

# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

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FOOD, B5-6

## HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

### Light Up the Night

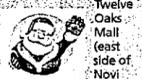
The City of Novi is eager to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with Light Up the Night in Novi on the Civic Center Campus from 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2. Mayor Bob Gatt and a special visitor from the North Pole will light the



holiday tree at 6:30 p.m. The fun will be held indoors and out and includes a craft show, Santa visits, kids' activities, marshmallow roasting, hockey skills competition, live reindeer, miniature train rides, and free food samples from several local restaurants. Hay wagons will shuttle people to and from the Novi Public Library to enjoy face painting and Tom Plunkard the Magician performances at 7 and 8 p.m.

### Santa at Twelve Oaks

This holiday season, take an enchanted journey into a magical world at the Ice Palace at



Twelve Oaks Mall (east side of Novi Road just north of I-96). Kids can visit Santa and have their photo taken or have your family's photo taken on the Ice Throne.

### Big Family

Big Family of Michigan tries to ensure that in need children are given toys for the holidays. Over 6,000 toys will be given out and Michigan Surgery Specialists and Oakland Regional Hospital have volunteered to help Big Family reach their goal. MSS office locations, including Novi's (44000 W. 12 Mile Rd., Suite 205), are hosting a toy drive that is open to the public and their employees. Residents are asked to drop off new, unwrapped toys or Target gift cards for children—from infants to 18 years of age through Dec. 4.

# NOVI NEWS

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PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Carrie Adams cuts fleece fabric on Nov. 16 at the Meadowbrook Congregational Church as volunteers gathered to assemble winter hats to be given to needy school kids in Detroit through Bridgepointe.

## Novi students start holidays on sweet note

### Kids heading to Detroit for annual party



Kristen Jamison, left, and Carrie Adams stand by a pile of winter hats that they and other volunteers have assembled.

By Nathan Mueller  
Staff Writer

It takes until usually after Thanksgiving for the holiday season to kick into full gear for many people.

But for the Bridgepointe volunteers who organize the combined Novi-Detroit holiday party at a Detroit elementary school, the holidays started in October.

Volunteers, including community members and students in Novi, have been collecting

items, making hats, packing bags of candy and more in anticipation of the yearly party that this year takes place at Logan Elementary.

The Novi Middle School choir, Santa and about 200 students from Novi will greet the Detroit students with holiday cheer on Dec. 8, bringing them an early Christmas.

"It's an incredible way to start off the holiday season," said parent volunteer Kelle Vela. "So

Please see PARTY, A2

## Rotary clubs hope to make wishes come true

### Toy drive to benefit children in Novi, Farmington areas

By Nathan Mueller  
Staff Writer

It's another holiday season and Novi Rotarian Ginger Barrons heard more grim news that one in four families the Salvation Army serves will not be able to afford Christmas.

So in an effort to see that kids don't miss out on Christmas, Barrons and Rotarians from Novi and Farmington, as well as students from the high schools in those cities, are hosting the second annual Rotary Wrap Up to collect toys for non-profit organization.

### WRAP UP

**What:** Public toy donation event to help The Salvation Army

**Where:** Direct Buy of Farmington Hills (33800 W. Nine Mile Road, Farmington Hills)

**When:** 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11

**Other:** For more information or to donate, contact Ginger Barrons at (248) 348-5244

"We are really looking forward to it, especially for non-profit organization.

Please see ROTARY, A3



Novi Middle School teacher Pete Cemate's van was packed full of food last year thanks to the help of school district employees. He hopes the same happens this year as he began collecting food to take to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit in mid-December.

## Hunting for the holidays

### Novi Middle School teacher gathers food for Detroit soup kitchen

By Nathan Mueller  
Staff Writer

Pete Cemate has been putting a little extra pressure on himself the last few hunting seasons.

Because not only is the Novi Middle School teacher hoping to land a sizable deer for himself, but any extra deer he shoots he donates the meat to the Capuchin

Soup Kitchen in Detroit.

Four years ago, Cemate expanded the program to include his co-workers in the Novi Community Schools district, and they combined last year to donate 160 pounds of venison (equivalent to five deer) and 1,000 pounds of food.

"What I like out of

Please see HUNTING, A3



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Diane Chambers sews together winter hats at the Meadowbrook Congregational Church in Novi for its efforts to help Detroit kids through the Bridgepointe holiday program.

**PARTY**

Continued from page A1

many people are looking forward to it." School groups and others made 500 fleece hats and packed bags with essentials such as soap, shampoo, gloves, socks and more to give to students at Logan.

Try Mullens, a Novi Meadows fifth grader, helped fill bags with candy last week. He said being part of helping them makes him feel "special."

"They might not have as nice of a school as ours or have what we have so it's a cool thing to do and makes you feel better," he said. Isabella Cyr, 10, said she worked extra hard because she wanted to help as much as she could.

"I knew I was helping someone less fortunate than me," she said.

Vela said one of the only things missing from the gift bags this year were toothbrushes and toothpaste because the organization didn't receive any donations.

Other than that, it was business as usual, and she is eager to see the students interact with each other.

"It's an opportunity for these kids to get something a lot of kids take for granted, and also is a great way for kids to spend time together," she said.

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Some of the hats made for Logan Elementary students in Detroit were from fabric donated by Canton's Ikea.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



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Kathy Takeshita helps to sew together some winter hats during the Nov. 16 volunteer event.

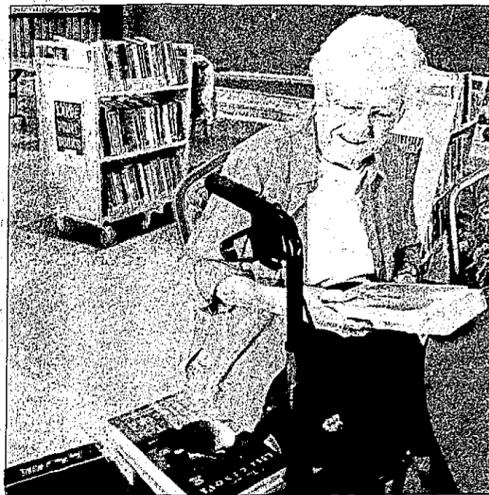
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**Have books, will travel**



Novi Meadowbrook Commons resident Lauretta Heaphy gathers up a few books at the senior center on Nov. 15 during a visit by the Novi Public Library's Bookmobile. The Bookmobile visits the senior center on Meadowbrook the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m., and brings a variety of books for residents to check out and then check out.

PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**HUNTING**

Continued from page A1

doing this I know I'm directly helping people," Cemate said. "The food goes directly to them and there is no middle man. You know it's getting put to good use."

Cemate said some of the biggest providers of food are the individual kitchens in the district. JoAnn Clements, director of food services, said before the schools go on break they look to see what is going to expire while they are gone and split it between Forgotten Harvest and Cemate.

"We'd much rather have someone eat it than throw it away," she said. "And we'd rather feed people than garbage cans." Cemate said his van was so packed with food last year that he had to drive with the window down so he could see out of it.

Waterford resident Mark Evans, whose sister works in the district, got wind of Cemate's idea and immediately stepped up to help.

Evans hunts regularly with his 18-year-old son who is legally blind, and the two have been very successful over the years. He last week that they have started off slow, but has some "go-to" spots he has yet to use.

"It's an enjoyment to hunt and to know it's going to a great cause makes it even better," he said. People who want to donate food items to Cemate can contact him via e-mail at pcemate@novi.k12.mi.us. He will be collecting food until Dec. 16 and dropping it off the next day.

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**ROTARY**

Continued from page A1

People are asked to buy a gift, regardless of price or size, because it will be used by someone. They can drop off the toy at any time from now until the event, and can even wrap the toy themselves or just mingle with other people at the store.

Barrons said the toys, which are being donated to the Salvation Army in Farmington Hills, will go directly to children in the Farmington and Novi areas. Those who wish to donate a toy, wrapping paper or cookies can make their donation at the DirectBuy location anytime prior to the event or by contacting Barrons at 248-348-5244 or reliable@cdnet.net.

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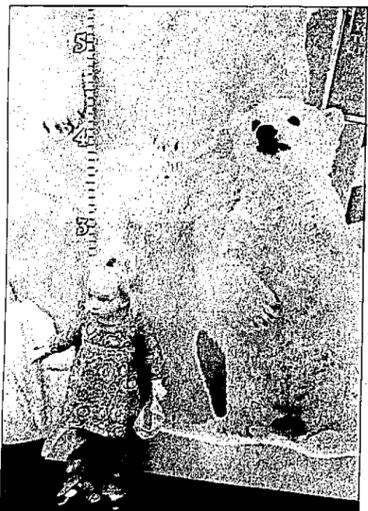
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## Magic of Christmas



Reilly Cribbins (above) gets a smile from her daughter Amelia, 3, as she blows some fake snow crystals towards her during their visit to Twelve Oaks Mall's Ice Palace holiday set. This year's theme features interactive sets with a lot of arctic creatures like polar bears, penguins and snowy owls for kids to take a look at. Santa will be available for visits at the mall seven days a week through the day before Christmas — when he's got to get back to the North Pole so he can make his deliveries. London Cribbins, 2 (right), sees how the measures up to a baby polar bear at Novi Twelve Oaks Mall's Ice Palace display on Nov. 14. The mall's holiday center court display's been up since Nov. 10 and will remain there until the first week of January.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Giving time

Plenty need help, lots of ways to help

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan sees a lot of needy people, said Gerald Brisson, senior vice president of advancement. "Always this time of year. It's always a number of things that converge around the holidays." A lot of school children get free and reduced lunches. "When those kids are not in school, those families do not have the advantage of getting two meals, breakfast and lunch, in school," he said.

Brisson said that not all hunger is confined to the city of Detroit. "Every community sees a certain amount of hunger. Rochester has one of our busiest pantries." Even Livingston and Monroe counties have people who are out of work.

"You see hunger in every single community," he said. "The easiest way to find Gleaners information is to go online to [www.gcfb.org](http://www.gcfb.org), to volunteer or donate. Gleaners serves about 500 soup kitchens, pantries, and shelters. Brisson noted groups like Boy Scouts hold food drives in which you can participate, or find a food pantry nearby to support. Gleaners also welcomes volunteers and uses some 32,000 a year.

"There are lots of food drives going on," he said. Their address is 2131 Beaufait, Detroit, MI 48207 and donations by check are also welcome. Brisson anticipates metro Detroiters will remain generous. "We hope so. Half of all our revenue comes during the holiday season. We really hope, hope," he said. They have a goal of 45 million pounds of food for this year. "So we're hoping that people will continue to understand. One in four children in our service area are living in poverty. We're hoping people will understand that. You can't have generations of people not eating."

He appreciates continuing support. "It's a lot of individuals making the right choices that makes this all happen," Brisson said.

### Civic Concern

Northville Civic Concern is an all-volunteer organization that helps those in need with food. The food is distributed on the second and fourth Friday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 43261 W. Seven Mile in the Highland Lakes shopping plaza; appointments are needed for potential clients. Civic Concern serves 182 families in the city of Northville and Northville Township, and the school district.

Civic Concern is funded primarily by the contributions of Northville community residents. In addition to money, Civic Concern accepts donations of canned goods, cereal, paper products, soap and cleaning items, and baby products. All donations are tax deductible.

Canned fruits is always needed, said director Marlene Kunz, including those with less sugar. Canned meats are good as well, along with peanut butter, jelly, soup, crackers which help to stretch meals, and breakfast foods. Paper products, items like laundry soap and toilet paper and toiletries aren't covered by Bridge cards, so those items are always appreciated.

"Every day we need our essentials whether it's the paper products or the food," Kunz said. Monetary contributions can be mailed to Northville Civic Concern, P.O. Box 323, Northville, MI 48167. For information, call (248) 344-1033.

"We have a lot of elderly people so we take care of those people. It's yours and belongs to the people. They have a vested interest in taking care of their neighbors," Northville Township resident Kunz said.

She works with Rotary Interact and National Honor Society students from Northville High. "They are my hometown heroes," Kunz said of her 27 years with Civic Concern volunteers. "You have to love caring about people." Listening skills matter a great deal, she and others at Civic Concern have found.

"They walk in the doors and say 'What can I do?' This is a time of year where it's nonstop." In December, distribution dates change, she said, with Dec. 2, 16 and 30 dates. They gave out Thanksgiving meals from the Moose, Our Lady of Victory, PTSA Karate and others. On Dec. 10, they will have an adoption of families program at the Church of the Nazarene, with those gifts coming in ahead of time. Santa will visit with the children.

"We call them our guests," she said of those in the Angel Donor program, which includes Christmas caroling and new book distribution. "You feel good when you do for somebody else. If you walk by somebody else and smile, it's almost contagious."

### Forgotten Harvest

John Owens, communications director for Oak Park-based Forgotten Harvest, said they need up to 40 volunteers a day to help in repacking food in the warehouse. Additional information is at [www.forgottenharvest.org](http://www.forgottenharvest.org). Donations

by check are also welcome at 21800 Greenfield, Oak Park, MI 48237. For information on volunteering or donating, call (248) 967-1500 or (888) 332-7140 or go online.

"We repack bulk food, a lot of produce," Owens said of their main volunteer job, carried out by a volunteer base of about 3,000. He agreed needs are great.

"Oh, my goodness, yeah," Owens said. Their study shows 800,000 people in metro Detroit are hungry and lack food, including many children.

"It's one in five," he said of metro residents.

Forgotten Harvest, a nonprofit in existence 21 years, is a food rescue organization. It rescues surplus prepared perishable foods. Forgotten Harvest's 31 trucks visit grocery stores, farms, distributors and even some hotel and entertainment venues.

Last year, Forgotten Harvest rescued over 23 million pounds of food. Owens noted 25 percent of all food in the U.S. ends up in landfills, so it's more an issue of distribution than availability.

"Without the money, our trucks don't roll," he said of their generous supporters.

Rescued food from Forgotten Harvest goes to 200 faith-based organizations, relief organizations and community centers in the tri-county area.

### Community Clothes Closet

Novi has a Community Clothes Closet. Betty Shultz of Northville Township, a volunteer, said Christmas is busy for them. The Community Clothes Closet is affiliated with Church of the Holy Family, a Catholic parish at 24505 Meadowbrook, Novi 48375. Checks to Church of the Holy Family-Christian Service are welcome.

"We're one of the few in the Detroit area," Shultz said of the clothing ministry. They also have toys, and a limited food pantry but welcome nonperishable food donations.

Monday 9 a.m. to noon and that same day 6:30-8:30 p.m., each week they have drop-off, but will be closed after Dec. 5 for drop-offs for Christmas.

"Coats, mittens, hats, gloves, boots," Shultz said, noting winter clothing for low-income people is what's needed. They also have an "Sponsor a Family" program for the immediate area, limited to Novi families. Participants give new clothes and toys from a "wish list."

"We can take no more at this time," she said. Shopping day is Friday morning 9:30-11:30 a.m. with an appointment required. Those who shop come from all over, with Dec. 2 the last shopping day until the first of the year.

Shultz agreed the needs are great and the holidays busy.

"It's crazy. The phone never stops ringing, it seems." After Jan. 1, they'll be back more to Friday shopping.

Non-sponsored families during the Christmas season get gifts, volunteers wrapping them, which is time-consuming, in December.

"We need volunteers all year," Shultz said, adding you can call (248) 349-8553 to volunteer. High schoolers are welcome.

"We're here. This is a big project," she said.

### Salvation Army

For those who would like to give their time to the cause, the Plymouth Salvation Army (serving Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville) has volunteer spots for bell ringers open at the kettle locations it maintains. There are some 400 Red Kettles throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. All volunteer opportunities are posted at [www.ringbell.org](http://www.ringbell.org). Anyone can log on, pick a preferred location and a shift that is convenient for them.

Sandy Kollinger, volunteer/special events coordinator for the Plymouth corps, said there are three Northville bell ringing locations: downtown Hiller's, the downtown post office and the Kroger at Six Mile and Haggerty.

"We still have plenty of spaces for volunteers to sign up," Kollinger said, adding her corps uses all volunteer bell ringers. Local check donations may be sent to the Salvation Army, 9451 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170, she said, explaining those donations will stay here. To donate locally online, visit [www.misalplymouth.org](http://www.misalplymouth.org).

It's also easy to give to the Salvation Army regionally by putting money in the Red Kettle, by calling (877) SALMICH, by logging on to the website at [www.salnich.org](http://www.salnich.org), or by texting "GOODMICH" to 80888 to make a \$10 donation, enough to feed one person for a month.

