

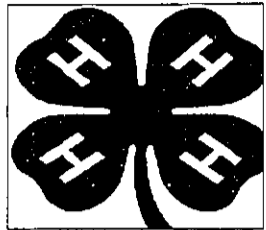
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OUR VIEWS, A16



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# NOVI NEWS

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## Green Science Adventure Camp open for registration

Michigan State University Extension welcomes back 4-H Green Science Adventure Camp to Novi. This camp, geared for youths between the ages of 5 and 10, incorporates hands-on learning in an outdoor environment.

Campers will investigate the science of the natural world with activities in areas such as gardening, cooking, art, and fishing. Campers will be able to experience the great outdoors through hayrides, forest hikes, and journeys through the garden. These explorations will be filled with scientific exploration, with an emphasis on learning through an inquiry-based method of teaching.

In addition to many outdoor activities, campers will also have the opportunity to experience cooking healthy and nutritious meals that they make themselves using fresh produce from the garden. Participants will learn about the scientific aspects of a balanced diet, and the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

This year, three sessions will be held at the MSU Tollgate Education Center in Novi, and one session will be held at the Wolcott Mill Metro Park Farm in Ray Township.

Novi camp dates are as follows: July 9-13, July 23-27, and Aug. 6-10. The one week session held in Ray Township will take place July 30 to Aug. 3.

Camp hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day, with aftercare available at an additional rate.

For more information about the Green Science Adventure Camp, please contact Alan Jaros at (248) 347-0269, Ext. 232, or jaros@msu.edu.

## Bowman breaks ground on Hyatt Place hotel

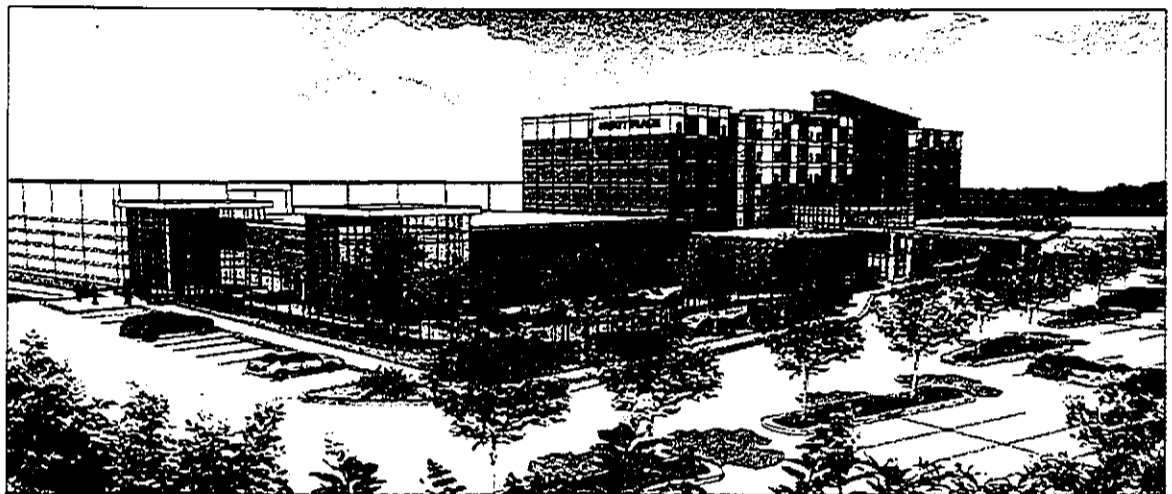
By Nathan Mueller  
Staff Writer

Blair Bowman filled his shovel with dirt Tuesday morning and, alongside several city and state leaders ceremoniously, tossed the pile into the air to signify the start of his next business venture in Novi.

Bowman, the owner of the Suburban Collection Showplace since opening it in 2005, finally will have the on-site hotel he has longed for when the Hyatt Place at the Suburban Collection Showplace opens in July 2013.

"This is an incredible moment," he said. "It's something that truly is a dream, a dream that started long ago."

The vision for an attached hotel to his convention center was something Bowman has had



RENDERING COURTESY SUBURBAN COLLECTION SHOWPLACE

An artist rendering shows what the Hyatt Place at the Suburban Collection Showplace will look like when it is completed in July 2013.

Please see HOTEL, A7

## School district budget 'tighter' than ever

No changes to programs, teachers while class sizes drop

By Nathan Mueller  
Staff Writer

There will be no layoffs, no program cuts, and in fact, class sizes are going down in Novi as part of the school district's 2012-13 budget that was approved Thursday by the Board of Education.

The balanced budget, which calls for a nearly \$2 million dip into the district's fund balance, faced little opposition from board members, and still keeps the district above its fund balance goal of 10 percent.

"We are managing the finances, maintaining an adequate fund balance

... and we believe this is a responsible budget as we move forward," said Steve Matthews, superintendent.

Revenues are predicted to drop in the budget to \$67,177,079 as the district continues to feel the impact of state budget cuts, decreasing property values and a decline in enrollment, among other factors.

