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LOCAL NEWS, PAGE A8

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NOVI NEWS

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Coffee with the super

Dr. Steve Matthews, Novi Community School District superintendent, will be hosting a number of Coffee with the Superintendent events at the Novi Public Library, in the Board Room, on a variety of dates.

The first two of these events will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 19 and 10:15 a.m. Wednesday, March 21. The topic of discussion for the first two dates will be Looking Ahead to the 2012-13 Budget.

Please refer to the Novi News and the Novi Community School District website www.novi.k12.mi.us for additional dates, times and topics of discussion.

Mom 2 Mom Sale

Novi Community Education's infant toddler program, the Lily Pad Lane, is hosting its fourth annual Mom 2 Mom sale from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 24 at the Novi High School in the Atrium.

Admission is \$1 per adult and children ages 15 and under are free.

Sellers may call (248) 449-1713 to rent a table and/or rack space. Tables are \$20 per round and \$10 per rack space. All baby and toddler items will be accepted.

For more information contact Community Education - Child Care Services at (248) 449-1713.

Book drive

Novi Meadows Girl Scout Troop 40173 is holding a children's book drive at the Novi Public Library. Gently used children's books are requested for donation to Oakland County Child Protective Services. For more information, e-mail Troop40173@yahoo.com.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chef Steve Allen, co-owner of Steve and Rocky's in Novi on Grand River Avenue, will have to deal with customers frustrated by the needed road construction in front of his restaurant this summer. Road crews are expected to start resurfacing work on March 19, and Steve and Rocky's is hosting an informational meeting the next day to provide people with updates on the project.

Long-awaited resurfacing to start on Grand River Avenue

Work begins March 19, finishes in August

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Road work on one of Novi's most talked about thoroughfares will begin sooner than expected thanks to a burst of early warm weather.

The resurfacing of Grand River Avenue between Novi Road and Haggerty could start as early as March 19, according to Road Commission for Oakland County public information officer Craig Bryson.

And for city officials, residents and business owners, it couldn't be sooner. "We are definitely excited to see resurfacing being done after all these years,"

Please see **GRAND RIVER, A2**

LEARN MORE

To get information out about the Grand River Avenue repaving to residents and business owners in the area, the city is hosting an informational meeting at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 20, at Steve and Rocky's at 43150 Grand River. The meeting will feature spokespeople from the city and RCOC who will give the project time line, detour information and marketing/public relations tips.

Sheryl Walsh, director of communications for the city, said she hopes business owners use the meeting as a way to form partnerships.

"Businesses can learn from each other," she said. "There is that sense of community because they will all be going through it."

For more information about the meeting or project, call (248) 735-5628.

Council names historic property Pavilion Shore Park

Novi's Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Mangum walks along the shore of Novi's Landings Property on March 13 with his son Reece, 12. The city re-named the property last night and is planning on going ahead with a major renovation of the park along the south shore of Walled Lake utilizing the help of the Michigan DNR.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

The Novi City Council paid homage to the historic pavilion that stood on the shores of Walled Lake from the 1920s to 1950s by naming the park property on 13 Mile and Old Novi Road the Pavilion Shore Park on Monday night.

The property, which was previously called the

Please see **PARK, A2**

Expo gives glimpse of services, food in Novi

Event takes place March 22 at Novi Civic Center

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Residents looking to get a quick peek at some of the services and food choices the city has to offer need look no further than the fourth annual Novi Taste and Business Expo.

The event, which runs from 3-6 p.m. on March 22 and starts with keynote speaker Lee Meadows, will be held at the Novi Civic Center for the first time as it outgrew its previous space at the Baronette Renaissance.

This year, more than 50 businesses will be on hand, as well as nine restaurants.

"The purpose is two-fold," said chamber director Linda Daly. "It gives our businesses an opportunity to display their products and services for other businesses, and also allows them to display it for the community as well."

For an entrance fee of \$5, patrons can taste food from Bagger Dave's, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Ido Fusion, Hooter's, Buffalo Wild Wings, Los Amigos Mexican Restaurant, Pizza Marvelous, The Melting Pot and Tony Sacco's Coal Oven Pizza.

There also will be a cash bar for people looking to have a drink with the food.

Diane Risko, American Red Cross donor services representative, said she came back for a second year because of the opportunity to network with businesses and residents.

"It's a lot of mingling with the community and other business people, and it's a great way to take a little longer to explain what your business does and how it can benefit people in the community," she said.

Meadows, a professor of management at Walsh College and author, will be speaking on the topic of "Small and big in the new era of business." His presentation is open to the public.

The event also will feature several door prizes, including Detroit Tigers tickets.

"It's a good education for people living and working in the community to see what is here," said Daly.

Last-minute vendor spaces also are still available for \$140.

For more information about the event, or to secure a space, call (248) 349-3743 or e-mail Daly at linda@novichamber.com.

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GRAND RIVER

Continued from page A1

said Rob Hayes, director of Novi's Department of Public Services. "It has been a long time coming — and, if properly maintained, it should last 20 years."

The \$4.1-million project calls for resurfacing the asphalt, some isolated base repairs where there are major problems, repairs to curbs, gutters and the drainage system, extension of the right turn lane on westbound Grand River just east of Novi Road and updating the pedestrian crosswalks throughout the area to be ADA-compliant.

Hayes said one of the main reasons the road was in such bad shape was because of poor drainage, and the improvements should keep water out of the road bed.

Federal funding will take care of just over \$3.3 million of the project cost, with the remainder being split between the city and RCOC. Novi's share is \$272,000, with the majority of it coming from tri-party funding and the remainder from the municipal street fund.

Bryson said at least one lane of traffic will be open at all times, but delays should be expected. He also said all lanes of traffic are expected to be open on Aug. 17.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Motorists and business owners along Grand River Avenue in Novi are looking forward to a resurfacing of the pitted, potholed road this summer. Areas like this, east of Novi Road, are particularly bad.

PARK

Continued from page A1

Landings Park, was designated as parkland in March 2010. The city later received a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund development grant to the tune of \$437,500 to aid in its development, and work on the first two phases is expected to start this summer.

More than 80 naming suggestions were submitted by community members about a month ago, and the top three were chosen by a park naming committee to go before city council. The other two suggestions were Casino Point or Casino Shores Park and Potawatomi Park.

Some council members said they were leaning toward the casino names, but reconsidered after hearing from members of the community and thinking about the meaning of the word "casino" today. "I think over the years the meaning of certain words happen to change," said Mayor Bob Gatt. "And in the year 2012, to name a park Casino Park or Casino Shores

— although it has very great historical value — it would be very confusing to our new generation of people."

Mayor Pro tem David Staudt said while he couldn't support using "casino" in the park name, he wouldn't be opposed to using it and the other suggestions for other areas in the park.

"There are a lot of really good recommendations, and we have large piece of property here that has some unique characteristics about it — the shore line, some wooded areas, some open areas — and I'd like us to consider using some of these other recommendations," he said.

Council member Terry Margolis said she liked the sentiment behind the other two suggestions, but liked Staudt's plan to use the names inside the park.

"I really like Pavilion Shore," she said. "I think that also is a historic name and keeps us away from having people get off 696 and 96 and heading to the casino in Novi."

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District relies on contributions from everyone to be great

By Steve Matthews
Guest Columnist



Super Talk
Steve Matthews

I love sports but my athletic career was not exactly one for the record books. I enjoyed playing, worked hard and had my moments. But the biggest benefit of my athletic experience was the lessons it taught me. I learned an important one when I was 9 years old. I played Little League baseball that summer and my dad was the coach. I was convinced I should be a pitcher because I threw the ball as hard as anyone on the team. How hard could it be to throw the ball over the plate? My dad and the other coaches on the team worked with me. They all told me I threw the ball hard and that I needed to work on my command. Getting the ball over the plate was harder than I had imagined. After several weeks of practice and several games into the season, my dad came to me and told me I was going to start the next game. I was very excited. I knew it was going to be a memorable experience. I was right for all the wrong reasons. That next game was the only game I ever started as a pitcher. On the bright side, I struck out three batters in my one inning of work. However, I walked six and hit two others. Technically a starting pitcher I have never surrendered a hit. But that's not really how other people look at it. I learned many things

that day. I learned that some adults take nine-year old baseball very seriously. I had never paid much attention to what the adults were saying when I played that base, but as the starting pitcher I heard every word. Most of the comments questioned both my ability and the wisdom of the coach. My dad visited the mound to try and reassure me. He told me to relax, throw to the target and trust my motion. All the things you would expect a coach to say to a pitcher who couldn't find the plate. After the inning I trudged off the mound. I was embarrassed. I was frustrated. I was upset. My dad put his arm around me and said something to this effect. "I don't think you are a pitcher. But I know that you will help this team. We just need to find the place where you will shine. We won't win without you." And that's the lesson that I learned when I was 9. Not everybody is going to be the pitcher, but the team can't win unless everyone contributes. I carry the lesson that I learned from that experience with me every day. A team is composed of people doing their job well. Our school district is no different. We won't be successful here in Novi unless

everyone finds the place where they can contribute. District goal number four talks about building a quality organization. One of the defining characteristics of a quality organization is that everyone contributes to the success of the team. I have been in Novi for only eight short months, but in that time I have seen bus drivers, mechanics, food service workers, secretaries, teachers and administrators working hard to contribute to the success of our team. I have also seen students, parents and community members focusing their efforts on helping us get better. I am heartened that we have so many people working so hard to make sure that the students in our district will be successful. Every job is important and every job needs to be done well. I believe our team here in Novi understands the important role that everyone plays in making sure our students will be successful. As I trudged off the mound many years ago, I learned the importance of everyone finding their role and doing their job. I am confident that is a lesson we have learned here in Novi and I know it will contribute to our success.

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

Happy birthday!



Deerfield Elementary students participated in Read Across America by bringing in their favorite Dr. Seuss books on March 2. They also were celebrating Dr. Seuss's 108th birthday. Pictured are students Anavi Uppa, left, and Jordana Krstovski.

NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

IB Talent Show

Novi High School's second annual IB International Talent Show — Around the World in 20 Acts — will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 17 in the auditorium. All proceeds are donated to Doctors Without Borders. Last year over 300 people attended the event which raised \$2,485, and this year the group hopes to raise even more funds for this international organization. The show will feature Novi High School students performing in 20 acts representing various countries. Some of the many acts include dances from India, Greece, Ireland, and Mexico; songs in Latin and French; instruments from French and Finland composers, a Japanese traditional drum performance, and more.

The production was organized by the 27 IB diploma candidates at the school. This event is part of their CAS (creativity, action, and service) requirement for earning the diploma. The students planned all aspects of the show from recruiting to advertising, ticket and program preparation, and emcee duties. In addition, many of the IB students are performing in the show under the direction of their staff coordinator, Barbara Cliff.

A new feature added to the event this year is taste testing of international foods during the intermission. Tables will be set up with food from Japan, India, Belgium, Germany, China and more.

Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased at the door. Come help and

support this charity while celebrating the diverse talents of the Novi students.

Fuerst Scholarships

If you are a resident of the Novi Community School district and are attending post high school education in an undergraduate program at an accredited community college, college, university, technical or vocational school, then you may be eligible for a Fuerst Scholarship. The Fuerst scholarship is based primarily on financial need and is administered through the Novi Educational Foundation. Up to \$17,000 in scholarship funds are awarded annually to qualified applicants.

Application forms are available from the Novi High School Counseling Office, the Educational Services Building on Taft Road, or by calling (248) 449-1200. The deadline for applications is Friday, March 30.

Lakes Area Rotary offering scholarships

The Lakes Area Rotary Club is accepting scholarship applications from Walled Lake High School students. A minimum of three \$1,250.00 scholarships will be awarded. Eligible students will have maintained a B (3.0) average, be in good standing with the school and have actively participated in community service during their high school years. Application deadline is April 1. Applications can be secured at www.lakesarearotary.org (follow down on the right to the bottom of the page for a download) or by contacting Rotarian, Lorrie McVey at (248) 390-8572.