At the Plymouth corps, officials have seen a 33 percent increase in need for Thanksgiving. "We're anticipating that trend will continue into Christmas," Kollinger said.

Other volunteer opportunities in the Plymouth corps area are packing food boxes, transforming the gym into Toy Town and Christmas distribution for families coming in for gifts for their kids.

"We have a great community support," Kollinger said. "That's really great to see."

Please see GIVING, A5

## Thanksgiving Day Parade goes to the dogs

Novi-based group first dog performance team to walk in parade



Sherry Zamonski with the Novi-based Rock-N-Roll K-9's group puts Orbit through his paces at the Metro Detroit Pet Expo last weekend. The group also will be performing in the America's Thanksgiving Day Parade on Thursday in Detroit.

By Nathan Mueller  
Staff Writer

The Rock-N-Roll K-9's are no strangers to the big stage, having performed at large festivals and professional sporting events.

But for group founder Pam Koons and several of the other dog owners, nothing compares to being selected to walk and perform in the 85th America's Thanksgiving Parade in Detroit.

The group, which performs various routines to the tune of rock and roll music, walked in the parade in 2009 on short notice, but this year will be prepared with a performance for the crowd.

Koons said she was shocked they were selected and is proud to be part of the first dog performance team to walk in the parade.

"It means everything," the Novi resident said. "I remember as a kid watching (the parade) and always wondering why dogs

weren't in it and wished they were. For us to be honored as the first performance team to do this is pretty amazing to us."

The Rock-N-Roll K-9's, which started in Novi in 1995, will have 32 dogs with handlers walking in the parade. Two of the dogs will be pulling carts

one with a guitar being pulled by a Doberman that looks like Rudolph and the other carrying a white Weston dressed like an elf being pulled by a Newfoundland.

Northville resident Dianna Stano — whose dog Gidget will be the one dressed like Rudolph — said being asked to perform in the parade is "pretty awesome," especially for a group of volunteers.

"It's just a fun thing to do with your dog," she said of being in the group. "You can tell the dogs enjoy it. And where do you get to dress your dog up in clothes and not look like a total idiot?"

Farmington Hills resi-

dent Hannah Barthlow — who has been in the group for about a year — said she is "psyched" about walking down Woodward Avenue.

"I've done other parades, but this one is really huge," she said. "It's a big deal."

Jill Mondrush, who lives in Milford, said it's "cool" to be part of the Thanksgiving tradition. She has been part of the performance group for 11 years because it's her outlet and helps her recharge her battery.

"It's a lot of fun and a great way to get your dog out and keep them active," she said.

Koons said she believes the Rock-N-Roll K-9's will be in front of the camera around 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, and also noted that the group is donating blankets to a shelter in Detroit following the parade.

"It's going to be an honor to do this," she said.

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## GIVING

Continued from page A4

If you'd like to volunteer at the Plymouth corps after Christmas, there are year-round opportunities in the front office and food pantry. "We are truly blessed with their support," Kollinger said. "We can't do what we do without them."

The Salvation Army's

Farmington Hills corps serves Novi and surrounding communities. That corps can be reached at (248) 477-1153. Its corps website is [www.usc.salvationarmy.org/farmingtonhills](http://www.usc.salvationarmy.org/farmingtonhills). The address is 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills, MI 48336.

Rae Lynn Harvey, volunteer and events coordinator for that corps, said donations can be sent there, by check to remain

in the local area. "We need food all year round. The need has been greater than ever," she said. They have no canned fruit right now, and also need spaghetti noodles and sauce, Hamburger Helper, boxed potatoes including au gratin and scalloped, and tomatoes.

"We can always use canned chicken," she said. Tuna is helpful as well.

Items shouldn't be donated past their expiration date, she said, adding cereal is helpful along with granola bars.

"That doesn't happen very often. Those would be a surprise 'Oooh' thing," Harvey said.

Dec. 2 is their Senior Luncheon. "They are welcome to call and come to our Senior Luncheon. All they have to do is call and sign up." It's at noon at the Farmington Hills

corps. Bell ringers are needed as well, and can sign up online.

"The more volunteers we have, the more money we have for our programs," Harvey said. Dec. 22, the corps will need groups and individuals for the Toy Shop for families, to help them pick gifts. The Farmington Hills corps also has an Adopt a Family program in which toys are

purchased for children and a meal provided.

"I've heard some of them even provide gifts for the parents," Harvey said. The food pantry needs volunteers all year, and the corps uses volunteers to help with phone answering, with morning and afternoon shifts.

"And that's helpful," she said. "We would like to thank the community for their support in helping us help others."



**Med fresh**

Mediterranean-American Cafe

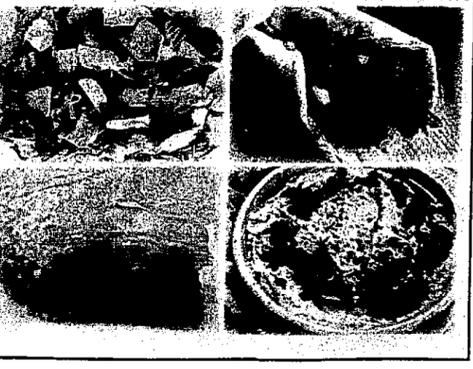
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# How to deal with grief during the holidays

By Cathy Clough  
Guest Columnist



Cathy Clough

Looking ahead to the holidays can be overwhelming when you're grieving after the death of someone you loved. Holidays are times that bring families together and the absence of an important member of the family can cause those who are grieving additional pain as they anticipate those upcoming days.

I've had many people say to me that they could eliminate all of the days between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day from the calendar! But they can't, and it's almost impossible to ignore the season. Everywhere you go you find holiday decorations and Christmas carols playing. And, everyone expects you to be merry — after all, it's the holiday season!

There are some things you can do to help yourself get through the days ahead if you're grieving. Let me share with you some of the things that helped me after the death of my first husband and many others I've been privileged to help over the years.

### Plan ahead realistically

If you don't plan and just let the holidays hit you expecting that they will be OK, you may be disappointed. Grieving people often have trouble planning ahead, but this is the one time that I suggest you think about

what you can do to make the holidays less intimidating. Do you want to do things the same or differently? Oftentimes, trying to do things the same doesn't work — someone very important is missing and things can't be the same. Many people find that making some changes helps. Some of these changes could include changing where you have the holiday meal, planning a different menu or traveling.

If you make changes, be sensitive to the needs of others who have been affected by the death including small children. When my husband died, my children were very young so I didn't have the option of ignoring or running away from Christmas. We still had to have a tree and observe many of the traditions that were so important to them. I encourage families to talk about the things that are important to them. Decide which traditions are important and need to be continued and which traditions can be dropped or changed this year. Changing something this year doesn't mean that you can't do it again. It may take a lot of honest discussion and negotiation to decide what is important to all family members involved.

### HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

New Hope Center for Grief Support, in cooperation with Toll Brothers Inc., will be hosting a Holiday Open House at their Steeplechase of Northville community from 7-10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2.

You are invited to leisurely tour the luxurious Harding Country Manor model home. The evening also includes raffles, appetizers from local restaurants, a chocolate fountain and musical entertainment. Valet service provided and sponsored by Toll Brothers.

New Hope Center for Grief Support is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that reaches out to those in our community and throughout southeastern Michigan who are grieving the death of a loved one. New Hope's mission, centered in Christian principles, is to help people work through their grief and offer hope and healing to all.

This event is one of the larger fundraisers that New Hope relies upon to provide the funds, support and means by which New Hope Center can continue to offer support groups, seminars, workshops and other grief services free-of-charge.

The cost is \$40 (ages 21 and over only) prior to the event; \$45 at the door; \$30 is tax deductible.

Steeplechase is located at 17174 Crestbrook Drive, Northville (north of 6 Mile and west of Ridge Road)

To RSVP, call New Hope Center at (248) 348-0115 by Nov. 30 or register online at [www.newhopecenter.net](http://www.newhopecenter.net).

### Take care of yourself

Mourning after the death of a loved one is exhausting! If you don't take care of yourself, you may feel worse. As difficult as it might be, try to eat right, exercise and don't overcommit. And, you don't have to do everything you've done in the past. Prioritize! Do you really need to put up all those Christmas decorations? How about a tabletop tree instead of the full-sized tree you've always had. Shop on-line, buy gift cards or patronize your local stores rather than going to the mall.

Ask for help! Friends can shop for you, help you decorate ... you just need to ask. And, you don't need to send Christmas cards. People should understand if you don't this year.

### Include your loved one

He was an important part of your life and did exist. Many people will avoid mentioning his name because they don't want to make you feel sad or bring up something that could cause discomfort during this happy season. If you are like most grievers, you want your loved one

to be remembered this holiday season. It's probably going to be up to you to make sure that happens. Bring his/her name up in conversation. Ask others to share memories or pictures. You could even go around the holiday table and ask people to share a memory. Light a candle in your loved one's memory. Make a donation in his or her memory to your church or charity. Do something because of your loved one.

### Reach out to others

Sometimes just putting the focus on something or someone other than yourself can help you. Maybe you could invite someone to share a holiday meal with you — someone who has no family or has lost their job. You'll be amazed at how good this will make you feel.

I hope that some of these suggestions will help you as you face this holiday season. And hold on to this hope ... eventually you'll face the holiday season with a mild sadness or happiness and anticipation again. You'll remember the good times of holidays past, rather than those early days soon after the death of the one you loved.

Cathy Clough is the founder/executive director of New Hope Center for Grief Support located in Northville. She can be reached at (248) 348-0115 or [cathy@newhopecenter.net](mailto:cathy@newhopecenter.net).

# Enjoy the weekend at a museum, concerts, outdoors

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

A Red Ryder Christmas Story has become a favorite seasonal exhibit at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

It debuted there in 2007, paid a return visit in 2009 and opened again last week for more than a month-long stay.

"We try to change it each time. This is the third time we're doing it but it's pretty popular and it's a perfect match for us," said Elizabeth Kerstens, executive director.

"Plymouth was the home of Daisy."

Daisy Manufacturing Company sold Red Ryder BB guns which are central to the 1983 movie, *A Christmas Story*. In the film, the main character, Ralphie, longs for a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas, but everyone from his parents to a department store Santa warns that he might shoot an eye out with the dangerous toy.

The museum's current exhibit includes both scenes from the film and BB guns on loan from private collections and the museum's own holdings.

Santa Claus also will be on hand from 1-4 p.m. every Saturday before Christmas, beginning Nov. 26.

Diehard fans will notice that the museum exhibit crew has changed some of the vignettes since 2009. The "Santa mountain," part of a department store scene, was eliminated this year and toys displayed in the store's window are different. But many favorite scenes have returned.

"You can't do the exhibit without having Flick and his tongue (trazer).

on a pole," Kerstens said. "And Scott Farkus, the mean guy. We've got a mannequin that looks just like him."

One of her favorite displays shows Ralphie dressed in a bunny suit on Christmas morning.

"One of the things that is so captivating about this exhibit is the way we have it set up. It's warm and cozy. It's a feel good type of thing. We have the lights dimmed and red and green outdoor bulbs strung across Main Street. It looks a lot like the Main Street in the movie."

The Museum is open 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday-Sunday. It's located at 155 S. Main Street, just north of downtown Plymouth. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17; (734) 455-8940.

Looking for other fun family destinations this weekend? Here's a sampling:

- The Santaland Parade starts at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 26, at Garden City High School and travels south on Middlebelt to Ford Road, travelling east to the City Town Center parking lot. Who can resist the bands, floats, and hot chocolate afterwards?

- Billy Ray Bauer and Richard Bart present "Laughter on the Night After," a night of comedy, magic and music for all ages, 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Great Lakes Burn Camp. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, students and youth.

- Kensington Metropolitan Golf & Country Club, 15500 Kensington Road, Canton, 7-6 p.m. Nov. 25-26.

gram for kids, 7-15, who want to learn more about farm life, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25. The fee is \$30 per child. Participants will work alongside farmers cleaning stalls, feeding animals and working on other daily or seasonal chores.

Reservations are necessary. Call (248) 684-8632 or (800) 477-3178.

- Families will flip for The National Acrobats of The People's Republic of China, 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25 at Music Hall, 350 Madison, Detroit. See incredible feats of balance, strength and flexibility. Tickets are \$30, \$40 and \$30. Call (313) 887-8501.

- Gemini — San and Laz Slomovits — play instruments galore and sing funny and sweet songs for the whole family, 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27, at The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$10; [www.theark.org](http://www.theark.org). Their Thanksgiving concert has benefited Mott Children's Hospital since 1994.

- Get outdoors and exercise off the turkey leftovers with Hiking Michigan, an organization that arranges hikes and snowshoe walks throughout southeastern Michigan. The next walk is noon-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27 in the Highland Recreation Area, 3240 Highland Road, White Lake. The Department of Natural Resources \$10 annual passport is required. The group will explore remains of Edsel and Eleanor Ford's old estate, as well as visit the Haven Hill Natural area on the north side of the lake created by the Ford's dam. The hike is dog-friendly and child-friendly. For information call (866) 446-6300 or visit [www.hikingmichigan.org](http://www.hikingmichigan.org).

That is until she had her wish granted by Brookdale Senior Living and



Grand Court Novi resident Beatrice Rutkowski (seated right) had her wish to see her family in Arizona — including two great-grandchildren she had never met — granted last month by Jeremy Bloom's Wish of a Lifetime.

# A wish come true

## Woman takes trip to see family in Arizona

By Nathan Mueller  
Staff Writer

Beatrice Rutkowski had nearly given up hope on being able to get on an airplane and travel to Arizona to see her son and the rest of the family.

She had only been there twice in the last 10 years — after going almost every year prior — because of her battle with Parkinson's Disease. And while she yearned to see the great-grandchildren she had never met but heard a lot about, Rutkowski seemed destined to just get to hear their voices on the phone and see pictures.

That is until she had her wish granted by Brookdale Senior Living and

Jeremy Bloom's Wish of a Lifetime, a senior nonprofit focused on granting life-enriching wishes to older Americans.

Rutkowski, who lives at Grand Court Novi, took the trip in early October and still cannot stop thinking about it.

"I had a great time," she said. "I didn't have any cares or worries in the world. I felt so rejuvenated."

Flying was going to be her biggest obstacle, but thanks to the help of her daughter, Mary Dillenbeck-Bondie, it was a breeze.

She said when she pulled up at her family's house everyone came running out to see her, including the two great-

grandchildren she had never met — Kylie and Luke.

Rutkowski, who spent 10 days in Arizona, uses a walker to get around, but said when she was there she didn't even know she had it because "I felt so good."

"It was just so relaxing," she said.

She spent the majority of her time watching the kids play, and was so refreshed by the trip that she wants to make an attempt to return to Arizona in the spring.

"I cannot thank Wish of a Lifetime enough for making this happen for me," she said.

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Attorneys J.B. Bleske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear themselves at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bleske has written a book for attorneys about the subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bleske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bleske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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# Metro Detroit Pet Expo



Former Detroit Tigers pitcher Milt Wilcox had his "AirDogs" showing off their leaping abilities at the Nov. 18 show in Novi. This black Labrador jumps into the water after a toy — as he warms up for a show later that day.



Melissa Morrison, with the Midwest Dachshund Group, checks out some little buddies on Nov. 18 at the Metro Detroit Pet Expo at Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace.



Attendees of the Nov. 18 show check out pet supplies for sale by some of the vendors in attendance.



There were plenty of opportunities to adopt pets at the Metro Detroit Pet Expo — like these little furry guys from the Livingston County Animal Shelter.



Steve Pfafhan, with the Rainbow Feathers bird group, talks to his buddy — an African gray parrot — during the Nov. 18 Metro Detroit Pet Expo.



Mike Kucher checks out a kitten up for adoption from the Livingston County Animal Shelter.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Nice needlers



Members of the Novi Needlers quilting group (above) gathers on Sept. 28 to admire the work of Norma Anderson, center. The group donated 380 quilts last year to groups like the Ann Arbor Veteran's Administration Hospital, Sinai Grace Hospital, Catholic Social Services, and Providence Park Hospital Novi. Also pictured are (from left) Janet Bickner, Cathy Grieshaber, Carol Gatrell and Marianne Schmid. The group meets twice a month, on the second and fourth Wednesday at the center on Meadowbrook Road. A member of the Novi Needlers group (right) works on attaching a label to a finished product during their Sept. 28 meeting.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## NUTCRACKER

Continued from page A9

Claus," Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 8-11 in The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road. Performance times vary. Tickets are \$10. Call (734) 394-5300 or visit [www.spotlightplayersmi.org](http://www.spotlightplayersmi.org).