Salaries and benefits continue to make up the majority (83.4 percent) of the district's expenses, which are predicted to come in at \$69,105,699 — nearly \$2 million lower than the previous year. A total of 11 retirements

helped with that savings. Also by lowering class sizes, the district expects to save close to \$300,000 in overage pay as part of the teacher's contract.

Steve Barr, assistant superintendent of business operations, said the budget approved by council was created "much tighter than it has ever been."

Barr also had to make some last-minute changes to the budget Thursday night, as the budget he presented did not include two more recent retirements and showed the fund balance at 9.82 percent.

Several of the board

members indicated they would not approve the budget if the fund balance wasn't at least 10 percent, even though it is a fluid document that is amended several times throughout the year.

"I fully recognize this is a living, breathing, everyday-changing document, but I do have a concern about any kind of precedent that we're going to present something that has a number less than 10 percent," said board President Bruce Bagdady.

Barr took about 30 minutes to run the new numbers and was able to give the board a document that showed the fund balance

at 10.01 percent.

The district is still waiting to hear from the state in regards to the MPERS reform, which impacts the retirement rate and could cause further changes to the budget.

Barr noted that the district is down \$724 per student in this budget compared to the 2010-11 budget, and there has only been a \$19 increase in per pupil funding since 2002.

"(The state) has really stolen from us and they are not giving it back," Barr said.

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## Possible electrical fire displaces Novi family

No one injured in two-hour blaze Friday night

By Nathan Mueller  
Staff Writer

A Novi family was displaced Friday night after an apparent electrical fire caused severe damage to their home on the 23000 block of East LeBost.

The blaze started just before 9 p.m., and the four occupants were tipped off to a possible

problem when they heard what sounded like a circuit breaker trip, said Jeff Johnson, Novi's director of EMS and fire operations.

The owner of the home saw flames in the rear of the house when he went to the bathroom and was able to get everyone outside before the fire spread. He tried to stop the fire with a gar-

den hose, but was not successful.

Novi firefighters arrived on the scene within three minutes to find a smoke and flames visible from the soffit and roof vents.

Johnson said crews worked on the fire for two hours, made difficult because of an addition on the home as well as hot and humid summer weather.

"There was another roof attached to their existing roof, and the fire started on the backside and progressed from one

attic space and burned through to the other attic space," Johnson said. "It was kind of stubborn and still burning in the other space that was part of the addition."

Crews were able to save the structure of the home and some of the contents inside, but there was still a lot of water and smoke damage throughout the home. Johnson estimated that with

Please see FIRE, A11

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### SCA raffle winner



The first annual St. Catherine of Siena Academy Benefit Raffle winner was drawn on April 26 with the grand prize winner, Robert Theek, father of student Anna Theek, winning \$2,500 in cash. The second prize of \$500 cash went to Joey Mascari, brother of student Angela Mascari, and the third prize of \$250 cash went to Kelly Campbell, mother of student Samantha Blewett. St. Catherine of Siena Academy was able to raise over \$18,500 in its first benefit raffle. The proceeds will be used towards the tuition assistance program at the academy. "This was a great blessing to our school. We are very pleased with the amount of money generated," said Lia Johnston, director of Marketing and Development. "It offered an additional avenue of funding for our school. It also provided students and families with an opportunity to come together to show their school support." SCA families sold \$10 tickets for the benefit raffle throughout the community.

## Police to target drunken drivers during holiday

July Fourth is a day to commemorate our nation's independence, but be sure to designate a sober driver if you're out celebrating so you don't lose your freedom. Extra officers will be on the road during the "Drunk Driving, Over the Limit, Under Arrest" crackdown July 1-8.

During the 2011 July Fourth holiday time period, eight people were killed in traffic crashes. Three of those deaths were alcohol-related. Law enforcement agencies in 26 counties across the state will work stepped up drunk driving patrols during this popular summer holiday time period.

The effort is paid for with federal funds earmarked for traffic safety enforcement and administered by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. Grant-funded

counties in southeast Michigan include Oakland, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne.

If you're at a barbecue or other holiday gathering this July Fourth, be sure to designate a sober driver, said Michael L. Prince, OHSP director. Drunk driving is not tolerated in Michigan. Anyone caught driving drunk will be arrested.

In Michigan, a motorist can be arrested for drunk driving with .08 blood alcohol content or higher. Motorists arrested for drunk driving with a .17 blood alcohol content face increased penalties including the possible installation of an ignition interlock device preventing the car from starting if the driver has been drinking.

In 2011, 319 people died in Michigan as a result of alcohol and/or drug-involved traffic crashes, a 10.6 percent decrease from 2010.

In the last OHSP-funded campaign, those same police agencies issued 8,050 seat belt and child seat violation tickets, nearly 1,000 fewer citations than during last year's enforcement effort.

Preliminary reports from police agencies indicate 14,761 vehicles were stopped during the May 21-June 3 Click It or Ticket campaign. The enforcement is part of a national effort to save lives and reduce injuries by increasing seat belt use.