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE UPDATE

Nominate Difference Maker

In celebration of its 50th Anniversary, Schoolcraft College is paying homage to those who have helped make the college and the community what it is today. Nominations are currently being accepted to recognize the 50 most influential Difference Makers from Schoolcraft College.

There are two primary categories we are seeking nominees from — those who have made an impact on Schoolcraft College; and those by virtue of their relationship to Schoolcraft College have had a significant impact on their community, professionally or personally. Nominees can be current students, alumni or former students, instructors, staff members, donors, volunteers, board members, friends, community leaders, etc.

Nominators are asked to provide contact information on themselves and the nominee; basic information about the nominee and their relationship to the college, including the era in which they were influenced or had influence on the college; and a brief description on their impact on Schoolcraft College or how Schoolcraft College had an impact on their lives and therefore their contribution to society.

"The Difference Makers campaign is a great opportunity for us to honor the college's 50-year legacy of serving the people who have created that legacy," said Dr. Conway A. Jeffress, president of the college. "With thousands of faculty and staff, and hundreds of vol-

unteers, donors and friends of the college helping to build the college through the years, and more than 300,000 alumni who have gone out into the world spreading their influence, it is going to be very difficult to narrow it down to only 50 Difference Makers."

The Difference Makers will be celebrated in a special pull-out feature section in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Hometown Weekly Newspapers in April. Their stories will also be shared on Schoolcraft's website and they will be honored at a reception later this spring.

"We have had an interesting mix of nominations so far," said Michelle Gaynier, communications coordinator. "Of course there are some folks we would expect to see on the list like our former college presidents, all of whom have contributed in their own unique way to the college. We also have had several alumni nominated including those who have gone on to have tremendous professional success as well as those who are dedicated to community service, both locally and in other areas of the country." Instructors and staff who have been instrumental in developing and expanding programs, a donor whose generosity has provided scholarships for several years for dozens of students, and several volunteers have also been nominated.

Nominations will be accepted until March 31. Nomination forms are available on the college's website at www.schoolcraft.edu/50. Questions can be directed to (734) 462-4412.

ON CAMPUS

Carthage College

Madeline Price, a sophomore from Novi, is a member of the Carthage Wind Orchestra, which is undertaking a special musical tour in March, celebrating the 165th anniversary of the founding of the college in Hillsboro, Ill. The tour opens in Menasha, Wisc. on March 16. Included on the concert



Price

program will be the world premiere of Martin Ellerby's A Soliloquy for Solferino, a work co-work commissioned by Carthage with 29 other institutions from around

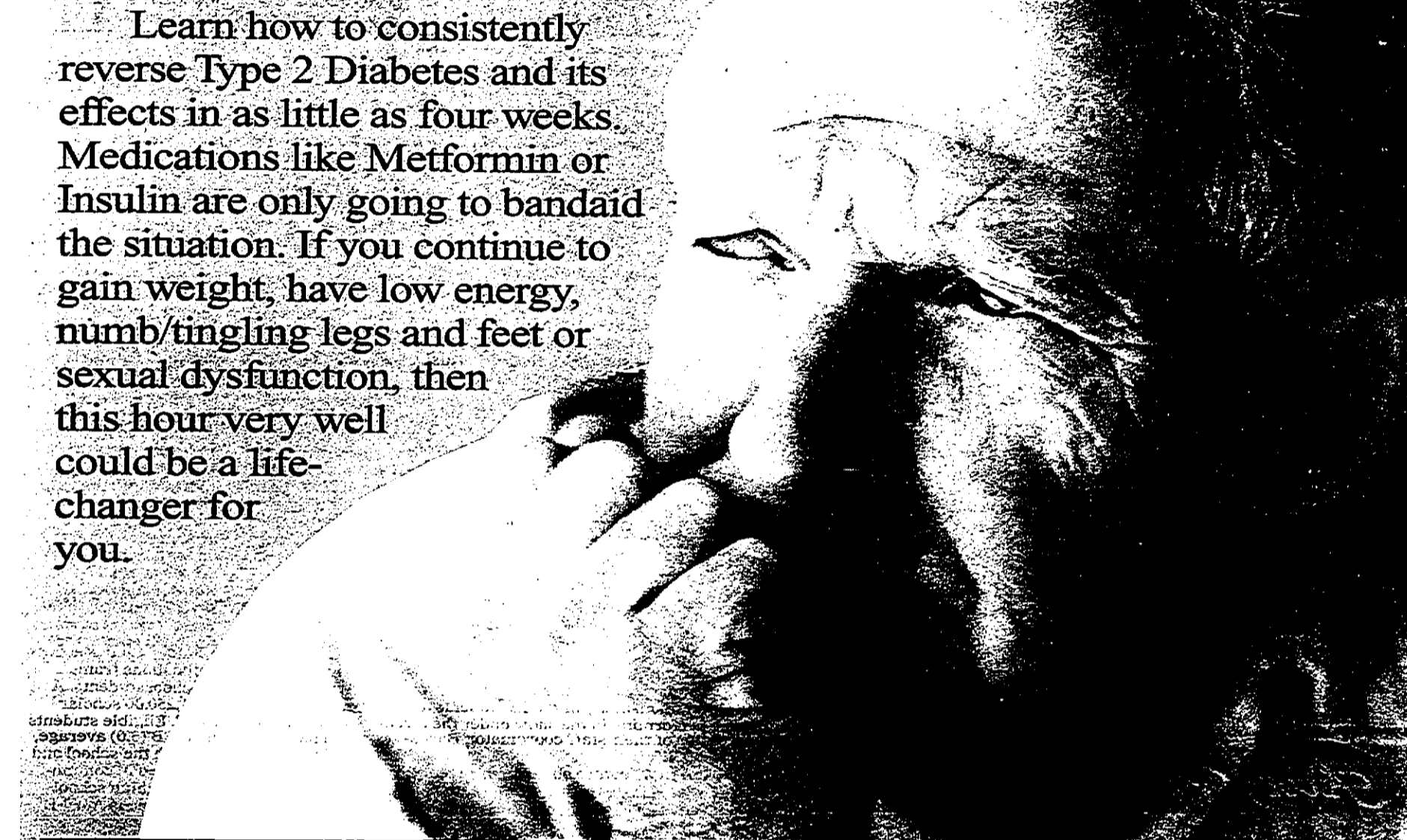
the world. The tour will include a March 21 stop at Hillsboro, with a concert at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and concludes on March 25 in Kenosha with a 7 p.m. concert at the A. F. Seibert Chapel. Each concert is free and open to the public.

Price is a graduate of Novi High School, majoring in music education.

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AAUW-Northville Novi launches 'Let's Read Math'

Imagine being rich one Sunday and poor the next because of not counting very well, or imagine being queen and having a bed that is way too short because the carpenter's apprentice measured the length of his own foot to build a six foot bed.



Let's Read Math is sponsored and conducted by AAUW-NN as part of its commitment to support local community education. Members of Northville High School Honor Society are partnering as workshop assistants. Northville Community Library is the series site.

Twenty second- and third-graders and their parents are imagining and thinking creatively about math concepts in a four-Saturdays March series called Let's Read Math. The program combines familiar children's literature with fun math activities to build positive attitudes about math while helping children appreciate that math is alive all around them every day in everything that they do. Mom or dad is also an active participant to inspire follow up at home.

The book "How Big is a Foot?" by Roal Myller was the inspiration for last Saturday's focus on standard measurement. Each workshop is staffed by a team of American Association of University Women-Northville Novi and Northville High School Honor Society members. Long-time Amerman teacher Arlene Frayne was team leader last week.

There were plenty of giggles and smiles all around as honor students gave an impromptu dramatization of a royal household measuring crisis. Finally the king decreed that the length of his foot would be the standard of measure throughout the kingdom... it just happened to be 12 inches. Legend has it that one of the King Henrys can be credited with

to sharing registration information with faculty and school families.

At the development stage, Let's Read Math founder Dr. Claire Passantino, Ed.D tried it out with her local Pennsylvania AAUW group as presenters in local schools.

Now the program has been adapted from coast to coast for school classrooms, after-school centers, family nights, libraries and day camps. After learning that its sister Ann Arbor organization had launched Let's Read Math in AA schools last winter, AAUW-NN Initiatives Committee invited Passantino to make a January flight in from Pennsylvania to train 26 AAUW members and 10 honor society members.

Team members spent a lot of February hours shopping for supplies, packing the right props for each workshop and deciding what role each team member would play. Now it is fun time for everyone. The series

DETAILS

AAUW Northville-Novu Inc. is an organization of college graduates whose local activities are designed to advance equity and improve the quality of life for women and girls through support of education, development, enrichment opportunity, community outreach and involvement. Let's Read Math is a nice addition to well established AAUW community outreach.

— Career Path Day for middle school girls, family graduation celebration for women awarded a GED after a lapse in their education, annual scholarships to Northville and Novi High School graduating senior girls, annual additions to AAUW Scholarship Endowments established at both Schoolcraft and Oakland Community College.

AAUW-NN is able to give back to the community because the community supports its annual Northville Home Tour scheduled in 2012 for 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29. For more about AAUW, see aauwnn.org.

winds up with a little geometry exploration where everyone builds polygons, pyramids and prisms. Then it will be evaluation time and back to the drawing board to decide when, where, what next for Let's Read Math.

Submitted by AAUW-Northville Novi member **Corinne Vincent**, who can be reached at vincorinn@yahoo.com.

Tech-savvy retirees reside at Fox Run

Keeping up to date with the latest technology can be difficult if you didn't grow up using computers, cell phones, and other electronic gadgets. But that's not stopping people living at Fox Run retirement community in Novi from embracing new technology that can make their lives easier and more entertaining.

A group of residents has formed an iPad club to exchange tips, share applications (known simply as "apps"), and help one another troubleshoot technology issues. Gloria Maire came up with the idea for the club, and she asked her friend and neighbor, Hilda Edwards, to help organize it. About 20 people showed up for the first meeting and others are expected to join as more residents continue to purchase iPads.

Edwards, a former school teacher, who moved to Fox Run from Bloomfield, says she has been using computers for more than 30 years and describes herself as a "techie." In fact, she used a computer to help her students learn to read in the 1980s. She has stayed current with technology since then, and when Apple introduced the iPad, she knew she wanted one of her own.

"I already had an e-reader, so I really didn't need it," she said, "but I saw a lot of my friends using it and thought, 'This looks like fun.'" She purchased an iPad 2 last fall, and she uses it on a regular basis.

She checks her e-mail on it, plays games, and periodically watches TV shows. She even recently discovered an app that allows users to download electronic copies of the Bible.

"I have over 20 apps," she says. "What is so cool about the iPad is whatever you feel like doing, you can do."

Jack Beggs, another Fox Run resident, who moved from Troy, received an iPad as a gift last Christmas. He and his wife, Rosemary, use it to check e-mail and read newspapers. "It's a very portable device; you can take it anywhere," he says.

Beggs says he's found the Skype application most useful. It enables users to make video telephone calls over the Internet. Some of his and his wife's friends from Fox Run were spending the winter in Barbados but wanted to stay in touch with their neighbors back in Novi. His iPad was the perfect solution.

"Now we can go into the living room [in Fox Run's clubhouse], which has wireless Internet, so we can show our friends in Barbados what is going on [there] using Skype," he said. Prior to receiving his iPad, Beggs had primarily used PCs, so he's just getting familiar with Apple's operating system. Fox Run's iPad club, he says, is a good opportunity for business and job growth, talent enhancement, tourism marketing,

Rotarians cleaning up Ecuador's water

Novi's Sobotta leads training team

Novi Rotary Club member Gary Sobotta leading a vocational training team from Rotary District 6380 in conducting a project implementation for a bio-sand water filter and community health promotion workshops in Cuenca, Ecuador on Feb. 10-12.

The team included Paul Earwaker (UK) and Eva Manzano (Spain) of the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology; Erica Gwynn, former Rotary Ambassador Scholar of Farmington Hills, Mich.; and Lindsay Nicolson of the Ann Arbor Rotaract.

"We provided the knowledge and skill of local populations to meet their own needs," said Sobotta. The training was conducted entirely in Spanish without using an interpreter. Twenty-four community health workers and designated technicians from the Rotaract clubs of Esmeraldas, Gualeaco, Tomebarba, Cuenca and Zaruma attended the workshops.