• Plymouth Community Band's Christmas Festival, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16 in the Canton Little Theater, Canton High School, 8415 North Canton Center Road. Admission is free.

• The Nutcracker presented by The Michigan Philharmonic with the Plymouth Canton Ballet Company, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 in Salem High School Auditorium, 46181 Joy Road. Tickets \$15-\$20; call (734) 451-2112 or visit [www.michiganphil.org](http://www.michiganphil.org) or [www.plymouthcantonballet.org](http://www.plymouthcantonballet.org).

### DEARBORN

• The Nutcracker featuring the Ballet Americana Dance Company with principal dancers from the New York City Ballet and American Ballet Theater, accompanied by the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2 and 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 in the Ford Community and Performing Arts Theater, 15801 Michigan Ave. Tickets from \$15-\$26. Call (313) 943-2350 or visit [www.dearborntheater.com](http://www.dearborntheater.com).

### FARMINGTON

• Excerpts from The Nutcracker LIVE performed by the Positive Attitude Dance Academy and Curtain Call Dance, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 in

Farmington's Civic Theater, 33332 Grand River Ave. Tickets are \$15; call (248) 476-2099.

• The Most Wonderful Time of the Year concert presented by the Novi Choralaires, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, in the First United Methodist Church of Farmington, 33112 Grand River Ave. Tickets \$10-\$12 at the door.

### FARMINGTON HILLS

• Farmington Community Band's "The Holiday Show," 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 in the Harrison High School Auditorium, 29995 W. 12 Mile. Admission is free.

• Michigan Classic Ballet Company Presents The Nutcracker, 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 in Mercy Auditorium, Mercy High School, 29300 W. 11 Mile. Tickets \$17-\$22; visit [www.michiganclassicballet.org](http://www.michiganclassicballet.org).

### LIVONIA

• Angie Hahn's Academy of Dance presents The Nutcracker at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at Stevenson High School, 33500 Six Mile. Tickets are \$7, available in advance at the studio or at the door. Young audience members can receive sweets and treats after each performance.

• St. Olaf's Christmas Festival LIVE features a live performance of more than 500 musicians performing a Christmas concert on the campus of Minnesota's St. Olaf College, 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 at AMC Livonia 20, 19500 Haggerty, north of Seven Mile. Tickets \$18-\$15. Call (734) 542-3191.

• Livonia Symphony Orchestra presents "Stories of the Season" Christmas Concert, featuring

The Nutcracker excerpts with Angie Hahn's Academy of Dance, along with the Livonia Civic Chorus, 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 in the Louis Schmidt Auditorium, Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt. Tickets are \$5-\$20; call (734) 421-1111 or visit [www.livonia-symphony.org](http://www.livonia-symphony.org).

• The Livonia Civic Chorus presents "Believe," 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18 in Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt. Tickets \$10-\$12; available at Livonia Recreation Center or call (734) 542-907; visit <http://www.livoniacivicchorus.org> for more information.

### NOVI

• Novi Choralaires present "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 in Church of the Holy Family, 24505 Meadowbrook. Tickets are \$10-\$12 at the door.

### NORTHVILLE

• BeckRidge Choral and Orchestra present "Night of Joy," 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 in Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile, Northville Township. Tickets are \$12-\$18 call (888) 459-4887 or visit [www.beckridgechorale.org](http://www.beckridgechorale.org).

### PLYMOUTH

• Michigan Philharmonic presents "Home for the Holidays," a family-friendly concert at 6 p.m. and a traditional concert at 8 p.m., both on Thursday, Dec. 15, in the Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman. Tickets \$10-\$22; call (734) 451-2112.

• Noel Night with the Michigan Philharmonic, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8. Event includes a holiday performance and a chance to socialize with musicians in an intimate setting in a private home. Tickets \$65 per person. Call (734) 451-2112 or visit <http://www.michiganphil.org> for more information.

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All gifts will be given to Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford and Orphans Children Services in Southfield. Methodist Children's Home Society is a 94-year old agency that responds to the needs of abused and neglected children by providing residential, adoption and foster care services. Orphans Children's Services is a 50-year old agency that helps local troubled, abused and neglected children specializing in foster care and adoption.

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Remember your loved ones that you've lost by placing a special holiday remembrance tribute for the holidays. The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly Newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for the holidays. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of loved ones who hold a special place in your heart.

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# Passages

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## BLUGA, IRENE C.

Age 79, of South Lyon, passed away 11/17/2011. Funeral service was held 11/19. Donations to American Diabetes Assoc. or Alzheimer's Assoc. Arrangements by Casterline Funeral Home, Inc.

## DEES, DAVID A.

Traverse Rest, SC. David Andrew Dees, 70, passed away at his home on Saturday morning, November 19, 2011. Born in Millard, Michigan, he was the son of the late George and Goddette Priestley Dees. Surviving are his wife of 48 years, Alice Smith Dees, son: James (Liz) Dees; daughter: Kimberly (Robert) Russell; sisters: Goldwyn, Shirley McFarlane, Rose (Ron) Colegrove, Crystal Eversole and her late husband Ken; 3 brothers: Daniel (Lucy) Dees; Roger (Brandi) Dees and Byron Dees; 7 grandchildren: Rob Miller, Melinda Miller, Jamie Dees, Courtney Hottelinger, Jackie Ryals, Virginia Fletcher, Jennifer Owens and 8 great-grandchildren. Besides his parents, he was also predeceased by a brother, Paul Shoottotum. A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, November 22, at 2 p.m. at The Howze Mortuary Chapel with visitation one hour prior to the service. Memorials may be made to Piedmont Hospice, 1665 E. Main St., Suite F, Duncan, SC 29334. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.thehowzemortuary.com. The Howze Mortuary, Traverses Rest, is in charge of the arrangements. (854) 834-8051.

## FERGUSON, DON

Went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, November 9, 2011. Age 84. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife Shirley Ferguson, daughter, Sue Hoell, husband George, Tammy Bingham, husband Ed, 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren, all of High Point, NC.

## GILBERT, MARY

Age 97, passed away October 12, 2011. She was born on February 11, 1914 in Canada, daughter of the late John and Ella Reinhard. She is survived by her loving children, Norma Kolotko, Linda Corn, Donald (Roma) Ayers and Shirley Vokes. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husbands: Harry B. Ayers, Russell C. Gilbert, her son Henry Ayers in 1938 and her son-in-law Richard Garst in 1993 and Walter Kolotko in 2010. A memorial service will be held December 3, Saturday, at 11:00 a.m. at the Fellowship Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 22200 Fenwick Trail, South Lyon. Arrangements entrusted to Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

## MAHAR, SAMUEL A. "SAM"

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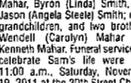
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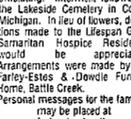
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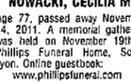
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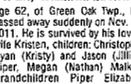
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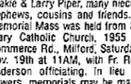
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CECILIA M. NOWACKI



WILLIAM EDWARD PIPHER



ROBERT C. KETTERER



MARIAN L. SHERLITZ



Members from six area Chambers of Commerce gather around a 2013 Ford C-MAX Hybrid at the second annual Hines Park Ford networking breakfast to welcome the 2011 holiday season. Also pictured is Amy Machesney, C-Max Hybrid marketing manager for Ford Motor Co.

# Chambers event boosts Meals on Wheels program

By Aileen Wingblad  
Staff writer

As the population of seniors continues to grow, so does that group's collective needs. One of the most basic, proper nutrition, heads Christina Lovgren's daily challenges.

As director of Western Oakland Meals on Wheels, Lovgren is part of the team working to bring balanced lunches to the home-bound, those whose age or disabilities stop them from cooking, grocery shopping or getting out to restaurants. But to make that happen, Lovgren deals with yet another daily challenge — spreading awareness about what keeps the service organization running.

"The biggest thing about Meals on Wheels that people don't know is they think it's all government-funded, which is far from the truth," she said. Federal dollars play a major role, accounting for about 45 percent of the costs to run Meals on Wheels. And clients are asked to contribute \$3 per meal, but on average pay just \$1.72, she said.

Fundraisers help fill the gap, but if there's a deficit, the program acquires "waiting list status" — which recently has happened with the Western Oakland chapter, Lovgren said. That means there are times when clients have to be turned away, she explained.

Days ago, Lovgren reached out to about 150 professionals affiliated with six area chambers of commerce — the Novi Chamber of Commerce among them — as featured speaker at the second annual Hines Park Ford networking breakfast to welcome the 2011 holiday season. The event at the Lyon Township dealership brought in a \$1,495 donation to Meals on Wheels — including a \$750 contribution from Hines Park Ford — drawing an emotional response from Lovgren.

"Thank you, thank you. I could cry," she said. "It's so important to spread the word that we need help, and I do so much appreciate (the donation) because we can't do it ourselves."

Of course, there's more to know about Meals on Wheels than its financial state, Lovgren added. Many don't realize the program is needs-based, rather than income-based, and that 25 percent of the program's clients are age 65 or older. Along with the "booming trend" of people living longer comes an increase in the need for volunteer drivers, she said.

Lovgren urges anyone with some extra time to consider spending some of it delivering Meals on Wheels. "Take a ride with me, and in one hour we will make a difference," she said. "It really takes very little to make a difference."

Millford residents Denise and Lyle Tyler have both served as volunteer drivers, including on Thanksgiving Day in past years. "We're lucky to have the programs," Denise Tyler agreed. "It certainly is meeting a need in our community," he said.

Lovgren said it's important to keep in mind that "we actually have senior hunger in America. That's a sad fact," she said. Meals on Wheels helps many seniors to "age in place," she noted, so they can stay in their own homes longer. And along with the meal delivery comes a brief but friendly visit — someone to check up on them. For many seniors, it's the only socializing they do, she said.

"We act as a kind of safety net. And if we have to make (an emergency) call for help, we do. It has happened many times." Meals on Wheels (clients) could be your next door neighbor; it could be your mom or dad, it could be you," Lovgren said. "People might want to think about that sometime."

Christina Bell, a member of the Novi Chamber of Commerce, said she was pleased to know the networking breakfast was resulting in a sizeable donation to Meals on Wheels. "I'm happy to hear that's where the money is going," she said. "I've heard a bit about (Meals on Wheels), and I've known people in the community who have done the (delivery) routes."

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# Overnight movie lock-in raises drug awareness

Area food bank benefits from food drive

By Nathan Mueller  
Staff writer

More than 400 Novi and Northville students became addicts on Nov. 7. But it was for a good reason. The students were part of the annual "Addicted to Movies, Not Drugs" overnight movie marathon and drug awareness campaign put on by the Novi Public Safety Department and Imagine Entertainment. Students were required to bring a food item with them to donate to an area food bank, and had free run of the Imagine Theater in Novi for the night.

Angela Huang, a senior at Novi High School and co-chair of the event through Novi Youth Assistance, said she hopes the students who attended get the realization you can "be cool and have fun without having to do drugs." "Part of the reason why students turn to drugs is because they have a hard time dealing with other issues or they are bored," she said. "Through this they can find out they have a whole network of friends and fellow high school students who share their belief that there is more out there than drugs."

Sheryl Walsh, communications director for the city of Novi, said it was the most organized and well-behaved group she has seen in the seven years the city has put on the event. "It went awesome," she said. "The kids love being around the police officers and firefighters and it's a great opportunity for them." Huang said while the event was a lot of fun, Novi Youth Assistance is looking at making some changes for the upcoming years. "Hopefully, in future we can place more of emphasis on drugs and prevention," she said.



(From left) Rubini Naidu, Novi police officer Shawn Penzak, Francesca Sovis and Amber Staudt pose for a picture at the annual Addicted to Movies Not Drugs program at the Imagine Theater in Novi.

# Your Invitation to Worship

<b>Brighton</b> <b>LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 5061 Pleasant Valley Road • Brighton, MI 48114 313-227-7113 9:30 a.m. Communion Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School Rev. Dale Holstad, Pastor www.lordoflifechurch.com	<b>Milford</b> <b>CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> Church Offices: 2400 Grand Blvd Regular Sunday Service: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Junior League: 10:30 a.m. Monday Evening: 7:00 p.m. The Rev. Richard E. Ripa, Pastor www.christlutheran.org	<b>Novi</b> <b>ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 48325 10 Mile Rd. • Novi, MI 48274 248-348-7777 Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Rev. George G. Chappin, Pastor Parish Office: 317-7778	<b>NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 4111 W. Main Road • Novi, MI 48275 Sunday Worship: 8:45 a.m. Rev. John M. Smith, Pastor 248-348-5622 www.umcnovi.org	<b>CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY</b> 2450 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48275 Saturday: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. Fr. Michael Zwick, Associate Pastor Parish Office: 348-8857 www.holyfamily.org
<b>HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 4111 W. Main Road • Novi, MI 48275 248-348-5622 Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Rev. John M. Smith, Pastor Parish Office: 317-7778	<b>FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD</b> 11300 Westwood Dr., Milford, MI 48065 Pastor: Dennis J. Smith Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. 248-348-7777 • www.fbfm.org	<b>FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 48400 W. 10 Mile, Novi, MI 48275 248-348-7777 • www.fcmno.org WDRSP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10 AM "Children, Youth and Adult Ministries"	<b>CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY</b> 2450 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48275 Saturday: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. Sunday: 8:30 a.m.,	

OUR VIEWS

## Give thanks, act locally

### Be grateful for family, friends, love

Each year always brings plenty of reasons to give thanks as we begin the holiday cycle. This Thanksgiving is no exception, but with a little reflection on what's really important, giving thanks can become more than a once-a-year opportunity.

Don't worry if the Lions lose the game on Thanksgiving. Be thankful that we have a great sports town, including Novi youth leagues.

Overlook that remark from Cousin Don at Thanksgiving dinner. At least all the relatives brought a dish to pass.

And relax, it's OK that the TV is on. The Thanksgiving Parade will be a joy to watch.

Finding the little things to be grateful for all year long helps to offer balance when some bigger things, like losing a job, seem to consume all too many waking thoughts, especially during the holidays.

For some area residents, however, even the little things are difficult to find. These are the people we may have compassionately referred to in the past as the down-and-out — those who are down on their resources, emotionally and fiscally, and out of work and maybe out of their homes.

Those were the folks that, years ago, we heard about but didn't know. Now, they're the neighbor next door. Need has a face; maybe it's the one staring back at you in the mirror.

This year, let your prayer of thanksgiving at Thursday's dinner table be more than a recitation of what is good in your life. Let it become a call to action. Invite the neighbor over to share your meal, or walk off the meal, carrying a treat with you that someone just may not be able to afford this year.

Find a little something your neighbor may need, and remember it while supporting your neighborhood merchants and shopping at your local grocer, specialty stores or department store.

Sometimes it is easier to make a donation than to get involved during the holidays. Go ahead, make that donation to a program like Bridgepointe. But don't stop there — getting involved with a church or other civic group to help those in need is a priceless gift.

Soon the Thanksgiving leftovers will be parceled out, and the dishes put away. Don't store up those reasons to be grateful until next year. Remember them when a child at your kid's school can't afford to buy a book during the annual book fair. Recall them when a shopper comes up short while checking out at the grocery store.

And be grateful that local merchants have taken risks and ridden out the recession. Support them year 'round as well.

So enjoy the game and watch the parade, but make the day — and the season — one of sharing and caring.

### What are you thankful for?



"I'm thankful for being (at Meadowbrook Commons) for 10 years and the friendships I have made."  
**Ann Risto**  
Novi



"I am thankful for my mother Bella Rodgers."  
**Patricia Small**



"I am thankful to have my grandmother still alive at 48 years old."  
**Michelle Kaloustian**



"I am thankful for my health."  
**Helene Meizler**  
Novi



"Breathing. Being alive."  
**Russell Rockentine**  
Novi



"I'm thankful to be alive, for my family and friends and that I can still volunteer at the Novi Senior Center."  
**Florence Baptist**  
Novi



"I'm thankful for everything that's good in my life — everything good that I'm touched by."  
**Velda Clark**  
Novi



"I'm so thankful that I have seven healthy children and that I'm here among friends. The Lord has been good to me."  
**Lauretta Heaphy**  
Novi

LETTERS

#### Letter to editor

I am honored and humbled to have been elected Nov. 8 to a new four-year term on the Novi City Council by the residents of Novi. I would like to thank all those who voted for me, and I appreciate their confidence in my abilities to help lead Novi into the future.

I would also like to thank all those who supported me and my campaign during the election process. I greatly appreciate it. Without your encouragement, help and support, my election to City Council would not have been possible.

I look forward to serving all the residents and businesses of Novi during the next four years to ensure Novi continues to be the kind of community we are proud to call home.

