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THURSDAY
February 10, 2011

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Number 38

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NOVI NEWS

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Free parks entry

Oakland County Parks and Recreation offers patrons free park entry on Monday, Feb. 21, in honor of President's Day. Guests can enjoy the natural areas and trails at Addison Oaks, Highland Oaks, Independence Oaks and Rose Oaks county parks, Lyon Oaks, Orion Oaks and Red Oaks dog parks are ideal for dogs and their owners. Lyon Oaks County Park is located at 5221 Pontiac Trail in Wixom. For a park hours, activities and amenities, visit DestinationOakland.com.

Weight loss secrets

Learn why low calorie diets do not work, what hormones are involved with metabolism, energy and weight loss at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Wixom Public Library. You'll also find out how to detoxify your body, how to prevent and eliminate the pain that prevents exercise and much, much more.

Space is limited, registration is required. Please call (248) 685-8015.

Charity hockey

The first annual charity hockey game between Providence doctors and the Novi Police and Fire Departments is set to take place at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12 at Compuware Arena in Plymouth. Tickets are \$11, and include the charity game as well as the Plymouth Whalers vs. Owen Sound Attack game at 7:05 p.m.

A total of \$4 from each ticket sold will be donated to Providence pediatric charities through the Providence Health Foundation.

Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling the Compuware Arena box office at (734) 453-8400 or at the arena. The arena is located at 14900 Beck Road in Plymouth Township.

Cooking classes

Better Health Market (42875 Grand River Avenue, Novi) will present a free cooking class, Intro to Raw Foods, by Michael Dwyer at 11 a.m. Saturday Feb. 12.

Susan Parker Stewart will offer a free seminar, Begin Your Journey to Vibrant Health, at the store at 2 p.m. that day.

Everyone who attends the free seminar or free cooking class will receive a complimentary copy of Jordan Rubi's book, "Raw Truth," which deals with the raw food phenomenon.

Grand River to be resurfaced this fall

Council elated by possible project

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Long-awaited upgrades to Grand River Avenue could be coming sooner than expected after the Novi City Council discussed plans Monday to possibly start the resurfacing work in the fall.

Initial estimates called for the road work to start in 2012, but because an Oakland County community could not make their local contribution for their own project, money was freed up for 2011.

The only downfall of starting the project this fall is that it will take place during the same time as the Novi Road Link project, which calls for the closure of Novi Road between 10 Mile Road and Grand River Avenue, and the Meadowbrook Road project.

However, Novi Mayor David Landry does not see that as an issue.

"Personally I don't care," he said Monday night. "If we can get Grand River done sooner than later, blame me for the inconvenience. There is no inconvenience too big that we should not get this done."

Resurfacing Grand River Avenue has been a top priority for the City Council the last several years, but funding issues at the county level have caused delays. The road is owned by the county, and thus the city could not do anything about the decrepit surface.

The project, which spans from Novi to Haggerty roads, calls for extensive rehabilitation and repaving, improving shoulders, select curb and gutter improvements, select construction of right turn lanes and tapes at driveways and intersections and the construction of ADA compliant pedestrian improvements.

Novi's financial contribution to the project is estimated at \$379,000, which will come from the municipal street fund.

Council member Andrew Mutch, as well as the other council members, echoed the mayor's sentiment.

"It's better to get the pain out of the way all at once," he said. "This is way beyond needed."

Mutch also joked that the road is already down to gravel base, so maybe that would speed up the construction.

City Manager Clay Pearson said he does not believe the work to require total closure of the road, and expects work to start in September.

While the city is optimistic the project will be awarded, it still has to be approved by the Oakland County Federal Highway Aid Committee on Feb. 22.

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... (We) are still living a nightmare we cannot wake up from. - Kris Krstovski, Novi homeowner

Novi family displaced from Island Lake home

Homeowner claims builder hid problems, will not fix them



BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

It has been more than nine months since Kris Krstovski and his family spent the night in their Island Lake of Novi home.

And it looks like they will not be living there any time soon as the family has anchored down to fight home builder Toll Brothers because of various issues with their new house.

The most pressing issue the family alleges is the presence of mold they found throughout the home. It was in the basement, bedrooms and the garage, and it forced them to evacuate because of various health-related issues.

Krstovski said his wife, Sherry, was pregnant with their third child when she started getting sick. Doctors had to induce labor a few months after they got out. His two other daughters also got sick, suffering memory loss and asthma-related issues, and one had to be rushed to the emergency room three times.

He said his symptoms included cysts in his ears and bad headaches.

"Right off the bat (in 2009) we had numerous problems that were left behind, but in early April (2010) when we found mold on the ceiling in the nursery. And when I cleaned it off and it came back in four days,



READ MORE

Kris Krstovski also has started a blog at www.ourtolexperience.blogspot.com regarding the issues, with stories and links to photos and videos.

we knew there was a problem," Kris Krstovski said. "This turned into a serious situation for our family."

The home on Terra Del Mar Drive was built in 2004 and served as a model home until the Krstovskis purchased it in 2009.

They lived there until mid-April 2010 when an environmental consultant informed them that the home had significant mold contamination and "immediate evacuation and remediation" should take place. Krstovski informed Toll Brothers of the issues, and said he was told they would take care of it. But it never happened.

He continued to have more tests done inside the home to identify the problem. During the process, the consultants found several issues including mold in many rooms, dried water marks on the wood floor in the attic space and a cardboard chute that was stapled to the wood in the attic that was used to drain water.

Please see HOME, A2

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Chamber looks to help people dress to impress

Local charities to benefit from clothing donations

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Appearance is important when it comes to interviewing for jobs.

Not only is it noticed by the employer, but it also can give the prospective candidate added confidence.

And for the 12th consecutive year, the Novi Chamber

of Commerce hopes to help people get that upper hand at its annual philanthropic breakfast called Threads of Power.

The event, co-sponsored by Telcom Credit Union, takes place at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 15 at Nordstrom of Novi. The purpose of the fund-raiser is to collect gently used men's and women's business attire, specifically men's clothing and jackets as well as accessories like hosiery, dress socks and shoes. The need has also grown so large that the charities benefiting from the event also are asking for clothes for the whole family.

"Many individuals are struggling to find a job

Please see DONATIONS, A2



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HOME

FROM PAGE A1
 "There are water problems all over the house," Krstovski said. "They made alterations while this was a model home that were not caught during the inspection process."

Since the family moved out of their home, they have moved four times. "They started living in a hotel and then an apartment before Toll Brothers offered to put them up in a place. That stay didn't last long," Krstovski said, as the company indicated to the family that they must sign a release to remediate the damage or they would no longer be paying for their housing.

Krstovski refused to sign the release because he wasn't convinced their plan would solve the problem. The family had to move once again, back into the other home they owned but were renting to another family, and are currently living there while their Island Lake of Novi home sits vacant.

Larry Bennett, the attorney for the family, said the company's recommendation for remediation was "inadequate," and he filed suit with the Oakland County Circuit Court in mid-July.

"Just getting rid of the mold doesn't do anything," he said. "They have to get rid of the problem."

Recently, the building inspector for the city visited the home and noted several code violations including the bucket in the attic, weep holes missing over some windows and door openings and moisture penetrating the home at the sun room door among other violations.

Also a signed affidavit from Michelle Trainor, who now lives in the subdivision, was submitted to Oakland County Circuit Court regarding the alleged problems with the home.

While her own home was being built, Trainor says she visited the model home, now Krstovski's home, multiple times in 2007 and observed water in the basement and fans in the stairwell leading from



Island Lake of Novi resident Kris Krstovski stands outside his home he and his family were forced to abandon because of the presence of mold growth.

the basement to the outside. She also said sales representatives were aware of water coming into the basement from outside.

TOLL'S RESPONSE

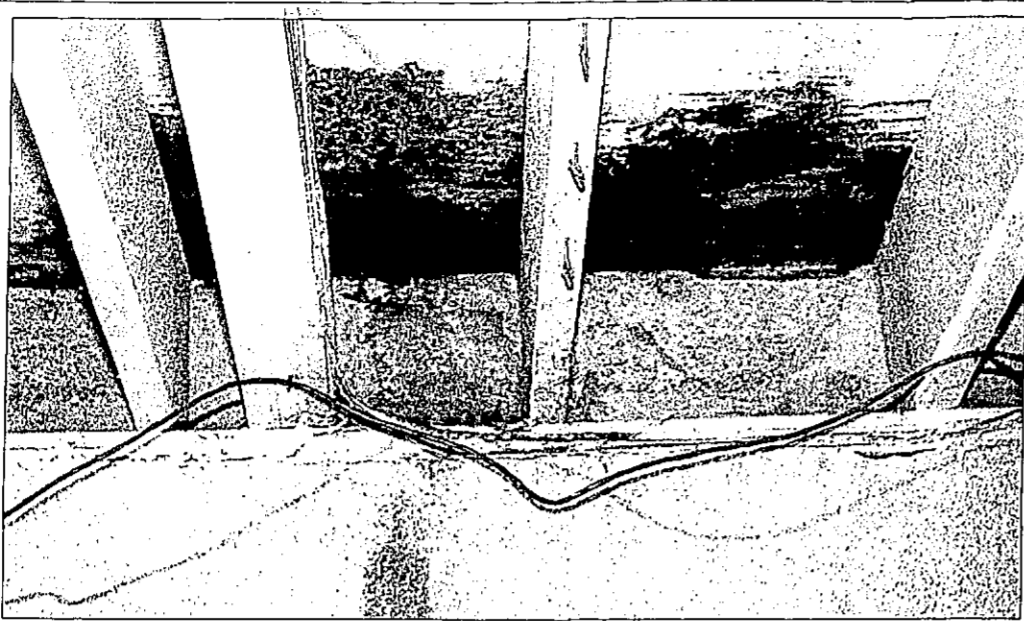
When Toll Brothers was contacted for comment regarding the allegations, they indicated in a statement that because of pending litigation they "cannot comment as to any of the specifics being alleged by both parties."

"Toll Brothers would certainly have preferred that the matter be resolved to our homeowners' satisfaction," the statement said. "Towards that end, when Toll Brothers was advised that a leak had occurred at the Krstovski's home, Toll agreed to repair the leak and any damage caused by the leak, remediate any mold to the satisfaction of an agreed-upon, third party expert and pay for the Krstovski's out-of-pocket expenses while the repairs were being made."

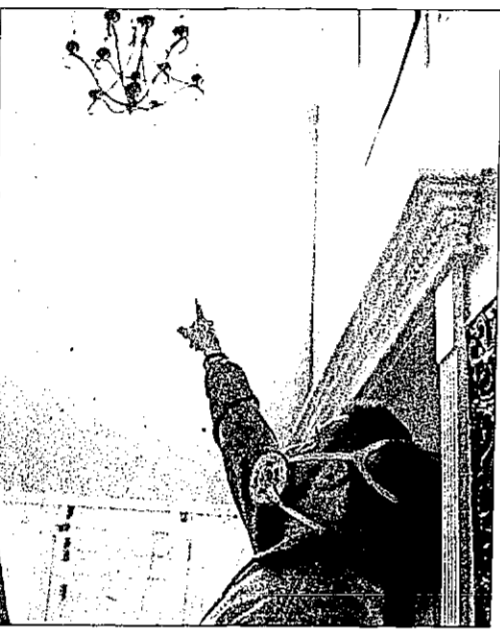
Krstovski said he has spent nearly \$100,000 on fighting the company and plans to continue that fight until he gets a favorable resolution and mainly because he wants to "show the public how they treat people."

"Although we are living in a home right now, we are still living a nightmare we cannot wake up from," he said.

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Doors nailed to the basement ceiling joists hid this mold growth.



Wearing a protective breathing mask, Kris Krstovski points to an area of the foyer's ceiling where mold is growing.



Sherry Krstovski was pregnant with daughter Yamilia, 4 months, and was having illnesses that the Krstovski's blame on the toxic mold in their Novi home. The Krstovski's moved out of the home in April and have not returned — even though a lot of their possessions still remain there.

New newspaper website has less clutter, fewer distractions

Our website, Hometownlife.com, rolled out a new design last week.

The site hosts content for print editions of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and *Hometown Weeklies*.

You'll notice right away that the new design has less clutter and fewer distractions.

The new Hometownlife.com is focused on presenting content that is easy to navigate so readers will see more headlines, photos and videos right on our homepage. Our Top News category features the biggest stories of the day and right below that is a Community News section that displays content according to your reading habits. If you live in Novi, select it from the list of communities and stories about Novi will appear in the Community News section every day.

That means there is no longer a need to navigate through various communities to find coverage of the people and places that

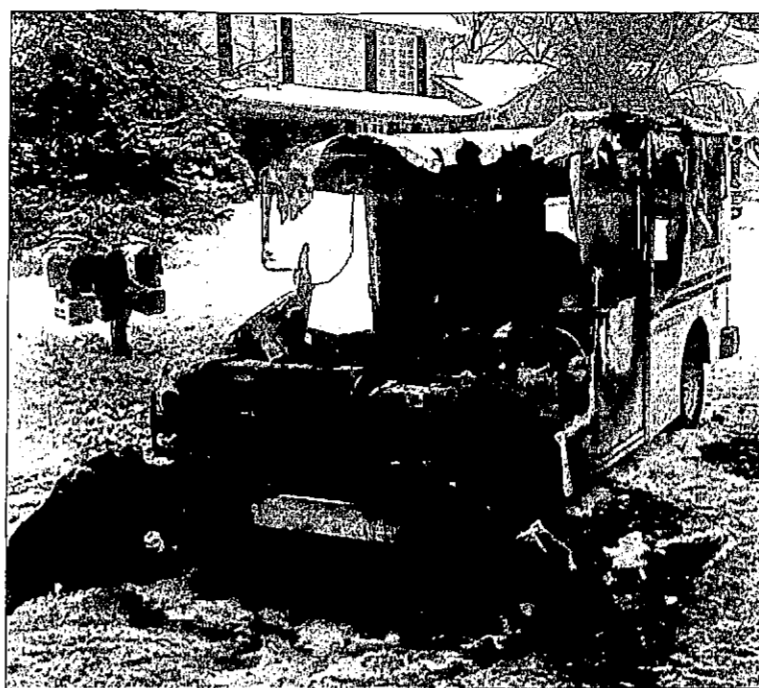


matter most to you — content from the *Novi News* will display right on the homepage of Hometownlife.com.

