Mach  
Novi High School student

## Community college - a great value close by

Our community colleges are the Redney Dangerfield of higher education. They just "don't get no respect" — respect that they deserve and continue earning every day.

Community colleges are the grand entranceways to enhancing knowledge and skills, giving individuals a boost up life's economic ladder while strengthening our communities. At Schoolcraft Community College, students are being taught by instructors who are focused on teaching what they know best, and students are saving themselves and their families a ton of cash.

Given the troubling, tumultuous, transformational times we are now living in, our community colleges are truly a life saver for many.

Too often, community colleges are treated as an afterthought — if they're thought of at all. President Obama said in a speech at Macomb County Community College last summer. The president proposed sinking \$12 billion into revamping our country's community college system. This ambitious and much-needed plan would invest \$9 billion in grant money to boost academic programs and raise graduation rates, plus another \$2.5 billion to upgrade school infrastructure. It would also fund open-source e-learning courses so that schools don't have to build more classrooms to admit more students. (See my 2005 Wayne State University report on the value of e-learning: Exploring E-learning for Michigan: The New Education (Revolution) -http://www.inacol.org/research/docs/e-learningreport.pdf.)

While this good news of financial help for community colleges was delivered in Michigan by the president of the United States, the soaring rhetoric has yet to translate into money. Legislative bills are still winding their way through committees in Congress. Locally, Schoolcraft Community College

### COMMENTARY

makes a significant difference in helping prepare students and employees for our hyper-competitive, disruptive, and technologically driven global economy, where ideas and jobs can now move across the globe effortlessly. They are doing this important work with ever shrinking resources from Lansing.

Thirty years ago, on average, Michigan's community colleges received nearly 50 percent of their funding from state appropriations and another 25 percent each from property taxes and tuition. Today, the state's contribution is less than half that — 20 percent — while the other 80 percent is derived from property taxes and tuition, according to Mike Hansen, president of the Michigan Community College Association.

In the last Michigan budget cycle, community colleges were one of the only areas not reduced, and we'll be fortunate to repeat that again this year. Yet we all know that may be difficult when costs such as health care, utilities and pensions continue to rise and tax revenue has flattened.

Community colleges are supported by state appropriations that have declined or been flat and property tax revenues that are threatened by serious declines in property values. Making up the difference for the loss of revenue from state and local property taxes by adopting huge tuition increases is unrealistic, especially in the depressed economy Michigan currently finds itself in.

Another reason for investing in our community colleges is how responsive they are to local needs by providing re-education for laid-off workers. These colleges are also agile in providing classes on demand by employers.

It has been argued that our country's university system stands on tradition — change for it is like turning an ocean liner. In contrast, community colleges respond like a speedboat in providing education to meet immediate

community and business needs.

My support for community college education is personal as well as professional. I am a product of Michigan's excellent community college system with degrees from Michigan State and Wayne State built upon the solid education I received at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn. I would not have had the exciting and rewarding career I enjoy without the educational foundation provided by the excellent instructors at Henry Ford.

Michigan's community colleges carry a heavy load and will continue to do so as Michigan transforms itself from a "heavy lifting" state to one with a knowledge-based economy.

Community colleges are essential to Michigan's ability to move from the state that "put the world on wheels" to the state that provides the education and skills to all its citizens to compete as we reinvent ourselves. Today's students/workers need to be able to learn continuously, think critically and adapt to a changing economy. We cannot and will not compete with developing nations on low-wage and low-skilled jobs. Our future depends on skilled, knowledgeable and flexible workers who can pivot rapidly and stay ahead of our global competitors. That workforce is being prepared today by a community college near you.

At a time when national data suggest that one of every five students at our finest and more costly universities requires developmental and remedial assistance to graduate, the value of a quality, less-costly community college education comes into sharper focus.

Schoolcraft Community College has earned the respect and deserves the support of the taxpayers.

Tom Watkins is an education and business consultant in the U.S. and China and served as Michigan's state superintendent of schools from 2001-2005. He can be reached at twatkins@aol.com.

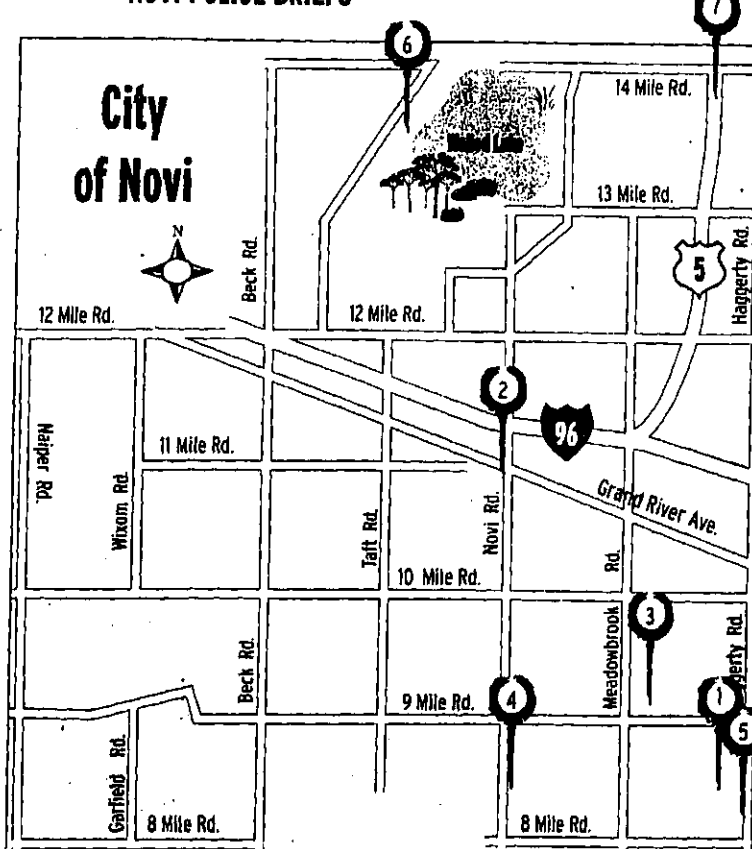
online at hometownlife.com

Hometown Weeklies | Thursday, March 25, 2010

(NN) A11

# PUBLIC SAFETY

## NOVI POLICE BRIEFS



### Car broken into at Lifetime

1 A Saturn Aura had its driver's side rear window broken out and several items were stolen from inside the car between noon and 12:45 p.m. on March 14 while it was parked in the parking lot at Lifetime Fitness on High Pointe Boulevard.