If there is every anything I can do to assist you in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Once again, thank you very much for your support.

**Wayne M. Wrobel**  
Novi City Council

#### Inside|Out kudos

On behalf of the Detroit Institute of Arts, I want to personally thank the residents of Novi for their enthusiastic support of our Inside|Out program, which this past summer brought reproductions of DIA masterpieces into the community.

Inside|Out brings a taste of the museum's outstanding collection into metro Detroit businesses, parks and libraries and offers the opportunity for people to engage with art where they live, work and play. It's been a pleasure working with venues across the region to develop activi-

#### 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: [csstore@gannett.com](mailto:csstore@gannett.com)

Read or comment online: [www.hometownlife.com](http://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](http://www.hometownlife.com).

ties that complement these displays, including bus tours, talks at local libraries, bike tours and online photo contests.

We invite you to visit the DIA to see the originals of the works displayed in Novi, and you can continue to explore inside|Out through November in these new locations: Birmingham, Armada, Detroit (Eastern Market, Riverfront and Dequindre Cut), Holly, Milford, Warren, Lake Orion, Oxford, Belleville and Macomb Township and look for more in 2012 and 2013.

We believe art is for everyone, whether seen in a museum or on the street. Thank you again for making Inside|Out in your community a success.

**Graham W. J. Beal**  
director, Detroit Institute of Arts

#### Get Kowall out of office

As a resident of South Lyon and a constituent of state Sen. Mike Kowall, I have a message for my fellow con-

stituents: we need get him out of office. Sen. Kowall's recent decision to stop a vote on the new international bridge is simply reprehensible and could kill the bridge proposal.

That proposed bridge would not only provide a direct jobs boost for Michiganders, but would provide \$2.2 billion in additional federal infrastructure funding for Michigan. The bridge would provide a much improved corridor for transporting goods to and from our biggest international trading partner, Canada. GM, Ford and Chrysler want the bridge. Oakland County and Wayne County want the bridge. Gov. Snyder wants the bridge, the federal government wants the bridge for improved homeland security and the people of Michigan need the bridge. The only person who really does not want the bridge is Matty Moroun, the owner of the Ambassador Bridge. Mr. Moroun and his minions have lied about the bridge and continue to obstruct the better good. So why did Sen. Kowall prevent a vote on the bridge? This can only be explained in two ways:

Sen. Kowall has his hands in Matty Moroun's pockets, and/or Sen. Kowall has so bought into the Republican tactic of obstructionism that he would choose to harm his constituents rather than do what is right.

In either case, we need to ask ourselves whether we want this kind of governance. We need to stop this destructive behavior and vote Mr. Kowall out of office at the next election.

**Steven Hoin**  
South Lyon

## A 'Friend'ly gesture

### Volunteer group donates \$30,000 to Novi library

By Nathan Mueller  
Staff Writer

It's a good thing to have friends. At least that is what Novi Public Library Director Julie Farkas has to be thinking after the Friends of the Novi Public Library donated a \$30,000 check to the library last week.

It was the largest one-time gift the volunteer organization has ever given, and is a by-product of the library's success since opening the new building. The group also donated \$15,000 to the library earlier this year.

"It's just a really good feeling to be able to do this," said Friends President Pat Brunett. "And what is surprising is it's earned almost a dollar

*"It's just a really good feeling to be able to do this."*

**PAT BRUNETT**  
Friends of the Library president

at a time." What Brunett means by that is that the majority of the money raised by the Friends is through book sales at the Book Nook inside the library. Most books cost about \$1, with some priced at 50 cents and others a little bit higher.

Farkas said the donation is "huge" and will help the library in many ways. "We are delighted," she said. "This is a wonderful gift."

The \$30,000 donation was split up into three

\$10,000 increments. One part will be used for library wish list items, another for items outside the budget that Farkas feels are needed and the last part for items the Friends want the library to purchase, such as technology or funding for a program. "It's really nice to have that flexibility," Farkas said.

The Friends group is made up of over 500 members, and Brunett said they are always looking for more. Membership is \$10 for an individual at \$15 for a family regardless of size.

For more information, visit [www.novilibrary.org](http://www.novilibrary.org).

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



(From left) Novi Public Library Board President Larry Kilgore, Friends of the Novi Public Library member Jim McLean and library director Julie Farkas stand with the \$30,000 check donated to the library by the volunteer Friends group.

## SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

NOV 26

### Michigan Made Art and Jewelry

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796 North Mill Street in Plymouth's Old Village

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November 26, 2011

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Sunday 12-5pm

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## NOVI NEWS

A GANNETT COMPANY

Cal Stone, Community Editor  
Susan Rosiek, Executive Editor

Grace Perry, Director of Advertising



**NOVI POLICE BRIEFS**

**Purse stolen, credit cards used**

A woman had her purse stolen on Nov. 12 at Bonefish Grill and the suspect later used her credit cards and debit card to make nearly \$4,000 in purchases. According to the report, the woman had her purse hanging off the chair throughout the night but did not know when her wallet was taken. She also didn't find out about the fraudulent purchase until the next day. The woman's purse contained three credit cards and a debit card, and the suspect used them at CVS and Target, neither of which was in Novi. Police have no suspects at this time.

**Woman steals from Kohl's**

Novi police arrested a 48-year-old woman for stealing after she was caught taking several items from Kohl's

on Nov. 10.

According to the police report, the loss prevention officer at the store saw her take a watch and remove the tag from it and go through the checkout line without paying for it. She also had a pair of boots in the bottom of her cart she didn't pay for. She was stopped once she exited the store, and she admitted to stealing the boots, watch, another pair of shoes and various other items totaling \$422. She said she did it because of financial conditions and wanting to have gifts for her family.

**Elderly man arrested for stealing**

An 87-year-old man was arrested for stealing from JC Penney on Nov. 12 after he was caught putting a necklace in his pants pocket. According to the police report, the man was seen on camera taking the

necklace off the display rack before putting it in his pocket and walking toward the exit. He looked at the overhead cameras for a few minutes before exiting the store, and then was stopped by the store's loss prevention officer. He told police he couldn't believe he did such a stupid thing, and was then arrested before going to the Novi Police Department for processing. The case has been forwarded to the prosecutor's office for review.

**Two cars broken into at Lifetime**

Two women had their wallets stolen from their cars while they worked out at Lifetime Fitness on Nov. 14. According to police, the suspects used a punch of some sort to unlock the cars and steal the items. A witness to one of the thefts said she saw two men outside

one of the cars that looked suspicious, but when workers went outside to check they didn't find anyone. Police have no suspects at this time.

**Wallet taken from locker at Bally's**

A man had his wallet stolen from out of his locked locker while he worked out at Bally's Total Fitness on Nov. 10. According to the police report, the man locked his locker and had the key on him while he worked out, but when he returned to the locker room his locker was open and several items were missing including his wallet. The wallet contained three debit cards a credit card and other personal information. The case has been forwarded to the detective's bureau for further review.

— Compiled by staff writer Nathan Mueller

**Roll out the red carpet for movie premiere**

If you want it produced, they will come -- to Michigan, that is. When the Hallmark Hall of Fame wanted to make Mitch Albom's New York Times best-selling book *Have a Little Faith* into a made-for-TV movie to air on ABC and the Hallmark Channel, Albom said it had to be on his terms. Instead of populating a ritzy board room in Hollywood, Albom insisted that the powers-that-be come to Albom's beloved turf -- Detroit. And even more beloved, he had them come to the central "character" of the book (and the eventual catalyst for the formation of



(From the left) Actresses Deanna Dunagan (who plays Rabbi Lewis' wife, Sarah) and Melinda McGraw (who plays Mitch Albom's wife, Janine Sabino) and Novis residents Joe and Sharon Wenzel and Tony Award winner Anika Noni Rose (who plays Pastor Henry Covington's wife, Annette). They met Senior Pastor Henry Covington, who is



(From the left) Novis residents Rhonda and John Wright and Jeanne and Jeff Edwards. The Hallmark Hall of Fame production of *Have a Little Faith* will air on ABC, WXYZ-TV, at 9 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27. The film will also air the week of Dec. 4 on the Hallmark Channel. The gala was held at the Emagine Theatre in Royal Oak and raised \$60,000 for the Rabbi Albert Lewis Fund and the A Hole in the Roof Foundation, founded by Albom. Both charities are associated with the two heroes in Albom's non-fiction book -- Rabbi Albert Lewis (Academy Award winner Martin Landau) and Covington.

portrayed by Laurence Fishburne. Covington died last Dec. at the age of 53. His widow, Annette Covington, who is portrayed by Tony Award-

winner Anika Noni Rose, attended the VIP Charity Red Carpet Premiere with all of the stars from the movie.

**COOL YULE SCHEDULE**

**Around Town**

10 - 4 pm: Christmas in the Country Craft Show (South Lyon High School, 1000 N. Lafayette) Admission is \$3 or \$2 with a can of food for Active Faith.  
11 am: Candy Cane Hunt (McHattie Park) Pre-register by Nov. 28 for \$3. On-site registration is \$5. Please be on time and bring a bag for your goodies.  
Ages 3 - 5: (11 am - 11:15 am)  
Ages 6 - 9: (11:15 am - 11:30 am)  
Ages 10 - 12: (11:30 am - 11:45 am)  
Call (248) 437-8105 or www.slrec.net to register.  
Sponsored by South Lyon Area Recreation Authority, South Lyon Cycle, Beach's and Kumpen Learning Center.  
Noon: Santa Arrives Downtown. Santa will make the rounds throughout downtown. He'll be stopping by to say "hello" to one of his reindeers at South Lyon Cycle.  
Noon - 3 pm: Live Reindeer. Downtown (South Lyon Cycle 209 S. Lafayette)  
Get your picture taken a reindeer from Carousel Acres!  
3 - 5 pm: Christmas Family Fun Event (First United Methodist Church, 640 S. Lafayette) A free event featuring cookie decorating, ornament making, hot chocolate bar, pop corn, hot dogs, music and so much more!  
8 - 8 pm: Christmas Cabaret (VFW Hall, 126 E. McHattie)  
Spaghetti dinner and musical entertainment featuring SLEHS students. Event is from 3-8 pm with dinner served from 4-7 pm.  
Dinner price: \$7/person or \$30/family of 5 or more. \$2 donation if you're just coming for the entertainment -- will get you a delicious cup of hot chocolate!  
9:30 - 8:30 pm: Historic House Tours (The Dunigan's House, 216 E. Lake)  
Donations accepted for South Lyon High School Band Program.

4 & 7 pm: Holiday Movie at the Lyon Theater (126 E. Lake) Get a break from the cold and enjoy a show. "The Muppets" (rated PG) plays at 4 & 7 pm.  
4-5 pm: Bake Sale (St. Joseph Catholic Church, 830 S. Lafayette) will continue on Sunday from 8 am-1 pm.  
5:30 pm: Cool Yule Fun Run Free fun run will lead the parade. Holiday attire and lights are encouraged! Visit www.slrec.com/coolyle for more information.  
Lighted Parade Route goes from Whipple Street, south on Pontiac Trail to Dorothy Street, ending at the Wilch's Hat Depot and Historic Village.  
**Activities at Historic Village 5:30-10 pm**  
The Village Open House (5:30-10 pm) will be held at the Historic House Tours, 216 E. Lake. The open house will feature a variety of activities for all ages. There will be a special gift from Father Christmas. Lighted Parade Route goes from Whipple Street, south on Pontiac Trail to Dorothy Street, ending at the Wilch's Hat Depot and Historic Village.  
Make it in the Kitchen! A "cook-along" event will play beautiful holiday music from 8 pm in the restaurant. Call (248) 437-8105 for more information.

**South Lyon Cool Yule**  
Saturday, December 3rd

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South Lyon High School  
Eleven Mile & Pontiac Trail

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# Three Cedars closes in zoning squabble

By Diane Gale Andreassi  
Staff Writer

Salem Township's regionally popular Three Cedars Country Christmas will be closed this year.

"We have struggled with the decision to cancel Three Cedars Country Christmas, but we feel that is our only option at this time," owner Gary Whittaker wrote in a letter to customers. "The time and energy that we must invest in fighting to preserve our right to operate Three Cedars Farm has prevented us from being able to prepare the farm for Christmas."

The landmark on Six Mile draws families

from throughout Michigan and surrounding states with its cider and doughnuts, corn maze, hayrides, barnyard play area and country store during the fall. In the winter, the farm takes on a Christmas theme.

Whittaker said he and his wife, Sherry, were ordered by the township to cease commercial operations because the land is zoned 100-percent agricultural. Safety issues are also "a major concern," according to Salem Township Supervisor Bob Heyl.

"It's telling him he has to comply with the ordinance," Heyl said. "I don't want to shut him down. I don't think he has to shut down, but we have to make sure it's

safe for the public. As long as he works with us, he can stay open."

Whittaker believes he is protected to do business under the Right to Farm Act and from agricultural tourism guidelines.

"We've been doing this for nine years and now it's a problem?" Whittaker asked.

This year, Three Cedars won't open its Christmas store with wreaths and other holiday decor, Santa Land, visits with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, as well as the sale of cider and doughnuts.

Whittaker said he received a letter this fall from the township about the ordinance issue and other problems. Questions about



Three Cedars owner Gary Whittaker, with his wife, Sherry, said he "struggled with the decision to cancel Three Cedars Country Christmas, but we feel that is our only option at this time."

zoning and building codes were also raised in 2004, Whittaker said, when he received a letter from Salem Township saying officials wanted to walk through the building to check zoning and building codes.

"At that time we were doing hay rides, pumpkins, a corn maze and the candy store," Whittaker said. "If there was a problem then, that's when they should have stopped it."

The business operation has grown since that time "where it is beyond agricultural and into commercial," Heyl said.

"Every year we are inspected by the Salem Township fire department," Whittaker said. "We have complied with and done everything they asked us to do and we have passed every year for safety issues that they might have. We decided that until we can get this resolved,

with the politics in Salem, we have to shut Three Cedars Country Christmas from the harassment and stress we went through during the fall, because we don't know what their intentions are next.

"If they were so concerned about safety, they would have put it in writing or shut us down the day we opened (this year)," he added.

"We've been doing this for nine years and never was there a time I rejected them, or were we unwilling to sit down and talk to them. We have always complied with them."

"Everyone in the township needs to follow zoning laws, Heyl said.

"He has every right to go to the planning commission and ask for rezoning," Whittaker said. "We're not forcing him to shut down. He just needs to stay within compliance or apply for rezoning. When I took office, I took an oath

to uphold the laws of the state and the township. The ordinances of the township I swore to uphold. If you want to do that political, then so be it. I will enforce these fairly."

Whittaker's letter ended with the following: "Some of you are wondering what you can do to help. Please contact the township and express your displeasure with their actions. Please also consider a special gift to Active Faith, 401 S. Washington, South Lyon, 48178. Three Cedars Christmas activities normally support this worthwhile charity. Help us ensure that Active Faith is not detrimentally impacted by the actions of Salem Township officials."

For more information about the farm, go to [www.threecedarsfarm.org](http://www.threecedarsfarm.org).

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# District will share progress, good or bad

By Steve Matthews  
Guest Columnist



Super Talk  
Steve Matthews

As report cards have been sent home in our district during the past few weeks, I remembered a time in my life when I was just a bit nervous about showing my parents my report card.

I was rarely an all "A" student but I always received "A's" and "B's." Except for one quarter in 10th grade when I clearly remember earning a "D" in Algebra II.

After I received my report card, I had three problems. First, my parents had let me know that getting good grades was not just encouraged, it was expected. So when I received a "D" I knew I was going to be in trouble.

The second problem was my sister. She was two years older than me and had a habit of earning all "A's" on a fairly regular basis. She set the bar way too high for her younger brother.

And the third problem was that my parents were teachers so they knew when report cards were distributed at school. In my high school, the administration gave report cards to students during first hour and expected everyone to take them home to their parents. (What were they thinking?) It was not a mystery to my parents when they should expect to see report cards.

After I received my report card with my "D" I had to come up with a plan. The best plan I could come up with was really not a very good plan at all. I told my parents the school forgot to hand out the report cards. My parents were understanding and worked for the district so they accepted that there was a chance that this had happened.

Every time my parents asked, I told them the school still had not handed out report cards. Looking back, I can see that

my parents knew something was up. Remember my sister — she had already handed over her report card. But, bless my parents' hearts, they were letting me figure out a way to tell them that I had blown it.

Finally my father let me know he was aware report cards had been handed out. So I went in my room, took the report card out from between my mattresses, walked into the kitchen, and laid it on the table. I promptly left the kitchen, and was just as promptly called back by my mother.