Technicians received instruction and hands-on experience in the construction of the filter, including molding and curing of the concrete housings, selection and installation of graded sand media, manufacture of diffuser basins and lids. Participants gained a clear understanding of the rationale behind the filter design, how to install it and instruct householders on its correct usage to ensure the proper and consistent use of the filters in Ecuador. The community health workers received more in-depth training on health, sanitation, and bio-sand filter operation and maintenance so that they can help others use and maintain their filters properly.

The vocational training team developed training material appropriate to the physical and cultural conditions of the local population. Sanitation and hygiene improvement depends on the degree to which the local community understands the values and assimilates them within their own family

and community contexts. "All persons have the right to a safe and secure supply of water," said Sobotta. "We are privileged to turn on our tap and enjoy the clean water of these five enormous lakes along the Canadian-American border which hold 20 percent of the world's fresh water." After the workshop, the team met with each club conducting a project planning exercise. This shared visioning exercise provided a use-

ful framework for a club to consider and develop a coherent, shared set of goals, and values for the project. During the first phase of the project, each club will complete 20 filters to determine the true cost of manufacturing for each region, and the acceptance of implementing the filter into the community. The clubs expect the first phase of the project to be completed by July 1.

The team will use two components to evaluate the effectiveness of the project. A water quality testing of the source water and subsequent water testing to determine the removal rates of the contaminants. Also, a questionnaire to study and continuously monitor and evaluate the efficacy of the bio-sand filter and health/hygiene programs implemented in selected Ecuadorian communities.

The workshop is just the beginning of the knowledge and skill transfer process. The team will



Novi's Gary Sobotta (front, second from left) lead a vocational training team from Rotary District 6380 to Cuenca, Ecuador, in February.

provide on-going consulting and support via e-mail, telephone and site visits to support the training participants with their projects and continue to enhance their capabilities. The team will provide technical and implementation support in program development, troubleshooting, network building and project management. On request, custom consultation will be provided. Follow the progress of the project on its Facebook page, Agua Limpia Ecuador, and use the "Like" button to share the content.

Rotary recognizes the importance of safe and clean water and has made it one of its highest priorities. Rotary encourages its clubs and districts to support efforts which help people to provide themselves with safe water reasonably close to their homes using simple, sustainable technology. Rotary club members initiate thousands of projects each year to supply, conserve, and purify water - all with the goal of providing clean and safe drinking water to communities in need.

MEDC president to speak at OCC commencement

Michael Finney, president and CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, will be the featured speaker at Oakland Community College's 46th commencement ceremonies at the Palace of Auburn Hills, Saturday, May 19, starting at 2 p.m.

MEDC is a private-public organization serving as the state's lead agency for business and job growth, talent enhancement, tourism marketing,



Finney

arts and cultural grants and overall economic growth. Finney's responsibilities also include serving as Governor Snyder's Economic Growth Group executive, as well as president and chairman of the Michigan Strategic Fund. Under Finney's

leadership, the MEDC developed Pure Michigan Connect, an innovative economic development program that provides comprehensive business development, capital enhancement access, talent enhancement and marketing assistance to Michigan-based companies.

Prior to his MEDC appointment by Governor Snyder in 2010, Finney had been the first CEO of Ann Arbor SPARK, a

public-private partnership whose mission is to advance economic development in the Greater Ann Arbor region. "We are honored to have Mike Finney as our commencement speaker. We look forward to hearing his message of Michigan's economic growth to the graduates of the class of 2012," said OCC Chancellor Tim Meyer.

An audience of more than 5,000 attended last year's commencement celebration at the Palace. More than 2,600 OCC graduates were awarded diplomas and certificates. College officials estimate that this year's class will be as large, if not larger. With five campuses located throughout

Oakland County, OCC is Michigan's largest community college and the 25th largest in the nation. OCC offers certificates and associate degrees in more than 160 fields, including university transfer courses in business, science and the liberal arts. Approximately 78,000 students attend OCC each year.

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City gives preliminary OK to Showplace hotel site plan

Bowman calls hotel a 'very important component'

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Blair Bowman said it's hard to believe it's been almost five years since he first proposed construction of a hotel on site at the Suburban Collection Showplace.

And Monday night, that vision moved closer to becoming a reality as the Novi City Council granted the Hyatt Place Hotel preliminary site plan and stormwater management plan approval.

The owner of the Suburban Collection Showplace said he is very proud of the plan and excited.

"It's a combination of a hotel and a significant amount of additional meeting space and break out space, really providing us all the pieces to the puzzle bringing a full-service convention center concept into conclusion on the site," Bowman said.

The proposal calls for the construction of a six-story, 128-room hotel attached to the east side of the existing conference and banquet hall area.

"Although it's a small hotel, it's going to be a very important component," he said.

Bowman's quest for an on-site hotel gained steam last fall

when he received Novi's first commercial rehabilitation tax abatement.

The tax abatement the Showplace received is a 100-percent, six-year, real property tax abatement that would freeze the taxable value of the building as it was before the improvements. It's estimated the city would abate an estimated \$627,500 during that time.

One of the only issues brought up during the meeting Monday involved parking, as construction of the hotel will eliminate roughly 221 spaces, but city staff did not believe it would be an issue.

Council member Wayne Wrobel was happy with the plans he saw.

"I'm very impressed with this," he said. "I like it a lot better than the first version when the hotel was up closer to Grand River. I think it's a better use of space and it doesn't take the prime parking spots that are used for the daily events people come in for."

Final site plan approval is still needed before Bowman can move forward with construction.

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



Mary Jane Scott, Director of Sales and Marketing at Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace, displays a blueprint of the conference center's proposed hotel which won its preliminary site approval recently. The convention center is hoping to break ground soon on its Hyatt Place at the Suburban Collection Showplace.

Passages

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BOONENBERG, STUART MICHAEL

58, of Milford, died 3/2/2012. Memorials to Relay for Life-Team DCI Walkers for Wellness, www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

KARLE, IRENE T.

Age 95, passed away peacefully on March 2, 2012 at King's Daughters Home in Midland. Irene was the fourth of eight children, born in Detroit on June 7, 1916, to Roman and Clara (Renauer) Stuve. Irene graduated from Detroit's Mackenzie High School in 1934. She worked as a nanny, a soda jerk at Cunningham's Drug Store, and a secretary for General Filters. On November 23, 1939, Irene married Gene E. Karle. She often said, "The best decision I ever made in my life was to marry Gene." They honeymooned in New York City during the summer of 1940. They raised three children, first living in Detroit's northwest side and later, in Irene's dream house which they built on Upper Pettibone Lake in Highland Township. Irene enjoyed traveling with her husband around the country. After Gene passed away, Irene continued to travel, visiting places including China, Europe and the Middle East. In Michigan, Irene helped form a widows' group, participated in the Milford seniors' organization, and was a very active, long-standing member at St. Mary's Church—even becoming a "substitute grandmother" for a Laotian family. In 1994 Irene moved to Riverside Place in Midland. She planted peonies at her new home, and enjoyed her many friends, shopping at the farmers' market, and walking along the river. Irene was a member of the Quilters Club and St. Bridgid Church. When Irene moved to King's Daughters Home in 2006, she was surrounded by a loving, caring staff who nurtured her with kindness and compassion. New Year's 2012 was one of Irene's last celebrations. When her daughter asked Irene to share advice with those gathered, Irene looked around at her family and said, "Stay together!" Irene Karle is survived by her daughters Clarissa (Paul) Heil of Midland, Elaine Karle (Jerry Schuur) of East Lansing, daughter-in-law Linda Karle of Highland, and five grandchildren: Holly Karle, Bart (Lynn) Heil, Max Heil, and sister Geraldine Cooney of Florida, brother Dick (Terri) Stuve of Livonia, and sister-in-law Rita Stuve of Wayne. She was predeceased by her husband, Gene, son Karl, and six siblings. A memorial mass will be held at St. Mary's Our Lady of the Snows Parish (1955 Commerce Street, Milford, MI) at 11:00 a.m. on March 20, 2012. The family will greet visitors starting at 10:30 a.m. Online condolences can be given at SmithMiner.com. There will be no services or viewing in Midland. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Midland Quilt Makers (1508 Sayre Street, Midland, MI 48640); St. Mary, Our Lady of the Snows Parish (1955 Commerce Street, Milford, MI 48140); King's Daughters Home (2410 Rood Street, Midland, MI 48640).

LAMB, ROBERT A.

31, of Milford, died March 11, 2012. Funeral Services at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, Thursday, March 15 at 12 Noon. www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

MAYO, JACK LEE

Age 80, of Lyon Township, passed (March 2, 2012). A private family service was held. Arrangements by PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

PUZZUOLI, THOMAS

Of South Lyon, passed (March 8, 2012) at Providence Park Hospital. Mr. Puzzuoli was born in Benwood, West Virginia, July 9, 1926 to Benedetto and Concetta (Panetta) Puzzuoli. His family later moved to Detroit where he spent his youth and attended the Detroit Public Schools. He proudly served in the United States Army during World War II in the Philippines and rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant. At the end of the war he returned to Barbara Jean Robinson at the First Methodist Church of Highland Park. Mr. Puzzuoli was a commercial artist and freelance designer, enjoyed painting and was an avid golfer. He lost his wife in 1982 and is survived by his children, Thomas Brent (Franziska), Kent (Benita), Lori (Jim) Karlow and David (Theresa). He also enjoyed his grandchildren and great grandchildren as well as nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his sisters, Lydia, Gilda and Rosemarie. He was pre-deceased by siblings James, Jerry, John and Yolanda. A Memorial Gathering will be held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral, 2802 South Main Street, Plymouth on Saturday, March 17, 2012 from 2pm until time of service at 3pm. In lieu of flowers contributions are suggested to the American Cancer Society. Share your special thoughts and memories at: www.schrader-howell.com

RIDNER, MARY LEE

Age 76, of Wilcox, passed away March 2, 2012. A private family service was held. Arrangements by PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

RUBRITUS, HERMAN

95, of Milford and Commerce, March 10, 2012. Services were held March 13, 2012. More info at www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

SROKA, JAMES EDWARD

72, 3/11/2012. Visitation at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 3115, 3-9PM, Funeral 3:16, 10AM, Burial: Great Lakes National Cemetery.

TETREAU, WARNER S.

February 22, 1918- March 7, 2012. Online condolences: obitsonlinefuneralhome.com

HARRIS, KATHLEEN

November 29, 1919- March 6, 2012. Online condolences: obitsonlinefuneralhome.com

EWALD, GUTHREY "GUS"

Age 27, passed away 3/5/2012. Visitation was held Saturday, 3/10 at Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon. www.phillipsfuneral.com

Women of Ravensbruck: Portraits of Courage

New Holocaust Memorial Center exhibit details life in female concentration camp

A new exhibit is on display at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus in Farmington Hills. The exhibit, "Women of Ravensbruck: Portraits of Courage," which opened on Sunday, details the lives of those imprisoned at Ravensbruck, the Nazi's major concentration camp for women, with a special focus on the few survivors with ties to southeast Michigan. It will be on display through June 24.

The exhibit features the stories of local women, other survivors researched by the late artist Julia Terwilliger, and those who did not survive Ravensbruck. The local women included in the exhibit are: • Lola Taubman, of Ann Arbor • Agi Rubin, of Farmington Hills • Irene Zuckerman-Smitcher, of Southfield • Paula Barton-Marks, of West Bloomfield • Elizabeth Weeds, of Novi

Florine Mark, of Farmington Hills, president and CEO of Weight Watchers Group, was the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony on Sunday, March 11. Her speech, "The Courageous Woman Inside Each of Us," honored the women of Ravensbruck and acknowledge all women as part of National Women's History Month. "We are very honored to have Florine Mark speak at the opening ceremony," said Goldman. "Her leadership role in the community and business expertise is an inspiration not only to women, but to all of us."



Paula Barton-Marks, of West Bloomfield, reads the panel in the exhibit that is about herself.