The victim said she placed her purse under the driver's seat covered by a newspaper and a gallon of milk and locked her vehicle before going inside. When she came back to her car there was glass inside it and her purse and its contents were gone. Located in the purse were her driver's license, several credit cards and other personal items.

Nothing else was missing from the car and this was one of two incidents that occurred in the immediate area during that time.

Police have no suspects at this time.

### Drunk driver caught with no lights on

2 Novi police arrested a 39-year-old woman for drunk driving at 3 a.m. on March 14 at Novi Road and Grand River Avenue after observing the woman pull out of the Mobil Gas Station without the car lights on.

When the officer approached the vehicle, he could smell a strong odor of intoxicants and the woman admitted to drinking.

She failed field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .12 percent. The legal limit for adult drivers is .08 percent.

The woman was transported to the Novi Police Department where she was issued a citation for operating while intoxicated and released when sober.

### GPS snatched from car

3 A Garmin GPS was stolen from an unlocked car between the hours of 12:30 a.m. and 6 a.m. on March 12 while it was parked in the driveway of a home on Chestnut Tree.

The GPS, valued at \$200, was sitting on the dash prior to the theft and nothing else was taken from the vehicle. Police could not locate any evidence and have no suspects at this time.

### In-dash unit jacked from vehicle

4 A black Chrysler Sebring was broken into and the in-dash stereo and GPS system was removed from it between

the hours of 6:30 p.m. and 10:15 p.m. on March 17 while it was parked at Novi Bowl on Novi Road.

The vehicle owner said he locked his vehicle when he went inside the business and when he returned the driver's side window had been smashed and the system was removed from the dash.

Police have no suspects at this time.

### Window smashed on SUV

5 An in-dash stereo system was stolen from a Jeep Commander between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. on March 17 while it was parked in the parking lot at the Sheraton Hotel on Haggerty Road.

The owner of the vehicle said one of the maintenance workers noticed the damage and reported it to management. One of the windows was smashed out of the SUV and the navigation system was ripped out of the dash.

Police were unable to locate any evidence and have no suspects at this time.

### Car found on bricks

6 A Novi man woke up on March 17 to find his Ford Taurus sitting on

landscaping bricks after an unknown suspect stole all four rims and tires from his vehicle while it was parked in the carport on Westgate Boulevard. The man said he heard nothing suspicious overnight, and the suspect left the lug nuts and wheel locks behind.

Police lifted a handprint from the vehicle but have no suspects at this time.

### Drunk driver stopped after speeding

7 Novi police arrested a South Carolina woman for drunk driving after she was observed speeding on M-5 south of Fourteen Mile Road at 1:52 a.m. on March 17.

According to the police report, the woman was traveling 71 miles per hour in a 55 mph zone prior to being stopped. When the officer approached the vehicle he could smell a strong odor of intoxicants coming from inside and she admitted to having two beers at a friends' house in Commerce.

She failed field sobriety tests and preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .11 percent. The legal limit for adult drivers is .08 percent.

The woman was transported to the Novi Police Department where she was issued a citation for operating while intoxicated and released when sober.

Compiled by staff writer Nathan Mueller

## CEMS moved into two new locations

Residents should see enhanced service

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

The crews at Community EMS finally have a couple places to call home.

Usually reserved to parking in select parking lots throughout the city, CEMS employees recently moved into Fire Station No. 3 for a portion of the day and created the CEMS Satellite Station for full-time use.

CEMS will use station No. 3, located on the south side of Nine Mile Road east of Novi Road, from 6 p.m.-6 a.m. during the week and 24 hours on the weekends. The CEMS Satellite Station is the site of old station No. 4 near Providence Park Hospital, and will occupy 24 hours a day.

"Moving CEMS into permanent locations has been a top priority the last couple months," said Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police David Molloy. "It is definitely going to enhance the delivery of service by having them there."

Novi City Council members unanimously approved the move in January, and drew praise from Mayor David Landry who was happy that

there would be better coverage in the area around Fire Station No. 3 because 73 percent of the calls out of that station are during the hours CEMS will be there.

The contract also stipulated that CEMS will pay the city \$600 per month rent for using the CEMS Satellite Station.

Chuck Kearns, Community EMS vice president/chief operating officer, said the main idea behind the move is to reduce response times.

"The south and west sides of the city of Novi that are a bit more rural have always gotten longer response times than the core of the city," he said. "We are hoping by using these two locations the big goal is to have faster responses to the citizens."

He also added that it is a "big morale perk" for their employees.

CEMS will continue to have a presence throughout the city despite now having a place to store the vehicles, Kearns said.

And anytime an ambulance is out on a call in an area another one will be moved into place to cover for it.

nmueller@gannett.com | (248) 437-2011 ext. 255

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Tickets Available at Door!  
Novi Educational Foundation Invites you to the  
**2010 Green Gala**  
Olympic Celebration  
March 27th at the Rock Financial Showplace  
"Go for the Gold with Novi Schools"

Congratulations to  
**Bobsleider Mickie Rzepka**  
and **Ice Dancer Emily Samuelson**  
Olympians & Novi Graduates!

Come join us for an evening of fun and excitement all in support of the Novi Community Schools and its children. The 2010 Green Gala evening includes the following:

- ★ Casino Night Gambling
- ★ Hors d'oeuvres and Desserts
- ★ Live and Silent Auction
- ★ Music, Dancing and Games
- ★ Chances to win raffle prizes donated by local merchants.
- ★ Cash Bar

Your participation will help the Novi Educational Foundation, in its 23rd year, to continue providing scholarships and teacher grants throughout the district. Your support will help make a difference in Novi education.

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT DOOR! \$60.00/person

Make Your Reservation Now  
Reserve with your credit card by calling (248) 449-1206

★ Mail check payable to Novi Educational Foundation to:  
NEF Green Gala  
25346 Taylor Road  
Novi, MI 48374-2423

★ Tickets will also be available at each school office

www.NoviEducationalFoundation.org

America's Best Doctors are in your neighborhood  
"Happy Doctors' Day"  
James Learner, D.O., Deborah Booth, D.O., Kiren Balchandani, M.D., Jamie Tawel, D.O.  
Any hospital can say their doctors are the best.

At DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, our patients say it for us.

When you're seen by a DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital doctor, you'll see why they're among the nation's highest-rated in customer satisfaction surveys. Thousands of patients have given our doctors high marks for their expertise, responsiveness and compassionate patient care.

Please join us in recognizing our outstanding physicians on Doctors' Day.

To schedule an appointment with a Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital physician in your area, call 1-888-DMC-2500

DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital

1 William Carls Drive • Commerce, Michigan 48382 • 248.937.3300  
www.hvsh.org

# Strictly Business

## Self-development shows firm you're paying attention

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 NFL 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



Lee Meadows

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, 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 'reflectionists' who believe that reading, discussion and critical thinking is the path to true self-development. Far from thinking about self-development is the overworked, overstressed, 9 a.m.-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-

devised, 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 rightfully 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 doesn'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.

## ITC donates \$1 million to The Henry Ford

Novi-based ITC Holdings Corp., the nation's only independent electric transmission company, donated \$1 million to The Henry Ford to upgrade the institution's aging electrical infrastructure. The donation was announced by Patricia E. Mooradian, president of The Henry Ford, and Joseph L. Welch, chairman, president and CEO of ITC Holdings Corp.

"We are so grateful that ITC has made this extraordinary gift to The Henry Ford," said Mooradian, in a press conference held today at The Henry Ford. "ITC is deeply committed to supporting the community they serve and we are honored to receive their support on this important project. Updating The Henry Ford's electrical infrastructure, to support all of our venues, including Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, is absolutely vital to maintaining The Henry Ford's mission of providing unique educational experiences to our visitors each year."

The Henry Ford's current electrical infrastructure, installed during construction in the late 1920s, is quite basic by today's standards and limits the organization's ability to transform areas of the museum floor or excel in public programming. Planned new exhibitions and visitor amenities all require dramatically improved lighting, sound and technological interface, none of which is possible without a massive electrical system upgrade.

"As the nation's only fully independent electric transmission company, ITC supports infrastructure improvements to ensure reliable, safe electricity in our communities, businesses and cultural institutions," said Welch. "This gift reflects ITC's commitment to good corporate citizenship and will help The Henry Ford continue to educate and entertain visitors from Michigan and throughout the nation. At ITC, we take seriously our responsibility as a critical link to electric reliability, sustainability, community and energy independence."

A comprehensive analysis of The Henry Ford's existing electrical infrastructure has been completed and a "needs assessment" recommended a new 15,000 volt high-voltage distribution system. This new system will address the anticipated electrical requirements for planned and future exhibitions, programming and visitor amenity installations throughout The Henry Ford campus for years to come, while providing better protection for the museum's visitors and priceless collections.

"We're extremely proud and grateful to have ITC as one of our stakeholders fueling our transformation," said Mooradian. "ITC is a company that fully embodies innovation, reliability and that 'can-do' spirit that we celebrate everyday at The Henry Ford."

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Walled Lake offers up some retail therapy

Tough economic times call for innovative ideas, and the Walled Lake Downtown Development Authority (WLDDA) doesn't disappoint.

The WLDDA was looking for a fun new community event to usher in spring while at the same time bringing shoppers to its downtown to enjoy the products and services of the excellent merchants there.

"We felt this was a great way to showcase our downtown, exhibit terrific merchandise from local businesses and give the public some truly remarkable deals," said Walled Lake Executive Director, Charlene Long.

Long was the Walled Lake Outlet Mall. In its first inception April of 2009, the make-shift shop showcased 31 merchants and met with an excellent reception by area residents. With this second go around, the concept and the space have grown to accommodate more than 50 merchants in greater than 10,000 square feet of shopping pleasure.

The Walled Lake Outlet Mall will house bargains including jewelry, antiques, sports memorabilia, toys, videos and arcade games, musical instruments, flooring, fishing rods and tackle, safety and survival gear, purses, candles, air-brushed t-shirts, face-painting, food and fashions and much more - a shopper's delight of top-of-the-line goods at outlet prices. The response from businesses inter-

ested in being a part of this is astounding," commented Long. "It's a great way for retailers to make room for new merchandise and reduce extra inventory. And it's a perfect time for shoppers to reap the benefits."

All shoppers are welcome to enjoy the deals Friday, March 26 and Saturday, March 27 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. in the Walled Lake Commons Shopping Center at the corner of E. West Maple Lake Road, west of Telegraph Waterford. For location specifics and pre-registration, visit [www.okagov.com/peds/calendar](http://www.okagov.com/peds/calendar) or call (248) 858-0783.

**Oakland offers business workshops**

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars 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.okagov.com/peds/calendar](http://www.okagov.com/peds/calendar) or call (248) 858-0783.

**QuickBooks® Essentials** - Thursday, March 25, 9 a.m.-11:30 for Session One; 12:30-3 p.m. for Session Two.

This introduction to small business financial management provides an overview of accurate recordkeeping, report interpretation and utilization, and management of this variety of tools provided in the system. Presented by Kidlat Services, LLC. Session

1: \$40/person, Session 11: \$40/person. Both Sessions: \$75/person. No refunds. Includes a 60-day QuickBooks® software demo; laptop highly recommended.

**Future Workshops (AM) Morning Class 9 a.m.-12/12:30 p.m.**  
(PM) Evening Class 6 p.m.-9/9:30 p.m.  
April 2010

8: Fundamentals of Marketing Your Business  
9: Fund & Practice Listening To Your Business  
15: Pre-Business Research Workshop (PM)  
16: FastTrac® Growth Venture (Venture Forward)  
20: FastTrac® New Venture

22: Fundamentals of Starting a Business (PM)  
23: Oakland County CRA Small Business Money Smart Forum  
27: Legal & Financial Basics for Small Business  
28: Sales II: Is Following Up Your Best Sales Strategy?  
29: Fundamentals of Writing a Business Plan (PM) May 2010  
5: WBE Certification Orientation  
11: Pre-Business Research Workshop (AM)  
12: Team SBA Financing Roundtable  
13: Fundamentals of Starting a Business (AM)  
20: Fundamentals of Writing a Business Plan (AM)  
27: Small Business Loan Workshop June 2010  
1: Pre-Business Research