They asked about my grade in Algebra II. I let them know that the class was really hard, that most of my friends had received similar grades, and that they should be proud of me for trying so hard.

They listened and then let me know that they didn't care what grades other students earned, they wanted me to do better. They also told me they didn't think I was working all that hard because they had never seen the Algebra II book come home with me. They told me that I could do better and that I better start right away.

In our district we have created four district goals: Goal one focuses on ensuring that all students make no less than one year's growth in one year's time. Goal two states that all students will achieve at a high level. Goal three identifies that we want to enhance educational opportunities for students while managing our budget wisely. Goal four focuses our efforts on improving organizational quality and customer service. An important part of

these goals is reporting back to our stakeholders on how we are doing. As we work toward achieving these goals, my promise is that we will share with you the progress we are making. I am proud of the people who work in our district and their commitment to the students that we serve.

There may be times when progress is slower than what I would like, but we will keep working hard to achieve these goals and meet the needs of our students. A report card on or progress will be a regular part of the communication that you receive from our district.

Our employees understand we are judged by whether we can demonstrate that our students have learned. While we are in a great position, there is work to do to make sure that all of our students are successful and will be prepared as they leave high school.

All of us who work for the district are committed to making sure that each and every student makes progress every year. With that kind of commitment, report card grades will not be nearly as scary as they were when I was in the 10th grade.

By the way, my grade the next quarter in Algebra II was an "A." Perhaps that justified my parents' belief that I had not worked very hard the quarter before.

Steve Matthews is the superintendent of the Novi Community Schools District. He can be reached at [smatthews@novi.k12.mi.us](mailto:smatthews@novi.k12.mi.us); (248) 437-1204; [www.twitter.com/dvccsmatthews](http://www.twitter.com/dvccsmatthews); or [www.novisuperintendent.blogspot.com](http://www.novisuperintendent.blogspot.com).



Nicole Utterbeck puts her art skills to work prior to the disaster drill while applying an artificial abrasion to Jaisy Matthew face.

# Students explore career facing emergencies

Novi High School's Medical Careers Exploration class acted as victims in a school shooting in a school shooting at Providence Park, Oct. 25.



A Providence Park Associate checks Alex Raean's pulse while lying in a stretcher stabilizing any possible serious injuries.

The high school has a partnership with the Providence Park that allows a group of students to travel weekly to the hospital, visiting a different department every week. The students had to act as if there were a shooting at their school, leaving many frantic and anxious or even wounded and unable to walk on their own.

The students had numerous artificial wounds placed on their body by some of the IB Art students in the school. Entering the drill, Providence Park requested to have the students looking and acting as realistic to the plot as possible.

Kids were given a situation that correlated with their visible injury and had to act on their pain. People that were not made victims were given roles of family members or friends and were instructed to call into the hospital to be transferred to the emergency department, checking on their loved ones.

"Some students were

taken on stretchers, in ambulances to the emergency room, while others walked in as a group. Upon entering the ER, two of the students worked on getting registered with the front desk, while the others were taken straight back and put in to separate rooms. At that time, the nurses went door to door getting information from the students to get them registered as well as to find out their physical pain and injury.

The Providence Park associates were calm and efficient at making sure the students felt as comfortable as possible. After getting the proper treatment,

the students were then bandaged up and ready to leave the Emergency rooms.

Following the drill, the students were given the opportunity to talk to Darlene Ephriam, Director at Providence Park Hospital, who puts about four weeks of preparation into a drill of this size.

"We do this drill several times a year to ensure that our staff is ready and organized in case a true disaster were to occur," Ephriam said.

— Submitted by Shelby Henley, a senior in Novi High School's Medical Career Explorations course.

## NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

(... awkward pause)

The Novi High School social issue group — (... awkward pause) — puts on shows for each class senior, junior, sophomore and freshman, and for the general public throughout the year. Talking about the issues that everyone knows about but they are just too scared to actually say, their goal is to provide thought provoking theatre. They tackle issues that students face day to day: too much school work, pressure from parents, and friends/peer pressure. The troupe will be having their second performance of the 2011-12 school year at 7 p.m. Dec. 1 in the Black Box of the High School for \$2 admission.

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# SPORTS

**CAL STONE, EDITOR**  
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CC students rush the field and celebrate victory with players after the Shamrock's overtime victory Saturday.

## Shamrocks advance to state finals against Cass Tech

By Sam Eggleston  
 Correspondent

It will just be the second time the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks and the Detroit Cass Tech Technicians have ever played, but it is likely going to be a game for the ages.

The Technicians and the Shamrocks last saw one another in the 2000 playoffs when they met on the gridiron in the regional championship game. Then, over a decade ago, Tom Mach led his Shamrocks to a 30-6 victory.

This year, only the Technicians—a defensive-minded squad in the same vein as the Shamrocks—stand between the Catholic Central gridgers and their thirst for a state championship.

Last week, while the Shamrocks were using a passing attack to win their berth to the finals, the Technicians were using stout defense—an understatement in the eyes of most pundits. The Detroit-based squad beat a powerful Utica Eisenhower offense by holding it to just one field goal on their way to a 6-3 victory.

For football fans, this may not be the most high-scoring affair, but it is an interesting showcase of two defensive-focused squads meeting in the trenches of the biggest game of their high school careers. Only one team, as they say, will finish the Division I playoffs with a victory.

In order to defeat Cass Tech, the Shamrocks will have to keep their bag of tricks open and on hand throughout the contest. They proved last week they are not afraid to air the ball out if they need to, though it may be their ability to pound the ball behind one of the state's best offensive lines that will make the difference.

Cass Tech will be looking to shut down the Shamrock offense by using their swarm defensive tactics—their speed truly allows them to close up holes almost as soon as

## CC wins fight for Ford Field

### Shamrocks edge Rockford in OT, 23-20

By Ed Wright  
 Observer Staff Writer

As the sixth play of overtime unfolded during Saturday's Division I semifinal football game between Novi Detroit Catholic Central and Rockford, the stands were jam-packed with thousands of fans, the sidelines were crowded with hundreds of players and the north end zone of Battle Creek's C.W. Post Field was filled with several defensive backs shadowing potential Shamrock receivers.

But Catholic Central running Anthony Darkangelo was all...by...himself. And for that, the Rams paid dearly. With his team trailing Rockford, 20-17, and facing a second-and-goal at the Ram 7, Darkangelo slipped out of the Shamrocks' backfield like a thief in the night, and with the closest Ram five yards away, hauled in Kyle Cooper's soft spiral in the north end zone of Battle Creek Central's C.W. Post Field to put the hammer down on CC's dramatic 23-20 victory.

The 12-1 Shamrocks earned a berth in Saturday's Division I final against Detroit Cass Tech (10-3), which upended Utica Eisenhower, 6-3. Rockford finished 11-2 after getting knocked out in a semifinal nail-biter for the second consecutive year. "The play is called 35 Wham and I wasn't the primary receiver," Darkangelo said, moments after he was mobbed by a mass of jubilant teammates. "It's supposed to go to our tight end, but I was wide open so Kyle

Please see SHAMROCKS, B4

Please see PREVIEW, B2

## Wilson named new Novi athletic director

### Gaylord AD to take helm of Wildcats' program

By Chris Jackett  
 Correspondent

Following a two-month search, Novi High School has a new athletic director in Christian Wilson.

After spending the past decade at Gaylord High School in Gaylord, Wilson, 44, expects to take the reins from Interim Athletic Director Julie Fisette Nov. 28. Fisette has held down the fort since Curt Ellis resigned from the athletic director position Sept. 15 to take the executive director of Human Resources job with Saline Area Schools, the district he grew up in and currently resides in.

"I'm real fortunate with what Curt Ellis did at the Novi program, and also what Julie Fisette did in the interim," Wilson said. "I'm just really excited about the opportunity."

A native of Chassell, located on the southern outskirts of Houghton in the Upper Peninsula, Wilson graduated from Northern Michigan University in 1992 and has educated youths at schools in three different states. Wilson has worked at schools in Wisconsin; Mountain Glead, Ohio, near Columbus; and also coached 3 men's basket-

ball at Michigan Tech and Western Michigan universities for three years apiece.

"When we were at Western in 1998, we won the MAC and upset Clemson in the NCAA tournament," Wilson said.

Since July 2002, Wilson has called Gaylord home. He spent four years as Gaylord High's athletic director, four as the assistant principal and the past two in a dual role performing both positions.

"They're two very demanding jobs," Wilson said. "To be effective, you really have to be a master of time management. You really have to make people feel like they're the only person in the world."

Although Gaylord's student population is roughly half of the 2,000 students at Novi, the former Blue Devil expects his experiences up north to make a smooth transition into his role as a Wildcat.

"I think it'll help me out tremendously, helping build relationships with coaches and the community," Wilson said. "We have many of the same sports they have at Novi. We've hosted pretty much every MHSAA tournament and a number of tournaments."

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Administrative Services Bonnie Lobert said Wilson's experiences both at Gaylord and in the

Please see WILSON, B3



Novi senior Ryan Kobylarek (left) slides the puck past Clarkston netminder Nick Surovec for a penalty shot goal to give the Wildcats a 4-2 lead Nov. 19 at Ice Arena. Novi won the Metro Invite match-up 4-3.

## Wildcats ice Clarkston for first win of young season

### Core of new faces earn 4-3 victory

By Chris Jackett  
 Correspondent

After a slow start, Metro Invite fans at Novi Ice Arena got their money's worth Saturday as Novi hosted and defeated Clarkston 4-3.

The teams traded leads twice before a late rally by the Wolves (0-2-0) nearly tied it again, but the Wildcats (1-1-0) held on.

With both teams coming off of season-opening losses on Friday, Novi struck first when

junior Wesley Guenther and senior Travis Trainor moved the puck around on the power play before finding senior Curtis Herzog in the left circle. Herzog slipped the puck past Clarkston netminder Nick Surovec for a goal with 4:44 left in the first period.

The Wolves got it back 2:55 into the second period when Zack Gootee slid one in past Novi senior netminder Spencer Peterson from the left side.

Please see HOCKEY, B3

**ON TAP**

Novi's ice hockey team (1-1-0) were scheduled to visit Plymouth Salem in the KLAAs Kensington Conference opener last night before hosting Livonia Churchill 8 p.m. Wednesday. The Chargers (2-0-0) defeated Clarkston 9-2 the day before the Wildcats defeated Clarkston 4-3.

# 3 school records land Novi 11th in state

## Buhas, VanderMey provide strong Wildcat effort in the pool

By Chris Jackett  
Correspondent

Although the girls swim and dive team earned 32 more points at last week-end's Division I state meet than the year prior, the Wildcats finished 11th for a second-straight year.

Farmington Hills Mercy won with 258 points, while rivals South Lyon and Northville finished eighth with 125 and 13th with 67, respectively. Novi set new school records in three events, led by the duo of freshman Mallory Buha and junior Andrea VanderMey in the 100-yard backstroke. Buha set a record by finishing second in 55.77 seconds, only behind Ann Arbor Huron's Anna DeMonte (54.56). VanderMey finished sixth in 57.52 seconds Nov. 19 at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

Buha and VanderMey combined with juniors Maranda Buha and Kara Berg to set another school record in the 200 medley relay after finishing seventh in 1:48.45. Saline won the event in 1:45.97.

Maranda Buha was Novi's third school record, landing eighth in the 50 free in 24.28 seconds, 1.15 seconds out of



Wildcat Kara Berg swim the 200 meter freestyle in the 2011 MHSAA state finals swim and dive meet at EMU on Nov. 18.

first place. She also took 12th in the 100 free in 53.29 seconds, 2.97 seconds out of first place.

"The Cats had several other strong finishes. VanderMey took sixth in the 200 individual medley in 2:09.11, where the first place time was 1:59.67.

Mallory Buha took ninth in the 100 butterfly in 57.98 seconds, a few seconds off from the first place time of 54.82. The Buhas teamed with VanderMey and senior Abby Hall to finish 12th in the 400 free relay in 3:36.31, which Hudsonville won in 3:27.65.

"I was really happy with the way we swam,"

Novi coach Annette VanderMey said. "Our senior, Abby Hall, with a best time in the 50 free and a best time in her leg of the 400 free relay, will be missed, but everyone else returns next year.

This year was a real confidence builder for these girls and what they now know they can accomplish individually should prove to be a huge asset for the team next year."

Although Novi didn't have swimmers in the 500 free or 100 breaststroke, there were others eliminated during the Nov. 18 preliminaries.

Hall, Berg and juniors Kelsey Shurmur and Jan-

ice Burnett combined to finish 18th in the 200 free relay in 1:40.87. Hudsonville won the event in 1:35.46.

Berg also took 23rd in the 200 free in 1:56.24, but a few seconds behind the winning time of 1:49.04.

Junior Rachel Aepelbacher was the lone Novi diver to advance out of the Nov. 15 regional at Ann Arbor Pioneer. Aepelbacher earned 157.55 points and a 23rd-place preliminary round finish at the state meet.

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



Novi's Mallory Buha begins to emerge from the depths as she swims the backstroke in the 2011 MHSAA state finals swim and dive meet at EMU on Nov. 18.

## PREVIEW

Continued from page B1

they open, and they hit as hard as any defense in Michigan this year. That hard-hitting mentality moves to offense as well, with their top linebacker running like a bruising freight train out of the backfield in Royce Jenkins-Stone.

Cass Tech currently has a 10-3 record with losses coming to Farmington Hills Harrison, 43-7, Detroit Crockett Tech, 7-0, and Crockett again, 14-9. They have scored an average of 24.6 points per game while allowing a measly 9.4 points on average.

But Detroit Catholic Central doesn't lack in their ability to lay down a ferocious hit, either. Matt Godin is one of the most feared defensive linemen in the entire state and will be looking to show why that is the case.

In addition, the Shamrock defense likely won't make the same mistake as Eisenhower did, which was letting second efforts make all the difference as the Technicians pushed the ball down the field several times through yards that came after initial contact.

The Shamrocks are 12-1 this season heading into the final game and have scored an average of 27.4 points per game while allowing just 8.9.

No matter what the final score is following the state finals, one thing will be certain—the Shamrocks and the Technicians are going to put on one heck of a show.

And for football purists, what a better game to be played? The Public School League versus the Catholic High School League? Public versus Private?

Who ever ends up being crowned champion, it's going to be the fans who are the real winners in this contest. Don't miss it come 1 p.m. Saturday at Ford Field.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News.

## HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

Adam Johns and Garrett Polish assisted. "I thought Spencer did good," Novi coach Todd Krygier said. "He made good saves and played the puck well. We're still fine tuning our defensive coverage. It's tough for goaltenders early in the season because we're not as structured in our defensive zone, but I thought Spencer did a good job."

Working with a four-on-four situation, the Wolves pressured as they gained a man advantage and Adam Larkin glided up the right side, passed the puck to himself through a Novi defender's legs and skated in uncontested for a shot that he flicked over Peterson's shoulder into the top right corner of the goal for a 2-1 lead at the 10:25 mark. Polish assisted.

Senior Kent Burnett tied it back up for Novi when he dinked a shot in off the post from the left side two minutes later. Junior Jon Mencer took an untimely cross-checking penalty with 1.4 seconds left in the second period. However, the penalty-killing unit stepped up to start the third period.

While still short-handed 1:43 into the final period, Herzog found himself on a breakaway at center ice. He carried the puck up the center, drifting to the left before cutting to the right, causing Surovec to sprawl forward in a failed save attempt and leave a wide open net for Herzog to give Novi a 3-2 lead. Burnett assisted in the defensive zone.

With 10:37 left in the game, Novi senior Ryan Kobylarek got a breakaway of his own, but was tripped up as he approached the goal and slid into Surovec, knocking the net out of place. The Wildcats were awarded a penalty shot. Kobylarek skated up the center and angled toward the right post, catching Surovec off-guard because Kobylarek didn't deke around Surovec, who was outside his crease. Kobylarek skated past Surovec and slid the puck into an empty net to give Novi in the driver's seat with a 4-2 lead.

"I think the biggest thing on the penalty shot was that Kobylarek really worked hard," Krygier said. "He blocked the shot first, then he worked through the shot and went on a breakaway and did a nice job. Guys were working."

Guenther got in close to the goal with 1:44 remaining after receiving a pass from the right side, but put it high over

the crossbar. Just 17 seconds later, Guenther found himself in the penalty box for elbowing, resulting in a faceoff in Novi's end.