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Holy Days: 9 a.m., 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.
Reconciliation: beginning 9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment
Priests: Father Bob LaCroix, pastor and Father Michael Zuelch, associate pastor
Lenten events
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursdays
Details: "Catholicism - dvd discussion"
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Fridays
Details: stations of the cross
CHRISTIAN BIBLE TALKS
Location: Plymouth VFW Hall, 1426 S Mill Street (north of Ann Arbor & Lilley Rds)
Time/Dates: 4 p.m. Sundays, March 18 and 25
Details: These one-hour meetings will emphasize the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. No collections will be taken. Ministers are Matthew Jensen & Jason McNally
Contact: (515) 851-2939
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Livonia FELLOWSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 10300 Hubbard Road • Livonia South of Six Mile Road Adult Service: 9:30-10:30 a.m., 10:30-11:00 a.m. Children's Service: 10:00-11:00 a.m. Kids Church: 8:45 & 10:30 a.m. Youth Night - Wed. 6:45-8:00 p.m. Plus Young Adults, Recovery, Discipleship, etc.	Milford MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 238 N. Main Street, Milford MI (248) 654-2855 Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Youth Group: 10 a.m. - Grades 5-12 A heritage of area worship since 1838.	Novi CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN (Mission Synod) Pastor Terry Iscovic 437-8810 • 486-4335 12000 Groveland Rd. at 10 Mile Worship: 10 a.m.; Sunday School: 10 a.m.; Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m.	Novi Shepherd's Way Lutheran Church, ELCA 304 N. Lafayette Street South Lyon MI 48178 Sunday Worship: 8:10 AM Education Hour: 10:30 AM Rev. Bart Muller, Pastor 248-466-4104 www.shepherdswaysouthlyon.org
Plymouth St. John's Episcopal Church 574 S. Sheldon St. • Plymouth, MI 48170 734-453-0190 Services on Sunday mornings at: 8:00 a.m. - Eucharist (with Holy Eucharist) 9:00 a.m. - Eucharist with Contemporary Music 10:30 a.m. - Eucharist with Traditional Music	Milford Milford United Methodist Church 1200 Groveland St., Milford MI 48131 Sunday Worship at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 6:00 p.m. Groups for Children, Youth and Adults 248-684-2798 or churchoffice@milfordumc.org	Novi Fellowship Evangelical Presbyterian Church 22209 Paradise Trail, South Lyon, MI 48178 Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Retreat: Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Youth at 6:00 p.m. Rev. David Brown, Pastor 248-437-2222 • www.fepcnovi.org	Novi FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON 40503 Middlefield Road, South Lyon MI 48178 Phone: 248-347-4000 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Morning Service 11:00 a.m. Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m. Senior Pastor: Rob Penrose • Assoc. Pastor: Andy Weis Website: www.fbcfirstbaptist.org Email: fbcfirstbaptist@comcast.net
Northville NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN Experience Life Each Week Sunday Worship • 9:00 am & 10:15 am Sunday School and Children's Programs www.northville.org 41355 Six Mile Road 248-348-9030	Northville NEW HUDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 5670 Cedar Hill Avenue • New Hudson, MI (248) 437-4212 • Gerald S. Nutter, Pastor Sunday School & Bible Class: 9:30 a.m. Worship: 11:00 a.m. www.newhudson.org	Novi THE CHURCH OF CHRIST 21860 Paradise Trail • South Lyon, MI 48178 248-437-3555 • www.churchofchrist.org 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Praise and Worship Wednesday Midweek Ministries 7 p.m. Rob Calhoun, Pastor	Novi FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 640 S. Lafayette (248) 437-0780 Sunday Worship: 8:15, 11:30 am & 6:00 pm 9:40 am. Sunday School in the Evening Reverend Sonora Wilberbe www.fucnovi.org
Northville WARD CHURCH 40000 Six Mile Road (248) 348-1144 248-347-7400 Traditional Worship at 8:30 & 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship at 9:30 & 11 a.m. Children's Programs available at 9:30 & 11 a.m. The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 560 AM	Northville FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 777 West 8 Mile Road • 8 Mile and 1st Road Worship Times: September - May 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m. Memorial Day - Last Day 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dr. Steven J. Beck, Senior Pastor www.fucnorthville.org	Novi FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH 10774 Nine Mile Road Rev. M. Lee Taylor • 449-2582 Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. Worship, 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening, 7:00 p.m.	Novi BIBLE BELIEVERS CHURCH Gathering in Jesus Name 52909 10 Mile Rd. • South Lyon, MI 48178 Mike Wagner, Pastor 734-347-1953 pastor dot Old fashioned preaching KN
Northville FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 200 E. Main St. at Hurton (248) 349-0511 Worship & Church School - 9:30 & 11am Rev. Stu Ritter, Senior Pastor www.fpcnorthville.org	Novi OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH 1330 Cedar Hill Dr., Northville WEEKEND LITURGIES: Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Church: 349-2821, School: 349-2810 Religious Education: 349-2859 Rev. Denis Theroux, Pastor	Novi FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) of SOUTH LYON Sunday School 11:30 a.m. Worship: 10:00 a.m. Nursery Care Provided Check us out on the web: www.fpcsouthlyon.org 248-437-2222 • 248-437-2222 Rev. Dr. Annette Kicker, Pastor	Novi IMMANUEL LUTHERAN Wisconsin Synod • Beyond Sweet Prayer, at Liberty St. Sunday Service 10:00 a.m. All Classes 9:00 Pastor Scott Miller, (248) 437-1651
Northville Destiny Worship Center www.dwc3.org Saturdays @ 6pm Meeting at Ridge Wood Elementary, 49775 Six Mile Road	Novi Our Savior Apostolic Lutheran Church 54899 & Mile Rd. at Currie Rd. Northville, MI 48178 Pastor Andy Whitten Phone 248-374-2268 Sunday Morning Bible Study at 10:00 AM Sunday Service and Children's Church at 11:00 Bible Study Thursday at 7:00 PM	Novi COMMUNITY CHURCH 28930 Wixom Rd. Wixom, MI 48399 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Rev. Kenneth Warner • 366-51-2021 www.cpcnovi.com	Novi Wixom COMMUNITY CHURCH 28930 Wixom Rd. Wixom, MI 48399 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Rev. Kenneth Warner • 366-51-2021 www.cpcnovi.com

OUR VIEWS

Wrong decision Council should reject Beck-10 rezoning

The Novi Planning Commission recently made a decision that has us wondering why.

Six commissioners — Tony Anthony, David Baratta, David Greco, Andrew Gutman, Mark Pehrson and Leland Prince (Michael J. Lynch was absent) — recommended the Novi City Council approve a new residential development on the northwest corner of 10 Mile and Beck roads by developer Beck Ten Land LLC.

The commission voted to rezone the land from R-1 (one-family residential) to R-3 (one-family residential) with a Planned Rezone Overlay (a regulatory tool that creates a special zoning district, placed over an existing base zone).

The problem is the size of the lots and the houses proposed. They're smaller than what the Novi City Master Plan designates — and that could negatively impact other home values.

The Planning Commission stated that the "proposed development meets the intent of the master plan" and that it is "consistent with and comparable to surrounding developments."

Not quite. The Master Plan calls for 1.65 developed units per acre. The proposed subdivision is 1.77 developed units per acre. Surrounding subdivisions (Greenwood Oaks, Warrington Oaks and Mockingbird) are 1.32 developed units per acre.

Adjacent lots average nearly 23,491 square feet while the proposed subdivision lots are 14,750 square feet on average. That's a 37-percent difference.

Also, homes in adjacent neighborhoods average just over 3,100 square feet while the proposed new homes average 2,400 — a 23-percent difference.

When a community develops a master plan, such as Novi has done, residents trust that it will be followed. Homes west of Beck Road have been required to be built on half-acre lots. These smaller proposed lots and homes may impact the value of neighboring subdivisions.

The second pitfall of the Planning Commission vote is the precedent it sets by not sticking to the Master Plan. What happens when another developer requests a slight deviation from Beck Land's proposal? The slippery slope gains momentum. If the city doesn't grant the next request, it opens itself up for a lawsuit.

Many homeowners choose to live in the west-of-Beck area because they understand and agree with the Master Plan requirements. But even if you don't live in this quadrant, you should be concerned when decision are made that deviate from the Master Plan.

In 1989, Novi residents overwhelmingly voted against City Council's decision to override the Master Plan to allow a large shopping mall on the northeast corner of 10 Mile and Beck. (There was a subsequent lawsuit, and in December 1990, a consent judgment was entered that authorized B-1 uses on that corner.)

We urge City Council to reject the planning commission's recommendation so residents don't have to do it by vote.

Novi's citizens need to trust that their Master Plan is a consistent roadmap for this city's future land use. Proposals for this property, mainly commercial, have come before our city leaders before, but caving in to the developer now is not the answer.

The matter comes before City Council on Monday, March 26.

NOVI NEWS

Cal Stone,
Community Editor
Susan Rostek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of
Advertising

COMMUNITY VOICE

Are you happy about the early warm weather or would you like to see one more snowfall?



"I'd like to see one more snowfall because I like the snow and I can go skiing and sledding and hang out with my friends."
Claire Tuckey
Novi



"I want one more snow because it didn't snow much this year at all and I want to go skiing."
Saurav Kollie
Novi



"I'm happy it's spring because I hate the snow."
Shae Russell
Novi



"I'm glad we are having an early spring because we really only had half winter and it's good to be warm so I can go do something."
John Robertson
Novi

LETTERS

Clarifying contraception issue

Wisely choose your representatives. That means taking a little time to think logically and reasonably about the issues. It means do not swallow political spin hook, line and sinker. Don't believe everything you hear in the mainstream media, which has moved away from relatively fair and balanced journalism.

Many people are hollering that Republicans want to take away women's rights. Some are absurdly saying that Republicans feel that contraception should be banned. Not true! The issue is: Should our government require all employers to offer free contraception, including the morning-after pill, which is an abortifacient? Since some employers are morally opposed to abortion, some even morally opposed to contraception, they cannot provide these services as a matter of conscience. No one is suggesting that women should not be able to obtain these services. Of course, they are able and will be able to get contraception services.

Republicans simply want the religious freedom guaranteed in our constitution to be honored. Forcing employers to pay for someone else to do something that the employers believe is morally wrong is taking away their religious freedom. This is a religious freedom issue which the current administration is spinning to try to make it look like an endangerment of women's rights. This is simply politically motivated. They want to get the women all riled up against the Republicans so we can all suffer through four more years. If anyone has a low opinion of women, it must be liberals if they think that all women are silly enough to fall for their rhetoric.

Even if you are not religious, you should pay attention to the attempts of this administration to take away our religious liberties. It is a typical move on the part of every regime that wants to consolidate power. And it is one of the first moves in a program of destroying more and more freedom.

Holly Giannola
Northville

existence would revolve around four pillars — a strong national defense, Americanism, support for veterans and mentoring our youth.

Today, the American Legion doesn't just recite these pillars ... let us reflect on the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

"For God and Country, We associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

"To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on Earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

Ken Reynolds
Farmington

During a campaign swing through Mississippi last week, Mitt Romney remarked, "Mornin' y'all," stating he had started his day in Mississippi with "cheesy grits and biscuits." Give me a break. Perhaps caviar and a croissant, but grits? No way.

Romney is so desperate to make a connection with any voter making \$1 million or less, but a consumer of cheesy grits just does not ring true.

Romney seems much more comfortable in a corporate board room speaking with other millionaire CEOs than his other 99-percenters.

You would seriously think Romney's highly paid staff of handlers could come up with a better desperate identity seeking opening to the people of Mississippi. But then again, perhaps they are highly paid but incapable of helping Romney

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. Letters should be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

Web: www.hometownlife.com

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette St., South Lyon, MI 48178
Fax: (248) 437-3386
E-mail: cstone@hometownlife.com

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Online: Due to space limitations, not all letters submitted can be published in our print edition. However, all letters will be published online each week at www.hometownlife.com.

reach just average folks.

Gerald Maxey
Farmington Hills

Rush Limbaugh described a young woman as a prostitute because she expected others to pay for her sex activity. Technically, Rush was correct, but he apologized for being crude. Michele Malkin, Sarah Palin and Michele Bachmann are derided frequently by politicians and comedians. No apologies — conservatives expect this from liberals.