Workshop (PM)  
9: Fiscal Fitness for the Growing Business  
16: Sales I: Effective Networking  
17: Fundamentals of Starting a Business (PM)  
23: QuickBooks Essentials Part I  
23: QuickBooks Essentials Part II  
24: Fundamentals of Writing a Business Plan (PM)

**MERCEDES-BENZ OF NOVI**  
YOUR LOCAL MERCEDES-BENZ DEALER

2010 C300 4MATIC  
**\$349\*** /mo. + tax  
36 MO. LEASE  
\$349 First monthly payment  
\$2,999 Capitalized cost reduction  
\$795 Acquisition fee  
**\$4,143** Total cash due at signing

**SPECIAL FINANCING RATES NOW AVAILABLE**

GRAND RIVER & HAGGERTY  
Come Visit Our Heated 18 Car Showroom

NEW & CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED RATES  
STARTING AS LOW AS **1.9% APR**

Mercedes-Benz  
Relax and enjoy our piano music  
**Mercedes-Benz of Novi**  
888.863.6342  
Open Saturday 10-3  
[www.mercedesbenzofnovi.com](http://www.mercedesbenzofnovi.com)

**BRACES**  
LIMITED TIME **\$3,333**

PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE.  
Regularly \$5,555  
A Savings of \$2,222!

**24 MONTHS**  
Interest Free Financing

FREE CONSULTATION  
OFFER VALID THRU MAY 31, 2010

Limited to 24 months of treatment. Certain appliances may cost extra. Additional charge for surgical orthodontics. Not valid with caption or special discount programs. Offer valid for new patients only.

Call For An Appointment  
**586-978-2100**  
Sterling Heights Office • 37734 Van Dyke

**248-476-6200**  
Farmington Office • 32750 Grand River

**313-582-4620**  
Dearborn Office • 5050 Schaefer Road

**MIDWESTERN ORTHODONTICS**  
[www.midwesterndental.com](http://www.midwesterndental.com)

### CHURCH

FROM PAGE A7

**First Baptist Church of Novi-Family Integrated Church**  
Location: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road  
Contact: (248) 349-3647 or firstbaptistchurchofnovi.org  
Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m.  
Family Worship: 11 a.m.  
Bible Study: 6 p.m.  
Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m., 1st/4th Sunday of every month

**First Presbyterian Church of Northville**  
Location: 200 E. Main St.  
Contact: (248) 349-0910 or visit firstpresville.org  
Sunday Worship Time: 9:30, 11 a.m.  
Walking in the Park Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. every Saturday  
Location: Meet at the Visitor's Center of Heritage Park (Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads)  
Details: Group meet for lunch after

wards.  
Contact: Sue (734) 459-0016  
Single Place Ministries Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. social time: 7:45 p.m. opening: 8-9 p.m. program, every Thursday.  
Details: Informative and entertaining programs of interest to singles; \$5 per person. Check Web site for details: [singleplace.org](http://singleplace.org).

**First United Methodist Church of Northville**  
A Stephen Ministry Church  
Location: 777 W. 8 Mile Road at Taft Rd.  
Contact: (248) 349-1144 or [www.fumc-northville.org](http://www.fumc-northville.org)  
SUNDAY WORSHIP Times: (September-June) 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.; (July and August) 8:30 and 10 a.m.  
Pastors: Rev. Dr. Steven J. Buck, Rev. Jeff Sturgeon  
Coffee Hour: Sunday at 10:15 a.m.  
Healing Service: 4 p.m. First Monday of every month  
Logo Youth Club: 5 p.m. Wednesday for fourth-12th grades.

**Radical Joy:** 6-8 p.m. first and third Thursday for all women  
Men's Club: 8 a.m. the second Saturday  
Career Ministry: 7 p.m. first and third Monday

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
Location: 4145 Nine Mile Road, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi  
Contact: (248) 349-0565  
Sundays Time: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study: 10 a.m. Worship  
Livonia Church of Christ Location: 15431 Merriman Road, Livonia  
Contact: For further information, please contact NSO Douglas K. Wells at (313) 964-6595.

**Meadowbrook Congregational**  
Location: 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads  
Contact: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister (248) 348-7757, visit [mbccc.org](http://mbccc.org) or e-mail to [office@mbccc.org](mailto:office@mbccc.org).  
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.  
Sermon: Having a Plan

Church School: 10-11 a.m.  
Fellowship Hour: 11 a.m.  
Merry Widows Luncheon Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. fourth Thursday of each month  
Pilgrim Fellowship Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sundays  
Asking Questions adult education class Time/Date: 10 a.m. Tuesdays  
Cross Walk Time/Date: 5 p.m. April 2  
Details: Join us in a somber remembrance of Christ's final walk; from Meadowbrook Congregational

Church to Novi United Methodist  
**Maudy Thursday**  
Time/Date: 6:14 p.m. April 1  
Details: Potluck and worship service

**Northville Christian Assembly**  
Location: 41555 Six Mile Road  
Contact: (248) 348-9030  
Sundays 9-10 a.m. Sunday School for Adults / Youth / Children  
9 a.m. Contemporary service in multi-purpose gymnasium  
10:15 a.m. Contemporary service in worship center; children's

super church on the second level (208/210)  
Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study 8:45-10:30 a.m. (café)  
Wednesday Family Night 7 p.m. Adult elective classes; jr and sr. high student ministries; children's programs (M-Pact Girls Club & Royal Rangers Boys Club) Nursery and Preschool Program on Sundays and Wednesdays Home of Northville Christian School (day care; preschool through eighth grade) - contact (248) 348-9031

**PUT SOME SPRING ON YOUR STEP**

**Pansies**  
Jumbo 6 pack reg. \$6.99  
NOW ONLY \$5.99

Spring Magic PERENNIAL BOWLS  
Reg. \$29.99  
NOW \$22.49

Summer Flowering BULBS  
25% OFF

**PLYMOUTH NURSERY**  
HOME & GARDEN SHOWPLACE

734-453-5500  
9900 Ann Arbor Rd./Plymouth Rd.  
7 Miles West of I-75 • 1/2 Mile South of M-14  
Corner of Godfreed Rd.

**New for You at Novi Town Center!**

**BORDERS.**  
JOIN US FOR OUR  
Local Authors Book Signing Event  
Saturday March 27 at 2:00pm

Featuring two Sleeping Bear Press children's book authors - Denise Brennan-Nelson and Mary Ann Riehle,  
Plus, local children's book author, Gary Wise, and Novi Borders resident author, Joseph Williams.