Prince said seat belt compliance rates dropped from 97.9 percent in 2009

to 94.5 percent in 2011. Every 1 percent increase in belt use means 10 fewer traffic deaths and 130 fewer injuries, he said. In 2011, nearly 200 people who died in Michigan traffic crashes were not buckled up.

"When properly used, seat belts can reduce the risk of being killed in a crash by almost 50 percent," said Prince.

In addition to seat belt violations, 95 drunk drivers were arrested during the enforcement period and 53 drug arrests were made. More than 1,000 tickets were written for uninsured motorists and 535 for suspended licenses. In Detroit, a seat belt stop resulted in the arrest of a federal fugitive. While in Allegan County, a driver with unbelted young children in the car fled from police on foot and was arrested under the state's high blood alcohol content law.

Ten people died in traffic crashes over the Memorial Day holiday period. Of those, two were not wearing a seat belt, three were motorcyclists and two were riding off-road vehicles along the roadway. Nine people died during the 2011 Memorial Day holiday period.

Grant-funded counties include: Allegan, Bay, Berrien, Calhoun, Chippewa, Delta, Genesee, Grand Traverse, Houghton, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Livingston, Macomb, Marquette, Monroe, Muskegon, Oakland, Ottawa, Saginaw, St. Clair, Van Buren, Washtenaw, Wayne and Wexford.

## Students to benefit from reverse transfer pact for Schoolcraft, UM-Dearborn

Schoolcraft College and University of Michigan-Dearborn have forged a formal agreement to help students complete a reverse transfer associate degree while working on a bachelor's degree.

The new reverse transfer agreement creates a process that allows students who transfer from Schoolcraft College to UM-Dearborn to be awarded an associate degree that the student is most qualified for with the help of credits earned at the university. Qualifying students must have already earned 40 credits at Schoolcraft College prior to transfer. Most associate degrees require 60 or more credits for completion. Current estimates suggest that approximately 180 former Schoolcraft students currently studying at UM-Dearborn will meet the initial selection criteria for participation in this program.

"Essentially, if a student leaves Schoolcraft College with 40 or more credits and transfers to University of Michigan-Dearborn, UM-Dearborn will send the student a letter inviting them to participate in the reverse transfer program," according to Laurie Kattuah-Snyder, assistant director of student services of Schoolcraft College. "Once the student signs off on the agreement, the UM-Dearborn transcript is mailed back to us and we will verify the credits can be applied and an associate of arts

or general studies degree is awarded."

The agreement marks a well-established partnership between Schoolcraft College and UM-Dearborn.

"UM-Dearborn and Schoolcraft College have a shared commitment to the success of our students, which this agreement further demonstrates," said Daniel Little, chancellor, UM-Dearborn. "The signing of this reverse transfer agreement, the first signed by both entities, will continue to extend enriching opportunities to Schoolcraft students who choose to join the UM-Dearborn community. It is our hope that this partnership will facilitate students in adding to their academic credentials, thereby increasing their readiness for their future careers."

Leaders from both institutions joined together to celebrate the agreement during a special signing ceremony, including Conway A. Jeffress, Ph.D., president; Richard Weinkauff, vice president of instruction; Cheryl Hagen, dean of student services; Michelle Koss, assistant dean of student services; Nicole Wilson-Fennel, director of enrollment services/registrars; and Kattuah-Snyder from Schoolcraft College and Daniel Little, Ph.D., chancellor; Christopher Tremblay, assistant vice chancellor; Janice Lewis-Boyd, registrar; Nicate Ferrill, admissions coun-

selor; Deb Peffer, director of admissions and orientation; Stanley Henderson, vice chancellor for enrollment management; Malayappan Shridhar, associate provost; and Cathy Boatman, transfer specialist from University of Michigan-Dearborn.

As directed by the State of Michigan in Public Act 62, other Michigan community colleges and universities have recently signed similar agreements to provide a seamless transfer experience and increase student retention and degree completion at both levels. This reverse transfer agreement between Schoolcraft College and UM-Dearborn is the first of its kind in southeast Michigan.

"Students are generally aware that associate degree credits can be applied toward bachelor's degree requirements, but they are not always familiar with the concept of reverse transfer," said Dr. Jeffress. "Affordability and portability are two major benefits community colleges provide to students. Ironically these are also often held against community colleges when graduation rates alone are considered. With reverse transfers, we can now count as success stories those students who received what they needed at Schoolcraft and then moved on to pursue their goals elsewhere."



Pictured are Dr. Jeffress, Schoolcraft president, and Dr. Little, UMD chancellor.

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# Teach your children well: First year in Novi a rousing success

By Steve Matthews  
Guest Columnist



Steve Matthews

Time flies. I'm 55 and it's been 38 years since I graduated from high school. This summer marks my 35th wedding anniversary. I have a son who is 30 for pete's sake. As hard as it is for me to believe, this week marks the end of my first year in Novi.