Conservative Limbaugh caused a firestorm treating a liberal in this manner. He knows the rules.

Hank Borgman
Farmington

In a recent letter published concerning women's issues there was much inaccurate information. Republican extremists (Tea Party) do not tell people, including women, how to live their lives. In fact, it is the liberal Democrats who feel it is the government's responsibility to force their beliefs on the American people.

The Tea Party is not trying to take away contraception, family planning, or prenatal testing. They are simply refusing to force those who pay taxes to pay for other people's contraception and family planning. They are standing up for religious institutions that are being forced to support and pay for contraception and family planning methods that violate their sacred beliefs. They do not want to take these things away, they just don't want to pay for it! Individual responsibility, individual liberty.

Obama's science czar, John Holdren, has written books advocating compulsory abortions for population control. As you say, "Yeah, right. I don't believe that!" Look it up. The Democrat liberals are on a mission to control even the most personal aspects of all Americans' lives.

The Democrat liberals, headed by Michelle Obama, are removing individual dietary choices. Because of the infamous Obamacare policies, the government wants to force Americans to eat only healthy foods to lower the cost of health care that they planning to take over. Kids' homemade lunches are even being sent home and the children are forced to purchase Michelle's approved foods. The Tea Party believes in the individual right to eat their individual choice of food, and in the consequences that individuals will be forced to pay as a result, not the taxpayers.

Contraception and family planning is an individual right, and an individual responsibility. So is what we choose to eat and feed our children. It is not government policy, at least not in a free society.

Yes, let's be aware of the importance of the health of all people, including those helpless to voice their desire to live.

Julianne Ropeta Kennedy
Highland

CHURCH

Continued from page A9

Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit firstpresville.org
Sunday Worship
Time: 9:30, 11 a.m.
Single Place
Time/Date: 7 p.m. every Thursday

Details: Single Place is a social organization for singles 40 and up hosted by the First Presbyterian Church of Northville. Thursday meetings feature speakers, games, or entertainment followed with an ice cream social.
Date: March 15
Details: St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner with Mary Ann Murphy providing traditional Irish music. Cost of dinner and entertainment is \$12. Please sign up for the dinner or call the Church (248-349-0911) for reservations.
Date: March 22
Details: Peter Baker, of AAA of Michigan, discussing changing insurance needs as our life changes. Single Place social follows; \$5 donation please.
Date: March 29
Details: Cards & Games Night. Enjoy playing euchre, Mexican train and other games. Also honoring those of who have had birthdays in the months of February and March. Birthday cake and snacks will be provided; \$5 donation please.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Location: 205 East Lake Street (corner of Wells and 10 Mile Road), South Lyon
Contact: (248) 437-2875

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
Location: 777 West 8 Mile Road, Northville, MI 48167
Contact: (248) 349-1144 or visit www.fumcnorthville.org
Sunday Worship: Meditative - Held in the Chapel - 8 a.m.

Contemporary - Held in the Sanctuary - 9:15 a.m.
Traditional - Held in the Sanctuary - 11 a.m.
Nursery - 12th grade - 9:15 a.m.
Nursery - 6th grade/Special Needs - 11 a.m.
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
Location: 41415 9 Mile Road, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 349-0565
Sundays
Time: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship
HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 427-1175 or churchoftheholycross.com
Sunday Worship: 7:45 and 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Nursery Care: 10 a.m. Worship Service
Alzheimer's Support Group
Time/Date: 10 a.m. second Saturday of month
Holy Cross Episcopal Church (Novi)
Lenten Book Study
Dates: Tuesdays in Lent - March 20, 27
Details: A five-week study of The Heart of Christianity Part One: Seeing the Christian Tradition Again by Marcus Borg. Each meeting will begin at 6 p.m. with a soup-and-salad supper followed by discussion of the book at 6:30 p.m. The program will be repeated on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Blanket Blitz 2012
Dates: Saturdays, March 17 and March 24
Details: Join Holy Cross Episcopal Church on March 17 to cut the fleece and/or March 24 to tie the fleece for the fleece blankets we are making for Project Night Night (PNN). PNN provides homeless shelters

with free totes for children containing a blanket, children's book, and stuffed animal. This is a fun activity to do with friends and family, so please invite others to join you.

LAKES BAPTIST CHURCH
Location: 309 Decker Road, Walled Lake
LIVONIA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Location: 15431 Merriman Road, Livonia
Contact: 734-427-8743 or visit www.livoniachurch.net
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. Bible School; Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.
MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Location: 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads
Contact: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister (248) 348-7757, visit mbccc.org or e-mail to office@mbccc.org.
Worship: 10 a.m. Church School; 10 a.m. Fellowship Hour; 11 a.m. Merry Widows Luncheon
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. fourth Thursday of each month Pilgrim Fellowship
Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sundays
9 a.m.: Contemporary service in multi-purpose gymnasium
10:15 a.m.: Contemporary service in worship center; children's super church on the second level (208/210)
Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study: 8:45-10:30 a.m.; (cafe@)
Wednesday Family Night 7 p.m.: Adult elective classes; junior and senior high student ministries; children's programs (M-Pact Girls Club & Royal Rangers Boys Club) Nursery

and Preschool Program on Sundays and Wednesdays Home of Northville Christian School (day care; preschool through eighth grade) - contact (248) 348-9031

NOVI-NORTHVILLE CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE
Details: A Jewish center with events, programs and activities for all ages throughout the year - children's programs, Sunday school, adult Jewish classes, youth clubs, holiday services and programs, community social events.
Contact: Rabbi Avrohom & Leah Susskind at (248) 790-6075 or novijewishcenter.com
NOVI UNITED METHODIST
Location: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-2652 or

visit umcnovi.com
Sunday Worship
Time: 9:45 a.m.
Healing Service and Holy Communion
Time/Date: 9:45 a.m. first Sunday of every month
Peace Vigil
Time/Date: Noon, first Sunday of every month
Location: In front of the church
Details: Members of the congregation and the community will stand united in prayer for peace.
Advent Service
Time/Date: 9:45 a.m. Sunday
OAK POINTE CHURCH
Location: 50200 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 912-0043 or visit oakpointe.org/life/groups/renew/index.html
Women's Life Groups Ministries
Time/Date: 7 p.m. every Tuesday 9:30 a.m. every Wednesday

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NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Teen caught stealing from Macy's

A 15-year-old Milford girl was caught stealing more than \$100 worth of merchandise from Macy's inside Twelve Oaks Mall on March 12. According to the police report, the girl was carrying bags from other stores in the mall when she entered the dressing room at Macy's two different times with items from the store. Each time she left the dressing room she had fewer items than what she entered with and nothing was left behind. The girl was stopped after exiting the store and the items were removed from one of the bags. She was arrested and transported to the Novi Police Department where she was later picked up by her mother. The case has been forwarded to Milford Youth Assistance for further review.

Man caught drunk driving twice

Novi police arrested a man on a second drunk driving offense after police were dispatched to the area of Pontiac Trail and Beck Road on March for a possible drunk driver who had been in an accident. According to the police report, the driver was stopped in the CVS lot when police approached. The officer could smell the odor of intoxicants coming from inside the car and noticed the man was only wear-

ing one shoe. There was considerable damage to the vehicle, and the man said he got into a rollover accident in Milford. He admitted to drinking, and a preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .14 percent. The legal limit for adult drivers in Michigan is .08 percent. He was arrested and transported to the Novi Police Department.

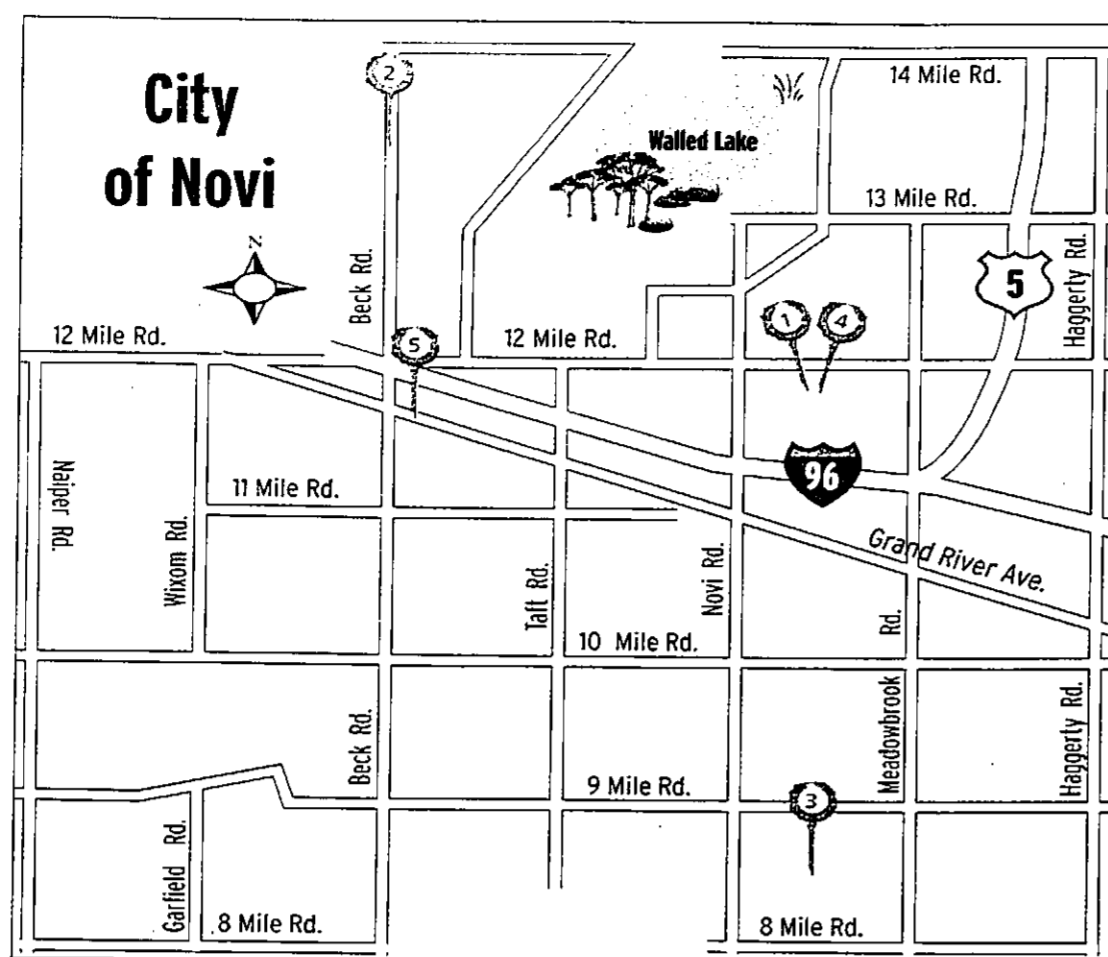
Hub cap taken off Hummer

A Novi resident had the driver's side front window smashed and a hub cap taken off his 2009 Hummer while it was parked on Chase Drive on March 9.

According to the police report, an officer on routine patrol noticed the damage to the vehicle and found the driver at a nearby home. The driver said nothing was taken from inside the vehicle, but the hub cap was taken. Police have no suspects at this time and there were no other vehicles on the Chase Drive that had been damaged.

Woman stopped after stealing from mall

Novi police arrested a woman on March 10 after she was caught stealing and removing a theft device from two stores inside Twelve Oaks Mall. According to the police report, the woman and her friend were trying to flee the



mall before being stopped by security. Witnesses at one of the stores said they observed the woman enter a fitting room at the store with four pairs of jeans and could hear them removing the security tags from them. The women then left the store without paying. Both women were combative when stopped

by security and police, and only one of them had items in her purse. The arrested woman was taken to the Novi Police Department, and she did not want to make a statement.

Minor caught drinking at boxing event

A 20-year-old man was arrested for minor in possession of alcohol after he was involved in a fight at the Suburban Collection Showplace on

March 10. According to the police report, a security officer at the boxing event said the man was being rowdy all night. He then was observed trying to fight other patrons in the parking lot. The man told police he had been drinking, but would not tell them where. He was arrested and transported to the Novi Police Department, and a preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .22 percent.