Store Hours  
OPEN 9AM - 11PM MONDAY - SATURDAY, 9AM - 9PM SUNDAY

**BAGGER DAVE'S**  
BURGERS & BEERS

That's the secret behind Bagger Dave's burgers, made from a never-frozen, premium beef blend. With more than 30 toppings available, guests can build their own legendary burgers - served in a casual sit-down diner setting with table service.

OPEN SUNDAY - THURSDAY, 7AM UNTIL 10PM  
AND FRIDAY & SATURDAY FROM 7AM UNTIL 11PM

Shop our new AT&T Store  
Find the very latest in wireless, digital TV, internet & DSL and home phones.

Store Hours  
OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 10AM - 8PM,  
SATURDAY 10AM - 7PM, SUNDAY 11AM - 6PM

Novi Town Center  
26132 Ingersol Drive | Novi, MI 48375 | [www.novitowncenter.com](http://www.novitowncenter.com)

**Not only does switching banks make sense, it makes money.**

PERFORMING THE PERFORMANCE MONEY MARKET  
**1.00% APY**

When you switch your checking account to Charter One and open our new Performance Money Market account, your money works even harder. With our Performance Money Market account you'll receive one of the most competitive rates around, and with FDIC insurance you'll have guaranteed peace of mind. Plus, when you open your checking account you'll get access to our Best in Class Rewards Program. Charter One, the bank for saving no matter what you're saving for.

Call: 1-877-TOP-RATE  
Come in: Any Charter One

**Charter One**

**BELLE TIRE CONCERT SERIES**

**DTE Energy music theatre**

*Music · Inspiration · Faith*  
**CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN SERIES PACKAGE**

**TOBYMAC and CHRIS TOMLIN**  
FRI, JUN 25

**MICHAEL W. SMITH and AMY GRANT**  
SUN, AUG 8

**STEVEN CURTIS CHAPMAN and THIRD DAY**  
SUN, SEPT 19

**THREE GREAT SHOWS, ONE LOW PRICE**  
LIMITED TIME ONLY

Available only at Palacenet.com,  
The Palace Box Office or by calling 248.377.0100.

# Verma honored by Democrats

The Michigan-Indo-American Democratic Caucus and Indian community honored Novy's Ramesh Verma, treasurer of the Michigan Democratic party and former chairman of the MIADC (2005-08). In attendance at the event were U.S. Congressman Gary Peters, Senator Hansen Clarke, State Representatives Dian Slavens and Lesia Liss, many judges and city councilmen.



Verma accepted the award and said that he was honored and humbled to receive that recognition which has given him more responsibilities to perform more for the community. Further, he said that he could not have done it without the help of dedicated and loyal members of the board. He thanked his wife, Usha, for her help at home. Verma did, and helped in many fund-raising which included Governor Granholm, Sen. Clarke, Sen. Kerry for President, Sen. Obama for President, and many other legislators.

Verma is also highly regarded by the community who helped in the visas/immigration problems. He worked with legislators, the governor's office and the Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth concerning placing cremated human remains in the form of ashes into the waters of Michigan. Legislation was signed into law by the governor in November 2008.



**Kovacs & Blazek**  
Andrew and Diane Kovacs of Novi announce the engagement of their son, James Andrew Kovacs, of Chicago and Santa Clara, Calif., to Bridget Anne Blazek of Omaha, Neb. She is the daughter of George and Donna Blazek of Omaha.

James is a graduate of Novi High School and the University of Michigan, where he received a bachelor's degree in honor economics and psychology. He earned a juris doctor from Harvard Law School, and he is currently employed as a senior attorney, Legal and Corporate Affairs, with Intel Corporation in California.

Bridget is a graduate of Central High School in Omaha. She went to the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass., where she graduated cum laude with a bachelor of arts in economics accounting. She is currently getting her juris doctor from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

A Spring 2011 wedding is being planned.

**Karson L. Carpenter D.D.S.**  
**Alma R. Nava D.D.S.**  
**DRAKESHIRE DENTAL CENTER**  
Graduates of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry

*Our staff is fluent in Spanish!*

**Our office provides a variety of dental services including:**

- Bleaching and cosmetic dentistry
- Invisalign and traditional braces
- Air abrasion "Drillless" dentistry
- Laser dentistry
- Carec one-visit porcelain crowns
- Fillings, crowns and bridges
- Implants
- Dentures and removable partial dentures
- Treatment of gums

Accepting new patients, both adults and children.

Evening and Saturday hours available.  
Dr. Carpenter & Dr. Nava are General Practitioners

**Karson L. Carpenter D.D.S. & Alma R. Nava, D.D.S.**  
Drakeshire Dental Center  
35223 Grand River • Farmington, MI 48335  
248-474-4600  
www.drakeshiredental.com

**FREE WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM**  
FREE CONSULTATION PRIOR TO STARTING PROGRAM

**Keith J. Pierce, MD**  
Internal Medicine  
38525 Eight Mile Road  
Livonia, MI 48152  
248.321.6612  
Call for Directions!

**NEW PATIENTS**

**WHEN YOU DECIDE YOU NEED TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT WITH YOUR MONEY.**

**S.M.A.R.T.**

May we suggest spending a little S.M.A.R.T. time with Flagstar? Because when you're confident enough to take a step forward with your money, it's time to move to a bank that understands what you want. Like: solid earnings on checking.

Come in or visit us online. Because it's time to do something different with your money. Something S.M.A.R.T.