We've also improved our photo galleries, social media components and the functionality of our reader comments.

We believe you'll like the new and improved Hometownlife.com, but even with the best of design inten-

tions, we might have missed something. So if you are having any issues, have a suggestion or have something to say about the new site, please tell us. You can comment here on this article, send an e-mail Web Editor Larry Ruchlen at lruchlen@hometownlife.com or talk to us on our Facebook page at Hometownlife.com/facebook.



A United States Postal Service vehicle was destroyed by fire Monday morning causing more than 300 Novi residents to lose their mail.

Mail truck catches fire in subdivision

Hundreds of residents lose mail in vehicle blaze

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

More than 300 Novi residents did not receive their mail on Monday after a United States Postal Service vehicle went up in flames as a result of possible mechanical failure.

The Novi Fire Department was dispatched to Emerald Forest and Freemont, near Taft and Ten Mile roads, around 11:16 a.m. and fire fighters were able to extinguish the fire shortly after arriving.

Novi Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police David Molloy said investigators believe the vehicle was stuck on a patch of ice and the process of trying to get unstuck could have caused the fire.

The female mail carrier abandoned the vehicle after seeing flames underneath and was not hurt.

According to Mike Bulbuk, supervisor at the postal store in Novi, the carrier was only 12 deliveries into her route that contains 340 deliveries. All of the mail inside the vehicle, as well as the driver's purse, burned in the fire.

Bulbuk said Monday he drafted a letter that was supposed to be delivered to the residents affected on Tuesday addressing how they should proceed. He said the only mail the post office would have knowledge of are those items that had tracking information on them, and the rest cannot be salvaged.

Residents are encouraged to

contact companies and people they were expecting mail from to make sure they eventually get the necessary items.

Shannon LaBryere, communications specialist for the USPS, said anything they do find with identification on it they will make every attempt to deliver.

"It's really one of those bad things we don't like to have happen," she said. "It's a rare thing to have everything in the vehicle destroyed."

Bulbuk said this is the third vehicle in the district to get stuck in the snow and catch fire since 2005, and encourages residents to do their part to help by clearing the area in front of their mailboxes.

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DONATIONS
 FROM PAGE A1
 and cannot afford to spend money on interview clothes," said Dawn Peters, event manager for the chamber. "By providing them with an outfit or two, we may have helped them find their next job — not to mention that looking sharp has a positive effect on a person's self-esteem."
 The clothes and other donations will be delivered to Church of the Holy Family in Novi, the Transition Center at Schoolcraft College and the Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan.
 People must pre-register for the event by calling (248) 349-3743 or online at www.novichamber.com. Cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-chamber members, and includes breakfast, the chance to win prizes and a business fashion show.
 "It's a great way to participate in a charity event that could directly impact the lives of people seeking jobs in our communities and families in need of a little extra help," Peters said.
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EDUCATION

Thursday, February 10, 2011 hometownlife.com

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Donations needed for Senior All Night Party

Organizers for the Novi High School Senior All Night Party are hard at work planning for the 2011 event and are requesting donations from parents, businesses and community members to make this year's event the best one yet. The annual Senior All Night Party, scheduled for June 4 at Novi High School, offers food, activities and prizes, allowing graduating seniors to celebrate in a safe, supervised environment. Checks may be made payable to NHS Senior All Night Party, C/O Dana Nussio, 220-41 Shadybrook Drive, Novi, MI 48375. Information may be obtained by contacting Dana Nussio at nussio@earthlink.net or Anne Lewis at alewis13@mm.rr.com.

The SNIP Donations Committee is seeking raffle prize and monetary donations to cover the cost of decorations, entertainment and additional raffle prizes. Organizers encourage those planning to make financial contributions to do so as soon as possible so the committee can plan a budget.

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VOICES & VIEWS: COMMENT ONLINE
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School board unanimously taps Matthews as next superintendent

Contract negotiations remain before final approval

By NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Novi Board of Education members mentioned several times throughout the five-month superintendent interview process that they wanted to find someone who could take the district to even greater heights.

And now they believe they have found that person in Grand Ledger Superintendent Steve Matthews.

Matthews, 54, accepted the position last Thursday following a unanimous decision by the board to select him over the other finalist, Manchester Supt. Shawn Lewis-Lakin.

All that remains now is ironing out Matthews' contract, which the board expects to have wrapped up by Feb. 17.

"I was very excited," Matthews said after being told by board President Bruce Engdahl he was their choice. "This is a great opportunity and Novi is a great district. I am really looking forward to working with the staff and the community."

Matthews and Lewis-Lakin outlasted 43 other candidates to earn daylong final interviews in the district with various stakeholders two weeks ago.

The board members gushed over both candidates' abilities, but Matthews' experience in a larger district and his compatibility with Novi's goals stood out.

Vice President Dennis O'Connor spoke about an instance in Grand Ledger where Matthews listened, engaged the public and asked for alternative ideas in an effort to help them understand why they had to close schools and restructure the district.

"I was deeply impressed with (his) skill and ability to make tough decisions regardless of political consequences," he said. "I think going forward that is the kind of analytical thinking we need in our district as we face difficult decisions in our future."

Trustee Shari Lebo said throughout the entire interview process he never wavered from his key point of putting students first.

Matthews, who has been in Grand Ledger since 2008, also served as the director of curriculum and assessment in Troy for 10 years and spent time as an assistant professor at Wayne State University and the University of Michigan-



Steve Matthews was selected by the school board to be Novi's next superintendent of schools.

schools and restructure the district.

He said he was interested in Novi because it was "such a great district with high student achievement," and also gave him more of a "professional challenge."

Current Novi Supt. Pete Dion is retiring in June, and at that time, Matthews will take over the district. In the meantime, he said he plans to help Grand Ledger with its transition and be involved with the process of hiring new administrators in Novi.

Assistant Superintendents Gail Credit and Bob Schram are also retiring at the end of the year.

"I feel it's important I have the opportunity to select people I feel comfortable working with," he said.

When asked what people should expect from him, Matthews said people should see he brings a sense of what schools can mean to a community and families, and that he plans to continue the "excellence in Novi" and look for opportunities to make it grow.

"I will do whatever it takes to make sure the district runs effectively," he said.

Matthews is married to wife Jane and they have three children, Tyler, 28, Zach, 24, and Jake, 21.

He said he looks at Novi as the last step in his career.

"Novi is a great place to be and I'd like to put down roots and establish some continuity," he said.

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?
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'Romance of the Dance'

Ed and Shirley Handley celebrate their 63rd Valentine's Day together

Pops have written for centuries about the "Romance of the Dance." Ed and Shirley Handley, residents of Fox Run in Novi, live it.

"They met on a dance floor and are still dancing today. It is what they will do on their 63rd Valentine's Day together, dancing and lovingly gazing into each other's eyes just like they did the first time.

Their love story is the stuff of dreams.

Ed had served in WWII as a ball turret gunner for the U.S. Navy patrolling the Atlantic Coastline. He was attending classes at University of Detroit under the G.I. Bill and living in northeast Detroit after the war. He and a few of his friends decided to join the 20-Up Club, a former tennis clubhouse in Royal Oak that had been converted into a non-alcoholic singles club by Pastor Charles Coughlin of the Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak.

Ed went to the club with no expectations. He played ping-pong and cards and occasionally danced with single women who were there. One night in 1945, though, changed his life forever.

"I saw Shirley and a few of her girl friends sitting by themselves," said Ed. "For some reason I liked her better, so I asked her to dance."

Shirley, who was working at the time as a secretary for Chrysler and who had recently broken up with her boyfriend, remembers the night as if it were yesterday. "He was tall and handsome," she said. "I had seen him around. And he was a good dancer."

The two danced that night to the recorded big band music of Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw and Glenn Miller. Ed asked her for her phone number over a soft drink and soon they began to double date with their friends, going to movies and - what else - dancing whenever they could.

According to Shirley, "We kind of got along."

Their first solo date together was on a layride in the Royal Oak countryside. And it was one neither will forget.

"I was having trouble getting up into the wagon," said Shirley, "so I put my elbows up to give myself a boost. When I did, I hit Ed in the eye."

"She gave me a black eye," said Ed. "Boy that hurt."

"He had a hard time explaining that one to his mother," said Shirley, smiling today.

Ed and Shirley got married on June 12, 1948 at St. Mary's Church in Royal Oak. They honeymooned on Cape Cod. It was hard to find apartments at the time since the post-war building boom had not yet started. However, they persevered and put an ad in the local newspaper in which they said they were looking for an apartment. They found one in Ferndale, just a long fly ball away from dance floors.

Ed's business took him and Shirley to Overland Park, Kan., where they met friends who also loved to dance. Ed and Shirley took dance lessons, favoring the fox trot, rumba, waltz and tango.

"We found it real quick that we didn't really know how to dance well," said Ed of the

CHOCOLATE EXTRAVAGANZA
 Fox Run will host a Valentine's Day 'History of Chocolate' extravaganza from 4-6:30 p.m. Hundreds of residents will expose their guilty pleasures by sampling an array of chocolate delicacies prepared by the nation's finest chefs. The residents will bask in the nostalgia and romanticism of chocolate as they celebrate Valentine's Day. Family members of residents who have flown into Novi will also participate.

Kevin Cunningham, director of Dining Services and a chocolatier who admits to having a constant craving for truffles and cheesecakes, will create many of the chocolate masterpieces himself. He will serve a selection of cheesecakes that are made from a secret family recipe and are prepared exclusively by him. The featured entrée will be Anatra al Cioccolato, which translates to duck with chocolate. Other treats will include a variety of candies, cakes, dipped fruit and hot chocolate made from both milk as well as white chocolate flavored with liquor.

Fox Run's Chefs de Cuisine have assisted Cunningham by gathering chocolate recipes and history from around the world. The final presentation will challenge some of the best "chocolatiers" across the globe.



Shirley and Ed Handley, residents of Fox Run in Novi, will celebrate their 63rd Valentine's Day together on Feb. 14.

Novi expecting decrease in water rates

Residents help cause by following lawn watering ordinance

By NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

It appears water rates in the city of Novi will be going down this year thanks to the efforts of the residents to curtail their water usage during peak hours.

The residents are reaping the benefits of following the city's lawn watering ordinance as rates are expected to decrease 3.1 percent in the city, while most surrounding communities expect to see increases of more than eight percent, Northville Township

is looking at a hike of 11 percent, while the City of Northville's rates are expected to increase 9.6 percent and Wixom's 8.3 percent.

Novi had an increase of more than 10 percent last year.

Tina Glenn, water and sewer financial services manager for the city of Novi, said there was a reopener clause in the contract with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department that after two years - if the city could show a decrease in peak hour usage - the rates could go down.

"There is only one element of the rates we can have some influence over and that is in the peak hour usage," she said. "People were aware of it and obviously wanted to see lower rates."

The DWSD's rate structure is a two-part rate structure that includes a fixed component for capital replacement and a consumption charge. Also, the city changed its rate structure to include a minimum water rate but not a minimum consumption to better align with DWSD's rate structure.



Glenn

Detroit determines the rate using a formula that factors in how far the city is from a collection point, how high the elevation is and the city's usage. A city can control its usage, and that is where the lawn watering ordinance comes into play.

The ordinance calls for alternate day watering that takes place during the nonpeak hours of 11 p.m. through 5 a.m.

City Manager Clay Pearson said he is "very pleased" with the results, and cited the reason most communities are seeing increases is because while overall consumption is down, there are fixed costs that still have to be covered.

"Obviously this sure beats the increases we have seen," Pearson said of Novi's decrease.

Glenn said while getting a lower rate is nice, it might not always be the case and the work is not done.

"Now that we have negotiated this new flow rate we have to maintain it," she said.

The rates will not be finalized until they are approved by the Board of Water Commissioners and the Detroit City Council.

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Rotary winner

Novi Resident Mark Peterson was the grand prize winner at Novi Rotary's Mardi Gras Murder Mystery event.

Novi officials say 'no' to restaurants in Briar Pointe

Resident concerns help council make decision. The Briar Pointe Plaza owner's plan to the Novi City Council to modify a consent judgment and allow restaurants in the shopping center...

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

THOMAS WILLIAM ANTHONY

Age 53, Jan. 31, 2011. Memorial service Sat., 2/14/2011, 10am from Our Lady of Sorrows...

KATHLEEN E. HAY

Age 79, passed away February 3, 2011 at her home in the care of her loving family.

HANA STRANG

Was 67 years old and living in New Hudson, MI, when she passed away peacefully in her sleep on February 2, 2011.

IDA ATKINSON

Age 80, January 31, 2011. Funeral service was February 5th at Our Lady of Sorrows...

PAULA K. CARTER

Age 67, of New Hudson, Feb. 5, 2011. Beloved wife of George. Visitation Thurs. Feb. 10 from 3-5 p.m.

ROBERT O. MORAN

Age 86, of South Lyon, Feb. 3, 2011. A funeral mass was held Feb. 8, 2011 at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

RAY ROSE

Age 84, passed away February 6, 2011. He was born on June 30, 1926 in Kentucky.

CLARIS M. HARMS

Age 91 of Farmville, passed away Thursday, February 3, 2011. Born January 17, 1920 in Wilcox, MI.

DOROTHY (VANVALKENBURG) SARVIS

Was born on June 28, 1924. Her parents were Harvey and Theresa (Heintz) Van Valkenburg.

IRENE TROST

Age 80 of Garden City, died peacefully with her husband and children by her side on February 3, 2011.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

John and Chong Mione, of Novi, announce the engagement of their son, John Mione, to Kelly Johnson, of Berkley, Mich.

Jeff Daniels In Concert. Making his way around the U.S. in theaters, arenas, clubs and performing arts centers.

The Brighton Rotary Club presents... An Evening with Jeff Daniels Saturday, March 19th, 2011 at 8 p.m.

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Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@gannett.com by fax to (248) 685-2892; or by mail to Church Events/Novi, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178.

Father Michael Zuelch, associate pastor Crosspointe Meadows Church. Location: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road.