The Wolves pulled Surovec for a six-on-four advantage that paid off as Jeff Gorski knocked in a loose puck from the left side. The power play goal cut Novi's lead to 4-3 with 33.2 seconds remaining, but the 'Cats avoided a meltdown and held on for their first victory of the year.

"Clarkston really worked hard, they competed," Krygier said of the team his brother and father coach together. "They had a few chances in the end there, but fortunately Novi came out on top. Novi's undefeated against Clarkston."

In the season opener last Friday, Novi dropped a 3-2 decision to Farmington Hills United, which consists of Harrison and North Farmington student-athletes. Herzog scored both goals for the Wildcats in that game, with Burnett and senior Dylan Shepard assisting.

"I thought we played a lot better," Krygier said of the second game. "We had two guys out of the lineup yesterday against Farmington (United) that were on our top two lines. So getting those guys back helped and I thought we just played a better game, we worked harder, we ran our system a little bit better. Just making the adjustments we need as a new team."

Mencer and senior Brandon Ramsay missed the season opener.

Coming off a state championship during their first season in Division I, the Wildcats have a lot of holes to fill, having graduated five players with All-State honors and another All-State honorable mention. This includes the goal-keeper, leading scorer and top defender.

"We've got a lot of work to do," Krygier said. "We have the high expectations, and they're the same every year, but we have a lot of work to do as a team. And it's going to take a very large team effort for us to be as successful as we were last year. We've got a long way to go, and it's not something you can plan for or count on. You've just got to take it day by day and get better."

"You can't compare this year's team to last year's team. It's just a whole new team, a whole new experience. We've just got to find a way to be successful with these guys."

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

## WILSON

Continued from page B1

NCAA made him a valuable asset to moving Novi's programs into the future.

"He is just the right fit with his coaching background, assistant principal and extensive time as an athletic director," Lobert said. "We believe, based on his past experience, he will develop good relationships with parents, students and coaches. He will continue Novi's strong student-athlete leadership program and will model respect for all. He understands the growth of a good athletic program starts at an athlete's early age and includes developing relationships with club and Parks and Rec programs."

For privacy reasons, Lobert declined to list the other candidates for the job. Fiset was among the candidates eliminated after first-round interviews. She said none of the candidates came from other KLAAs schools.

"While we were fortunate to have some great candidates to choose from, Christian most closely fit the characteristics, skills knowledge and abilities based on input meetings from interested stakeholders that included community, coaches, staff and students," Lobert said.

Wilson said he is looking forward to continuing the strong Novi tradition that has earned state titles in ice hockey, girls soccer and pom-pom during the past year.

"I think the biggest challenge is trying to keep your programs strong," Wilson said, adding that the department's finances must be kept healthy. "I know there's a huge pride in the Novi program and its facilities. Our programs are in a high profile."

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## WINTER 2011-12 HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY SPORTS SCHEDULES

### Novi Wildcats

#### ICE HOCKEY

11/30 8 p.m. Livonia Churchhill  
12/3 6 p.m. @ Northville  
12/7 6 p.m. Plymouth  
12/8 8:30 p.m. @ Canton  
12/14 8:30 p.m. @ Livonia Franklin  
12/17 7:12 or 2:30 p.m. @ Christmas  
Tournament  
1/6 7 p.m. @ Calumet  
1/7 TBA @ Hancock  
1/8 1 p.m. @ Marquette  
1/18 6 p.m. @ Livonia Stevenson  
1/21 12 p.m. @ EastWest Show-down (Grandville)  
1/28 6 p.m. Northville  
2/3 6 p.m. South Lyon  
2/7 TBA @ MHSAA Showcase (vs. Howell @ Chelsea)

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

All games 7 p.m. unless noted  
12/6 @ Walled Lake Central  
12/8 Saline  
12/9 @ Walled Lake Northern  
12/13 Lincoln Park  
12/16 @ Westland John Glenn  
1/6 @ South Lyon East  
1/10 South Lyon  
1/13 Northville

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1/10 South Lyon  
1/13 Northville

#### WRESTLING

12/10 9 a.m. @ Salem Varsity "10"  
12/11 9 a.m. @ Farmington Hills  
12/14 5:30 p.m. Quad Championships  
12/16-17 4 p.m. @ Oakland County Championships  
12/22 9 a.m. @ Season's Beatings Tournament @ Pathfinder  
1/4 5:30 p.m. @ KLAAs Quad  
1/7 9:30 a.m. @ Manning Vieau Invite  
1/11 5:30 p.m. Quad vs. Livonia Stevenson  
1/14 9 a.m. @ South Lyon Duals  
10-team Tournament  
2/9 TBA Districts @ Novi

#### BOYS SWIMMING

All meets at 6 p.m. unless noted  
1/12 @ Northville  
1/19 @ Plymouth Salem  
1/26 Livonia Stevenson  
2/2 South Lyon East  
2/3 TBA Oakland County Diving Championships

#### BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING

All meets at 3:30 p.m. unless noted  
12/5 Livonia Clarenceville @ Novi  
12/12 Northville  
12/14 Westland John Glenn  
12/20 Wayne Memorial @ Northville  
1/17 Westland John Glenn  
1/22 TBA Oakland County Championships  
1/23 @ Wayne Memorial

#### COMPETITIVE CHEER

1/18 6 p.m. @ Quad Meet with Livonia Stevenson @ Northville  
1/21 9 a.m. @ Royal Runbale

#### BOYS AND GIRLS SKIING

TBA

## NOVI SPORTS BRIEFS

### Calvin Johnson signing at DC SPORTS

Detroit Lions Calvin Johnson will appear at DC SPORTS at Twelve Oaks Mall FROM 7-8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 28 to sign autographs for fans. Autograph costs range from \$65 to \$95 depending on what is being autographed. Fans can bring items to have autographed or purchase select items at DC SPORTS. Photos and mini helmets will be available for purchase.

Calvin Johnson played collegately at Georgia Tech and was drafted No. 2 overall by the Detroit Lions in the 2007. Johnson immediately contributed in his rookie season by grabbing four touchdowns with 756 yards, earning his nickname "Megatron". Last season, Johnson earned his first Pro Bowl appearance posting his second 1,000 yard season with 1,120 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Through nine games this season, Johnson has already posted 11 touchdowns and 885 yards, tying the NFL record set by Chris Carter for most consecutive games with two touchdowns with four consecutive games with at least two touchdowns.

DC SPORTS is located near Sears on the lower level in Twelve Oaks Mall at 27374 Novi Road, Novi.

## VOICES & VIEWS: COMMENT ONLINE

hometownlife.com

# RECIPES

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Offer expires 11/23/11

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10% OFF  
www.middleroadtreefarm.com

**HOLTZ CHRISTMAS TREE PLANTATION**  
9381 Day Road near Maybee, MI  
734-587-3155  
Trees for higher ceilings (up to 20 ft. tall)  
SPECIALS  
Directions: South on 22 to exit 25. Right on Plank, 7 miles to Day Rd, turn left 3 miles to Farm F. Holtz Est. 1947

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**FRASER FIR**  
WE DELIVER  
Weekly iPod (Nano) Giveaway  
Coloring center kit, 2nd & 3rd plus  
Guess the Holiday word of the day and receive 50% off purchase!  
We fresh cut, bag & load on your car  
We fresh cut, bag & load in 15 minutes  
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303 W. Newark Rd.  
1/2 mile east of M-24  
Featuring: Fraser, Canaan, and Blue Spruce  
Cut your own & pre-cut  
\* Visit our 150 year old barn for gifts, wreaths, hot chocolate and more!  
\* Wagon rides • Visit with Santa from 10am to 4pm Sat. & Sun. only  
Business Hours:  
Friday, November 25, 10:00am-5:00pm  
Saturday, Nov. 26, 10:00am-5:00pm  
Sunday & Sunday, Nov. 27-28 Oct. 10.  
9:00am-5:00pm  
610-667-2711  
www.mutchshiddendepines.com

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We Grow: Canaan, Concolor, Corkbark, Fraser & Korean Fir, Black Hills, Blue, Norway & Serbian Spruce.  
All trees shaken, wrapped and drilled for free!  
TREES UP TO 19 FT. • WREATHS  
Open Fri. Sat. & Sun  
9am till Dark  
3090 Dutcher Road - Howell  
Take I-49 (at I-96 exit 137) South to Coon Lake & I-75 (at exit 10) West to Dutcher Road, follow the signs.  
(317) 246-3399 for more information and a map www.WaldockTreeFarm.com

**HOWELL CONFERENCE & NATURE CENTER**  
Christmas Tree Sales  
Open Daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
starting November 25  
1005 Triangle Lake Road, Howell  
1 Mile West of I-9 (Ponyox Road),  
& 1/2 Mile South of Howell  
HUGE SELECTION OF FRESH-CUT FRASER, DOUGLAS, AND CONCOLOR FIR, PINESETTAS, WREATHS, & ROPING ALSO AVAILABLE.  
Featuring Michigan Snowfresh Trees  
Tree shaking & wrapping.  
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Sales support the Nature Center's Weekly Programs  
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3ft-12ft Trees:  
• Douglas, Fraser & Concolor Fir  
• Scotch & White Pine  
• Blue & White Spruce  
• Potted trees • Tree stands • Wreaths  
• Roping • Grave Blankets  
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Bring in your stand we will fresh cut, prune & fit your tree o your stand!  
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www.novibowl.com

</

**SHAMROCKS**

Continued from page B1  
 threw it to me. I just wanted to make sure I caught it."  
 "It seemed like the ball took about two minutes to get there," Catholic Central head coach Tom Mach joked, smiling as he recounted the final play. "Anthony made a great catch and Kyle put it right where it should be. It was a hard-fought game. Rockford is one of the best teams we've faced this year. It was one of those games that you were just happy to be able to participate in. Both teams played terrific."

Darkangelo's catch capped a thrill-a-minute showdown that was jam-packed with offensive fireworks and bone-crunching collisions.  
 After yielding 17 first-half points to Rockford's multi-dimensional, misdirection-loaded "Wings & Things" offense, the Shamrocks' defense was locked and loaded during the final 24 minutes, shutting out the Rams until Steven Mette's 26-yard field goal in overtime gave Rockford a short-lived lead.  
 "The Shamrocks' defense limited the Rams to a 1-yard run by Connor Grady, who was stonewalled by CC's Aaron Hess and Clay Behrman



Matt Doneth snags a Kyle Cooper pass in Saturday's matchup with Rockford.

— and a pair of incompletions prior to Mette's field goal.  
 "Before we went out there (in overtime), we talked about how hard we've worked this year and how much we wanted it," said CC senior defensive back David Racey, who picked off a pair of Mark LaPrairie aerials. "We know that if we believe in ourselves, no one can stop us."  
 Rockford managed just 89 yards rushing on 23 attempts. Most of the Rams' success came when LaPrairie hooked up with Brandon Lubnow, who snared eight passes for 127 yards. Cooper was more than

efficient, completing 8 of 14 passes for 102 yards and two touchdowns.  
 In addition to gaining 37 yards on 11 carries, Darkangelo completed both of his halfback passes — the second a 21-yard throw-back to Cooper that set up the Shamrocks' second TD — for 45 yards.  
 Junior battering ram/fullback David Houle churned out 85 yards on 24 carries for CC.  
 It took Rockford just 14 seconds to light up the scoreboard. That's how long it took the Rams to execute a deceptive 97-yard kickoff return by Lubnow on the opening kickoff. Mette's first

of two extra points made it 7-0.  
 The Shamrocks countered with a pound-it-out, 14-play drive that took them from their own 13 to the Ram 16. Facing a third-and-10, Cooper lasered a pass to Darkangelo in the back of the end zone, but the TD was disallowed when the referees ruled that Darkangelo had stepped out of the end zone prior to catching the ball. The drive stalled two plays later following a 4-yard run by Cooper and an incomplete pass.  
 Rockford extended its lead to 10-0 on its first offensive possession when Mette ripped a 40-yard field goal through a gusty 20-mile-per-hour wind with 2:19 left in the first quarter.  
 After going three-and-out on its next possession, CC got the ball back when Racey stepped in front of a LaPrairie pass and returned it to the Ram 22.  
 Four plays later, Cooper connected with Matt Doneth on an 8-yard touchdown pass to bring the Shamrocks to within 10-7.  
 Rockford re-upped its lead 17-7 when LaPrairie tossed a 12-yard TD pass to Lubnow with 7:10 left in the half.  
 Houle bulled in from two yards out 56.4 seconds before the half and Alex Kozlowski's second extra point made it 17-14.  
 Unsatisfied with a three-point cushion and unwilling to take a knee,

Rockford drove to the CC 9, but came away empty when Justin Wustman was pulled down at the Shamrock 1 after hauling in a short LaPrairie pass.  
 Powered by six up-the-gut runs by Houle and a 34-yard pass from Cooper to Racey, the Shamrocks steamrolled down to the Rockford 12 on its next possession, but had to settle for a 27-yard Kozlowski field goal that knotted the game at 17-17.  
 The defenses took over the rest of the half. Pivotal plays by the Shamrocks included a fourth-down tackle by Matthew Godin and Samuel Vaitkevicius on a fourth-and-six run by Brady Gent at the CC 39; and Racey's second pick of the game with 5:37 left in the game at the CC 32.  
 Rockford's Shaun Showers rained on the Shamrocks' best drive when he intercepted a Cooper pass in the back of the end zone.  
 The Shamrocks appeared to have the game won in regulation, but Kozlowski's 19-yard field goal attempt with 30.2 seconds left never got enough height and failed to clear the offensive linemen.  
 That set up the dramatic overtime and the final game-sealing catch by Darkangelo, who quickly went from being the most isolated guy in Battle Creek to the most popular.

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**CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider: **ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT 18.700 FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 97-18 AS AMENDED, THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, DELETE ARTICLE 23, OS-2 PLANNED OFFICE SERVICE DISTRICT TO ELIMINATE AN UNUSED DISTRICT, AMEND ARTICLE 12, OSC OFFICE SERVICE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO ADD PERMITTED USES, PREVIOUSLY REFERENCED IN ARTICLE 23, AMEND ARTICLE 23A, OS-2 PLANNED OFFICE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY DISTRICT TO ADD USES AND CONDITIONS PREVIOUSLY REFERENCED IN ARTICLE 23, ADD MINOR CHANGES TO PROVIDE CLARITY AND ADD PRINCIPAL PERMITTED USES SUBJECT TO SPECIAL CONDITIONS TO PROVIDE FOR A SET OF RETAIL SERVICE OVERLAY PROVISIONS FOR THOSE AREAS IDENTIFIED IN THE MASTER PLAN FOR LAND USE AMEND AT ARTICLE 24 SCHEDULE OF REGULATIONS TO REMOVE REFERENCES TO THE OS-2 DISTRICT AND AMEND ARTICLE 2, CONSTRUCTION OF LANGUAGE AND DEFINITIONS, ZONING DISTRICTS AND MAPS TO CORRECT LISTED DISTRICTS.**  
 All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, December 14, 2011.  
 Novi Planning Commission  
 David Greco, Secretary  
 Publish: November 24, 2011

**CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 11-104.08**  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 11-104.08 TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NOVI, CHAPTER 21, "NUISANCES," ARTICLE II, "RELATED TO PROPERTY," DIVISION 7, "SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL," IN ORDER TO INCREASE TIME FRAME FOR REMOVAL TO 48 HOURS AFTER THE END OF THE ACCUMULATION OF SNOW OF 2 INCHES OR MORE AND TO CLARIFY THE PAVED PATHWAY AREAS WHERE A PROPERTY OWNER IS OBLIGATED TO REMOVE THE SNOW.  
 The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, November 14, 2011 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.  
 Publish: November 24, 2011 Maryann Cornelius, City Clerk

**City of Novi Public Hearing Notice**  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Novi Civic Center 45175 W. Ten Mile Road to consider: **CASE NO. 11-042 200 NEW CT.**  
 The applicant is requesting a variance from the minimum side yard setback requirements of Section 2400 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance to construct an attached 2 car garage in front of an existing residence located at 200 New Ct. The property is zoned R-4 and is located north of Thirteen Mile Rd and east of East Lake Dr.  
 REQUIRED MINIMUM SIDE YARD SETBACK 10 FT  
 PROPOSED MINIMUM SIDE YARD SETBACK 5.2 FT  
 VARIANCE REQUESTED 4.8 FT  
 Publish: November 24, 2011