Where does the time go? One year ago I came to Novi believing I would find a great community, a wonderful school district, and support to continue building this school district into one of the best in the state and nation. I have not been disappointed. On any measure Novi is successful. We provide high test scores. We have a robust curriculum that in addition to the core content includes experiences in art, music, physical education, and the media center at every level. We have award winners in a variety of academic and fine art competitions.

We have National Merit semi-finalists and final-ists every year. We provide Advanced Placement

## SUPER TALK

Our athletic teams compete and win. We have champions at the district, regional, and state level. We have coaches who not only help athletes improve, they help young men and women learn lessons that will last them a lifetime.

All of things I have found in Novi are the result of the wonderful staff and community. I found great people in Novi. The staff cares about their jobs and works hard to do them well. Our staff understands our students deserve our best effort. Every day the staff in our district comes prepared to do their very best for the students in our district. Whether it's the bus driver or the food service worker, the teacher or the principal, the classroom paraprofessional or the secretary, the maintenance staff or the people who keep our technology running, our staff takes the time and gives the effort so that the students in our district have what they need to learn.

## NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

Community Financial wraps up student-run credit unions. The 33 local, student-run credit unions, supported by Community Financial Credit Union, recently finished another successful school year of banking, helping students not only learn to save, but also valuable skills for the future.

The student-run credit unions served over 1,900 students during the 2011-2012 academic year, and over 800 student volunteers helped their peers learn the to save money. In June, the students had nearly \$870,000 in total on deposit to get ready for the second year. As this school year ends, I look forward to the next school year. I can't wait for the positive and exciting experiences that I will continue to have in the Novi Community Schools.

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## Importance of saving money and financial responsibility, as well as career skills needed to succeed.

Throughout the year, dedicated Community Financial staff has been assisting with interviews and tours to cement these concepts with students.

"The students involved in the program are learning valuable skills which will help them in life outside of the school buildings and we thank the school administrators for partnering with us and this program," said Natalie McLaughlin, Community Financial education partnership coordinator. "Contributing to the community, particularly through education, is part of our mission and we are proud of all of the students for all of their hard work throughout the year."

ONLINE PHOTO GALLERIES  
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# Democrats battle in 11th congressional race

By Ken Abramczyk  
Staff Writer

Much media attention was focused recently on the Republican side of the ballot in the 11th congressional race.

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter of Livonia and Kerry Bentivoglio of Milford turned in petitions with signatures to declare their candidacies. McCotter's petitions were found to have duplicate signatures, a finding that invalidated them. He declared a write-in candidacy, then withdrew, and announced he was not seeking re-election. A group of prominent Detroit-area Republicans threw their support behind Nancy Cassis of Novi, who is now a write-in candidate.

On the Democrats' side of the ballot, two candidates, Dr. Syed Taj of Canton and Bill Roberts of Redford, are also vying for their party's nomination.

Taj recently retired as chief of medicine of Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, where he worked more than 29 years as a doctor. He still sees patients in his private practice.

Taj is ending a four-year term on the Canton Board of Trustees, deciding not to seek re-election to that board and instead run for Congress.

Roberts has been supporting Lyndon Larouche since 2001, after having been "completely disgusted" with the choices for president in 2000, and "having also witnessed firsthand the complete political impotence of my own generation."

## Endorsements, loyalty

Taj has received endorsements from the 11th District Democrats, Oakland County Democrats and every local Democratic Club in the district. Taj calls Roberts an "imposter" running as a Democrat who wants to impeach President Barack Obama. "Don't be fooled by fake Democrats," reads Taj's campaign literature.

Roberts responds that Taj's comments are "cynical." "The idea that you have to take a loyalty oath to a president no matter what happens and what heinous crimes he commits, it's cynical," Roberts said. He added: "The idea that you have to be an Obama supporter to be a Democrat is ridiculous."

Roberts believes Obama should be impeached for what Roberts called Obama's assassination of Samir Khan and others who were alleged to be connected to Al Qaeda and for the National Defense Authorization Act, which allows the detention of American citizens indefinitely.

"You have a complete suspension of due process," Roberts said. Roberts' campaign website highlights seven counts in which Obama should be impeached, including violations of the Fourth and Fifth Amendments, conspiracy to commit crimes against humanity, conspiracy to violate the separation of powers in the U.S. Constitution, conspiracy to commit the United States to an international genocide policy and conspiracy to



Dr. Syed Taj



Bill Roberts

destroy the sovereignty of the United States.

Taj ran because he wants changes in Congress. "Things aren't looking so great in Congress," Taj said. "There's complete gridlock and nothing is being done. Congress needs professionals and not career politicians."

Roberts said he is running because he loves this country. "We're seeing it destroyed under the last three presidential terms," Roberts said.

Policies of Obama and former President George W. Bush and the bank loans have "choked off credit for private investments" and created continued joblessness. "There's been a collapse of the physical economy in this country," Roberts said.

## Health care act

Taj supports the Affordable Health Care Act. "The bill itself is a path to provide health care to everybody," Taj said. "People just don't realize the good it provides."