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Jan. 8 All services will be held on Saturdays. First services is Jan. 8 at 6 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Location: 34567 Seven Mile Road, Livonia. Contact: (248) 442-8822 or www.nwepo-center.

Your Invitation to Worship. A grid of church listings for various areas including Brighton, Milford, Novi, Highland, New Hudson, Livonia, Northville, Hartland, White Lake, Plymouth, and Wixom.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One. A service for memorial tributes.

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EVENTS

FROM PAGE A7

First Baptist Church of Northville

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

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.; fourth Sunday of every month

First Presbyterian Church of Northville

Location: 200 E. Main St.
Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit firstpresby.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 afterwards.
Contact: Sue (734) 459-0016
Single Place Ministries
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. social time; 8, 9:15 and 11 a.m. (Sept.-May)
Pastors: Rev. Dr. Steven J. Buck, senior pastor and Rev. Jeff Sturgeon, associate pastor
Coffee Hour: 9:30 a.m. Sunday (Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend); 10:15 a.m. Wednesdays for fourth-12th graders (Sept.-April)
Men's Club: 8 a.m. second Saturdays
Contact: Heather J. Wallis, communications director, (248) 349-

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.fumcnorthville.org
Sunday worship:
Times: 8:30 and 10 a.m. (Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend); 8, 9:15 and 11 a.m. (Sept.-May)
Pastors: Rev. Dr. Steven J. Buck, senior pastor and Rev. Jeff Sturgeon, associate pastor
Coffee Hour: 9:30 a.m. Sunday (Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend); 10:15 a.m. Wednesdays for fourth-12th graders (Sept.-April)
Men's Club: 8 a.m. second Saturdays
Contact: Heather J. Wallis, communications director, (248) 349-

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
Lakes Baptist Church
Location: 309 Decker Road, Walled Lake
Livonia Church of Christ
Location: 1543 Merriman Road, Livonia
Contact: 734-427-8743 or visit www.livoniachurch.net
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible School: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.
Meadowbrook Congregational
Location: 2195 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads
Contact: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister (248) 348-7757; visit mbccc.org or e-mail to office@mbccc.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Sermon: Better Than You
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
Vespers
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m.
Details: This traditional-contemporary service is led by Reverend Ritter with musical accompaniment of guitar and piano.
Northville Christian Assembly
Location: 41355 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 (2008/210)
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;

Orchard Hills Baptist Church

Location: 23455 Novi Road
Contact: Pastor Jon Hik (248) 349-5655
Preschool/Kids Choir
Time/Date: 7-8:15 p.m. every Wednesday
Details: For ages three to six; ongoing event; no need to pre-register; all are welcome.
Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church
Location: 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth
Contact: (734) 453-0326, Ext. 221
Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church
Location: 770 Thayer, Northville
Contact: (248) 349-2621 or olvnorthville.org
Saturday Worship
Time: 5 p.m.
Sunday Worship
Time: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.
Our Shepherd Presbyterian Church
Location: 1200 S. Sheldon Road, Plymouth
Contact: Pastor Bill Burke at (734) 927-0891
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.
Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. with fellowship and food after service
Plymouth-St. John's Episcopal Church
Location: 574 S. Sheldon Road in Plymouth
Contact: 734-453-0190, ext. 16, or visit www.stjohnsplymouth.org
St. James Catholic
Location: 46325 10 Mile Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 347-7778
Mass Schedule
TIME/DAY: 8, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday-Tuesday; 7 p.m. Wednesday; 5 p.m. Saturday
St. John's Episcopal Church
Location: 574 S. Sheldon Road, Plymouth
St. John Lutheran
Location: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills
Contact: (248) 474-0584 or visit stjohnlutheran.com
Saturday Worship
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship
Time: 9, 11:15 a.m.

Novi - Northville Center for Jewish Life

A Jewish center with events, programs and activities for all ages throughout the year - children's programs, Sunday school, adult Jewish classes, youth clubs, holiday services and programs, community social events.
Contact: Rabbi Avrohom & Leah Susskind at (248) 790-6075 or rabbil@novijewishcenter.com; www.novijewishcenter.com
Novi United Methodist
Location: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-2652 or visit uncnovi.com
Sunday Worship
Time: 9:45 a.m.
Healing Service and Holy Communion
Time/Date: 9:45 a.m. first Sunday of every month
Peace Vigil
Time/Date: Noon, first Sunday of every month
Location: In front of the church
Details: Members of the congregation and the community will stand united in prayer for peace.
Advent Service
Time/Date: 9:45 a.m. Sunday
Oak Pointe Church
Location: 50200 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 912-0043 or visit oakpointe.org
Worship Services: 5:15 p.m. Saturday; 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday
ReNew Life Group Ministries
Time/Date: 7:15-9 p.m. every Monday
Details: Ongoing Life Groups that support and facilitate personal growth, healing, learning, change from a Christian perspective.
Women's Life Groups Ministries
Time/Date: 7 p.m. every Tuesday
9:30 a.m. every Wednesday
Men's Life Groups Ministries
Time/Date: 6 a.m. every Friday morning at various locations
For both Women's and Men's Life Groups Ministries, please contact the church office.

Youth movement: Fischer, 28, announces candidacy for mayor

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER



Fischer

Justin Fischer isn't wasting any time. The Novi City Council member who was just elected to his first term in 2009 announced last week his candidacy for mayor in November. Fischer, 28, knows he has big shoes to fill following current Mayor David Landry, but said he feels he will be

successful because he has many of the same qualities Landry does. "Obviously I have been able to serve with David, and the leadership he exhibited has been a great example," he said. "With his choice to not seek reelection the opportunity is now for me." Fischer is a life-long resident of

Novi and served on the zoning board of appeals for five years, including two years as the chairman and one as the vice chair, prior to being elected. He said he knows some people may question his experience for mayor, but is confident he is ready. "Even though I am 28 I bring close to a decade of experience," he said citing his volunteer public service and work on various boards and commis-

sions. "Just because I am a young it doesn't mean the experience doesn't come along with it. I am young, but that means I want to be in the city a long time and have a long-term view for the city." Fischer has a background in finance and has worked at Ford Motor Co. for six years. He said that on-the-job training with a company that has had to cut costs and deal with declining revenue, has prepared

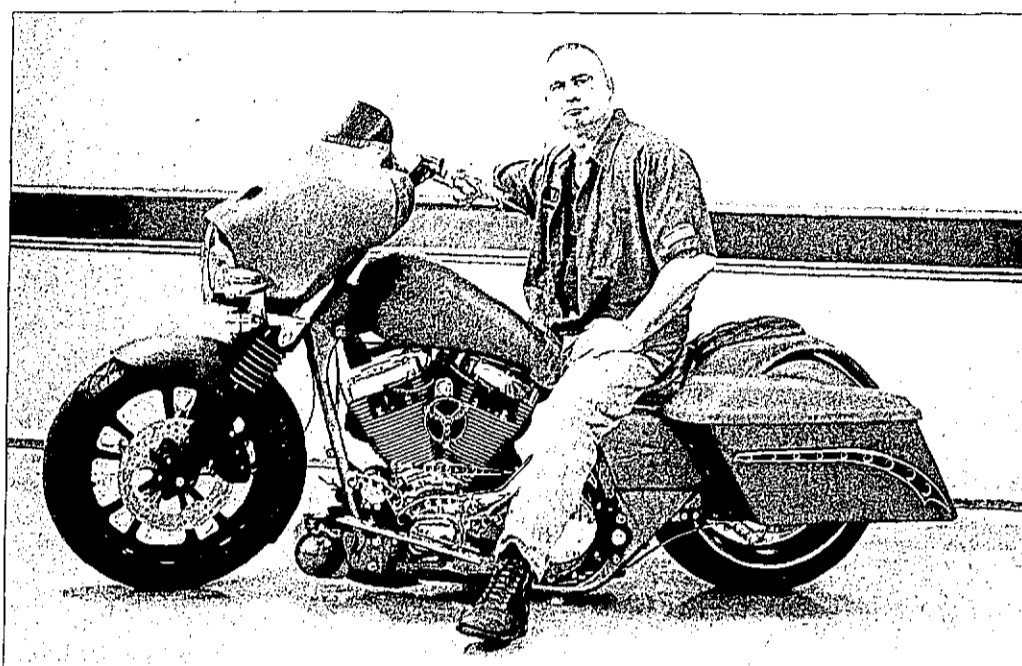
him to manage the city in a fiscally responsible manner. Landry, who has been mayor since 2005, announced in January that he would not be seeking re-election to a fourth two-year term. Fischer is the first person to announce their candidacy, and is expected that Novi Mayor Pro-tem Bob Gatt will also be doing so in the coming weeks. nmueller@gnnet.com (248) 437-2011, ext. 255

Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet rolls into Novi on Sunday

The Midwest's largest collection of motorcycle vendors under one roof will converge with thousands of bikers on Sunday, Feb. 13 at the Suburban Collection Showplace, formerly known as Rock Financial Showplace, to buy, sell and swap motorcycles, parts, accessories and experiences.

Despite the massive snow fall there is hope that spring is around the corner. Bikers with cabin fever turning to spring fever will arrive in droves clad from head-to-toe in leather and sporting bandannas, vests cluttered with pins collected from rides or events from across the country, and T-shirts that make a statement or prove "I've been there and seen that," said event director Chad Dutmers.

Tony Lamantia of Tony Chrome Customs of Westland will be displaying his newest creation, called Fat Ass Bagger. "It's an amazing one-of-a-kind bike," said Dutmers. "It has an air bag system allowing the bike to kneel to the ground supporting itself without a kickstand." Lamantia has had some fun with it even while parked. "I have a remote control with actuators in the saddle bags' lids and can make them open and close at the push of a button. People stop dead in their tracks when they see this bike move on its own," said Lamantia.



Tony Lamantia of Tony Chrome Customs of Westland will be displaying his newest creation, called Fat Ass Bagger at Sunday's event at the Showplace.

"It originally was a 2003 Harley Davidson Electra Glide Standard that we completely stripped down to the frame. We widened the frame and swing arm 6 inches to allow for a 200mm rear tire... hence the name Fat Ass Bagger.

The Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet, for the past 36 years, is famous for offering everything for rider or machine for men and women who love to ride motorcycles and the lifestyle - whether it's street, dirt or touring. The hard-core biker

or the casual rider will find what they need and at swap meet prices. When riding season arrives bikers begin the process of replacing worn, damaged or obsolete chrome, paint, seats, parts, tires and apparel. You

don't find these items at the mall, you find them at the Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet. "With nearly one out of every four bikers in the U.S. living in Michigan and its four border states, the nine swap meets we sponsor give bikers the chance

DETAILS
Thousands of motorcycle buyers are expected to pack the 95,000-plus square foot exhibition area from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$3 for ages 6-12. Car parking is \$5. People who want to skip the lines and get in 30 minutes earlier can buy them in advance online at www.motorcycleswap.com.
The Suburban Collection Showplace is located at 46100 Grand River Ave in Novi and can be accessed using three convenient exits off I-96 - exits 159, 160 or 162.
For more information on the swap meet call 800-968-4242 or visit www.motorcycleswap.com.

to be around other bikers and to support the economic interests that are vital to keeping the industry strong," said Dutmers. "We love to showcase Michigan-made bike builders and suppliers as much as possible. Our bread and butter is the Michigan biker."
The swap meet will feature the largest collection of motorcycle vendors under one roof in the Midwest. Cyclists attending will see new '11 bikes as well as used bikes - street, dirt, metric, touring, cruising, trikes, choppers, custom bikes, and trailers.

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Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)

Did you know that roughly 1 in 10 people living in Michigan can suffer from depression in the winter months? This is a common condition that many people live through every year and you don't need to suffer alone.

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PrimeCare of Novi is going to present a lecture on SAD and will have some tips that can help you or someone you know have a more pleasant winter!

February 15th • 6:30 pm- 8:00 pm
Providence Park Outpatient Medical Building
Conference Room A-B
RSVP with Health Connect @ 866.501.DOC3(3027)

We are going to bring with us:
A Registered Dietitian: Lisa Maroun
A Behavioral Health Clinician: Sue Decker
Dr. Theodore W. Shively, DO
Dr. Robert R. Zaid, DO
Snacks and refreshments will be provided.
(Our dietitian will sample some foods that will make you feel better)



PRIMECARE OF NOVI
39555 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi
(248) 426-7200

NOTICE TO BRIGHT HOUSE NETWORKS CABLE CUSTOMERS

Great NEW programming choices are coming for Bright House Networks customers! In furtherance of our commitment to bring new technology and advanced digital services to your community, Bright House Networks continues to implement a new digital video delivery technology known as Switched Digital Video (SDV). SDV is a robust bandwidth management system that makes it possible to offer more digital programming services than before including new HD and 3D channels.

Beginning March 15, 2011, the following new Movie Pack channels will be delivered on the SDV system:

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| Encore East HD, channel 680 |
| Encore West, channel 581 |
| Encore West HD, channel 681 |
| Encore Wam West, channel 595 |
| Encore Wam, channel 594 |
| Hallmark Movie Channel, channel 690 |
| Indieplex HD, channel 682 |
| Retroplex HD, channel 683 |
| Flix West, channel 587 |

Also, beginning March 15, 2011 the following new Variety Package channels will be delivered on the SDV system:

| |
|---------------------------------|
| FS Detroit Plus HD, channel 286 |
| Ow'n HD, channel 336 |
| Oxygen HD, channel 289 |
| Ovation HD, channel 313 |

These services will not be available on uni-directional retail devices as of the date noted above. If you want to subscribe to this service, you will need a digital converter or similar uni-directional (two-way) equipment from Bright House Networks. Customers may continue to use their uni-directional retail device and CableCARD to receive video programming other than the programming delivered on the SDV system.