— Compiled by staff writer Nathan Mueller

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Chinese celebrations set for March 16-17

The Chinese Association of Greater Detroit — the largest Chinese American organization in the state — will celebrate its 20th anniversary on Friday, March 16 with a gala dinner that will include influential business and political leaders and also starts the Year of the Dragon Celebration with events on Saturday, March 17, also at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. VIP guests planning to attend the CAGD dinner include Chinese Consul General Yang Guoqiang, Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, and executives. During the dinner, Special Tribute Awards will be given to Gov. Rick Snyder; Tom Watkins,

CEO of TDW & Associates; and Carol Cain, Emmy winning Senior Producer and Host of WWJ-TV CBS Detroit's "Michigan Matters" and columnist at Detroit Free Press.

Easter Bunny hops into 12 Oaks Mall

All signs point to spring at Twelve Oaks Mall this March as the Easter Bunny hops into the lush, colorful Central Park Garden display. Photos with the Easter Bunny are available for purchase, and each child who visits receives a free gift. Central Park Garden is located in the Lower Level Center Court. A new feature this year: the Easter Bunny has made some new furry friends. All customers can stop by the Easter Set and purchase a DVD

and Macomb County. GM is the largest sponsor of the celebration. Other sponsors include Ford, HAP, and Tempo Group.

For more information about the event, please contact Lisa Gray at lisa.gray@live.com. The Easter Bunny remains at Twelve Oaks Mall from Friday, March 16 through Saturday, April 7. Photo operation hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. The Easter Bunny takes brief carrot breaks throughout the day. A complete list of photo packages and prices is available on www.shoptwelveweaks.com.

Gleaners Smart Bites

Huntington National Bank and Imagine Theaters are teaming up all through March to support Gleaners Community Food Bank of South-eastern Michigan's Smart

Bites program. The community is encouraged to make a contribution at theaters, online or by phone (call or text). Huntington National Bank will match every donation dollar-for-dollar.

More than 25 percent of children living in southeast Michigan experience food insecurity. Gleaners' Smart Bites program provides healthy snacks to children who do not get enough to eat at home. During the school day or after school programs, teachers distribute Smart Bites bags containing items such as granola bars, cereal, dried fruit and pretzels to ensure children are receiving proper nourishment in order for them to learn and grow.

Donations can be made:
• Online: Visit www.gcfb.org
• Phone: 866-GLEANER (453-2637)
• Text: Keyword EAT to 85944 to donate \$10 (message and data rates may apply)
Make a donation at any Imagine Theater location in Novi, Canton, Woodhaven, Royal Oak or Rochester Hills.
"When a child is hungry at school, they have difficulty concentrating and learning," said Gleaners President W. DeWayne Wells. "Studies show hungry children experience lower academic achievement. Gleaners is working to make sure all children in our community reach their full potential."



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Hometown reporter pens book on Maltese in Detroit

Diane Gale Andreassi, a Livonia resident and reporter for the South Lyon Herald (a sister publication of the Novi News and Northville Record), recently published Maltese in Detroit, a book documenting the emigration of residents from Malta, a small island country off the coast of Italy, to the Motor City.



Andreassi

er settlers and finally current residents. Pictures of Most Holy Trinity in Detroit and the Maltese clubs in Dearborn and Detroit offer a flavor of life among the Maltese today.

Detroit has one of the largest Maltese populations outside the small nation, which is south of Sicily in the Mediterranean.

Published by Arcadia Publishing in the Images of America series, the book is filled with pictures of early immigrants and introduces readers to lat-

has been overwhelming," said Andreassi, who was born in Detroit of parents who left their homeland to settle in a large Maltese-populated Detroit neighborhood of Dearborn.

The book illustrates the importance of the Roman Catholic Church in Malta and among the Maltese immigrants in their new land. It introduces readers to the Maltese priests who were among the notable people who welcomed and helped acclimate the others as they arrived.

"It was wonderful to meet so many Maltese people and to learn about the pride they have

in their heritage," Andreassi said.

It took a year to assemble Maltese in Detroit, but it was a labor of love for Andreassi, who graduated from the University of Michigan-Dearborn with a double major in economics and English.

She started her career in journalism at the Dearborn Heights Leader and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers as a reporter and a lifestyles editor before taking a leave to raise a family. She has worked on countless freelance stories for a number of publications, including Gale Research, working on encyclopedia

entries, one of which was about Malta and its people.

She has been reporter for the Herald for more than a year.

Andreassi was active in Livonia's St. Colette religious education program for more than 10 years and worked as a substitute teacher and volunteer in the Livonia Public Schools. Andreassi is an avid reader of books and newspaper of all kinds.

The books are available at large and small bookstores and for a discount rate by calling (734) 432-5974.

Readers can contact Andreassi at dandreassi@hometownlife.com.

Healing Hearts hosts VIP's Jerry Dash

Hope 4 Healing Hearts, Inc., a non-profit organization providing group support for adults with an incarcerated loved one, will host a special presentation, "Finding Hope When There Is No Hope" by Jerry Dash from V.I.P. Mentoring in Detroit, Monday, March 26, at Kirk of Our Savior Church in Westland.

Dash is the chief executive officer of volunteers in Prevention, Probation and Prisons, Inc., also known as VIP Mentoring, in Detroit since 1989. His programs work to improve the lives of children who are at high-risk for involvement with



Dash

the justice system with a special focus on children with incarcerated parents.

Dash is an ex-offender and served time in the federal penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana, in the early 1980s. He uses his experience to talk with inmates and families of inmates and tells about how that experience is now being used to help others affected by incarceration.

He will share his personal story about how he

believed all was lost and how he was finally able, even in the darkest of situations, to find hope both in prison and returning home. He will speak from the heart as he shares some of the things that he feels might make a difference in the lives of inmates and their families.

The 6:30-8:30 p.m. presentation is open to the public. Kirk of Our Savior at 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, in Westland. For more information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or go to www.hope4healinghearts.com. To learn more about Jerry Dash and his program, go online to www.vipmentoring.org.

NEWSMAKERS

Jennifer Klein

With the expedited growth of National Food Group the past several years, Jennifer Klein has been promoted from account manager to business development and product innovation. This position encapsulates National Food Group's core values of relevance and innovation.

Klein is a veteran in supplying food to the correctional industry and she has a keen ability to listen to her customers' needs as do all the account managers here. "Through much of her career Jennifer has been an account manager, but she has always taken her job to the next level by being uniquely passionate about visiting food manufacturers, identifying new product lines, and responding to market requests," said Vice-President and General Manager Tracey Komata. "Her relationships and market knowledge matched with National Food Group's management and procurement team will enable us to adapt to market changes with speed and enthusiasm."



Klein



Lewis

Robyn Lewis

Associate broker Robyn Lewis has joined the multi-office real estate brokerage RE/MAX Classic at their Novi location. The certified residential specialist is well versed in residential and condominium sales, relocation assistance and waterfront properties throughout Oakland County. She brings with her over 17 years of experience in sales, service and buyer representation. Her education extends to the distressed property market holding such high designations as the SFR - short sale and foreclosure resource specialist.

"Robyn is dynamic in her field and her continued education in her specialties of expertise in real estate make her a sought after professional in her field," said Carol Boji, broker/owner of RE/MAX Classic. "She is exceptional at her craft and her knowledge and experience make her an excellent choice for anyone buying or selling a home. We are very pleased she is now an associate at RE/MAX Classic and a welcome addition to our Novi office."

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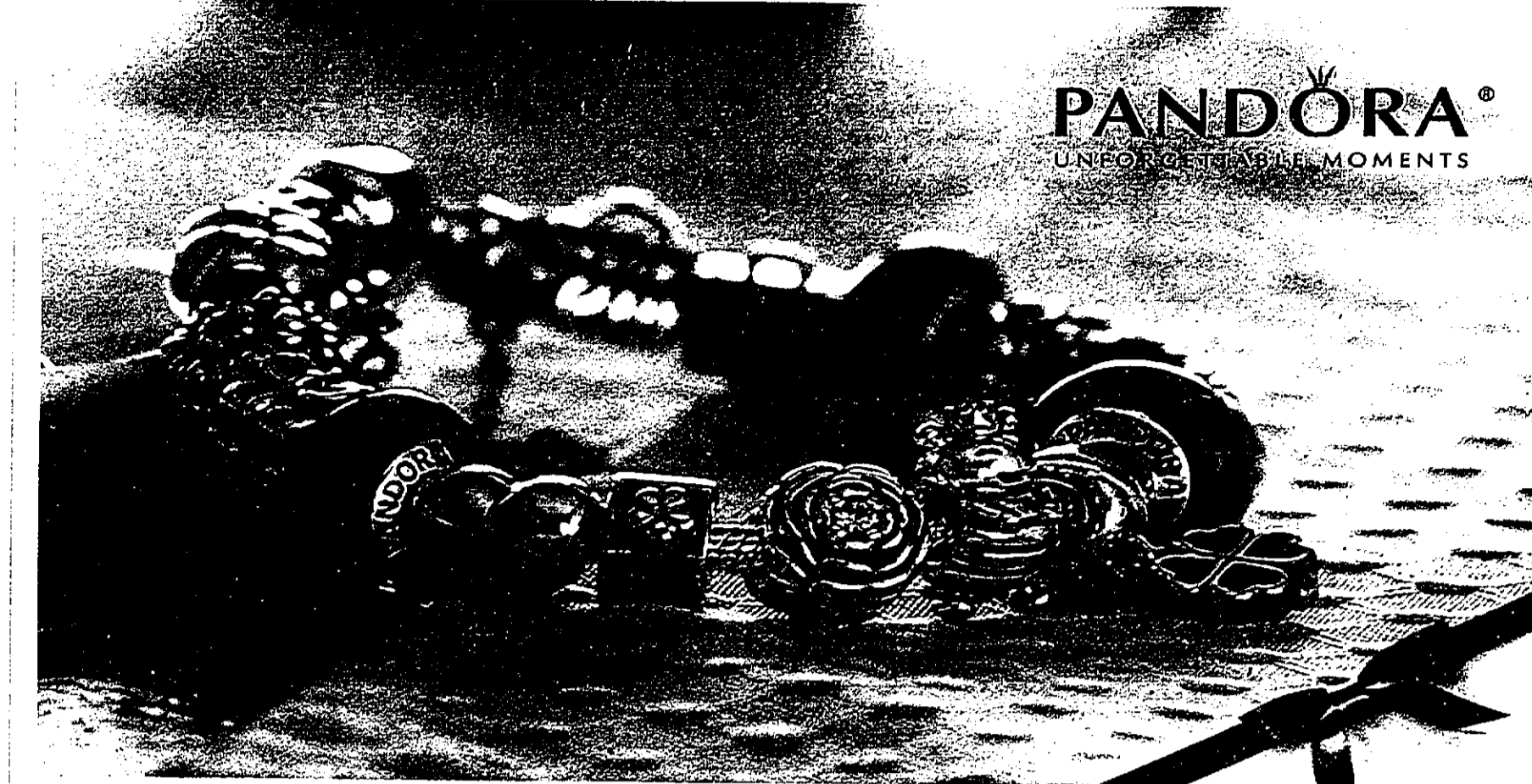
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SPORTS

CAL STONE, EDITOR
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Novi Wildcat Kerri McMahan makes a pass in front of Warrior Brooke Schwandt during the teams' Nov. 29 game at Novi High.

Novi's McMahan drives to the front of the pack

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Few local girls basketball players did as much for their team as Novi sophomore guard Kerri McMahan. With more speed than most players in the KLAAs, McMahan had a mid-range game reminiscent of former Detroit Piston Richard Hamilton, and it led her to average 13.7 points per game.

(She) not only led us in most offensive statistics, but made every-one around her better," Novi coach Bill Kelp said.

An All-Conference selection in

the KLAAs Kensington Conference, McMahan also averaged 2.5 steals, 2.5 assists and 3.7 rebounds per game while shooting 47 percent from the field.