Taj points to insurance coverage now provided for children, who are attending school, out of work or cannot get health insurance, up to the age of 26 under their parents' policies.

Before, many Americans with pre-existing conditions were locked or priced out of the health insurance market, getting a bill for cancer treatments or transplants, Taj said.

Insurers are now required to cover a number of recommended preventive services, such as cancer, diabetes and blood pressure screenings, without additional cost sharing such as copays or deductibles. In January 2013, the law provides new funding to state Medicaid programs that choose to cover preventive services for patients at little or no cost, so that more Americans can receive preventive care.

"They want people to have annual physicals," Taj said. Attorneys general from several states are challenging the Affordable Health Care Act. The U.S. Supreme Court was expected to rule on it this week, after deadline.

Taj believes increased employment can help save Social Security. "Social Security is not in trouble," Taj said.

said. "We have enough money up through 2037." With more workers contributing to the system, the money will continue to grow to fund Social Security and keep it solvent.

## Glass-Steagall Act

Roberts supports the reinstatement of the original Glass-Steagall Act of 1933. "The Federal Reserve System is bankrupt, rotten all the way through with the gambling debts of the last 20 years; the attempt to pay this debt is ruining people's lives. Glass-Steagall must be adopted to remove this debt from the books of the U.S. government, ending the bailout of 'too big to fail' by separating investment, insurance and commercial banking activities into wholly separate institutions," according to Roberts' website.

Taj points to his work on the Canton board as proof he can work with Republicans. Trustees reviewed a proposed 22-percent water rate hike or using money in a general fund, reserved for repairs and maintenance. "We had money in our water and sewer general fund," Taj said. "We looked at whether we go with 22 percent or do we help these people, some who were losing their jobs."

The board looked at various figures, but settled on a compromise amount of \$1 million and a smaller, more affordable hike, Taj said.

Roberts called Larouche "a guy who does not pull his punches." "He says what's true whether or not it's politically pragmatic," Roberts said.

"If you have a connection to our Constitution, you recognize and see a sense of history, and you recognize the dangers of compromise of principles," Roberts said, explaining his support of Larouche.

Taj has a good working relationship with the other six trustees, all Republicans. Most of the time, votes are 7-0, Taj said.

"(The board) could have passed a bill, 6-1, but that never happened. We always have a discussion," Taj said.

Taj said 40 percent of the new 11th District is Gary Peters' old district, in which Peters won in 2008 and 2010, formerly a Republican stronghold and Joe Knollenberg's old district. Taj points out.

Taj believes his experience in day-to-day dealings with patients and familiarity with health policy issues can help the district.

"It is a very professional, well-educated district," Taj said. "It is the most affluent district in the state. It is also a great chance for the Democrats."

Taj said his role as a congressman is to help everyone in the district, regardless of party affiliation or support.

"If we can get more money to fix our roads, that will help every single person who uses those roads," Taj said.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anderson & Karas

Melissa M. Anderson, of Rochester Hills, and Michael P. Karas, of Novi, were married Jan. 28, 2012, at The Inn at St. Johns with Father David Czubski officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Herbert and Debra Anderson, of Novi. She graduated from Michigan State University in 2007 and is a marketing director with Flexible Plan Investments. Her attendants included Lauren Farrant, Erica Dupuis, Julie Stevens, Kristin Hamer and Alison MacKenzie.



Melissa Anderson and Michael Karas

BuWalda & Cameron

Joan Denise BuWalda, of Novi, and David Martin Cameron, of Midland, were married June 23, 2012, at Shrine off the Little Flower in Royal Oak with Father Anthony Camilleri officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Robert and Joan BuWalda, of Novi. She attended University of Michigan and works for Carat, a media planning company for General Motors. Her attendants included Danielle Janowski, Natalie Hinks, Debra Hsieh, Rachel Moblo, Melissa Cameron and Megan Cameron.

The groom is the son of Martin and Bernadette Cameron, of Midland. He attended University of Michigan and is a third-year medical student at Wayne State University. His attendants included Goung Tan, Derek BuWalda, Scott Knafla, Christian Stoffan, Joshua Munro, and Stephen Gee.

A reception was held at Glen Oaks, Farmington Hills. The couple honeymooned in Mayan Riviera Mexico and will reside in Royal Oak.



Joan BuWalda and David Cameron

NORTHVILLE / NOVI CHURCH CALENDAR

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CROSSPOINTE MEADOWS CHURCH Location: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road... Contact: (248) 669-9400

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Location: 34567 7 Mile Road... Contact: (248) 442-8822

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road... Contact: (248) 349-2345

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE Location: 200 E. Main Street... Contact: (248) 349-0911

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE Location: 217 N. Wing... Contact: (248) 348-1020

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NOVI-FAMILY INTEGRATED CHURCH Location: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road... Contact: (248) 349-3647

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Location: 205 East Lake Street... Contact: (248) 437-2875

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE Location: 777 West 8 Mile Road... Contact: (248) 349-1144

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE Location: 21260 Haggerty Road... Contact: (248) 348-7600

Club 56, Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Blast... Thursday Schedule: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group

Details: If you enjoy a friendly game of cards or like board games, you will have a good time. Some snacks are provided, but feel free to bring more; \$5 donation please.