Other programming changes:
From March 2nd through April 15, 2011, the following Movie Pack channels will be carried on their current and new channel locations as listed below. Starting April 15th, 2011, these channels will be carried on their new channel locations only.

| Current Channel | New Channel |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Encore | 570 |
| Encore Westerns | 571 |
| Encore Love | 572 |
| Encore Mystery | 573 |
| Encore Drama | 574 |
| Encore Action | 575 |
| Retroplex | 576 |
| Indieplex | 577 |
| Fox Movie Channel | 578 |

- Beginning March 15, 2011, the following channels will be carried on the locations listed below:
- Hallmark Movie Channel HD will be available in the Movie Pack on channel 690 and available in the HD Pack on channel 690
- Sundance Channel will be available in the Movie Pack on channel 588 and remain available on channel 152.
- Encore Wam will be moved to the Movie Pack on channel 594, and no longer be available on channel 131 as part of the Variety Package.
- Flix will be available in the Movie Pack on channel 586, and no longer be available in The Movie Package premium tier.
- Fox Sports Detroit Plus will now be available full time on channel 86, and no longer available part time on channel 3.
- Community Bulletin Board will now be available full time on ch. 3.
- IFC will be available in the Movie Pack on channel 585 and remain available on channel 151.
- IFC HD will be available in the Movie Pack on channel 684 and remain available on channel 351.

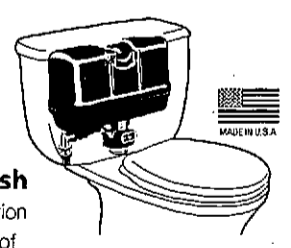
For more information on Bright House Networks programming, please call 1-877-885-8318 or visit our website at brighthouse.com.

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AVAILABLE AT TICKET SPONSORS

- Feb. 12 - It Happened One Night
- Feb. 19 - Love Story
- Feb. 26 - Guess Who's Coming to Dinner
- March 5 - West Side Story
- March 12 - The Sting
- March 19 - American Graffiti

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OUR VIEWS

Winter woes?
 Get outside and enjoy the season's beauty

Regardless of what the groundhog predicts each year, winter isn't officially over for another five and a half weeks. That seems like a long time from now, especially when we look around at all the snow on the ground. What's a winter-weary Northville or Novi resident to do? Get outside and enjoy the white stuff! Winter seems to fly by fast for those who participate in cold weather recreational activities like downhill and cross country skiing, ice fishing, snowmobiling and ice skating. If that's not your cup of tea, try putting on a pair of warm, sturdy boots and taking a walk around the block or building a snowman with your children or grandchildren in the front yard. That can be enough to cure a case of cabin fever. Many people say they used to like winter when they were young, but they dislike it more and more the older they get. That may be because they used to play outside when they were children but hunker down inside now that they're adults. Of course, snow makes driving more difficult and dangerous, but there are more days than not when the roads are clear and dry and it's safe to venture out.

Michigan is blessed with four seasons, each one distinctly beautiful: This time of year, our state is a winter wonderland. The scenery through a picture window — especially with a roaring fire in the room — is something to behold. But it's even more breathtakingly beautiful up close. When was the last time you studied the intricacies of a single snowflake on your fingertip, watched an icicle take form as the sun melted and shaped it, or followed the tracks of a cottontail rabbit or other small woodland animal in the snow? You don't have to rent a cabin up North in the woods to enjoy what nature has to offer — these experiences can be as close as your back yard or the neighborhood park. And the Northville/Novi area has plenty of places — like Maybury, Community and Hines parks and Walled Lake — to go. Rather than begrudge the rest of winter, enjoy it by going outside. The weeks will fly and spring will be here in no time.

Don't say 'snow-way'

Some Northville/Novi residents may still be digging out after last week's blizzard that brought about a snow emergency. So what exactly does the declaration of a snow emergency mean to residents and business owners? (You'll want to know because chances are pretty good in this state that we'll have another.) The basic premise of declaring a snow emergency is twofold. First, officials want residents to get their cars off the streets as soon as possible so workers can start plowing local roads. Second, they want to remind residents and business owners of their responsibility to clear sidewalks of snow. Northville and Novi, to some extent, are walkable communities and should remain that way despite snowstorms. It does little good for half of the residents to clear their sidewalks if the other half don't make the effort. And no one wants to shop in a store if they have to trudge through heavy snow just to make it to the front door. So take proper precautions, but do your best to get the car off the street and into your driveway soon after a snowstorm. And clear the sidewalks so children can once again walk to school and your neighbor can get to the corner store, pharmacy or bakery with ease. Whenever a major storm strikes, it is important to remember that the community has many seniors who are unable to shovel snow. That is where the true helping spirit of Northville/Novi comes in. If every able-bodied homeowner with a snowblower helped a senior or two clean up after a storm, the entire township would be back in business in short order. Anyone who knows a shut-in should check on them after a major storm too. There is a good chance they may need basic necessities like milk and bread, so an offer to pick them up a few items would be greatly appreciated. Being a responsible citizen and kind neighbor is especially important after a major storm. So take a minute to go outside and assess your neighborhood. Pay special attention to that neighbor who rarely gets out. If his or her property is still snowed in and there aren't any footprints leading to the front door, pay a visit and offer to help. After all, that type of kindness is exactly what sets the Northville/Novi area apart.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What's your favorite part of winter?



"Taking my son sledding. It's a fun activity to do together and doesn't take much planning."
 Andrew Feig, Novi

"The weather and the snow. I like being outside and experiencing the change of seasons."
 Curt Krueger, Novi

"Snow days' at home with my kids; sledding; and clearing the snow. And then everyone's favorite: hot cocoa with marshmallows."
 Sandy Peurach, Novi

"I like the snow and the change in the seasons. It's the spice of life."
 Marge Stone, Novi

LETTERS

Outrageous! Illogical! Unfair!

Can anybody (i.e. government) explain or justify the inequity inherent in the prevailing system for levying charges for city water and sewage disposal? Who is able or is willing to justify a flat sewer rate that is often higher than rates charged for water and sewer combined when all meaningful factors are equal? It is incredible that my combined water and sewer bills are almost equal to the individual sewer bills of our neighbors who depend on well water and use no city water. In 2010, one of our neighbors paid as much for sewer as we paid for water and sewer, and the house had been empty for the year! Many of our neighbors, who have wells, paid \$420.00 for sewer in the last 12 months. In that period we paid \$140.32 for sewer. Our water bill for that period was \$270.23 for a total of \$412.33. Either the water fairy is providing us with 48,000 gallons of water at no charge or my neighbors are being penalized for maintaining a well and not buying water from the city. Very often, financial circumstances determine one's choice to tap or not tap into city water. Do not infer that I am seeking an increase in my water bill. But I do insist that an injustice is being committed against my neighbors and anyone else who prefers the independence a well provides, or perhaps, they can't afford the cost of a city water tap-in. Is this not so subtle effort to coerce these homeowners to cap their wells and buy city water? The irony of the situation is that but a few years ago we were pummeled with pleas to cut down on water usage. Our conservation backfired. The ensuing drop in consumption now necessitates higher rates to compensate for lost revenues. I'm mad as hell, and I'm but a minor casualty of the perennial water war. It's surprising that well water users throughout the county haven't taken to the streets with pitchforks in hand. Altho, another era, another place. — Patrick Doney, Novi



Snow day
 Novi resident Bilan Sedjhi clears his home's driveway on Wednesday afternoon. By that time, about eight inches had fallen on the area — with a bit more to come later in the day.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats. E-mail: cstone@hometownlife.com. Read or comment online: www.hometownlife.com. Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition. Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com. In these tough economic times, we must make smart financial choices while continuing to move forward. We must always be mindful of where we want our city to be five, 10, 20 years down the road, yet not forget where we came from. We must prioritize our spending while always striving to make our city a better place, yet be innovative and creative during times when money is tight. I have met many residents through my past and/or current commitments to the city and I look forward to meeting many more of you during the following months as I work to be elected your next mayor. I am anxious to share all that I have to offer from my time serving Novi as well as my professional experiences at Ford Motor Company, where I presently am employed, while also looking forward to hearing your ideas on the future of Novi. If elected mayor I promise to continue to work tirelessly to address the challenges facing Novi. More importantly I promise to work, not only for, but with each of you to build on our past successes, with an eye toward the future. Justin P. Fischer, City of Novi council member & candidate for mayor

More: For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Novi Calendar online at www.hometownlife.com. Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@hometownlife.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
Borders Books
 Location: Novi Town Center
 Contact: (248) 347-0780
Children's Storytime
 Time: 2 p.m. Saturdays
 Details: Gather round for a fun story suitable for children of 6 years old and under.
Northville & Novi Garden Club Meeting
 Time/Date: 6:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 14
 Location: Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady
 Details: The topic will be "Bees-sweetener 'Nat Honey' with Dave Zurek.
 Contact: Fran Gunderson (248) 349-6457
Democrats Meeting
 Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15
 Location: Comfort Suites Inn at Wixom Road and the south side of I-96 in Wixom
 Details: A biologist from Friends of the Detroit River will speak on Saving our Rivers and our Great Lakes at a meeting of the Democrats of West Oakland County club. Free and open to the public.
 Contact: www.nydemis.info
Sun, Water & Seeds 4-H Club
 Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
 Location: Tollgate Education Center, 28115 Meadowbrook Road, Novi
 Details: A 4-H youth garden and farm stand where kids learn about plant science, nutrition and entrepreneurship by raising produce for sale. The Club is seeking new members to join in the planting, planning and more.
 Contact: sunwatersseeds@gmail.com or (248) 956-0029
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)
 Time/Date: 11 a.m.-noon every Wednesday
 Location: The group has moved from the Senior Center to the Belmont Clubhouse at Fox Run on 13 Mile between M-5 and Meadowbrook.
 Contact: Deloris Roman at (248) 668-8600 for additional information.
American Legion Post 19 Monthly Meeting

BUSINESS
Association - Novi Oaks Charter Chapter
 Time/Date: 6:15 p.m. (networking); 6:45 (dinner); second Wednesday of each month
 Location: DoubleTree Hotel in Novi
 Details: ABWA is an active business group offering networking, professional development and leadership opportunities. Cost is \$16 which includes dinner and presentation. Guests are welcome!
 Contact: For more information or to RSVP for dinner, please contact president@abwanovi.org.
Novi Chamber of Commerce
 The Novi Chamber of Commerce is an active, progressive chamber offering a variety of events, educational programs, an enhanced Web site, and involvement with local charities.
 Location: 41875 11 Mile Road, #201, Novi
 Contact: For more information, call (248) 349-3743 or www.novichamber.com.
12th Annual Threads of Power Charity Breakfast
 Time/Date: 8:30-9 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15
 Location: Nordstrom of Novi, 12 Oaks Mall, 27640 Novi Rd., Novi
 Details: Help those in need by bringing gently used business attire to help men and women who are struggling to maintain an appropriate wardrobe. Cost is \$20 members; pre-registration required; \$25 non-members; must register by calling Chamber office
Business to Business Breakfast
 Time/Date: 8-9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23
 Location: Catholic Central High School, 27225 Wixom Rd., Novi
 Details: Join for networking and a light breakfast; \$5 payable at door; non-members \$10 at door. Please pre-register.
Metro Novi BNI
 Time/Date: 7-8 a.m. every

Science Alive
 Terri Neil, of Science Alive, dances around an energetic three-banded armadillo during her Feb. 8 visit to the Novi Northville Montessori School. Neil brought along a wide variety of animals including a ball python, common chicken and the desert-dwelling armadillo.
 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 248-747-1665 or juliepaquette@gmail.com; www.metrobninovi.com.
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.novifreesthustous.com.
 Contact: Linda Kreuter at PR@novi.freesthustous.com
Novi Rotary Club
 Time/Date: Noon every Thursday
 Location: Novi Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
 Details: Lunch is \$10 at meeting. Visitors welcome. Check Web site for speaker information: novirota.org.



Terri Neil, of Science Alive, dances around an energetic three-banded armadillo during her Feb. 8 visit to the Novi Northville Montessori School.

Science Alive

Novi Public Library
 Location: 45255 W. Ten Mile Road
 Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Details: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the Library.
 Contact: (248) 349-0720
 Website: www.novilibrary.org
Story Times: Please see the Library website or story time brochure for details.
Understanding Autism
 Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10
 Details: Adam Brode, Speech-Language Pathologist and Play Project Home Counselor will inform and answer questions about autism that will help you recognize the signs and symptoms of autism spectrum disorders. Please register.
AARP Tax Day
 Time/Date: 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 14
 Details: AARP volunteers will be available to assist with the preparation of taxes for those with middle and low incomes, with special attention given to those aged 60 and older beginning every hour at 10:30am with the last appointment at 2:30pm. Assistance is limited to simple tax returns only. Registration is required prior to receiving assistance. This is a free service sponsored by AARP and the Novi Public Library.
Chinese Story Time
 Time/Date: 10:30-11 a.m. Monday,
 Feb. 14
 Details: Chinese-speaking volunteer storytellers read Chinese picture books to preschool aged children.
I Love Chocolate!
 Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 14
 Details: Come and enjoy all things chocolate. Make chocolate recipes and learn other advantages to being a choc-o-holic. For grades 7-12. Registration required.
Spanish Story Time
 Time/Date: 10:30 a.m.-11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15
 Details: Spanish speaking volunteer storytellers read Spanish picture books to preschool aged children.
ESL Book Discussion
 Time/Date: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15
 Details: If English is your second language and you would like to be more proficient in reading and discussing books written in English, then join our ESL Book Discussion. For advanced-intermediate to advanced English speakers. We will discuss one book during the six-week session. Title to be announced. Books will be provided. Registration required and limited to 15 participants.
English Conversation Group
 Time/Date: 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15
 Details: Make friends while you practice your English pronunciation and conversation skills. No need to register.
4H Exploration
 Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15
 Details: If you think that 4H is just about farm kids taking their prize calf to the show, think again! There are lots of 4H clubs that focus on activities of interest to kids living in a more urban environment. If you are between 5 and 19 years old, you should join us as MSU Tollgate Farm Manager, Roy Prentice, talks about 4H and Novi's local 4H Club called Sun, Water and Seeds. It focuses on growing vegetables, learning about healthy eating and developing entrepreneurial skills. Registration required.
Hindi Story Time
 Time/Date: 10:30 a.m.-11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16
 Details: Hindi-speaking volunteer storytellers read Hindi picture books to preschool aged children.
Booked for Lunch
 Time/Date: 12-1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16
 Please see CALENDAR, A12

NIGHTLIFE

Andiamo Novi / Dirty Martini Lounge / Andiamo Theater
 Location: 42705 Grand River Avenue, Novi
 Contact: (248) 348-3838
Off-Broadway Series
 Details: Space is limited to approximately 200 guests per show.
 Feb. 9-20: Mike Dugan's "Men Fake Foreplay"
 Feb. 24-26: "One Man Star Wars"
 March 2-20: "The Goddada Workout"
 March 23-April 10: "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change"
 April 13-24: Robert Dubac's "Male Intellect - An Oxymoron?"
 April 29-May 1: "Celebrity Autobiography"
 May 4-22: "Bad Dates"
 May 25-June indefinitely: "The Last Five Years"
 Contact: www.ticketmaster.com or call (248) 348-4448

LIBRARY LINES

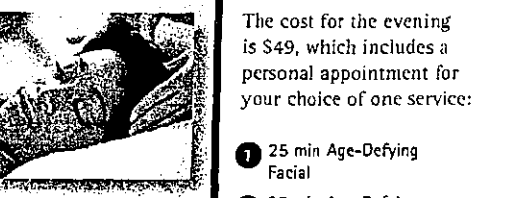
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 Please see CALENDAR, A12

31st Model Car and Toy Fair
 presented by
Southeast Michigan Modelers
 New Location! 59 West
 786 West Highland Road (M-59), Highland, Michigan 48357-4514
 • Model Cars • Promos • Model Kits • Automotive Literature • Collector Toys • Die Cast Toys • Slot Cars • Pressed Steel Toys • Resin Model Kits • Door Prizes • Separate Door Prizes for Vendors • Eight and Twelve Foot Table available
Sunday, February 13, 2011
 Time: 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 Admission \$4.00 Children under 12 Free
 People's Choice Awards only \$3.00 Entry Fee 1st Car: \$2.00 each additional car
Model Car Contest
 Hosted by
 Carlton Hobbins
 4094 Crown Lake Road
 White Lake, MI 48391-2109
 Phone: 248-368-2912
 A portion of the profits from this show will be used to support the South Scholarship fund of the Michigan Society Sons of the American Revolution.
 No smoking or alcoholic beverages allowed in the show area.