**Get 2% APY**  
on balances up to \$100,000 guaranteed for 3 months.\*

**Or get \$100** when you open a Flagstar S.M.A.R.T. checking account.\*

**Flagstar**  
The new wave in banking

Flagstar.com (800) 642-0039 Member FDIC

**Join Us for Easter Sunday April 4, 2010**

**Fiamma Grille**  
Offering a 4-Course Brunch  
11 am - 4 pm  
and  
Comparis on the Park  
Offering a Full Menu With Specials  
11 am - 8 pm

Both Restaurants Gladly Taking Reservations!

casual upscale dining with reasonable prices  
380 S. Main Street  
Downtown Farmington  
(734) 416-9340  
www.fiammagrille.com  
Reservations gladly accepted



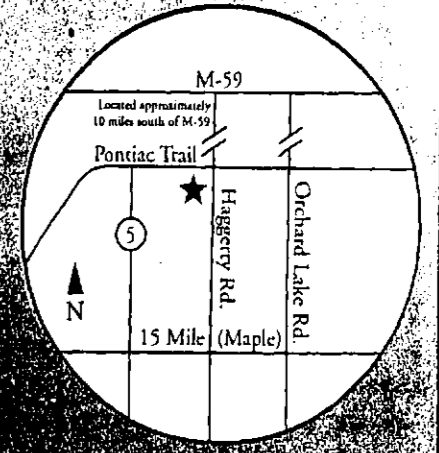
# Dick Morris

CHEVROLET • AUTOMOTIVE

## 248-624-4500

www.dickmorrischevrolet.com

Goodwrench



New Cars Used Cars Collision Center Certified Cars Car Reviews Tips & Advice

**Skilled & Professionally Trained Technicians**

up to **\$500 OFF**  
**Your Deductible\***

Must present coupon when order is written. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Some restrictions apply. Collision Center use only. Call Bob Clair for details. Expires 4/8/10. O.A.E.

**ASE & I-CAR Licensed & Certified**

**Ask about Free Courtesy Transportation**

Must present coupon when order is written. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Some restrictions apply. Collision Center use only. Call Bob Clair for details. Expires 4/8/10. O.A.E.

**Liberty Mutual Prudential Nationwide Farm Bureau Pioneer State**

**Auto Owners MEEMC Esurance Geico Progressive Farmers Allied Citizens GMAC**

**We work with ALL insurance companies!**

**Early Bird Special 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.**

**Goodwrench QUICK LUBE PLUS WITH FREE 27-POINT INSPECTION**

Includes: Up to 5 qts. of oil • Install new filter • Lube chassis • Top off fluids

Normally \$29.95 **\$16.95**

Plus tax and hazardous waste fee. Add \$5.00 after 11:00 a.m. \$2.00 extra disposal fee. 5W50 GM Goodwrench Oil. Includes most GM vehicles. Must present coupon when order is written. Expires 4/8/10. O.A.E.

**COOPER TIRES**

**14" Tires starting at \$49.95\***

**15" & 16" Tires starting at \$59.95\***

\*Mount/balance/valves/alignment extra. Tires shown may not apply to all makes/models. Expires 4/8/10. O.A.E.

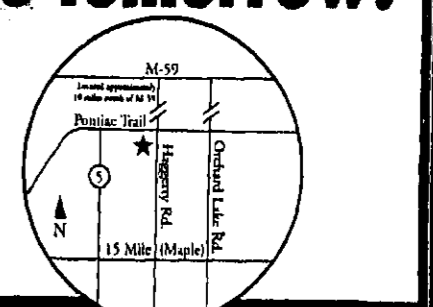
**DICK MORRIS CHEVROLET AUTOMOTIVE**

Your Car & Truck Service, Maintenance and Sales Center for **Over 40 Years**

**We're here for you today • we'll be here for you tomorrow!**

**2199 Haggerty, Commerce Twp., MI**  
(at Pontiac Trail across from Walmart) • www.dickmorrischevrolet.com

Service Hours: Mon. and Thurs. 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Tues., Wed., and Fri. 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. **248-624-4500**



\*\$100 deposit or 2% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) available for new personal checking account customers only (no existing Flagstar checking account). To qualify, open a new personal checking account with a minimum deposit of \$50 and set up an automatic, recurring direct deposit of income of at least \$250 per month, excluding interest deposits. Direct deposit must be established within the first 60 days of account opening. \$100 bonus will be deposited into your account within 30 days after the first recurring direct deposit takes place. All accounts must remain open and active for a minimum of six months. If checking account is closed within the first six months, Flagstar reserves the right to reclaim the \$100 deposit or interest. 2% APY is accurate as of 2/22/2010 and is guaranteed for three months after account opening. Maximum deposit is \$100,000. Funds may not currently be deposited with Flagstar Bank. Offer good only when opening a Flagstar interest-bearing checking account. Account fees could reduce earnings. Direct deposit must be established within the first 60 days of account opening or the rate is reduced to current rate. See your Flagstar representative for more details. Flagstar will issue a 1099 for the \$100. Offer not good in conjunction with any other coupons or checking account offers. Some restrictions apply. Limit one \$100 deposit or 2% APY offer per customer per account. Offer subject to change or cancellation at any time without notice. Flagstar reserves the right to reduce the 2% APY to the then available rate prior to the 3-month expiration date if checking balances exceed the \$100,000 maximum.





**HAPPY BIRTHDAY LIVONIA!**  
**JOE'S GOURMET CATERING & EVENTS**  
**FOR ALL OCCASIONS!**

Now is the perfect time to plan for graduation parties, weddings, showers and of course picnics! Whether you are planning an elaborate gala or breakfast for that early morning meeting... we can make it happen.

Call Our Event Planner  
 Today 248-477-4333, ext. 226



33152 W. SEVEN MILE RD • LIVONIA, MI 248.477.4333 HOURS: MONDAY-SATURDAY 9-8 • SUNDAY 9-6

**PRODUCE**

- |   |  |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| California Extra Fancy Ripe & Sweet Strawberries <b>2/\$3</b> | Dole Golden Ripe Whole Pineapples <b>\$2.99</b> each | California Seedless Clementines <b>\$4.99</b> 5 lb box each | Delmonte Seedless Mini Watermelon <b>\$2.99</b> each | California Andy Boy Romaine Hearts <b>2/\$4</b> 22 oz. package |
|---|--|---|--|--|

**DELI**

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| Alexander & Hornung 1/2 Spiral Ham <b>\$2.99</b> lb. Save \$2.00 lb | Boarshead Honey Maple Ham <b>\$6.99</b> lb. Save \$2.00 lb   | Dietz & Watson Black Forest Ham & Turkey <b>\$6.99</b> lb. Save \$2.00 lb | Muenster Cheese <b>\$2.99</b> lb. Save \$2.00 lb                           |
| Honeysuckle Turkey <b>\$3.99</b> lb. Save \$3.00 lb                 | Boarshead Everroast Chicken <b>\$5.99</b> lb. Save \$3.00 lb | Dietz & Watson London Broil Roast Beef <b>\$7.99</b> lb. Save \$3.00 lb   | Boarshead White & Yellow American Cheeses <b>\$3.99</b> lb. Save \$3.00 lb |

End Your Search For A Great Gift With Easter Bouquets, Plants And Gift Baskets. Easter Sweets And Treats Baskets For Every Taste And Budget Available. Order One Today Or Stop By And Pick Up A Few. If You're Making Your Own Baskets Take A Look At Our Amazing Selection Of Easter Candy... Godiva, Sanders & Jelly Belly Etc.