FIRST TEAM
Gabrielle Williams (South Lyon Sr. G)
A senior guard, Gabrielle Williams was the nucleus to South Lyon's program for the past few years. Averaging 11.4 points, 6.2 rebounds, 3.3 steals, two blocks and 1.8 assists per game, Williams did a little bit of

GIRLS BASKETBALL ALL AREA

Player of the Year
Kerri McMahan, Novi
First Team
Gabrielle Williams, South Lyon
Alex Moynes, Northville
Jade Anteloc, Novi
Jessica Mehr, South Lyon
Meredith Williams, Northville
Second Team
Aly D'Annunzio, Novi
Claire Slaughter, Milford
Willow Cohn, South Lyon East
Sam Pavlika, Novi
Gabi Bird, South Lyon East

Honorable Mention
Lakeland - Jessie Clink (Sr. G), Marlayna Malvich (Sr. F), Caitlin Wojichowski (Sr. G), Dominique Zigo (So. G)
Milford - Paige Smith (Jr. PG), Lane Andrews (Jr. F), Elise Gustafson (Fr. G)
Northville - Kendra Brenner (Jr. G/F), Aly Bates (Sr. F)
South Lyon - Emily Slavik (Sr. G), Madely Roschacki (Jr. G)
South Lyon East - Sydney Jones (So. PG), Taylor Jones (Sr. G)

NOVI SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Novi gathers KLAAs All-Conference awards

The KLAAs All-Conference awards were announced last week for hockey, boys basketball and girls basketball. Among Novi hockey All-Conference selections were seniors Curtis Herzog, Travis Trainor and Kent Burnett, while senior AJ Bradley earned the honor for Northville.

The boys basketball squads earned All-Conference honors for senior center Michael Jocz of Novi, as well as senior point guard Jeffrey Gertley and senior forward Brett MacDonald of Northville. Novi sophomore guard Nelson Cagle and Northville senior guard Jeffrey Hewlett earned honorable mentions.

On the girls basketball side, the Novi girls saw junior forward Jade Antolec, sophomore guard Kerri McMahan and senior forward Ally D'Annunzio earn All-Conference honors, while senior center Alex Moynes and senior point guard Meredith Williams did the same for Northville. Novi senior guard Sam Pavlika and Northville senior forward Aly Bates earned honorable mentions.

The full All-Conference basketball lists are available online at www.wlcsd.org/parents.cfm?subpage=1204260.

AAU Girls Basketball

All high school girls interested in trying out for the AAU Novi Motion

Please see NOVI, B2

CATHOLIC CENTRAL ROUNDUP

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

New soccer coach chosen at Detroit Catholic Central

Despite being a brand new head coach at Detroit Catholic Central, Gene Pulice knows exactly what kind of expectations are placed on education, success and tradition on the Shamrocks' pitch. That's because Pulice, who has over 25 years of coaching experience, used to be an assistant coach for the program.

Pulice was announced as the new head coach of the program last week and will take over for Joe Nora, who is departing the soccer team after a successful decade at the helm.

"Gene Pulice knows what the Catholic Central program needs to be successful," said Detroit Catholic Central athletics director Aaron Babicz. "He knows our CC family and is a man of the community. We couldn't be happier hiring someone who is familiar with



Gene Pulice

our mission and the Shamrock family." Currently, Pulice is coaching the Michigan Wolves/Hawks club team, which has had national success during his tenure there. His soccer coaching experience doesn't end there, either. Pulice is also a current varsity assistant at Farmington Mercy, has coached at the Catholic Central feeder school Our Lady of Good Counsel and is a former regional director of the Midwest Soccer Academy.

Two Shamrocks race in ski state finals

The Shamrocks may not have raced as a team in the state finals this year, but they did send two representatives to Traverse City to compete as individuals.

Damon Rottermond finished third in the giant slalom with a final score of 49.34—just .01 away from second place. His first run through the course resulted in a 23.87 final and his second was a 25.48.

Ian Price also raced in the state finals as an individual, taking 14th in

Please see CC, B2

CC boys stop Salem

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer



JOHN KEMSKI

Champions of their respective leagues butted heads Friday night with the Class A district hoop championship on the line.

But KLAAs champion Salem met the same fate as Park rival Canton did two nights earlier—as Novi-Detroit Catholic Central's boys basketball buzzsaw cut them to the quick.

The host Shamrocks earned the trophy with a 68-53 victory to improve to 17-6.

For the Rocks, who finished 20-3, not even a 26-point game by senior guard Tyler Stewart could thwart the Shamrocks.

Leading Catholic Central with 16 points each were senior forward Kyle Cooper and senior

Salem senior guard Grant Bettner (No. 32) tries to impede Catholic Central's Chase Janer (No. 2) from driving inside Friday night. In the background for the Shamrocks is CC's Kyle Cooper.

to knock down at critical times.

"That's not so much the environment or the pressure of the game. This team's been through a lot

Please see BOYS, B2

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HOOPS

Continued from page B1

everything for the Lions while hitting 70.5 percent from the free throw line and 31.2 percent from beyond the three-point arch. She was an All-Conference selection and Team MVP after being named her team's Offensive MVP as a junior.

"No one in the area has done more for their team than Gabby, and she has been doing it for four years," South Lyon coach Erica Thomas said. "She plays with passion, grace, athleticism and power, and is the first player willing to sacrifice her body to save a play for her team. You don't find players who can impact the game in as many ways as Gabby does; she is extremely versatile - our best ballhandler, shooter, rebounder, defender and our toughest player."

She finishes in her program's top 10 for career points, rebounds, steals, blocks, three and both free throw and three-point percentages.

Alex Moynes (Northville Sr. C) Northville senior Alex Moynes played her way into the record books as the top Mustang center in school history. She averaged 12.1 points, 6.6 rebounds and three blocks per game this season, leading her squad in all three categories and earning All-Conference honors. The future Hillsdale College player finished fourth in career scoring, first in both rebounds and blocks among Northville's all-time leaders.

"Alex was a force to reckon with inside," Northville coach Todd Gudith said. "Most nights she was double-teamed, yet managed to still produce. Her size was a big advantage for her and our team. Defensively, she can alter an opponent's shot when they try to go inside. Offensively, she can finish around the rim well."

Jade Anteloc (Novi Jr. PF) No matter what side of the ball she was playing on, Novi junior Jade Anteloc was a force in

the paint. Averaging seven points per game on 40 percent shooting and 7.5 rebounds per game while executing post-up defense on the top post players in the K-LAA, Anteloc was a key force behind the Wildcats' division title this season.

"One of hardest working girls, always guarded (opponents') best post player (and was) more vocal (this season)," Novi coach Bill Kelp said.

Jessica Mehr (South Lyon So. F) As a sophomore forward, Jessica Mehr provided an inside threat to compliment Gabby Williams' guard play. Mehr averaged nine points, 5.5 rebounds, two steals and 1.4 assists per game for a resurgent Lions squad.

Jessica has a unique ability to attack the basket aggressively off the dribble," said coach Thomas. "Her physical size and quickness present matchup problems for opponents, and at the same time, she can hit a big outside shot. She's only going to get better as she develops more at her natural position on the wing next year."

Meredith Williams (Northville Sr. PG) The Mustangs' offense rolled through senior point guard Meredith Williams. The All-Conference standout distributed the ball while averaging 6.2 points, 2.9 assists, 2.8 steals and 4.4 rebounds per game. She was scouted by colleges, but is still undecided. "Meredith was our quarterback on the floor," Northville coach Todd Gudith said. "She's a pass first point guard but and score when needed. She was our second leading rebounder. One of the hardest workers I've been around."

SECOND TEAM Ally D'Annibale (Novi Sr. F) In her time to shine, Novi senior forward Ally D'Annibale had a string of bad luck. She played through the first half of the season with a partially torn ACL while averaging seven points and four rebounds per game, as well as shooting 70 per-

cent from the free throw line. Then she tore her other ACL, ending her high school basketball career. Claire Slaughter (Milford Sr. G) The Mavericks struggled to pick up victories this season, but senior captain Claire Slaughter was a consistent contributor who pushed them closer and closer throughout the season. The guard averaged 11 points, five rebounds, three assists and two steals per game while holding down the Milford defense.

Willow Cohn (South Lyon East Sr. GF) Although division play was a struggle for South Lyon East, the Cougars finished the season above .500 largely in part to a consistent effort from All-Conference senior Willow Cohn. Averaging 10 points, six rebounds, 2.5 steals and 1.1 assists per game to go with 34 percent shooting from distance and 69 percent shooting from the charity stripe, the scholar athlete with a 3.7 GPA capped her four-year varsity career as the young program's all-time leading rebounder.

Sam Pavlika (Novi Sr. G) The Mustangs' offense rolled through senior point guard Meredith Williams. The All-Conference standout distributed the ball while averaging 6.2 points, 2.9 assists, 2.8 steals and 4.4 rebounds per game. She was scouted by colleges, but is still undecided. "Meredith was our quarterback on the floor," Northville coach Todd Gudith said. "She's a pass first point guard but and score when needed. She was our second leading rebounder. One of the hardest workers I've been around."

Novi senior forward Ally D'Annibale had a string of bad luck. She played through the first half of the season with a partially torn ACL while averaging seven points and four rebounds per game, as well as shooting 70 per-



Central Catholic Shamrock Colin Brinkman swims in the prelims of the March 9 Div. 1 MHSAA swim finals at EMU.

Shamrocks, Mustangs swim state finals

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

State finals are never easy to compete in. The pressure is on, the competition is well beyond the definition of fierce and the expectations are overflowing.

The Northville Mustangs and the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks boys swimming and diving teams squared off with over three dozen other schools in the Division I state finals last weekend. The event, held at Eastern Michigan University, found Saline winning the state finals with little trouble, finishing with 326.5 points while Rockford was second with 233 and Brother Rice third with 176.

Novi swimmers 16th at state meet

By Chris Jackett Correspondent

Although the Division I boys swim and dive meet took place in Ypsilanti last weekend, it was all Saline, who ran away with another state title Saturday after winning seven of 12 events.

The Hornets picked up 326.5 points at Eastern Michigan University, well ahead of runner-up Rockford's 233. Novi finished 16th with 48 points in a field of 39 scoring teams, behind local squads from Detroit Catholic Central (sixth with 111), South Lyon Unified (eighth with 89), Livonia Stevenson (11th with 68) and Canton (13th with 62), but ahead of baseline rival Northville (27th with 24) and Walled Lake Central (34th with 20).

Derek Kim was fourth in the 1-meter dive with 409.9 points, behind champion Dan Gironeza's 466.25 points for South Lyon. Jongmin Kim was fourth in the 100-yard breaststroke in 58.90 seconds, behind Saline's Josh Ehrman, who set a new Division I record in 55.36 seconds.

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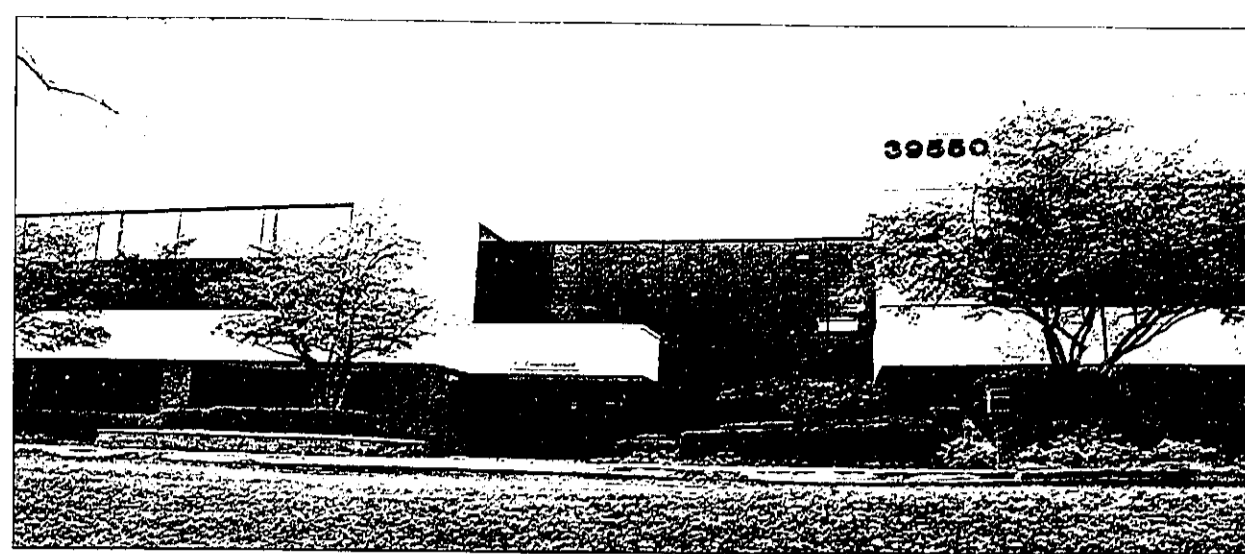
Novi swimmers 16th at state meet

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Novi swimmers 16th at state meet



Cooper-Standard Automotive's world headquarters are located at 39550 Orchard Hill Place in Novi.