Diva Nights

@ VITA WELLNESS CENTER
 Pamper your inner diva as Vita Wellness Center at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital and Henry Ford Plastic Surgeon Dr. Donna Tepper will present two evenings to rejuvenate yourself in a healthy, healing environment. Winter is the perfect time to refresh for Spring.

Seminar begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by a chat.
Wednesday, Feb. 23
Don't Hibernate, Rejuvenate
 Reservations required, please call Vita Wellness Center at 248-325-3870



The cost for the evening is \$49, which includes a personal appointment for your choice of one service:
 1. 25 min Age-Defying Facial
 2. 25 min Age-Defying Body Treatment
 3. 25 min Neck-Back-Shoulders Massage
 4. Manicure, plus Chocolate Mask for hands

Vita Wellness Center is located inside Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital

Attendees will receive:
 • Certificates for a FREE consultation with Dr. Tepper
 • 20% off physician services with fillers and Botox® or
 • One FREE spider vein removal treatment with the purchase of a package
 • \$20 off a \$100 future select service purchased at Vita Wellness Center
 • Gift bags will be provided and refreshments will be served.

Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital
 6777 W. Maple Rd., West Bloomfield, MI 48322
 Sponsored by Rawlinson Photography & Elegant Invitations & Bridal



Tim Riley with Snow Bound Adventures gives participants in a dog sledding workshop a ride at Orion Oaks County Park two weeks ago. Riley will be at Lyon Oaks this Sunday afternoon for a similar workshop.

Park workshop focuses on winter activities with your dog

BY PHILIP ALLMEN
STAFF WRITER

Tim Riley cringes when he thinks about the family dog being cooped up inside for months on end because of frigid temperatures. Dogs — even chihuahuas — can handle the cold, and owners need to get outside with their pets throughout the year, he said.

Riley, owner of Grayling-based Snow Bound Adventures, will be at Lyon Oaks County Park this Sunday for a workshop on winter activities with pets. "People need to get out in

the winter with their dogs," said Riley. Snow Bound Adventures offers dog sled rides, and will show people how it works. Not all dogs are made to pull their owners on sleds, but another possibility is skijoring, where the dog helps pull its owner on skis.

But Sunday's workshop will run the gamut on pets and winter weather.

Riley said the workshop includes winter-related equipment, as well as advice on different wintertime activities and how to decide if your dog fits those skills needed. The workshop also delves into safe-

ty issues like dehydration, foot issues and cold weather.

There will also be time for questions and answers. "We encourage people with some of the different things they can do with their dogs in the winter," said Riley. "People can customize to things they'd like to do."

Riley said some people will have a chance to ride one of the dog sleds as time permits.

The workshop will run Sunday, Feb. 13, noon to 1 p.m. and 2-3 p.m. The dog sledding can take place for an hour after each workshop.

Dogs and their owners are both welcome to attend the

CALENDAR FROM PAGE A11

Details: Join your neighbors and bring a lunch for this afternoon book discussion of *The Hearts of Horses* by Molly Gloss. **Library Board Meeting**
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16

Details: Come join the Library Board at their new location - The Whole Meeting room at the Novi Public Library. Topics could include planning for the future, policy decisions, annual budget, and broad operational oversight.

Teen Iron Chef

Time/Date: 3-4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18
Details: Come and try out your culinary skills in this challenge. You will have a list of ingredients and a time limit to make a delicious concoction. For grades 7-12. Registration required.

Clifford Story Time

Time/Date: 11-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 19

Details: Calling all preschoolers! Share stories about Clifford the Big Red Dog with others who love him like you do! Sing songs, do a Clifford dance, and take home a picture to color.

Empower Me 4 Life!

Time/Date: 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19 and 26

Details: A fun and practical 2-session healthy living course equipping kids ages 8-12 with new attitudes, skills, and knowledge about eating better and moving more - for life. Registration is required and we need a minimum of 15 kids for the program to proceed.

Intermediate Word for Adults

Time/Date: 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19

Details: Expand your understanding of Microsoft's Word program beyond the basics. Registration required.

Japanese Story Time

Time/Date: 10:30-11 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22

Details: Japanese-speaking volunteer storytellers read Japanese picture books to preschool aged children.

Historical Commission Meeting

Time/Date: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23

Details: Public is always welcome. Meetings discuss ongoing and future projects of the Novi Historical Commission.

EDUCATION

Novi Community Education
Contact: (248) 449-1206
Web: www.novicommunityed.org

SENIORS

Novi Senior Center
Location: 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi

Contact: (248) 347-0414

Blood Pressure Checks

Time/Date: 11-11:45 a.m. Wednesdays

Details: Every Wednesday blood pressure checks are offered. Check yourself regularly and stay healthy. Your blood pressure record will be on file at the Senior Center so you can track your health. No charge.

Panera Bread

Time/Date: 8:15-9 a.m. Tuesdays

Details: With thanks to Panera for a great partnership, every Tuesday is Panera Bread Day. Enjoy bagels, rolls, bread, sweets, coffee and conversation. No charge.

Binge

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays

Details: Try your luck and get those cards filled up. A great way to socialize and meet new people. Price: \$.50 per card at the door.

REGIONAL

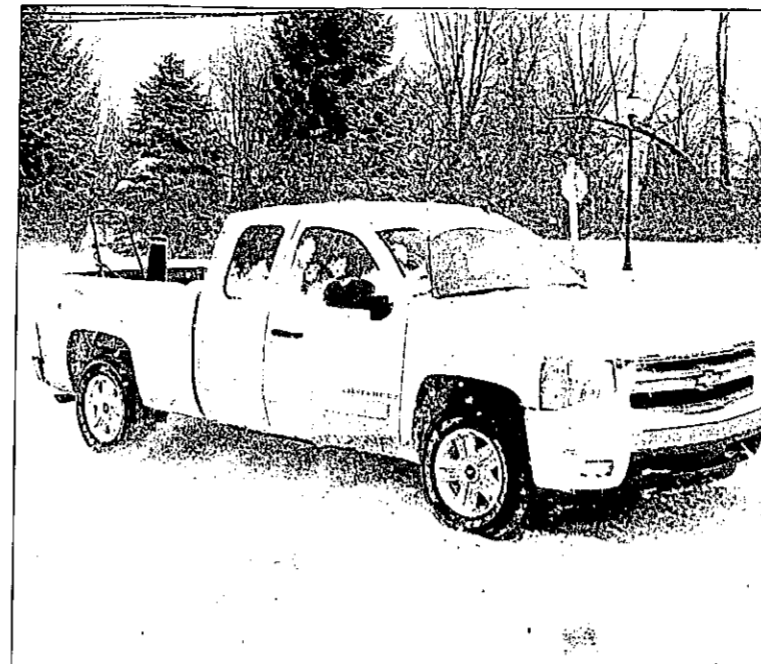
Sunrise Networking group

Time/Date: 7-9 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

Location: Kerby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty Road, Northville

Details: The SNG builds relationships through warm introductions, and encourages its members to attend twice monthly breakfasts along with evening social events. The more familiar the members become with each other, the more the referrals naturally present themselves. The SNG uses their Website to tie all of the members together, creating a complete group of people who are interested in helping each other succeed.

Contact: www.sunriseNETWORKING-group.com!



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After the snow

Following last week's big snowfall, winter scenes could be seen all around the area (clockwise, from above): A pickup truck moves along a snow-covered Eleven Mile Road in Novi on Wednesday afternoon; Zach Johnson, 15, launches himself off a ramp that he and his buddies built on a hill at Novi Woods Elementary. All Novi School District students had the day off, as the schools closed due to the snowstorm; no school in the Novi School District meant that its buses sat empty and covered in snow along Eleven Mile Road on Wednesday morning; and snow covered tires and cars had some tough going on Wednesday around Novi as more than eight inches of snow fell on the area.



ENTRY BLANK

Hey, Novi! It's Time to Pick Your PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

We Need Your Input On The Best Places To Shop...Best Places To Eat... Best Place For Great Service. This is NOT scientific! It's a fun, readers poll. Join in on the Balloting!

Drop Off or Mail In to: People's Choice Awards - Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178
Only one entry per person per week, 18 years or older. Ballot Box stuffing will not be allowed.
Only original newspaper ballots, NO COPIES ACCEPTED. Please fill out form completely. Partial Ballots may be disqualified.

| BEST FOOD OUTLETS | BEST SERVICE PROVIDERS & RETAIL STORES |
|--|--|
| • Best place for donuts/bagels/baked goods | • Best physician |
| • Best coffee | • Best bank |
| • Best place for breakfast | • Best consignment store |
| • Best steaks | • Best eyecare |
| • Best deli | • Best funeral home |
| • Best fast food restaurant | • Best salon |
| • Best family restaurant | • Best nail salon |
| • Best place for soup | • Best tanning salon |
| • Best place for salad | • Best jewelry store |
| • Best place for burgers | • Best real estate company |
| • Best place for hot dogs/cones | • Best real estate agent |
| • Best place for subs | • Best mortgage provider |
| • Best place for desserts | • Best accountant |
| • Best Sushi restaurant | • Best auto dealer |
| • Best Italian restaurant | • Best auto service |
| • Best Asian restaurant | • Best oil change shop |
| • Best Mexican restaurant | • Best collision shop |
| • Best Greek restaurant | • Best tire store |
| • Best place for pizza | • Best veterinary service |
| • Best martini | • Best travel agency |
| • Best wine selection (store) | • Best video store |
| • Best wine selection (restaurant) | • Best landscaping business |
| • Best beer selection (store) | • Best health/fitness club |
| • Best beer selection (restaurant) | • Best car wash |
| • Best place for romantic dinner | • Best flower shop |
| • Best after work meeting place | • Best garden center |
| • Best sports bar | • Best dance studio |
| • Best place for dancing | • Best orthodontist |
| • Best framing shop | • Best dentist |
| • Best financial planner | • Best custom home builder |
| • Best massage | • Best apartment complex |
| • Best sporting goods store | • Best insurance agency |

All Entries Must Be Received By February 18th

Are you overwhelmed caring for an aging parent or loved one?

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NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Drunk driver caught with weed

A 41-year-old man was arrested at 9:12 p.m. on Feb. 7 at Novi Road and Paul Bunyan Drive for operating while intoxicated and possession of narcotic paraphernalia after he was stopped by a Novi police officer.

The officer was traveling north on Novi Road when the driver began to tailgate his semi-marked police vehicle. The officer saw the suspect's car swerving in his lane and moved over to allow the truck to pass him before initiating a traffic stop.

The man admitted to drinking at Novi Bowl and said he knew he should not be driving.

He failed field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .13 percent. The legal limit for adult drivers in Michigan is .08 percent.

While searching the truck, the officer also found a marijuana one-hitter with marijuana residue in it.

The driver was issued two citations and was released when sober.

Extremely drunk driver stopped

Novi police arrested a 21-year-old woman for drunk driving at 2:50 a.m. on Feb. 5 after she was stopped for running a red light at Novi Road and Grand River Avenue.

According to the report, the officer observed her car go through the light before she pulled into a gas station. When he approached the car he could smell a strong odor of intoxicants coming from inside and the woman admitted to having one drink in Detroit.

The woman failed field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test registered a BAC of .20 percent. The legal limit for adult drivers is .08 percent.

She was arrested and taken to the Novi Police Department where she was issued a citation for operating while intoxicated and released after posting bond and when sober.

Police nab drunk with drugs

Novi police arrested a man at 2:20 a.m. on Feb. 5 at M-5 and Thirteen Mile Road for drunk driving and possession of marijuana after he was stopped for running the red light.

According to the report, the driver approached the red light and the intersection and turned without stopping or using a turn signal. The officer then observed the truck swerving several times in its lane.