**DICK SCOTT CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM**  
**BIG**  
 With Scott Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram  
**2011 CHRYSLER 200 LIMITED**  
 STK# C11201 SALE PRICE \$16,968  
 BUY FOR \$146 (MSRP \$179) WITH \$0 DOWN WITH \$3000 DOWN  
 LEASE FOR \$197 (MSRP \$219) WITH \$3000 DOWN  
**2012 CHRYSLER 200 TOURING**  
 STK# C12019 SALE PRICE \$17,117  
 BUY FOR \$146 (MSRP \$179) WITH \$0 DOWN WITH \$3000 DOWN  
 LEASE FOR \$171 (MSRP \$193) WITH \$3000 DOWN  
**2012 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO**  
 STK# J120C004 SALE PRICE \$26,592  
 BUY FOR \$219 (MSRP \$249) WITH \$0 DOWN WITH \$1500 DOWN WITH \$3000 DOWN  
 LEASE FOR \$223 (MSRP \$245) WITH \$3000 DOWN  
**2011 CHRYSLER 300 LIMITED**  
 STK# C113006 SALE PRICE \$25,564  
 BUY FOR \$219 (MSRP \$249) WITH \$0 DOWN WITH \$1500 DOWN WITH \$3000 DOWN  
 LEASE FOR \$231 (MSRP \$253) WITH \$3000 DOWN  
**2012 DODGE JOURNEY SXT**  
 STK# D12J002 SALE PRICE \$20,962  
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**CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ENACTMENT - ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18.700**  
 THE CITY OF NOVI ORDAINS:  
 Part I. That Ordinance No. 97-18, known as the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Novi is hereby amended as indicated on ZONING MAP NO. 18.700 attached hereto and made a part of this Ordinance.  
 Part II. CONFLICTING PROVISIONS REPEALED. Any Ordinance or parts of any Ordinance in conflict with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.  
 Part III. WHEN EFFECTIVE. The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety and is hereby ordered to take effect fifteen (15) days after final enactment. The effective date of this Ordinance is November 23, 2011.  
 MADE AND PASSED by the City Council of the City of Novi, Michigan this 24th day of October, 2011. Copies of the Ordinance Amendment may be purchased or inspected at the Office of the City Clerk, Novi, Michigan, weekdays between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM local time.  
 TO: rezoning a part of the South 1/2 of Section 17, T. 1 N., R. 8 E., City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan being parcels 22-17-200-007, 22-17-200-011, 22-17-200-016, 22-17-200-019, 22-17-200-020, 22-17-200-021, 22-17-200-022, 22-17-200-023, 22-17-200-024, 22-17-200-025, 22-17-200-026, 22-17-200-027, 22-17-200-028, 22-17-200-029, 22-17-200-030, 22-17-200-031, 22-17-200-032, 22-17-200-033, 22-17-200-034, 22-17-200-035 described as follows:  
 Commencing at the Southeast corner of Section 17, thence N. 01°21'47"W, 667.12 feet along the east line of section 17 to the point of beginning, thence S. 87°29'59"W, 1326.12 feet, thence S. 01°53'29"W, 358.89 feet, thence S. 87°21'00"W, 280.00 feet, thence S. 01°53'12"E, 238.30 feet, thence S. 87°21'00"W, 199.89 feet, thence N. 02°08'22"W, 454.00 feet, thence S. 87°21'00"W, 190.00 feet, thence N. 02°09'22"W, 834.65 feet, thence N. 87°18'01"E, 1998.22 feet, thence S. 01°21'47"W, 652.37 feet to the point of beginning, containing 35.00 acres more or less.  
 FROM RA RESIDENTIAL ACREAGE DISTRICT  
 R-1 ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT  
 R-3 ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT  
 R-M1 LOW DENSITY, LOW-RISE MULTIPLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS  
 1/2 GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT  
 TO: SUBURBAN LOW-RISE OVERLAY DISTRICT  
 ORDINANCE NO. 18.700  
 ZONING MAP AMENDMENT NO. 700  
 CITY OF NOVI, MICHIGAN  
 Maryann Cornelius, City Clerk  
 Publish: November 24, 2011



Turkey Casserole

**Lovin' TURKEY LEFTOVERS**

Make sure you buy a big turkey this year, because you'll want plenty left over to make these tasty post-holiday recipes.  
 From a savory sandwich and hearty salads to easy turnovers and a simple casserole, there are plenty of delicious ways to finish off turkey leftovers. You can even keep the flavors of the holidays going with Bobby Flay's recipe for moist and delicious "Stuffing" Crusted Turkey Cutlets. He uses leftover poultry seasoning for flavor and Hellmann's® Mayonnaise to keep them tender and juicy.  
 For more great ways to love your leftovers, visit [www.hellmanns.com](http://www.hellmanns.com).



"Stuffing" Crusted Turkey Cutlets

**Turkey Casserole**

Serves: 6  
 Prep Time: 15 minutes  
 Cook Time: 40 minutes

4 cups leftover prepared stuffing, divided  
 4 cups coarsely chopped leftover cooked turkey (about 1 pound)  
 1/2 cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise, divided  
 1/2 cup whole berry cranberry sauce  
 2 cups leftover mashed potatoes  
 1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese (about 6 ounces)  
 Preheat oven to 375°F.  
 Spray 8-inch baking dish with no-stick cooking spray. Spoon in 2 cups stuffing, then top with turkey.  
 Combine 1/2 cup mayonnaise with cranberry sauce; evenly spread over turkey.  
 Combine remaining 1/2 cup mayonnaise, potatoes and cheese in large bowl. Evenly spread on turkey, then top with remaining 2 cups stuffing.  
 Bake 40 minutes or until heated through. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. If desired, garnish with dried cranberries.



Leftover Turkey Super Sandwiches

**Leftover Turkey Super Sandwiches**

Serves: 4  
 Prep Time: 10 minutes

4 tablespoons Hellmann's® or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise  
 8 slices whole grain bread  
 1 cup prepared stuffing  
 1/2 pound sliced leftover or deli turkey  
 1/2 cup cranberry sauce or whole berry cranberry sauce  
 1 small apple, cored and sliced  
 Spread mayonnaise generously on 4 bread slices. Layer stuffing, turkey, cranberry sauce and apple on bread slices. Top with remaining 4 bread slices.

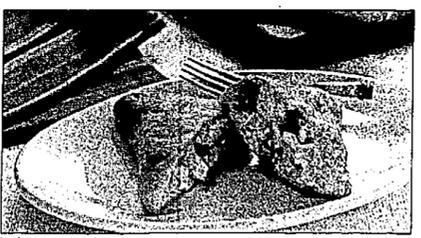
**Turkey Fiesta Salad**

Serves: 4  
 Prep Time: 10 minutes

1 cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise  
 3 cups prepared salsa  
 6 cups torn romaine lettuce leaves  
 2 cups diced cooked turkey  
 4 slices bacon, crisp-cooked and crumbled  
 Combine mayonnaise and salsa in small bowl; set aside.  
 Combine remaining ingredients in large bowl. Just before serving, toss with mayonnaise mixture.  
 Serve, if desired, with your favorite salad fixings, such as chopped tomatoes, black beans, shredded cheese, sliced pitted ripe olives, sliced green onions and/or tortilla chips.



Blushing Cranberry and Pear Turkey Salad



Turkey Turnovers

**Turkey Turnovers**

Serves: 8  
 Prep Time: 15 minutes  
 Cook Time: 12 minutes

2 cups shredded cooked turkey  
 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese (about 4 ounces)  
 1 cup chopped cooked broccoli  
 1/2 cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper  
 2 packages (8 ounces each) refrigerated crescent rolls  
 Preheat oven to 375°F.  
 Combine all ingredients except crescent rolls in large bowl.  
 Separate each package crescent rolls into 4 squares; press diagonal perforations to seal.  
 Spoon turkey filling onto center of each square. Fold dough diagonally over filling to form triangles; press edges firmly to seal.  
 Arrange turnovers on baking sheet; brush tops lightly with additional mayonnaise.  
 Bake 12 minutes or until golden. Serve warm.

**"Stuffing" Crusted Turkey Cutlets**

A Bobby Flay Recipe  
 Serves: 4  
 Prep Time: 15 minutes  
 Cook Time: 10 minutes

2 cups panko or plain dried bread crumbs  
 3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley  
 Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
 1/2 cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise  
 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard  
 1 teaspoon poultry seasoning  
 4 turkey cutlets (about 1 inch thick)  
 4 tablespoons canola oil, divided  
 Combine bread crumbs, parsley, salt and pepper in large shallow dish; set aside.  
 Combine mayonnaise, mustard and poultry seasoning with wire whisk in small bowl and season, if desired, with salt and pepper.  
 Season turkey, if desired, with salt and pepper. Brush 1 side of each turkey cutlet with mayonnaise mixture, then coat in bread crumbs.  
 Heat 2 tablespoons oil in 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium-high heat and cook 2 turkey cutlets, bread side down, 3 minutes or until golden brown and a crust has formed. Turn over and cook an additional 2 minutes or until turkey is thoroughly cooked. Repeat with remaining oil and turkey.

**Blushing Cranberry and Pear Turkey Salad**

Serves: 4  
 Prep Time: 10 minutes

1/2 cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise  
 1/2 cup whole berry cranberry sauce or cranberry relish  
 4 cups torn romaine lettuce leaves  
 2 cups baby spinach leaves or mixed salad greens  
 2 cups diced cooked turkey  
 1 medium pear, cored and thinly sliced  
 1 cup toasted chopped pecans  
 1 cup thinly sliced red onion  
 In medium bowl, combine mayonnaise and cranberry sauce; set aside.  
 In large bowl, combine romaine, spinach and turkey. Just before serving, toss with mayonnaise mixture. Top with pear slices, pecans and onion. Garnish, if desired with dried cranberries.  
 Note: Recipe can be doubled.

# Pairing the Thanksgiving Day feast

Thanksgiving is around the corner, and many will be hitting the grocery store to stock-up in preparation for the national day of glutony.

On a day when the table swells with dozens of dishes, how does one choose the appropriate beer(s) for the occasion? The good news is there is no wrong answer, since beer pairing is more art than science, and beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

A rule of thumb for a successful pairing is that the drink should complement the food with either a contrasting or similar flavor profile. The challenge is that pairings work best with a singular soul mate like an artisan cheese or a lush desert. The Thanksgiving experience is hardly a monogamous encounter, making it a challenge for any beer connoisseur. Fortunately, with the right line up, beer can win over the ardent wine lover when the most important meal of the year is on the line.

**Beer Tracker**  
Nate Parsons

As guests arrive, head them something crisp, cold and refreshing. Something from the pilsner family is a good fit. It will lighten the senses, stir



up an appetite, and won't dull the palate with excessive alcohol. Furthermore, the clean finish will cut through any salty snacks circling the room.

• Pilsner Urquell — Light straw in color and crystal clear. Aroma is floral with a taste to match and it finishes with a hint of clean spice.

• Victory Prima Pils — A tasty lager with a hoppy floral taste. Crosses traditional Bohemian flavor with Yankee ingenuity for a well-balanced lager.

**Appetizer or Primer**  
Depending on the venue this course can be a challenge for

the beer aficionado. Think something midrange with citrus tones that cleanse the palate without scraping the throat... sorry no hop bombs here. These two offer earthy tones that complement a wide range of fare without stealing the show.

• Saison Dupont — Nice aromatics and a hazy straw hue, well-seasoned but not overpowering. Hints of citrus, white pepper and clove are balanced with a bit of prickly carbonation for a quenching finish.

• Hennepin Farmhouse Ale — Rustic in scent with an earthy palate cut by tangerine spice. Sweet malty flavors interplay

with citrus tones and the lively carbonation tickles the tongue.

• Brooklyn Chocolate Stout — Infused cocoa is the backbone of this robust black stout. Rich chocolate spreads across the palate before roasted malt thins out the sweetness. The finish offers a hint of plum before exiting on a bed of dry cocoa.

• Southern Tier Pumpkin Ale — An intense offering worthy of the imperial moniker. Deep full-bodied offering dominated with sweet nutmeg, cinnamon, and ginger. Creamy malts coat the mouth finishing with a rich presence.

Pairing beer with food is not an exact science, but these selections should offer direction when looking to impress the relatives at this year's sit down. All the offerings mentioned can be found at local beer caves around the metro area. Cheers!

• Hiller's, 425 North Center Street, Northville  
• The Wine Palace, 13971 Middlebelt, Livonia  
• Holiday Market, 520 South Lilly, Canton  
• Super Fine Wine, 1634 Haggerty, Canton  
• Beer Barron, 19610 Middlebelt, Livonia  
• Meadows, 21099 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills  
• Brass Mug, 19213 Newburgh, Livonia  
• Bella Vita, 28870 W 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills

Nate Parsons can be reached at nateparsons@yahoo.com

# Sweeten holiday fare with Michigan-grown chestnuts

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

Fire up the charcoal. It's chestnut season. If you've got the roaster, Virginia Rinkel can supply the nuts.

She and other members of Chestnut Growers Inc., a cooperative of 40-some Michigan chestnut farmers, are taking their products, including chestnut flour, freeze-dried slices, whole and peeled, fresh chestnuts, on the road through December, visiting farmer's markets in metro Detroit.

"It's one way to educate the public that we're around," Rinkel said. "We need more growers and are experiencing more interest all the time in chestnuts."

With approximately 154 chestnut farms, Michigan claims more growers than other states. But Rinkel said the cooperative hopes to convince other Michigan farmers, such as cherry growers, to cultivate an acre or two of chestnut trees along with their regular crops, helping bolster the state's chestnut yield and meet growing demands for the product.

"By February our freezer is going to be full. We've had some orders for 5,000 pounds the last few years," she said, adding that Whole Foods and other local markets carry Chestnut Growers Inc. products.

Co-op members, like Rinkel and her husband, Bob, who own Vicary Road Chestnut Farm in Leslie, north of Jackson, grow Chinese, European or Japanese chestnuts. Most of the American chestnut trees were wiped out in the early 1900s by blight.

Chestnut Growers Inc. processes and sells their products at farm markets and to retailers. Members peel the chestnuts, which can be frozen, used whole, sliced and dehydrated or ground into flour. Whole unpeeled chestnuts, sold by the bag, must be scored before they are roasted. Peeled, fresh whole chestnuts should be stored in the refrigerator.

"Chestnuts are 70 percent moisture. It's constantly wanting to mold. But that's external mold that is easily wiped off. You won't get internal mold for months," Rinkel said, explaining how to store fresh chestnuts. "You just need to flip the bag every few days in the refrigerator. It's a whole new thing that people just need to be educated to."

Chestnuts are fruits that contain few oils, unlike most nuts. They spoil easily when left at room temperature and nutritionally are more like grains because they contain more starch than protein. They are gluten-free and sweet.

**Roasting**  
When preparing chestnuts for roasting, score the fruits by making a long cut in the shell across the middle of the nut. The opening will allow steam to escape from the nut. Failure to score the nut can cause it to pop and splatter.

Roast chestnuts by placing them in a chestnut roasting pan or old-fashioned fireplace popcorn cooker. Roast on coals or fire for 15-25 minutes. Shake them often.

For oven roasting, place chestnuts on a cookie sheet with raised edges. Add a little water to the pan. Roast for 20-30 minutes at 350 degrees.

Microwave by wrapping six to eight scored chestnuts in a damp paper towel. Microwave on high one or two minutes.

Use dehydrated, frozen sliced or chestnut flour in cooking. Here are a few recipes from the Chestnut Growers, Inc., that use the cooperative's chestnut products:



## Hummus

8 ounces CG freeze-dried Chestnut "Slices" (rehydrated in 16 ounces boiling water) or use 1 pound fresh or frozen-peeled chestnuts  
1 1/2 cups reserved chestnut water  
1/2 cup lemon juice  
2 large cloves garlic (sieved)  
1 teaspoon salt  
Freshly ground pepper  
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin  
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil  
2-4 tablespoons pine nuts (to taste)  
4 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley or cilantro  
1 cup (8 ounces) Tahina  
Dash of paprika

For making hummus from freeze-dried chestnut "Slices," bring 16 ounces water to a boil in small saucepan and add freeze-dried chestnut "Slices" stirring to rehydrate. Reduce to a simmer and cook for 15 minutes. Drain the chestnuts, reserving any liquid. Add enough water to this liquid to measure 1 and 1/2 cups liquid. If cooking fresh or frozen-peeled chestnuts in small amount of water, reserve water and adjust as for the freeze-dried "Slices."