**GROCERY BAKERY CAFE**

- Easter Lamb Butter Sculptures **\$4.49** each  
 Great With Easter Dinner
- Delallo Organic Pasta **2/\$6.00**  
 Mix or Match  
 Demo On Saturday from 10am - 5pm
- Olde Cape Cod Dressings **2/\$4.00**  
 All Varieties
- Soft Philly Tubs **2/\$4.00**  
 All Varieties  
 \$2.00 8 oz container

- Angel Food Cake **\$2.99** Save 50¢  
 Great with Strawberries
- Spring Lofthouse Cookies **\$2.99**  
 Starting at  
 Great for Goodie Baskets!
- Introducing: Triple Chocolate Cake & Our Best of Both Cake Only **\$23.99**  
 Also Available By The Slice \$2.99 each

- Joe's In Store Fresh Roasted Coffee Flavor of The Week "Blueberry Buckle" **\$5.99** lb. Save \$2.00 lb.
- Jelly Beans **\$1.89** lb.  
 Beautiful selection of blooming Easter plants: Lilies, Azaleas, Hydrangea & Tulips  
 Just to name a few...  
 Easter Plants starting at \$6.99 each & up
- While shopping enjoy a delicious Latte or Smoothie made to order.

- Everyday **GOURMET**
- Spiral Sliced Ham **\$4.99** lb. Save \$3.00 lb.
- Waldorf Salad **\$3.99** lb. Save \$1.00 lb.
- Scallop Potatoes w/ Gouda Cheese & Bacon **\$4.99** lb. Save \$1.00 lb.
- Glazed Carrots **\$2.99** lb. Save \$1.00 lb.

**Easter Dinner From Joe's**  
 Enjoy time with our family & friends this Easter!  
 Joe's will prepare the perfect easter dinner! From a complete ham dinner to fabulous side dishes and desserts, our culinary team can make it happen!  
 Order your Sweet Trays & Cakes Today for Easter!

- WINE CELLAR**  
 A Taste of Italy  
 Italian Bolla Wines **\$6.99** All Varietals
- Bebe Prosecco Brut **\$13.99**
- California Sea Ridge Wines **\$6.99** All Varietals

Joe's fresh cut holiday bouquets starting at \$8.99 ea. & up. Breathtaking fresh arrangements starting at \$19.99 & up. Great for gift giving or to accent your holiday table.



Prices good through March 28, 2010

THURSDAY  
 March 25,  
 2010

B SECTION  
 (NN)

Jeff Theisen, editor (248) 477-2010  
 Ext. 228. jtheisen@hometownlife.com

**LOCAL SPORTS**

online at hometownlife.com



Senior speed, strength to power 'Cats, B4



Wildcat players look on nervously as their teammates on the court have problems keeping up with the River Rats.

**Novi turns over regional cagers title**

BY CHRIS JACKETT  
 CORRESPONDENT

Following an impressive comeback victory against Walled Lake Northern two nights prior, Novi's cagers couldn't repeat in the second half against a dominant Ann Arbor Huron squad on March 17.

With the two green-clad teams facing off on Saint Patrick's Day, the River Rats had the luck of the Irish on their side and came out firing, taking a 15-4 lead after a first quarter where Novi had 10 turnovers.

"That's a very good team," Novi coach Cory Heitsch said. "They force you to make good decisions all the time."

Ozeir, who broke his left arm during a fall at the end of the first quarter in the regional semifinal against Northern, the Wildcats had trouble sizing up against a bigger Huron team, especially 6-6 junior Dante Williams (nine points) and powerful 6-3 junior AJ Mathew (game-high 14 points).

"I'm sure [losing Ozeir was] more of a mental impact than what it would've been during the game. Our rotation was 10 two weeks ago and now we're down to seven. The main problem was them. They're athletic, they're long," Heitsch said. "You can't simulate their speed or length in practice. We couldn't finish and, after that, we got deflated."