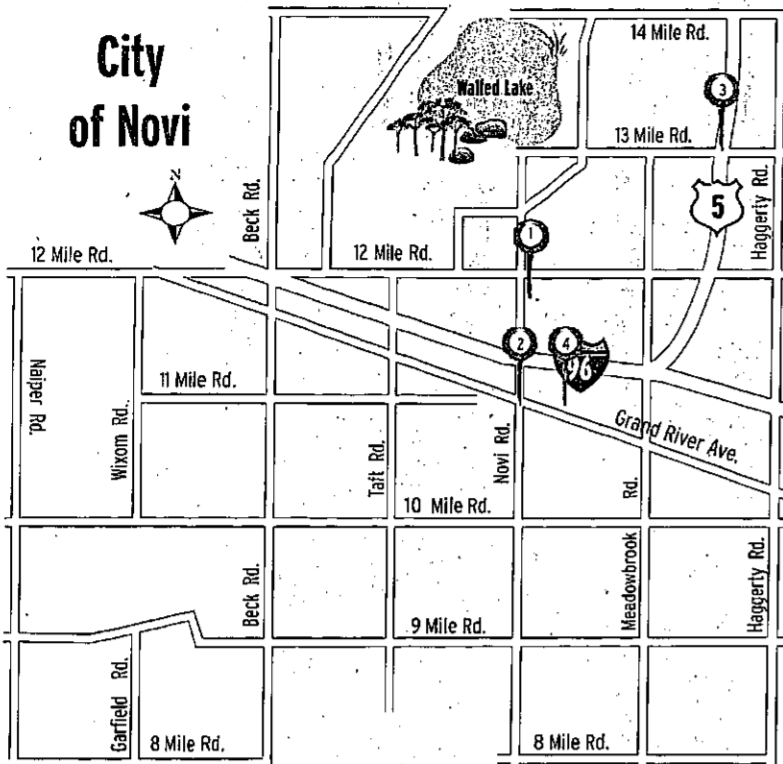
When the officer approached the truck he could smell an odor of intoxicants coming from inside, and the suspect denied drinking several times.

He fell against his truck when getting out of it to perform field sobriety tests, and then refused to take the tests.

A PBT registered a BAC of .18 percent. The legal limit for adult drivers is .08 percent.

During a search of the truck, a pack of cigarettes were found in the center arm rest and a small amount of marijuana was inside.

The driver was issued two citations and released after posting bond and when sober.



Two cars broken into at Red Robin

Two women had their purses stolen from their cars while they were parked at Red Robin between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Feb. 3.

The one woman said she left her purse under clothes in the front seat and when she returned the purse was missing. She said she thought she locked her car but there was no sign of forced entry.

Her purse contained her debit card, driver's license and money. When she called the bank to report the theft, they told her the card had been used at Meijer and Target stores.

The other victim had her passenger window smashed and purse stolen around the same time. The purse contained her passport, but the suspects left her wallet and GPS unit in the car.

Police have no suspects.

sober.

Compiled by staff writer Nathan Mueller

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Daddy Daughter Dance

The City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department will host its annual Daddy Daughter Dance on Friday, Feb. 11 and Saturday, Feb. 12 from 7-9 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center.

Wear fun disco-dancing clothes and be ready to boogie under a mirror ball. Back for 2011 are the chocolate fountain, sno-cone machine, great refreshments and goodie bag. Corsages and silver commemorative charms are available for purchase upon registration and ready for pick-up at the dance. Photo packages are sold separately.

Registration for the Daddy Daughter Dance is available online at cityofnovi.org. Tickets are \$12 per person for residents and \$15 for non-residents.

For more information about the Daddy Daughter Dance, please contact Sandy Fisher, Recreation Programmer, at (248) 347-0414 or sfisher@cityofnovi.org.

Bowling and jobs

Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit and Blue Ribbon Bowling Centers invite Metro Detroiters to "Bowl for Jobs" and "Donate for Jobs" at locations in nine area cities, including Novi Bowl. Each location will accept monetary donations and gently used clothing or other items through Sunday, March 6. The best donated items will be among those sold at Goodwill's new flagship upscale resale store in Canton.

Every donor will receive a coupon for one free game of bowling with the purchase of another game.

Participating centers also will raise funds for the campaign through 50/50 raffles during league bowling. Donation and raffle activities supporting Goodwill are in conjunction with Blue Ribbon Bowling Centers league "St. Patrick's Pot o' Gold Tournament."

All donations support the employment training and education programs of Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, the only organization in Southeast Michigan dedicated solely to helping local people overcome employment challenges and earn jobs.

Novi Bowl is located at 2700 Novi Road. Supplies low, so blood drives are scheduled

The treacherous winter weather throughout much of the United States over the last few weeks has caused horrific driving conditions and power outages. But these winter storms have had another consequence that was more subtle, though no less important: their impact on our nation's blood supply.

In many communities around the country, with blood supplies already low, the American Red Cross has seen its efforts hindered, halted or re-routed by the storms.

Some 300 blood drives have been cancelled so far, causing a shortfall of more than 14,000 pints of blood since January 1. To this week's cancer patients and accident victims, who will require anywhere from one to 40 pints in their treatment, that loss could be significant.

Additionally, the supply of type O-negative blood at the American Red Cross has dropped to critical levels. Currently the local Red Cross is not able to fully fill requests from hospitals for type O-negative, and is moving blood among hospitals to where it is needed most while supplies are critically low.

A number of local blood drives are scheduled:

- Wednesday, Feb. 9 2-7:45 p.m.; Deerfield Elementary, 26500 Wixom Road, Novi
- Friday, Feb. 11 1:30-7:15 p.m.; Orchard Hills Elementary, 41900 Quincey, Novi
- Sunday, Feb. 13 7:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.; First United Methodist Church, 777 W. Eight Mile, Northville
- Wednesday, Feb. 23 2-7:45 p.m.; Hillside Middle School, 775 W. Eight Mile, Northville

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City: 16 Highway: 24

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AMENITIES

- Third Row Seating
- 6 Disc CD Player & Compass
- Traction Control System
- 4 Wheel Anti-lock Brakes (ABS)
- Alloy Wheels
- Reclining Rear Seats

CONSUMER CAR REVIEWS
Overall: 4.0 out of 5

2009 Saturn Vue EX SUV

\$17,900



EPA FUEL ECONOMY (mpg)
City: 19 Highway: 26

WHAT WE LIKE

All Wheel Drive

AMENITIES

- OnStar Satellite w/3 Free Months Service
- Traction Control System
- 4 Wheel Anti-lock Braking System (ABS)
- Aluminum Alloy Wheels
- CD Player
- Compass

CONSUMER CAR REVIEWS
Overall: 4.1 out of 5

2010 Buick LaCrosse CX

\$25,900



EPA FUEL ECONOMY (mpg)
City: 19 Highway: 30

WHAT WE LIKE

One Owner, Luxurious Interior, Limousine Rear Seating

AMENITIES

- CD Player & Compass
- Traction Control System
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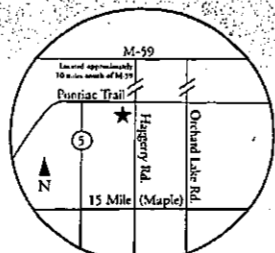
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WILDCATS DEFEAT WAYNE IN BOWLING, B3

SECTION B (NW)

SPORTS

NOVI TANKERS FINISH THIRD AT COUNTY, B3

THURSDAY, February 10, 2011

hometownlife.com

Senior class sets new bar for collegiate student-athletes

Wildcats' program total jumps to 11 and counting

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

Novi's school year is just mid-way through and the Wildcats' Athletic Department is already setting program records for the number of seniors who have signed on to play a sport at the collegiate level.

Last Thursday was signing day for many collegiate sports. Although many Novi student-athletes had already made their decisions known, many made it official by signing their letter of intent.

Four members of the girls soccer team, three from the football team and two from the boys soccer team all signed on

Thursday to continue their athletic careers. A few will continue to play alongside one another as well.

Senior goalkeeper Wes Smith and senior midfielder John DeLeon both signed on to play soccer together at Oakland University next fall.

DeLeon had four goals and two assists from his defensive center midfield position last fall, earning All-State second team, All-Conference and All-District honors throughout the season for his defensive work on the area's best players, all while posting a 3.32 Grade Point Average in the classroom en



From left to right, Novi seniors Scott Stanford, Brian Bush, Nicki Caruso, Nikki Greenhalgh, Brady Sheldon, Gabby Gauruder, Wes Smith, John DeLeon and Mollie Frick all signed letters of intent Feb. 3 to play either soccer or football in college next year.

Clutch free throws give Novi rivalry win

Ozeir, McIntyre combine for 41 of Wildcats' 55 points over Northville

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

Some teams focus on Ozeir and others try to shut down everyone else and rely on Ozeir having an off night. Northville went for the latter, but was unsuccessful as the Wildcats won the baseline rivalry contest at home last Friday.

The Wildcats (11-2, 6-1 Central) were gradual in pulling away from the Mustangs (7-7, 3-5 Central) during their 55-43 boys basketball victory. After taking a 15-12 lead in the first quarter, the Cats and Mustangs notched 10 pieces before halftime.

An 11-9 Novi third quarter didn't widen the gap much, but a 19-12 fourth quarter closed out the game with success for Novi, mainly with several key baskets during the final minute.

"We had to remain patient on the defensive end and wear them out a little bit," Novi coach Cory Heitsch said. "The score was extremely deceiving

ON TAP

The Wildcats (11-2, 6-1 Central) were scheduled to host Livonia Stevenson (13-1, 7-0 Central) two nights ago in a contest that would likely determine the division champion. Next up is a trip to South Lyon East (0-11, 0-7 Central) tomorrow and an undetermined Kensington Conference tournament opponent Thursday.

A Feb. 1 snow delay also has the boys cagers visiting Plymouth Salem (10-3, 4-3 Central) Monday. All games tip off at 7 p.m.

in regards to how close the game actually was. Northville had a three to tie at just over a minute to go and we came down and Brian Bush buried a big-time three for us. Then we closed out the ball game with free throws."

Going 18-of-22 from the charity stripe, the Wildcats were able to secure the win

Please see BOYS HOOPS, B2

Lady cagers dominate Mustangs

D'Annibale a force off Novi's bench

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

The buzz of a baseline rivalry matchup at Northville last Friday wasn't intense for very long, as Novi's girls basketball team raced out to an early lead and never looked back.

The Wildcats (12-1) improved to 6-1 atop the K-LAA Central Division after a 15-6 first quarter generated a 28-14 halftime lead. Novi would hold on for a 42-27 win over the Mustangs (7-7, 3-5 Central).

"We hit a couple of shots and (were) pumped up for the rivalry game," Novi coach Bill Kelp said of the quick start.

Junior Ally D'Annibale had a game-high 12 points off the bench while hitting 6-of-8 free throws. The Wildcats went 15-for-24 (62.5 percent) from the charity stripe, but the early drives to the basket got several Mustangs in foul trouble.

"As I have said before, Ally has a lot of tools and hope-

ON TAP

The Wildcats (12-1, 6-1 Central) have a busier week thanks to last week's bizzard. Novi was scheduled to visit Livonia Stevenson (9-4, 4-3 Central) two nights ago before hosting South Lyon East (1-12, 0-7 Central) tomorrow and an undetermined Kensington Conference tournament opponent Tuesday.

However, a snow delay also has the lady cagers hosting Plymouth Salem (6-7, 5-2 Central) tonight in a pivotal rematch of Novi's lone loss of the season. Salem won 52-46 Jan. 11. The rematch will determine the division champion. All games tip off at 7 p.m.

Please see GIRLS HOOPS, B2

'Cats split decision with Warriors on the slopes

Boys ski team defeats Western to finish above .500

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

Novi's ski team finished the regular season with a split decision against Walled Lake Western last Thursday at Alpine Valley.

The boys team improved to 5-4 overall with a 18-24 victory, while the girls dropped to 1-8 after a tough 14-22 loss.

Although the Warriors took first and second in the event, the Wildcats swept third through ninth, pushing Western's last two scorers to 10th and 11th.

Senior Austin Feight led the way for Novi with a two-run total of 40.48 seconds, behind only Western's Jeff Arlan (37.22) and Dan Tanbakuchi (39.37). Feight was followed by consecu-

ON TAP

Novi's skiers will compete in the Divisional Championships today before the K-LAA Championships Monday at Alpine Valley in White Lake and Regional Championships Thursday at Mt. Brighton. All meets begin at 4 p.m.

tive Wildcat finishes from senior Steven Speers (40.68), senior Kuni Hotta (41.18) and sophomore Harrison Halley (41.47).

With one of their five skiers earning a disqualification, the Warriors nearly didn't have the four required skiers to challenge the Wildcats.

Novi didn't have as much luck



Novi's Lucia Li placed seventh against Walled Lake Western.



Novi's Harrison Halley at a recent meet at Alpine Valley.

against Western's girls, who only had four skiers, but managed to finish first, second, fifth and sixth, pushing the Wildcats finishers to third, fourth, seventh and eighth. The effort pushed the Warriors to victory behind Laura Barts' 43.34-second finish.

Junior Calla Spillane sparked

Novi, leading the Wildcats in a third-place 45.05-second finish. Spillane was followed by senior Michelle Rich (fourth in 45.33), junior Lucia Li (seventh in 47.63) and junior Addison Notarantonio (eighth in 50.20).

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

GIRLS HOOPS

fully she continues to show the consistency that she has been playing with lately," Kelp said. "We can't settle for just outside shots. We have to get to the basket. Concentration and repetition is the key to free throw shooting."

BOYS HOOPS

in the final minute. But the lead wouldn't have been there if not for another consistent game from Ozeir, who finished with 30 points, 14 rebounds and three blocks, all while going 10-for-12 from the free throw line.

"It's been a focus point for us all year, hopefully we are getting better moving our feet instead of reaching," Kelp said. "Some of the fouls have come through aggressive defensive patterns and failed steal attempts, but the Wildcats were strong last week, making 13 steals as a team."

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

Wildcat grapplers struggle at KLAAs meet

Sparling storms to third-place finish

The KLAAs individual championships did go as expected for many of Novi's wrestlers. The Wildcats entered the meet at Hartland with five grapplers seeded in the top eight, and only six managed finishes in the top nine at the end of the day.

Shamrocks defeat Howell in hockey

Hockey team earns third win in a row

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks are officially on a winning streak. The team, coached by Todd Johnson, collected their third-straight victory last week, edging a tough Howell Highlanders squad, 2-1.