Date: July 12 Date: Cards & Games Night. This is a great way to meet new people or just see old friends again.

Earlier this year, with the help of Novi's first commercial rehabilitation tax abatement from the City Council, Bowman's dream was on its way toward becoming a reality.

Plans target a part-time Michigan Legislature

By Christopher Behnam Gannett News Service

Most Michiganders will work indoors Mondays through Fridays during a summer of anticipated pristine weather when the leaves turn glorious shades of red, yellow and orange this year.

Their state lawmakers will be in session 14 days in the same time frame. The Legislature meets one day in July and August, seven days in September, one day in October and four days in November between summer and autumn breaks.

The schedule highlights the fact that Michigan is one of a shrinking number of states with full-time legislatures. Michigan lawmakers make an average of \$71,000 per year and have health benefits and a 401(k) retirement package.

State lawmakers have said they have sacrificed in recent years through a pay cut, big her contributions to their health insurance premiums and the phasing out of retiree health benefits.

HOTEL

Continued from page A1

estimated the city would abate nearly \$600,000 during that time. The 126-room Hyatt Place hotel provides Bowman with the on-site hotel services that he said many larger shows demand, while also providing the Showplace an additional 10 meeting rooms, additional pre-function space, and an expanded Diamond Center.

Project cost is estimated at \$8.5 million. Novi Mayor Bob Gatt, who spoke first at the ground-breaking ceremony, referred to Bowman as a "visionary" and a "risk-taker."

"(He) will eventually go into the history books as a person who helped make Novi a world-class city," Gatt said. Bowman expects the hotel to be a success and

creation of a part-time Legislature in Michigan would require a state constitutional amendment, and would need a two-thirds approval vote in both the House and Senate to go before voters.

Legislation sponsored by state Rep. Tom McMillin, R-Rochester Hills, would create a 90-day session year and slash pay accordingly.

Lawmakers would be paid on a per-diem basis if a special session is called, and be docked for each day they don't attend regular session.

The measure also would eliminate state-paid retirement and insurance benefits for those first elected after 2012.

The proposal was introduced in May 2011 and hasn't progressed. A proposal for the body to meet for not more than 150 days annually was introduced before McMillin's bill, and also hasn't been voted on.

McMillin said he's confident a part-time Legislature will be considered at some point, and said

he's glad Handler brought the issue to light.

"We get the budget done pretty quickly now. I think that if there's a will there's a way," he said. "I'd welcome an ally."

State Sen. Joe Hune, R-Ham-burg Township, maintains his support for a part-time legislative body, but said session is a small portion of a state lawmaker's duties.

He said numerous committee obligations, as well as time spent answering constituent concerns and attending in-district civic and community events, consume most of a state legislator's time.

"There is an exorbitant amount of time that goes into it. All of that stuff entails work," Hune said.

He said reduced session days would limit the Legislature's oversight of state departments, which he said have overreached their authority in recent years.

The Legislature has approved what many legislators consider to be a pay and benefit sacrifice on-par with other state employees and

the private sector.

Lawmakers last year took a 10 percent pay cut that amounted to a \$7,965 reduction to the previous average \$79,650 annual Michigan lawmaker salary.

As part of a new state law for all state employees, legislators must pay at least 20 percent of their employee health benefits.

A law signed last fall phased-out the lawmaker retiree health-care benefit, which covered 90 percent of health premiums for legislators who serve at least six years in office once they reach age 55.

Former lawmakers were grandfathered in, and several current lawmakers were exempted in ending the benefit, however.

To address the exemptions, legislation has been introduced that would reduce the amount the state pays toward the benefit from 90 percent to 80 percent effective next year, and require current legislators eligible for the benefit to contribute 5 percent of their salary toward it.

Legislators who serve at least six years in office once they reach age 55.

Advertisement for Andiamo restaurant featuring 'The Rat Pack with Liza' and 'Barbra Streisand & Cher' events. Includes contact information and ticket prices.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Advertisement for Social Security services, featuring attorneys JB Bleske and Jennifer Alfonsi. Includes a photo of the attorneys and text explaining their expertise.

City of Novi Notice of Adoption Ordinance No. 12-160.01. Text regarding amendments to the City Code of Ordinances.

City of Novi Notice of Adoption Ordinance No. 12-113.03. Text regarding amendments to the City Code of Ordinances.

Notice of Close of Registration for the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012 for the City of Novi. Includes details on voter registration and election procedures.

Large advertisement for Bloom Asset Management and Observer & Eccentric Newspapers offering a 'Free Lump Sum Pension Option Seminar' on Thursday, July 12 at 9:30 a.m. at Schoolcraft College. Includes a map of the location and contact information.

## Wireless Bluetooth: boombox reinvented

By Jon Gunnells  
Guest Columnist

Remember when portable music was carrying a boombox over your head at the beach? I don't (I'm not that old). More than two decades later, we finally have a better option for portable music than lugging a stereo full of D batteries.