## Cream of Chestnut Soup (vegan style)

4 ounce bag "Chestnut Chips"  
4 cups water  
1 carrot (7 baby carrots)  
1 celery stalk  
1 medium onion  
1 clove of garlic  
1 teaspoon nutmeg  
1 teaspoon thyme

Chop vegetables and garlic and place in 4 cups of water in large saucepan. Cover and bring to boil. Reduce heat to simmer, maintaining a low boil. Add "Chestnut Chips" and continue to low boil for 20 minutes. Carefully

## Chestnut Roastings

Chestnut Growers Inc. will roast chestnuts and sell chestnut products at these locations:  
• 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, Royal Oak Farmer's Market, 316 E. 11 Mile, two blocks east of Main, in downtown Royal Oak  
• 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, Detroit Eastern Market, 2934 Russell, Detroit  
• 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, Ann Arbor Farmer's Market, 315 Detroit Street, Ann Arbor  
Contact: www.chestnutgrowersinc.com; (800) 667-6704; chestnuts4u@hotmail.com

## French Sponge Cakes

2 cup sifted "fine" chestnut flour  
1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2 whole eggs — separated  
2 teaspoon almond extract  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
6 tablespoons sugar or Splenda

Preheat oven to 350°F / 180°C.  
Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Beat egg yolks in a small bowl, rapidly, until very thick and lemon colored (at least 5-7 minutes), adding almond and vanilla flavorings during the beating.

With clean beaters, (or another beater set) beat the egg whites until stiff and shiny. Add sugar, (1 tablespoon at a time about every 45 seconds) and beat on high constantly. Continue to beat rapidly until whites are very stiff and glossy.

Serve with cut-up raw vegetables, crackers or warm grilled pita bread cut into wedges.

Note: You also can add cayenne pepper to the hummus. Sometimes leftover hummus tends to thicken. Just add some water to return it to the right consistency.



French Sponge Cake Cookies on the left side of the plate are made with chestnut flour; those on the right side are made with regular, white flour. Virginia Rinkel, a Michigan chestnut grower, says the cookies with chestnut flour are sweeter and easier to remove from the baking sheet.

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Boyer Country Sports manager Jason Myers (left) helps customer Bruce Koet with a custom-fit pair of ski boots on Nov. 17. The Novi Road store, located near Twelve Oaks Mall, plans on selling lots of skis, ski boots and apparel when it opens at 7 a.m. Nov. 25 — Black Friday.

## Black Friday gets off to midnight start

Several major retailers opening earlier than ever

By Nathan Mueller  
Staff Writer

Holiday shoppers used to getting up early to catch the best deals might not even want to go to bed on Thursday night. That's because many stores are opening up earlier than ever — some at midnight on Friday — to kick the holiday shopping season into high gear. Macy's, Kohl's, Target and Best Buy are just a few of the major retailers unhooking their doors at midnight (to appeal to the shoppers toting to grab a great deal). Peggy Hayes, marketing and sponsorship director at Twelve Oaks Mall, said it's possible another 15 stores inside the mall will be opening at midnight, along with Macy's, with the mall officially opening at 6 a.m. on Friday.

"It's busy but it's fun," Hayes said. "This is our season and this is what we work for all year."

Santa has already made his trip from the North Pole to the mall, and he will be joined Friday morning by Jay Towers

and his 100.5 morning crew as they are set to broadcast from the Lord and Taylor Court.

Hayes said mall retailers had a good season last year but expect sales to increase by 2-to-3 percent this year.

"We are optimistic it will be a great holiday season," she said. Jeff Frazier, manager at Boyne Country Sports on Novi Road near Twelve Oaks Mall, also is eager for the holiday shopping season to get going along with a little dusting of snow. His store will be opening earlier than ever before at 7 a.m. and will have deals running all day long.

The first special, which runs from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., is free lift tickets to Boyne Mountain or Boyne Highlands to anyone who spends more than \$150. Also rewards members, which is free to anyone, will receive triple points during that time. A customer who accrues 1,000 reward points receives a \$50 gift card. And from 9 a.m. to noon, customers can get two-for-one lift tickets when spending over \$150.

"We love snowboarding and skiing and people in the store so it's an awesome time of year," Frazier said.

Melissa Agosta, co-owner of Gina Agosta Hair-color Design and Spa on Grand River Avenue near Haggerty Road, also knows people like to look nice around the holidays and is offering specials on both Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

On Friday, customers who purchase a \$100 gift card online or at the store will receive a \$20 bonus card valid for January only. On Monday, those who purchase a \$100 gift card online will receive a \$10 bonus card valid anytime.

Agosta said they will start giving out personalized Agosta gifts in December, and recently stocked the store with new products from New York retailers. She also has a Salvation Army bell at the spa and are collecting toy donations.

"We are so excited," she said.

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

## Survive the holidays with these apps

By Jon Gunnells  
Guest Columnist

The holidays can be stressful, especially if you are in charge of shopping, decorating and planning. Luckily, there are a number of free and low cost apps to help you navigate to the New Year.

Even if you don't know what an app is — help is on the way. An app, short for application, is a program that can be installed on a smartphone, tablet, or a computer.

Apps provide easy access to the tools you need with a touch of the button — instead of going through a clumsy Internet search that could be time-consuming if you are on a mobile device.

For example, a mobile banking app allows you to access your bank statements, make transfers and check on recent activity with the tap of a button instead of visiting a browser and typing in a URL.

Speaking of mobile banking, many national banks offer free apps that will allow you to monitor your accounts from your smartphone during shopping trips.

Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, PNC Bank, USAA and many more banks, credit card companies and credit unions offer free apps to help you track your expenditures.

Take it one step further with apps like Mint.com Personal Finance that helps you monitor your personal spending.



Tech Savvy  
Jon Gunnells

Or, download the PayPal app which allows you to pay merchants securely through your smartphone device. PayPal is perfect for paying online merchants or eBay sellers.

As for eBay, of course there's an app for that. If you are doing any holiday shopping, make sure to download the eBay and Amazon.com apps to track sales, purchases and payments in the palm of your hand.

Of course there are many apps beyond the realm of finance. You can check out Black Friday deals with DealTaker Inc's Black Friday app. Or if you have a specific store in mind, there's a good chance you can download apps to check prices and more. Target, Walmart, Walgreens and Sam Club each have free apps.

You can even compare prices of items across all stores with an app like Red Laser which compares prices when you scan a product's bar code.

It may sound cliché but there truly is an app for everything. You can download cookbooks to help with holiday recipes, or navigation apps to help you find the nearest mall or big box store.

Even online gift giving can be completed from your handheld device as

many social coupon sites have free apps.

Once you get done piloting your app store or marketplace for the programs that best fit your lifestyle, while not downloading something more fun. Angry Birds Seasons. Use the angry birds to blow off some steam and take out some holiday aggression — instead of directing it to the crazy shoppers and mall parking lot drivers.

Download an app. Don't know how to download an app? Don't worry here's how:

If you are on an Apple device like an iPad, iPhone, or iPod, click the "App Store" button, and get started. You can search for apps using keywords or search by categories.

Similarly, Android smartphone or tablet users can surf through apps in the Android marketplace. Blackberry users can visit the Blackberry World App that is preloaded on the device.

Jon Gunnells, a Northville Township resident, is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. A 2007 graduate of Michigan State University, he holds a B.A. in journalism. When he's not working, Gunnells enjoys college sports, social media and playing basketball. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnShdw.

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T3 with 18-55IS + EF-55-250.....	\$549.99	\$299.99	\$220.00	\$629.98
T3I with 18-55IS.....	\$899.99		\$50.00	\$849.99
T3I with 18-55IS + 55-250.....	\$899.99	\$299.99	\$200.00	\$999.98
EOS 60D Body.....	\$999.99		\$100.00	\$899.99
EOS 60D Body with 55-250.....	\$1,299.00	\$299.99	\$250.00	\$1,348.98
EOS 5D Body.....	\$2,499.99		\$100.00	\$2,399.99
EOS 7D Body with 55-250.....	\$1,999.99		\$250.00	\$1,749.99

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## NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

### SRI Energy changes

Srinerly, a Novi-based company formerly known as SRI Energy, has launched a website at www.Srinerly.com to unveil its new name and logo. "When I launched the company, we were very much focused on design, engineering and installation of solar energy systems for our residential and commercial clients," said Prasad Gullapalli, president and founder of Srinerly. "This hasn't changed. However, with several installations completed and new ones underway, our new company name, logo and website help us to more readily showcase who we are and what we do."

It was important for Gullapalli that the first three letters of the company's name remain unchanged. "SRI" stands for "socially responsible individual" to give emphasis to the company's offering of green energy solutions to individuals and organizations that are socially responsible.

Along with providing customized solar energy systems for commercial and residential installations, Srinerly offers pre-designed "solar boxes" that are designed to meet average energy consumption needs for different customers. "These kits fill a need for 'do-it-yourself' homeowners and others who know their energy consumption usage and are ready to go 'green' quickly," added Gullapalli. Srinerly also provides solar thermal systems for hot water tanks to help lower utility bills and reduce energy consumption.

Srinerly finances many of its own projects, including the ability to finance projects through GE Cap-

ital with 0 percent down payment required. Along with servicing a wide variety of clients including non-profit organizations, the company works with local trade associations, municipalities, building and development authorities, and neighborhood associations.

For more information, visit www.Srinerly.com or call (248) 254-6477.

### Novi recognized as a top performing community

The City of Novi has been identified as one of seven top performing communities in the state of Michigan for fostering entrepreneurial growth and economic development in a study by researchers at ILabs, University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Innovation Research.

Novi was also recognized as a four star community. In addition to performing well in the numerical portions of eCities 2010, the seven top performing communities are recognized for programs that aid entrepreneurial growth. These communities demonstrate they understand what small businesses need to be successful by communicating with them and providing connections to broader resources and insight on trends.

The eCities research surveyed more than 100 communities in the State of Michigan which are home to 36 percent of Michigan residents and 44 percent of its college graduates. These communities also had more than \$1 billion in commercial construction last year and more than half of them share services with other communities.

For more information on doing business in Novi, visit InvestNovi.org.

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## Home for the Holidays

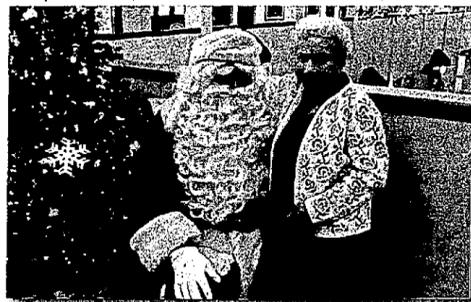
Abbey Park in Lyon Township will fill with festive cheer this Friday, kicking off the third annual Festival of Trees to benefit local charities. "Community groups decorate all of our trees and each year the Festival grows bigger and better," said Tamra Ward, Abbey Park Administrator. "Our residents, their families and the local community look forward to seeing all of the energy and creativity that goes into decorating all of our beautiful trees."

The local community is invited to participate in this year's Festival of Trees by voting for their favorite tree with a \$1 donation. Voting concludes at 2:00 on Christmas Eve and all of the proceeds from the donation ticket sales will benefit a charity chosen by the winning design team. In 2010, 18 community groups and organizations decorated trees for the competition.

Located on Milford Road just across from Coyote Golf Club in Lyon Township, Abbey Park is a popular new community for seniors looking for affordable retirement living near friends and family. The community has welcomed over 170 new residents since opening in January 2009.

### Something for Everyone

Abbey Park brings in the New Year with a festive dinner, and concludes each year with their Community Christmas Celebration and Festival of Trees. Residents have enjoyed a little midnight madness at a Hears, Pumpkins and Pajamas Party, kicked up their heels at their midsummer dance and joined the limbo line at the Grandparents Day Luau and pig roast. To celebrate autumn, residents were treated to an Oktoberfest event including serving wenchers, marching waltzers, braiswurst, German potato salad and apple



Abbey Park at Mill River is a great place to call home for the holidays. In addition to dozens of holiday parties, events and concerts, life at Abbey Park includes weekly live entertainment, wine and cheese, Happy Hour, ice cream socials, Wii Bowling, movies and card parties.



Abbey Park at Mill River resident Lois Watson was recently awarded first place at the annual Senior Spelling Bee. Residents at Abbey Park enjoy weekly dinner trips, monthly visits to local casinos and bi-weekly shopping excursions in addition to field trips to local events, musicals, festivals and parades.

strudel - along with a little beer and musical entertainment. Over 200 grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even a couple of great-great grandchildren participated in the annual Halloween Carnival complete with ghosts, games and a costume parade.

A typical week at Abbey Park kicks off on Sunday with an elegant champagne brunch, all faiths church service and cookies and coffee with family and friends. An average week offers the residents more than 45 events and activities to choose from, including live entertainment, Bingo, card clubs, two ice cream socials, weekly dinner trips, chair fitness classes, shopping, scheduled chauffeured transportation, movies and a weekly Happy Hour.

Residents also enjoy monthly casino trips, excursions to Kensington Metro Park and Erwin's Orchards, attendance at local plays and concerts and visits to annual festivals such as Milford Memories and Pumpkifest.

In a community all their own, residents operate a small Country Store with basic grocery and personal items, and participate on a council that comments and suggests amendments and additions to the

daily menu and activities schedule.

"Anything our seniors are willing to do, we make available to them," said Tamra Ward, Administrator for the Lyon Township location. "We encourage residents to be as active as they can be for as long as possible so they can maintain their independence."

### Live Longer, Healthier, Happier

A full activity schedule, great food and a wealth of amenities are just the beginning at Abbey Park. The community features 24-hour staffing, a medical alert system, scheduled chauffeured transportation, a beautiful dining room, and delicious meals in addition to a café, theater, chapel, library, fitness center, beauty salon and the reassurance of a full facility generator.

Abbey Park residents are no strangers to the local community. Group trips are planned for events like the Milford Fourth of July Parade and Hartland Senior Center's Home for the Holidays, plays and performance at local schools, shopping trips and dinner outings to Deadwood Bar & Grill in Northville and

other restaurants in the area.

Although Abbey Park is one of the newest businesses in the neighborhood, they have generously supported many local events and organizations including South Lyon Pumpkifest, Lyon Township's Kite Festival, Operation Injured Soldier, the Lyon Township Film Festival and Lyon Area Rotary in addition to the Grace Care Center in Trincamalee, Sri Lanka.

Located just 1.5 miles south of I-96 and minutes away from Novi, Brighton and Ann Arbor, Abbey Park offers affordable luxury. From beautifully landscaped grounds and courtyards to an elegant lobby with fountains, fireplaces, a grand piano and comfortable lounge areas, residents are proud to welcome visitors to their new home.

Life at Abbey Park includes a variety of complimentary conveniences that are often an added expense at other communities. On a daily basis, housekeepers make the beds and take out trash. Residents start their day with continental breakfast in the café, and enjoy a delicious lunch or dinner in the Grand Dining Room. Once a week, all residents are treated to full cleaning services, including laundering bed linens and towels.

There are nine floor plans to choose from, ranging from one bedroom with one bath to two bedrooms with two full baths and two walk-in closets. All apartments include either a balcony or patio and a medical monitoring system that is easily accessed from several areas within each unit. Heat, water, electricity and basic cable services are also included.

With an average of 45 weekly events and activities to choose from, days at Abbey Park are full of fun and friendship. Activity Director Cindy Konech and her assistant Karen

"They make us feel special here. I don't think we could find a better place to live."

Ed Kustron  
Abbey Park resident

Hanley work full time to provide opportunities for socialization, entertainment and great food.

### The Home of the Brave

Abbey Park also hosts monthly Hudson Valley Arm-Vet Post 2006 meetings for veterans and their spouses. Some veterans are eligible for up to \$1900 per month in reimbursed living expenses. "Many veterans are not aware of the Aid and Attendance Benefit available through the Veterans Administration." In addition to monthly meetings, the community recently dedicated their "Hall of Honor" commemorating the service of resident Veterans.

World War II Veteran, Ed Kustron, a resident of Abbey Park, is proud of his military service to his country and enjoys reminiscing with the 30 Veterans who are also neighbors in the community. Kustron and his wife, Margaret, moved to Abbey Park from Farmington Hills and are quite sure they've found a happy home. They've become regular players in card games, enjoy the food and new friends and are fond of the Hospitality Director Charles Day, who regularly makes a special delivery of buttermilk - their favorite drink.

"They make us feel special here," Kustron said. "I don't think we could find a better place to live."

Residents stay connected with friends and family on the Abbey Park facebook page. Visit [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) to check out photos from year-round events, say hello to Abbey Park residents or keep up with scheduled events. Abbey Park also produces monthly newsletters, weekly activity schedule and a daily posting of menus, schedules and photos from previous events on their in-house monitor system.

"Our friendly staff members arrive each day and work with one directive: to treat our residents at Abbey Park as if they are our own parents," Ward said. "As a result, we all feel like part of one big family here; this is our home away from home."

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