Novi's wrestlers (16-7) will compete at Team Districts tonight at Northville before the Wildcats face off in individual Districts Saturday at Detroit Catholic Central. A strong performance at Team Districts will send the Wildcats back to Canton to compete Wednesday in Team Regionals.

Michael Downing and Tyler VanAcker assisted on the power play. It took nearly a full period before the Highlanders tied it up, 1-1, at the 12:55 mark in the second. Jordan Simmons, on the power play, scored with assist from Dakota Olvin and Kenny Miloser to make it an even game.

Wildcats defeat #5 Wayne

Novi bowlers hitting hot streak at right time

Novi's bowling team had its best week of the season. The boys and girls teams combined to go 3-1 while the boys notched a win over No. 6 Wayne Memorial in the process.

Novi tankers finish third at county championships

Chung wins 200 IM, all three relays take top six

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks hockey team will be back in action when they play in the MIHL Showcase tournament this weekend at a game scheduled against Marquette at 6 p.m. tomorrow before a contest at 10:40 p.m. against Hill Academy.

Novi's cheer squad had a few tough breaks in a pair of competitions last week. Novi's girls started out Feb. 2 with a 718-7320-672,4000 loss at Livonia Stevenson, dropping the 'Cats to 1-3 in the five-team KLAAs Central Division.

Novi Roundup

Novi juniors Victoria Rose, Aly Ryan, Molly Marzonia and Lesley Harrington competed with the Rochester-based Legacy Volleyball Club at the Central Zone Invitational in Indianapolis last weekend.

Advertisement for Dick Scott Chrysler-Dodge Jeep-Ram. Features various car models like Dodge Ram 1500, Jeep Grand Cherokee, Dodge Avenger, Chrysler Town & Country, Dodge Journey, and Dodge Durango. Includes financing options and contact information.

Advertisement for Signing. Features a photo of a young man and text about a signing event for the All-Area Player of the Year. Mentions a basketball player named Nikki Greenhalgh.

Advertisement for the Broadway production 'Burn the Floor'. Features a photo of Anya & Pasha and text about the show's success and cast members.

Advertisement for Cirque du Soleil's 'Gnomeo & Juliet'. Features a photo of a character and text about the show's performance and ticket information.

Advertisement for 'Hilarious! An Absolute Delight!'. Features a photo of a comedian and text about a comedy show.

STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, February 10, 2011 **hometownlife.com**

Everything you should know about the 2010 Tax Relief Act

On Dec. 17, Congress passed and President Obama signed the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010 (2010 Tax Relief Act). This law provides some relief and certainty for Americans; at least until the end of 2012. Far from a complete overhaul of the Internal Revenue Code, many of the items in the 2010 Tax Relief Act are merely "extensions" or "renewals" of various tax provisions that were set to expire on 12/31/2010. In other words, Congress and Obama essentially renewed the tax relief until the 2012 Presidential Election.

The increase in the estate tax credit amount to \$5 million is a very significant change to the tax code. Considering the greatest amount excluded under any previous estate tax was \$3.5 million, \$5 million is a nice relief under the 2010 Tax Relief Act. Without this revision to the estate tax, only \$1 million in assets would be sheltered for persons who died after 1/1/2011.

The problem with the estate tax relief under 2010 Tax Relief Act is that it is very short-sighted. Although married individuals will be allowed to shelter up to \$10 million in estate tax, taking advantage of this tax windfall will require both spouses to die before 12/31/2012. I do expect an extension of the estate tax relief enacted (maybe even an increase to the sheltered amount), but estate planners and clients will need to monitor congressional action until such time as any longer-term relief is approved.

The reduction in the employee portion of social security withholding (from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent) for the year 2011 will provide immediate savings for all employees. An equivalent portion of the self-employment tax is also reduced in 2011 (10.4 percent). This is a welcome relief, as these savings will be immediately felt in all employee paychecks.

For example, if an employee earns \$100,000 in taxable wages in 2011, without this



reduction, the amount of social security taxes withheld would be \$6,200. With the relief under the 2010 Tax Relief Act, the social security taxes withheld is \$4,200. The \$2,000 savings will be seen incrementally in every paycheck the employee receives.

The individual tax rates are also temporarily frozen at the graduated rates that are currently in place (10 percent, 35 percent). Without the 2010 Tax Relief Act, the rates would have increased to 15 percent, 39.6 percent. The capital gains rates were also expected to increase from 0-15 percent to 20-20 percent, fortunately the lower rates will remain in place through 12/31/2012.

More importantly is that the reduced capital gains rate will continue to be applied against "qualified dividends." For many individual shareholders, dividends are the income that they expect to receive throughout the year, paying a reduced rate of tax on that income is appealing. If this "type of income" were taxed at the higher ordinary income tax rates, they could have been more inclined to make drastic investment decisions before the end of 2010. In other words, individuals may have taken an immediate capital gain on shares of dividend-paying stocks and replaced those shares with investments that would not generate additional ordinary income tax, such as tax-free bonds.

The 2010 Tax Relief Act also provides tax benefits to individual taxpayers for another two years. The limitation on deducting for itemized deductions and the personal exemption for individuals with adjusted gross income in excess of \$169,500 will not be in place on 1/1/2011. In addition, the "marriage penalty" will not effect the standard deduction for married filers for the next two years. The new tax bill also continues various credits to benefit

GUEST COLUMN

taxpayers with children. The Child Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit, Adoption Credit, Dependent Care Credit and Employer-Provided Child Care Credits are all extended through 12/31/2012.

Educational costs were also given a priority (or protected) under the 2010 Tax Relief Act with several provisions being extended. Employees will be allowed to exclude up to \$5,250 from their income and payroll taxes for employer-provided tuition and education expenses. Students with "qualified higher education" expenses may continue to take advantage of the American Opportunity Tax Credit (previously known as the "Hope Credit") for two more years. The itemized deduction for student loan interest is also extended through 12/31/2012, as is the Coverdell Education Savings Accounts, the Armed Forces Scholarship and National Health Service Corps scholarship programs.

While I am unhappy that a long-term "fix" was not approved by Congress, we are left to play with the cards that have been dealt. The best advice I can give clients is to remain patient and not panic about anything they may perceive in the short-term; sometimes surprising results can occur when you remain cool. That was my advice before passage of the 2010 Tax Relief Act and that will remain my advice for the next two years; the short-term.

Daniel S. Hoops is an associate professor at Walsh Business College teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the Business Law and Taxation Department. Professor Hoops holds a master of laws degree in estate planning from the University of Miami School of Law, a juris doctor from the Michigan State University Detroit College of Law and a bachelor of musical arts from the University of Michigan. He is also a 1987 graduate of Novi High School. He can be reached at Walsh College at (248) 823-1334 or dhoops@walshcollege.edu.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

ITC supports 'Go Green Youth Challenge'

Michigan Arbor Day Alliance announced that ITC Holdings is stepping up to contribute \$10,000 to support its "Go Green Youth Challenge" initiative.

The "Go Green Youth Challenge" will engage Michigan youth in environmental stewardship, community development and service-learning through a statewide effort to plant trees in Michigan. Children, pre-K through 12th grade, are challenged to collect coins, as an individual, classroom or club, through April 1. The coins collected will directly fund community tree plantings.

The team that raises the most for the "Go Green Youth Challenge," will be awarded a tree

planting in their community and an invitation to the State Arbor Day Celebration on April 29 at Potter Park Zoo in Lansing.

For more information or to sign up for the "Go Green Youth Challenge," contact Michigan Arbor Day Alliance at gogreenyouthchallenge@gmail.com.

Business Avenue: TV program

If you are a small business located in Novi, you qualify to be part of the cable television lineup on Business Avenue. This 15-minute program airs on Novi Television and highlights your business. There is no charge to be included in this program. If you are interested in being featured on this show, e-mail smarmchioni@cityofnovi.org.

Oakland County offers business workshops

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars in January, offered by the Oakland County Business Center. Business Basics workshops are now offered in the evenings on alternating months.

Workshops are held at Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford unless otherwise indicated.

For pre-registration and location specifics, visit our website at oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.

FUTURE WORKSHOPS

- (AM) Morning Class 9 a.m. to noon or 12:30 p.m.
- (PM) Evening Class 6 p.m. to 9 or 9:30 p.m.
- February
 - 9 CED Microloan Orientation (Southfield Library)
 - 15 Social Media Marketing Part I (PM)
 - 16 SBA Forum on Small Business Lending (AM)
 - 16 Fundamentals of Starting a Business (PM)
 - 18 FastTrac Listening to Your Business (AM)
 - 23 WBE Certification Orientation (AM)
 - 23 Fundamentals of Writing

- a Business Plan (PM)
- Part I
- 2 Social Media Marketing Part I (AM)
- 3 Pre-Business Research Workshop (AM)
- 4 FastTrac Growth Venture (Venture Forward)
- 9 CED Microloan Orientation (Southfield Library)
- 10 Fundamentals of Starting a Business (PM)
- 16 Keys to Achieving Fiscal Fitness (AM)
- 17 Fundamentals of Writing a Business Plan (AM)
- 24 Essentials Part I
- 24 QuickBooks Essentials Part II

DETERRMINATION

Pistons vs Heat

TOMORROW 2/11 • 7-30 PM

VS. **MIAMI HEAT**

The Pistons take on Miami's Big Three!

Ban Gordon Mesh Jersey Backpack to first 5,000 fans courtesy of

THIS SUNDAY, 2/13 • 6 PM vs. TRAIL BLAZERS

Sunday Family Day - Get 4 tickets, 4 hot dogs and 4 Coke products for \$65!

Pistons Travel Mug to first 7,500 fans courtesy of

HAVE A STORY IDEA?
 Contact Editor, Cal Stone
 Voice Mail: (248) 437-2011, ext. 237
 E-mail: calstone@gannett.com
 Comment online at hometownlife.com

REAL ESTATE

Thursday, February 10, 2011 **hometownlife.com**

Realtor survey gives nod to home ownership

A substantial majority of both home-owners and current renters agree that owning a home is a smart decision over the long term. That's according to the results of a National Association of Realtors survey of 3,793 adults conducted online by Harris Interactive.

The American Attitudes About Homeownership survey found that in today's challenging economy, 95 percent of owners and 72 percent of renters believe that over a period of several years, it makes more sense to own a home. In addition, an overwhelming majority of homeowners are happy with their decision to own a home — 93 percent of owners surveyed would buy again.

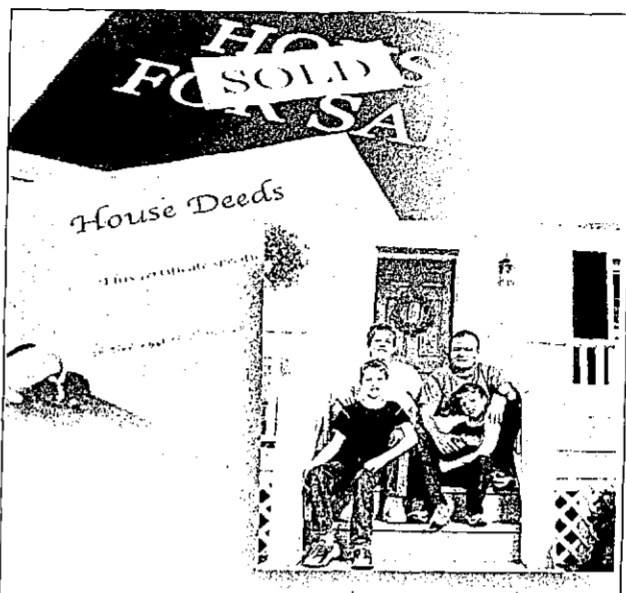
"Of course it's true locally. Nothing takes the place of home ownership," said Gary J. Reggish, broker/owner of American United Realty of Novi and immediate past president of the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors. Interest rates are low, said Livonia resident Reggish, and many renters want to buy.

"You can buy houses today, nice houses, and have your payments lower than renters are paying in rent," Reggish said. Homeowners also enjoy the mortgage interest deduction, and can deduct property taxes as well.

"There are incredible bargains," he said of current housing inventory in the metro area, "in all price ranges." "Interest rates have dropped dramatically. A loan can be obtained for 30-year fixed in the 4 percent range, with significant savings over the life of the loan," he said.

Both professionally and personally, Reggish sees less tangible benefits to owning.

"Once that thing that renting can never take the place of is the sense of community," he said. You don't get that in an apartment complex, he said, where residents are more transient. "You just don't have the sense of camaraderie."



There's less community input, he said, without homeowners associations and involvement even at the state level.

"There's nothing better than being able to go home and say 'This is mine.' You have choices," Reggish said.

"Homeowners and renters agree that home ownership benefits individuals and families, strengthens our communities, and is integral to our nation's economy," said National Association of Realtors President Ron Phipps, broker-president of Phipps Realty in Warwick, R.I. "The results of this survey illustrate just how important issues related to home ownership are to people in this country."

The survey uncovered some differences between homeowners and renters, as well. While more than half of owners are "very" or "extremely" satisfied with the overall quality of their family life, only one-third of renters report the same levels of satisfaction. Similarly, 43 percent of homeowners are very/extremely satisfied with their current life, compared with 30 percent of renters.

A majority of renters — 63 percent — said that it was at least somewhat likely that they would purchase a home at some point in the future. Among this group, young adults (18-29 years old) have the strongest aspiration for home ownership; only 8 percent of

young adults said that it was "not at all likely" that they would purchase a home at some point in the future.

In today's market, many aspiring homeowners are faced with worries about job security and creditworthiness. Among renters who are very or extremely likely to buy a home in the future, three out of five consider confidence in job security and creditworthiness to be an obstacle.

One point of agreement between renters and homeowners was support of the mortgage interest deduction (MID). Seventy-four percent of owners and 62 percent of renters say it's "extremely" or "very" important that the MID remain in place.

"At a time when the middle class is under increasing economic pressures, both homeowners and renters agree that the mortgage interest deduction should not be targeted for change," said Phipps. "Given strong public support of and aspirations toward owning a home, we need to keep policies in place that support and encourage responsible, sustainable home ownership for our future."

This survey was conducted online within the U.S. and fielded Oct. 6-20, 2010. A total of 3,793 adults, 18 and older were surveyed, including 1,880 homeowners, 1,115 renters, and 798 young adults. All samples came from the Harris Poll online database and were weighted for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region and household income to be representative of the U.S. general population of adults 18 and older.

Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online. Results are available online at www.realtor.org/statsanddata/homeownership/attitudes_homeown.

*Staff writer Julie Brown contributed to this report.

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

| City | Address | Sale Price |
|---------------------------|---------|------------|
| Canton | | |
| 4669 Aurora Way | | \$165,000 |
| 4037 Bay Harbor Ln | | \$60,000 |
| 6040 Bay Blvd | | \$151,000 |
| 4725 Carline Ln | | \$287,000 |
| 4791 Clark Dr | | \$128,000 |
| 4890 Castellano Dr | | \$90,000 |
| 4958 Castellano Dr | | \$381,000 |
| 4222 Cavities Dr | | \$445,000 |
| 3975 Chavelly Dr | | \$273,000 |
| 4263 Christie Dr | | \$140,000 |
| 3994 Colony Dr | | \$142,000 |
| 4027 Geneva Dr | | \$100,000 |
| 3092 Glenview Ct | | \$242,000 |
| 4842 Givens Ct | | \$152,000 |
| 4933 Hincheyville Ct | | \$340,000 |
| Farmington Hills | | |
| 4688 Bristow Dr | | \$430,000 |
| 5840 Turberry Dr | | \$490,000 |
| Farmington Hills | | |
| 3440 Broadview St | | \$103,000 |
| 2440 Broadview St | | \$103,000 |
| 2897 Forest Hill Dr | | \$26,000 |
| 2553 Hamilton Ave | | \$65,000 |
| 2658 Knoppwood Dr | | \$90,000 |
| 2159 Oxford Ave | | \$78,000 |
| 3403 Park St | | \$184,000 |
| 3532 Parkville Ct | | \$184,000 |
| 2510 Rutledge Ave | | \$76,000 |
| 2647 Springbrook Dr | | \$175,000 |
| Livonia | | |
| 4123 Barbara St | | \$133,000 |
| 28200 Barbary Ct | | \$145,000 |
| 15519 Brentwood St | | \$65,000 |
| 2918 Calista St | | \$71,000 |
| 10238 Colburn St | | \$131,000 |
| 9256 Hart St | | \$50,000 |
| Northville | | |
| 16801 Country Area Dr | | \$235,000 |
| 1753 Dunaway Rd | | \$138,000 |
| 9210 Emerald Trl | | \$240,000 |
| 3846 Pancher Ln | | \$198,000 |
| 8775 Silvercreek Blvd | | \$450,000 |
| 1755 Valley Brook Dr | | \$228,000 |
| 4524 Briarwood Dr | | \$140,000 |
| 4464 Woodmont Ct | | \$195,000 |
| 4026 Crestwood Dr | | \$145,000 |
| Plymouth | | |
| 3877 Jamaica St | | \$120,000 |
| 37241 Leggett St | | \$53,000 |
| 20877 Mendenhall Dr | | \$14,000 |
| 5555 Middlebelt Rd | | \$49,000 |
| 3500 Monaco St | | \$102,000 |
| 2847 N. Clements Cir | | \$48,000 |
| 3751 Renaissance Park Cir | | \$97,000 |
| 5986 Rosewood | | \$98,000 |
| 12255 Kinloch | | \$132,000 |
| 4234 Stonehenge Dr | | \$125,000 |
| 1730 Vorshore | | \$26,000 |
| 9943 Rockland | | \$15,000 |
| 6384 Sycamore | | \$10,000 |
| 48371 Tara Blvd | | \$83,000 |
| 4344 Sunbeam | | \$17,000 |
| 10440 Tecumseh | | \$76,000 |
| 10333 Vega | | \$32,000 |
| Westland | | |
| 34242 Appleton St | | \$95,000 |
| 23923 Bluffs | | \$26,000 |
| 3262 Cedarlans Dr | | \$99,000 |
| 8320 Norman Pointe St | | \$240,000 |
| 500 W. Bayliffe St | | \$102,000 |

HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

| City | Address | Sale Price |
|-------------------------|---------|------------|
| Farmington Hills | | |
| 4812 Acorn Rd | | \$160,000 |
| 4252 Augusta Ct | | \$240,000 |
| 1001 Hickory Bank Ln | | \$234,000 |
| 7063 Hilday Dr | | \$228,000 |
| 1560 Lakewood Ct | | \$340,000 |
| 900 W. Oakshire Rd | | \$470,000 |
| 2335 Rutherford Dr | | \$78,000 |
| 5061 Sebring Ct | | \$378,000 |
| Livonia | | |
| 1689 Eagle Nest Ct | | \$765,000 |
| 541 Union St | | \$250,000 |
| Novi | | |
| 41635 Birchhart Dr | | \$200,000 |
| 40525 Emerald | | \$155,000 |
| 2918 Eucalyptus Trl | | \$120,000 |
| 4524 Marshall Hill | | \$95,000 |
| 2426 Hickory Grove Ln | | \$200,000 |
| 22928 Island Lake Dr | | \$355,000 |
| 22377 Monaco Dr | | \$377,000 |
| 24802 Widge Wood Cir | | \$49,000 |
| 2489 Westmont Dr | | \$365,000 |
| South Lyon | | |
| 1259 Bucknaker Dr | | \$234,000 |
| 711 Cape Cod | | \$70,000 |
| 23231 Dunes Dr W | | \$60,000 |
| 6027 Greenwood Dr | | \$46,000 |
| 5144 Greenlake Cir | | \$30,000 |
| 1468 Horseshoe Dr | | \$283,000 |
| 2180 Marquette Rd | | \$178,000 |
| 2125 Parkstone | | \$41,000 |
| Westland | | |
| 6554 Richards St | | \$165,000 |
| 2139 Woodlark St | | \$305,000 |
| 23482 Spay Glass Ln | | \$340,000 |
| 25146 Valley Ln | | \$170,000 |
| 1590 Yarrow | | \$170,000 |
| 894 Vinage Way | | \$180,000 |
| 54138 Wilkeswood Dr | | \$330,000 |
| 430 Apple St | | \$145,000 |
| 21484 Winding Green Dr | | \$255,000 |
| White Lake | | |
| 27602 Bradford Ln | | \$190,000 |
| 20272 Cliffside Ave | | \$16,000 |
| 20220 Amber Ln | | \$180,000 |
| 18193 Holton Dr | | \$53,000 |
| 10900 Boggs Lake Rd | | \$550,000 |
| 805 Cedar Park Ct | | \$239,000 |
| 11232 Diana Ct | | \$142,000 |
| 8054 Claspings Dr | | \$208,000 |
| 8139 Williams Lake Road | | \$300,000 |

Novi partners with MORE to promote the Statewide Entrepreneurship Support System

The Novi City Council has approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Novi and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to promote the Statewide Entrepreneurship Support System (SESS).

SESS is a web-based software application developed by Digerati, Inc. and funded by the New Economy Initiative (NEI) to connect entrepreneurs to the resources necessary to move their ideas forward.

According to Ara Topouzian, Novi's Economic Development director, "Once the MORE program launches this spring, it will be an invaluable tool for



our business community to research online their specific and immediate needs with the ability for the city to follow up with them."

The MORE Program and its supporting partners provide a unique opportunity for entrepreneurs, investors and budding businesses to gain access to valuable resources. By bridging the gap between inspired individuals and the institutions that provide research facilities, expert advice or funding opportunities, we can speed up the time it takes for an idea to achieve implementation. It's also an opportunity for these institutions to embrace the business challenges faced by society and the potential new ideas they can bring.

MORE is working on initiatives and policies to help keep Michigan's educated talent in the state. By working with colleges and universities, incubator programs, industry associations, high-tech businesses and government agencies, MORE provides quick access to resources required to develop and market new ideas for business.

For more information on the City of Novi, visit cityofnovi.org.

NEWSMAKERS

Novi resident Clay Farrell of Southfield-based Collins, Eitner, Farrell & Hanafi, P.C. (www.cfhllaw.com) was among 25 attorneys recognized by Michigan Lawyers Weekly for its Leaders in the Law honors.

Farrell concentrates his practice on multi-party, complex litigation, including litigation in the areas of environmental torts, product liability, toxic torts and emerging claims. An alum of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, Farrell's trial experience spans more than three decades and includes



approximately 100 cases to verdict.

The honors will be recognized in a special section to be published Feb. 28, and at the third annual Leaders in the Law luncheon taking place March 15 at the Detroit Marriott in Troy. During the awards ceremony, Michigan Lawyers Weekly also will reveal the 2011 Lawyer of the Year.

In selecting the 25 Leaders, a Michigan Lawyers Weekly

editorial panel considered several criteria, including:

- Ability to achieve success in his or her respective practice, while also displaying the strength of character that transcends results.
- Noble tradition of the legal profession, coupled with commitment to practicing law in Michigan.
- Passionate and aggressive advocacy on behalf of both clients and the legal community.
- A record of winning cases, solving problems or coming to judicial conclusions that reflect the utmost integrity.

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Good to update documents regularly

Our documents are 27 years old and our board refuses to fix them. Can I force my association's board to take action?

A: Point out that there are a number of reasons why the documents should be revised by the association members including the need to get FHA certification, major changes in the Condominium Act over the last 10 to 15 years, as well as the change in societal attitudes as they relate to parking recreational vehicles and the like.

Also point out to the extent possible that when the Documents are outdated, it minimizes the marketability of the condominium project as a whole, and that the board may well have a fiduciary responsibility to seek competent legal counsel to correct and update the condominium documents to keep in the sale of homes.

Our attorney brags about the hundreds of condominium associations that he represents and when I call him on the telephone, I cannot get an answer. Is there a minimum number of attorneys that should be available to assist condominium associations when the attorney represents in the hundreds?

A: That is a difficult question because some associations may require more work than others. Generally speaking, an attorney who brags about the number of community associations he or she represents should also be willing to advise the client that his firm has adequate personnel to assist in the representation, competently and efficiently of those associations. If you are not getting the service from your attorney that you deserve, look for someone else.

Robert M. Welsner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Stranded: Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmwelsner@meinsner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

Tax appeals

Kelly Sweeney, CEO of Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel, will be conducting a property tax appeal seminar Wednesday, Feb. 16, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at The Community House, 3890 S. Bates in Birmingham. Sweeney will educate homeowners on the ins and outs of the property tax appeal process.

Topics will include:

- Differentiating between State Equalized Value, Capped Value and Taxable Value
- Explanation of the uncapping process

Tax law changes

A 2011 panel of SIX CPAs will answer tax questions 5:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10, at Club Victoria, 29310 John R, north of 12 Mile in Madison Heights. There have been changes in the tax laws, especially for businesses.

The seminar is presented by Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland. Seminar free to members, \$20 nonmembers. Call (800) 747-6742. (www)

REIA of Oakland County

Learn about a career in residential real estate. Attend a free one-hour seminar, or shadow a top agent to get an inside feel of the business. Seminars are at noon or 6 p.m. Wednesdays. To reserve a spot, contact Keller Williams Realty International, at (248) 893-2500, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48331. For information, call (313) 619-0919 or visit www.reiwaynecounty.org.

Real Estate Sales and Appraising

A Free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:3

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

www.hometownlife.com

HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

Welcome
Boys and Girls!

This month's contest features:
My pet is SPECIAL!
Share with us how special
your pet is.

Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights!

Hey kids!

Send us a picture or a
story of why your pet is
SPECIAL to YOU!

Youth ages 7-13 are invited to send a letter or a photo
of why your pet is special. Scoop will pick lucky winners
from entries received:

Valentine Contest

My Pet is Special

Share how special your pet is with Scoop!

Youth Name: _____

Youth Age: _____

Youth Community: _____

Parent's information to contact winning entry:
(Phone, email, home address)



Selected winners will have their name, age, hometown, photo and entry published in the next Scoop Hound Dog Highlights.

Send your entries for the My Special Pet Contest to:

Scoop the Newshound
c/o: Michele Austin
41304 Concept Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170

Deadline for submissions: 02/28/11

Everyone who enters will receive a letter from Scoop and a small gift!

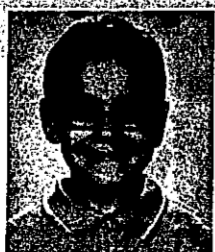
Lucky winners from last month's contest



Tejas Malre
Age: 7 1/2
Farmington Hills
1. Practice math everyday
2. Eat healthy
3. Collect box tops for school



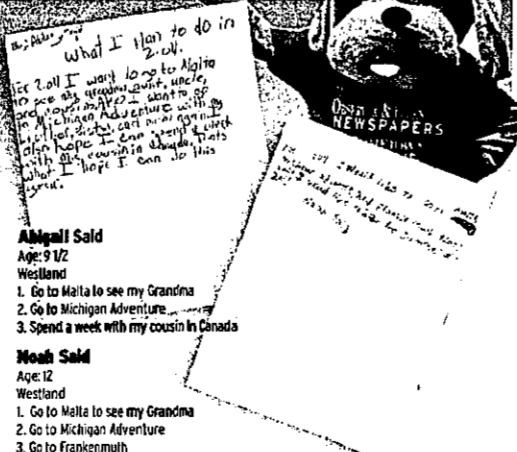
Hanna Shurtz
Age: 10
Farmdale
1. Play my violin for senior citizens
2. Grow a big fruit and flower garden
3. Get a fish tank for puppies



Christian Charette
Age: 7
Livonia
1. Encourage kids to like school
2. Give clothes and shoes to the poor
3. Work with an animal shelter



Caroline Loder
Age: 8
Livonia
1. Ride a unicycle without help
2. Play the guitar better on Guitar Hero
3. Walk more than 8 miles in the summer



Abigail Said
Age: 9 1/2
Westland
1. Go to Malta to see my Grandma
2. Go to Michigan Adventure
3. Spend a week with my cousin in Canada

Moah Said
Age: 12
Westland
1. Go to Malta to see my Grandma
2. Go to Michigan Adventure
3. Go to Frankenmuth

Send in your letter and photo, you may win a spot on Scoop's Hound Dog Highlight page!

Scoop the newshound will be offering contests on a monthly basis. Look for Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights page monthly in this newspaper!