Without 6-8 junior Samer

Please see **CAGERS, B3**

**Sprinters hoping to pedal Wildcats to division title repeat in 2010**

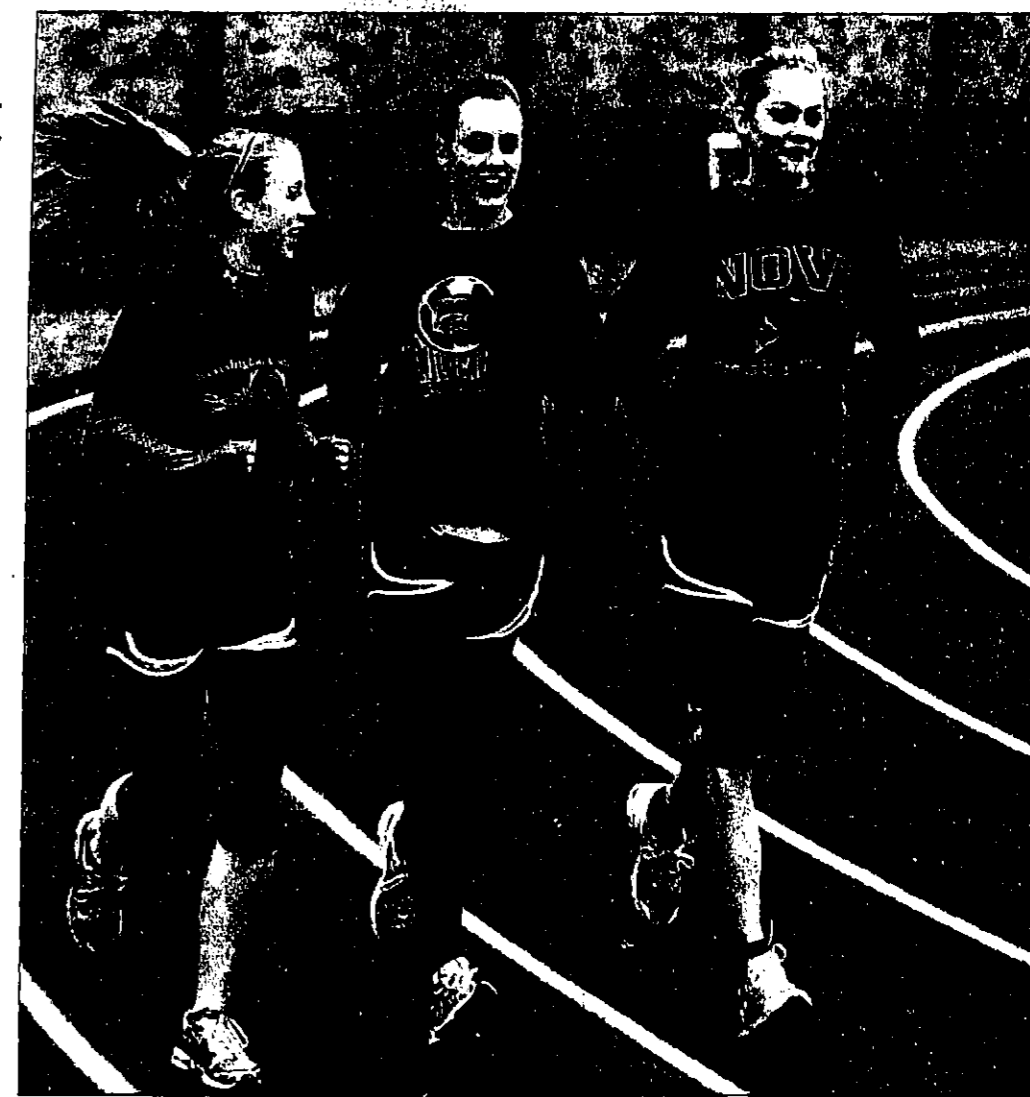
Novi racers geared up to host WL Central today

BY CHRIS JACKETT  
 CORRESPONDENT

Sustainability. That will be the goal this spring for Novi's girls track and field team, who went 5-0 in the Central Division before winning the conference and regional titles.

The Wildcats return a core of sprinters and a few of their relay and field athletes that were state qualifiers in 2009. Leading the short-distance races will be senior captains Brianne Pieprzak, Regina Barbosa and sophomores D'Mya Davis, Jasmine Ward and Kelly McCloskey.

Ward was a regional champion in the 100-meter dash as a freshman, while McCloskey won the regional title in the 300-meter hurdles. McCloskey was also a state qualifier in the 4x200 relay, while Ward, Davis and Pieprzak qualified in all the sprint relays. Davis also qualified in the 100-meter dash and Pieprzak in the 200-meter dash. Barbosa special-



Members of the girls track team begin warming up for their 2010 spring campaign on March 22.

Please see **TRACK, B2**

**Young softball squad steps up to the plate**

Wildcats return most of starting lineup

BY CHRIS JACKETT  
 CORRESPONDENT

With the full starting lineup (except first base) returning from last season's 14-7 squad, Bob Lulek's group of sophomores are now juniors and ready to take a step up in the KLA Central Division softball standings.

The added year of experience should help the Wildcats, who struggled in pressure situations last year. "My biggest concern will be how we respond in close games. In the past, we would melt down when we fell behind. I feel we are more confident about the way we play, but only time will tell. I do believe, if we can stay healthy, this should be a very interesting season. This team has a different attitude. I like what I see."

What Lulek should expect to see is strong senior leadership in the corners, as captains Stephanie Hrit and Allyson Hrit handle the left and right field duties, respectively. Junior Maddy Sinkovitch will play between the pair at center field.

"Our program has not been very strong in the past. I really believe we now have some pretty good talent with senior leadership," Lulek said. "The Wildcats will also sport a young infield that has yet to

'feel we are more confident about the way we play, but only time will tell. I do believe, if we can stay healthy, this should be a very interesting season. This team has a different attitude. I like what I see.'

COACH BOB LULEK

can stay healthy, this should be a very interesting season. This team has a different attitude. I like what I see."

What Lulek should expect to see is strong senior leadership in the corners, as captains Stephanie Hrit and Allyson Hrit handle the left and right field duties, respectively. Junior Maddy Sinkovitch will play between the pair at center field.

"Our program has not been very strong in the past. I really believe we now have some pretty good talent with senior leadership," Lulek said. "The Wildcats will also sport a young infield that has yet to

defending her individual conference and regional titles, Novi's girls tennis squad returns eight of their top 12 players, including their top three singles players and top doubles team.

Seniors Amanda Border, Sara Carlson, Lauren Felcher, Julia Thomas and sophomore Abby Wang will be the nucleus of a strong Wildcats team look-

Please see **SOFTBALL, B4**

**Strong core could lead lady netters to state title**

8 of 12 return from team that finished fourth in state

BY CHRIS JACKETT  
 CORRESPONDENT

Swinging through last spring with division, conference and regional titles, Novi's girls tennis squad returns eight of their top 12 players, including their top three singles players and top doubles team.

Seniors Amanda Border, Sara Carlson, Lauren Felcher, Julia Thomas and sophomore Abby Wang will be the nucleus of a strong Wildcats team look-

ing to build on last season's success. All but Wang earned MHSFCA All-State honors last year.

"We have the potential to be a very good team. A lot of the kids' games have shown improvement," said coach Jim Hanson, who is entering his 26th season at the Wildcats' helm. "Midland Dow won states last year and have most of their team back."

Border will lead the way in defending her individual con-

"I'm pleased with how the kids worked on their game since last season. I'm looking forward to having a good and fun year. I just want the girls to play up to their abilities and work hard in practice, and it's not the end of the world if they lose."

COACH JIM HANSON

ference and regional titles at one singles, aiming to improve on last season's 18-5 record. Carlson (21-4 at two singles in 2009) and Wang (22-7 at three singles in 2009) both

look to improve on their 2009 conference titles, as both also finished within the top four in Division 1 at their position last year.

"They're three very excellent singles players. Sara and Abby are very close," Hanson said.

Felcher and Thomas will return their experience at one doubles that earned them a 19-6 record and conference championship last year. Juniors Jenna Snyder, Meggie Riegel and senior Andrea Lollo all played doubles last year, but will compete for the four singles and pair of two

Please see **TENNIS, B3**