Cooper-Standard announces year-end 2011 results

Novi-based Cooper-Standard Holdings Inc. (OTCBB: COSH), the parent company of Cooper Standard Automotive and a global supplier of automotive sealing, fluid and anti-vibration systems, announced its financial results for the fourth quarter and year ended December 31, 2011.

Cooper Standard reported revenue of \$695.7 million for the fourth quarter of 2011 and \$2.85 billion for the full year, representing growth of 15.2 percent and 18.2 percent, respectively, over the 2010 comparable periods. This revenue growth reflects higher industry volumes, favorable foreign currency exchange movement as well as business acquisitions during 2011, which contributed approximately \$58 million in the fourth quarter and \$158 million for the full year.

Gross profit for the quarter ended December 31, 2011 was \$97.6 million compared to \$96.8 million in the fourth quarter of 2010. Gross profit in the fourth quarter represented 14 percent of sales, compared to 16 percent of sales in the fourth quarter of 2010, with comparatively lower gross margins at the recently established Cooper Standard France joint venture and increased raw material prices accounting for the majority of the difference. For the full year 2011, the company's revenue growth and lean initiatives offset higher raw material and acquisition costs, generating gross profit of \$450.6 million, representing 15.8 percent of sales, compared to

\$409.6 million in 2010, or 17 percent of sales. The company reported net income of \$23.2 million in the fourth quarter of 2011, compared to \$14.8 million in 2010. Net income growth was due primarily to increased volumes, lean savings and lower effective tax rates, which offset higher raw material prices and increased SG&A. The company reported full year 2011 net income of \$102.8 million, or \$3.93 per share on a diluted basis. For the fourth quarter, Cooper Standard reported adjusted EBITDA of \$66.6 million. Adjusted EBITDA for the full year 2011 increased 17.2 percent to \$324.1 million from \$276.5 million in 2010.

NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

Community Financial asks residents to give a Thumbs Up For Charity

When a job is well done, a common sign of approval is a thumbs up. Now, Community Financial Credit Union is offering the community a chance to give a collective thumbs up and \$25,000 to its favorite charities.

From March 5 through March 30, Community Financial will be accepting nominations from individuals sharing which charitable organization deserve a "Thumbs Up" and a donation in recognition of the good work it does in the community.

Nominations can be made at www.cfcu.org/ThumbsUpForCharity. The nominations will result in five finalists being chosen and put to a vote on the website for a chance to win the \$10,000 grand prize. The charities that finish in second and third place will receive \$5,000 each and the fourth and fifth place finishers will each receive \$2,500.

"The nonprofit groups in our communities do an amazing job and we are proud to support them throughout the year," said Bill Lawton, Community Financial president/CEO. "However, we wanted to provide the residents of our communities a chance to tell us which groups they think deserve recognition, and "Thumbs Up for Charity" gives them that opportunity."

To stay connected with Community Financial and keep up-to-date on the latest financial news and information as well as Community Financial's community involvement, please "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CommunityFinancial or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/CFCreditUnion. For complete contest rules, visit www.cfcu.org.

Capitalizing business opportunities in Michigan and Asia

The APACC 2012 East West Business Connection will be held at Suburban Collection Showplace (Diamond Center) from 1-9 p.m. Thursday, March 22.

It will be a two-part event focused on the trends for business growth and opportunities in the Asian Pacific region and locally in Michigan followed by a procurement Meet the Buyers showcase with corporate buyers, minority-owned businesses, U.S. and Asian-owned businesses.

Buyers confirmed to-date include Aisin World Corporation of America, Beaumont Health System Chrysler Group LLC, Comerica Bank, Delphi Corporation, DENSO International America, Faurecia, Federal Mogul, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Company, Honda of America Manufacturing, Martinrea, Oghara America Corporation, ThyssenKrupp Blastline of America, Toyoda Gosei N.A., Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing and Yazaki North America, Inc. Call (248) 844-4100 for more information and registration details.

OAKLAND COUNTY BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

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

Unless otherwise noted, all programs take place at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford. For pre-registration and location specifics, visit online at oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.

QuickBooks Essentials

This introduction to small business financial management provides an overview of accurate record keeping, report interpretation and utilization, and management of the variety of tools provided in this system. Presented by Kildal Services, LLC. Session I includes basic accounting terminology, new company file setup, customizing forms and letters and working with bank accounts. Session II includes invoicing customers, receiving payments and making deposits, entering vendor bills/paying vendor bills and using credit card accounts.

Thursday, March 29. Session I 9-11:30 a.m. Session II 12:30-3 p.m. Session One: \$40/person, Session Two: \$40/person, Both Sessions: \$75/person. Laptop highly recommended.

CEED Microloan Orientation

Many small business owners face obstacles when trying to obtain a business loan. The recognition of the serious need for working capital for existing businesses, start-up or expansion, equipment purchases and job creation is not the priority it once was. If you have a need for alternative financing consider the MicroLoan Program. Discover the requirements and process necessary to apply and obtain a microloan. Program presented by the Center for Empowerment & Economic Development (C.E.E.D.).

Wednesday, April 4, 9-11 a.m. This workshop is free but pre-registration is required.

Business Research: Feasibility to Expansion

Are you thinking of starting your own business and want to research your business idea? Are you a business owner who wants to benchmark your profit margin and other measures against similar size businesses in your industry? Do you want to know about market trends and opportunities to grow your sales? Are you looking for new customers or to diversify your market base? Business Research will show you ways to find your ideal customers, find your competitors, perform competitive analysis

and more! Presented by Oakland County's Business Center, Market Research Division and an Oakland County Public Library business reference librarian. Wednesday, April 4, 6-9 p.m. This workshop is free but pre-registration is required.

Fundamentals of Marketing Your Business

Marketing is an essential of business success. All products/services must be sold to well-targeted audiences with a wide-ranging marketing mix. Staff/SCORE counselors can guide you through successful techniques and marketing principles helping you to promote your products and services to the most promising customers-your target audience. Presented by The Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center (MI-SBTDTC). Wednesday, April 4, 6-9 p.m. The fee is \$40 per person. No refunds.

Small Business Loan Workshop

Getting a small business loan can be a challenging process. Learn the "5 C's of Credit," how to develop a winning loan proposal and what you need to know to position your business to be "bankable" before you meet with a lender. Presented by The Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Oakland County Business Center. Thursday, April 5, 9 a.m.-noon. The fee is \$20 per person (make checks payable to SCORE). Includes: Handouts and SBA Source Book. No refunds.

Facebook for Business: Introduction to Social Media Marketing and using Facebook for Business

Millions of people are using Facebook and social media for fun, but it is also a powerful business tool that can connect you with your customers, potential customers and the world. Social media is a two-way marketing channel - a conversation with your customers. With social media marketing and Facebook you can leverage these conversations and relationships to increase brand visibility and reach, be established as a thought leader and expert in your field, give real time customer service, stay on top of industry trends and conduct competitive research, build brand advocates, and yes - you can see a measurable ROI - even sales. But before you jump in and start using social media, learn how to get these results with an introduction to social media marketing and Facebook for business. Tuesday, April 10, 6-9 p.m. The fee is \$40 per person.



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SOCIAL SECURITY. Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits. 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 personally 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.

NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BID PROPOSAL CUSTODIAL SERVICES. Novi Community Schools is accepting sealed bids for district-wide Custodial Services. Six (6) copies of the sealed bid along with one (1) original and (1) electronic copy should be submitted to: Steven Barr, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan 48374 by 10:00 a.m., local time, Monday, April 9, 2012. The bids will be publicly opened at this time and the proposals must contain the wording, "PROPOSAL CUSTODIAL SERVICES" on the envelope/package. Bids received after the specified date and time will not be considered or accepted. Faxed or e-mailed Proposals will not be accepted. A mandatory vendor's conference will be held on March 19, 2012, 8:30 a.m. local time, at Novi High School. Bid documents may be obtained and/or examined beginning on March 9, 2012 at Novi Community School District, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan 48374, and are also available on the district web site at http://www.novik12.mi.us. Publish: March 8 and 15, 2012

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Rachel Zupek, CareerBuilder.com writer

Update résumé. Write cover letter. Post résumé online. Apply for jobs. Wait to hear from potential employers. Repeat.

Such was the process back in the days when job seeking was a simple process -- simpler than it is now, anyway. Unfortunately, in today's ultra competitive job market, job seekers can't afford to be ordinary. As a result, they are turning to untraditional methods of job searching. Betsy Richards, director of career resources at Kaplan University, an online university, says it's important for job seekers to realize that they shouldn't be using one method or the other but rather, they should use the two strategies together.

"In today's market, you need to reach out to people who could give you access to new networks and employment communities outside of your field and your normal work group," Richards says. "Even effective job seekers may have exhausted their network and have to expand it. It could mean a difference between a successful and unsuccessful job search."

Many job candidates are finding their job searches are taking longer than expected, Richards says. In fact, 70 percent of job searches last four weeks or longer, according to a recent study by CareerBuilder.com. For these people, traditional strategies won't cut it.

"You have to use every strategy that is at your disposal. Each person has to find tactics that are a fit for them," Richards says.

Some job seekers, however, are afraid to step out of their comfort zones to do something different to attract an employer's attention. They are afraid of calling a company or standing on the street wearing their résumé as a billboard will be too bold and turn employers away.

companies and organizations they are affiliated with. Then, you have to actively ask your contacts to introduce you to the others and follow through."

3. Local farmers markets. These community hubs are great places to trade information and chat it up. "You never know who is picking out peaches next to you. The same is true at the grocery store," Richards says. "These are relaxed environments where job seekers can strike up a conversation with another shopper by talking about their favorite types of apples or kicking around ideas for recipes and preparation. All of this can lead up to an introduction and sharing your career status and experience."

4. Conferences not related to your expertise. For service professionals, attending industry events and seminars that attract experts outside of your traditional industry or peer group is a good way to regenerate your network. "There are a lot of career changers out there. One approach for those seeking to move into a new industry is to attend a conference focused on that professional arena," Richards suggests. "To start building this new network, you may attend conferences about topics outside of your field. Building a new network of contacts and meeting professionals with different networks is important."

Here are four ways Richards says you can pitch yourself to prospective network contacts when in nonprofessional situations:

1. Prepare an "elevator speech" of three to four sentences that introduces your most marketable skills. Keep it succinct at no more than 20 seconds.
2. When networking, introduce yourself and ask the people what they do for work. After they tell you, you have the opportunity to let them know that you are searching for a job. Explain what type of position fits your particular background. You should ask if they have heard of anything that could be a match for your skills.
3. Always carry business cards no matter what the circumstance. Keep them in your wallet, handbag or cardholder at all times.
4. Make sure your résumé and/or bio and cover letter are prepared so you can quickly send out the information if a contact is made.

Rachel Zupek is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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Help Wanted-General
PRODUCT DESIGN ENGINEERS

Help Wanted-General
RESIDENT CARE ASSOCIATES

Help Wanted-General
RESIDENT ASSISTANTS

Help Wanted-General
TRUCK DRIVER

Help Wanted-General
MAC VALVES, INC.

Help Wanted-General
REACH EVEN MORE POTENTIAL EMPLOYEES

Help Wanted-General
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