Jon Gunnells

Wireless Bluetooth speakers are a terrific way to take music wherever you go — without the need for cords, packs of batteries or even a wi-fi signal. With Bluetooth-capable speakers, music lovers can stream music from any device — a desktop computer, tablet or smartphone.

As you can imagine, the electronic stores and big box retailers are full of portable speakers, stereos, iPod docks and more. You can cut through all of the confusing choices by figuring out what functions you want in a stereo or portable speaker.

If you simply want to dock your smartphone or MP3 player in your home, a docking system or even a stereo system and an RCA cable might be for you. But if you're looking for music on the patio, or on the go with your tablet, your best bet may be to skip the plug and play speakers and go completely wireless.

Wireless units are available in all price ranges from about \$40 to \$60 for Logitech speakers up to \$399 for impressive Bose or Jambox devices.

### Best devices

It's no surprise that the best devices on the market are the most expensive. The industry leader is the Jawbone Big Jambox device, which acts as a wireless speaker and speakerphone and can play for up to 15 hours of continuous music. The Jawbone Big Jambox also has a built-in lithium battery that can be recharged and played through a USB cable or wall outlet.

The 2.7-pound Big Jambox can connect via Bluetooth from devices up to 33 feet away. Jawbone also makes a smaller version that retails for \$199. It offers the same features and functionality, but with smaller speakers, less bass and lower top volumes.

For those who don't want to break the bank on one speaker, there are a variety of other options available. iSound offers a line of speakers called the Twist that has a similar 33-foot Bluetooth range, a lithium battery and speakerphone options. It retails for less than \$75. The one drawback of the Twist speaker is that it only plays for five hours, much less than the Jawbone Big Jambox. However, five-hour continuous play is standard within the industry.

Now that you know about a few speakers at a variety of price ranges, you must decide how you will play your music. You can always play songs directly from your mobile device hard drive. So if your iTunes catalog is loaded up on your phone or tablet or even in the cloud, you can listen to any of your music at anytime.

Whenever you have a wireless signal, you can even stream music through apps such as Pandora, Grooveshark and Spotify Premium. Portable speakers are also compatible with more than just music. A powerful unit like a Bose speaker can be used as a makeshift soundbar to complement a TV — although at that price, you could just buy a soundbar that plugs in.

The speakers can also be used to add some more surround sound for streaming movies through Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hulu or just YouTube videos. If you are interested in a portable speaker to replace your iPod dock or even 1980s stereo, you can visit ABC Warehouse, which offers a variety of speakers compatible with all of your electronic devices.

Jon Gunnells is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnSh0w.

### Dig in



NATHAN MUELLER

City and state officials throw the first piles of dirt at the ground-breaking ceremony for the Hyatt Place at the Suburban Collection Showplace on June 26. The 126-room hotel, which will be attached to the existing convention center, is expected to be completed by July 2013. Pictured from left: Novi Mayor Pro tem Dave Staudt, Sen. Mike Kowall, Hyatt Place representative Kevin Schramm, Novi Mayor Bob Gatt, Suburban Collection Showplace Owner Blair Bowman, Suburban Collection General Manager David Fischer Jr., Novi City Manager Clay Pearson and Rep. Hugh Crawford.

## NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Free seminar on pension buyouts

Rick Bloom of Bloom Asset Management in Farmington Hills and the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper are co-sponsoring a free educational seminar on the lump-sum buyouts offered to salaried retirees of General Motors and Ford Motor Co. at 9 a.m. Thursday, July 12, in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. For more information or to register, call (248) 932-3200 or e-mail seminars@bloomasetmanagement.com. A continental breakfast will be served. Participants must pre-register.

### Building is booming in Novi

With 208 commercial permits and 146 new housing permits issued, totaling \$41 million in valuation, 2012 is proving to be a busy year for development in Novi. Construction in Novi has been steadily increasing with key projects underway including the revitalization of the Novi Town Center, with Walmart scheduled to open in mid-August, and the Hyatt Place Hotel to be built adjacent to the Suburban Collection Showplace.

Providing quality customer service is a top priority for the City of Novi. To ensure builders and homeowners receive prompt customer service during the busy summer construction season, the Community Development and Treasury departments will extend hours until 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings July 10 through Labor Day. This is in addition to the 40 service hours offered per week, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

"We are excited to provide this enhanced customer service to our business and residents," said Charles Boulard, Community Development director. "In a time when we see many communities closing doors early and decreasing service hours to the public, we are able to offer additional opportunities for citizens." During the extended hours, staff will receive and issue permits, process payments, and provide consultations for typical homeowner projects such as deck plans, setbacks, pool construction, etc. Consultation appointments should be made in advance by contacting the Community Development Department at (248) 347-0415. Additionally, the Treasury Department will accept tax and utility payments.

To learn about building in Novi including the permit process, building requirements, and zoning, visit cityofnovi.org.

### Fox Run developer one of the best places to work

Erickson Living, developer and manager of Fox Run retirement community in Novi, announced that *IT* magazine has selected it as one of the top 100 organizations that provide their information technology (*IT*) professionals with a creative and stimulating work environment, great career opportunities, as well as exceptional benefits and compensation. Erickson Living was ranked 93rd on this year's list. Honorees are included in coverage in *Computerworld* (June 18, 2012), along with results from the 19th annual Best Places to Work in *IT* survey. "Erickson Living's Information Technology professionals have a long history of quality service and a unique commitment to serving a diverse customer base," said John F. Triscoll, Erickson Living's Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer. "By having diversity of thought, perception, background and experience, our team culture thrives, creating a rewarding work environment that opens up new opportunities for professional development and growth."

### Great Clips opens new salon in Novi Town Center

Great Clips has opened its new store in Novi Town Center, catering to today's busy lifestyles by being open evenings hours and weekends with no appointment necessary for an affordable, quality haircut in a comfortable, friendly salon.

"We are very happy to welcome the new Great Clips salon to Novi Town Center," said Jim Clear, NTC general manager. "Their national reputation for excellence brings still another well known name to our growing list of new merchants and restaurants at our new Center. As they say at Great Clips, 'It's gonna be great.'" Their address will be 26156 Ingersoll Drive, Novi, MI 48375; phone is (248) 465-6070. The salon will be open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays-Fridays; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays. More information can be found at <http://www.greatclips.com/>

## 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](http://oakgov.com/peds/calendar), or call (248) 858-0783.

### QuickBooks® Essentials

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

Session I: basic accounting terminology; new company file setup; customizing forms and letters; and working with bank accounts

Session II: invoicing customers; receiving payments and making deposits; entering vendor bills/paying vendor bills; and using credit card accounts.

Thursday, June 28. Session One 9-11:30 a.m. Session Two 12:30-3 p.m. Each session is \$40 or \$75 for both. Laptop highly recommended.

## Don't roll the dice on a lump sum payout.

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Thursday July 12, 2012  
Holiday Inn Livonia, MI  
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Speaker: John F. Robbins, MBA, CFP



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## Milford Summer Palooza hits Main Street July 13-15

Milford's all-new summertime celebration hits Main Street July 13-15, and organizers promise there will be something for everyone. Store specials — check. Bounce house, outdoor movie and other kids activities — check. Dunk tank — check. Live music — check. Food and drink — check. Vegas-style "gaming" tent — maybe.

The aptly named Milford Summer Palooza is a three-day fest that will woo families with young kids, teens, adults of all ages — just about anyone looking for fun, food, bargains and a place to hang out with friends and family. Presented by the Milford Business Association, the event is this year's answer to "Shop, Rock and Stroll" held in downtown Milford each July for the past several years.

"We're really beefing it up this year," said Debbie Hughes, MBA member and owner of Village Toy Shoppe on Main Street. "And we're trying to make it a great family event — people are looking for fun things to do with their families. While many merchants like Hughes will have sidewalk sales during the Palooza, the major focus will be on activities to draw folks downtown. Throughout the weekend, Main Street Grill & Tavern is sponsoring a food, beverage and live music tent with bands playing Friday and Saturday night, and

Cinco Lagos is sponsoring a beer and wine tent for those 21 and older. At press time, organizers were still awaiting word on a game licensing application. If all goes as planned, you will find several gambling activities inside the beer and wine tent including a roulette wheel, Black Jack, poker tournaments and more.

For a splash of goofy fun, check out the Palooza's dunk tank featuring local celebrities and have the kiddies get some serious bouncing on the inflatable that will be set up along the street. Purchase a wrist band and play all day. And on Saturday night, a free movie for kids will be shown on a large portable outdoor screen.

"We're really trying to make it a full weekender for everybody — kids, families and adults," said MBA member Keith Hughes, who is organizing the event with MBA President Denise Sanborn. "All the merchants will be open late and on Sunday, and there will be good bands. So stop by and visit Milford, and let your friends know, too. There should be something for everyone."

Main Street will be closed for traffic from Liberty Street to Commerce Street for the Milford Summer Palooza. It all begins Friday, July 13 at 10 a.m. and runs to 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 15.

By Aileen Wingblad

## Calendar of Events

June 28	Farmer's Market 3-9 pm, Liberty Street	July 5	Summer Concert Series 7-9 pm, Central Park David Gerald Band
June 28	Summer Concert Series 7-9 pm, Central Park Motor City Blues	July 12	Farmer's Market 3-8 pm, Liberty Street
July 4	4th of July Parade 11 am, Main Street	July 12	Summer Concert Series 7-9 pm, Central Park Steve King & The Ditties
July 5	Farmer's Market 3-8 pm, Liberty Street		

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Meet Me in Milford

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Teens caught breaking into vehicles

Novi police arrested an 18-year-old man and his 17-year-old friend at 4:57 a.m. on June 25 for stealing from several vehicles in the area of East Glen Haven Circle and Eight Mile Road.

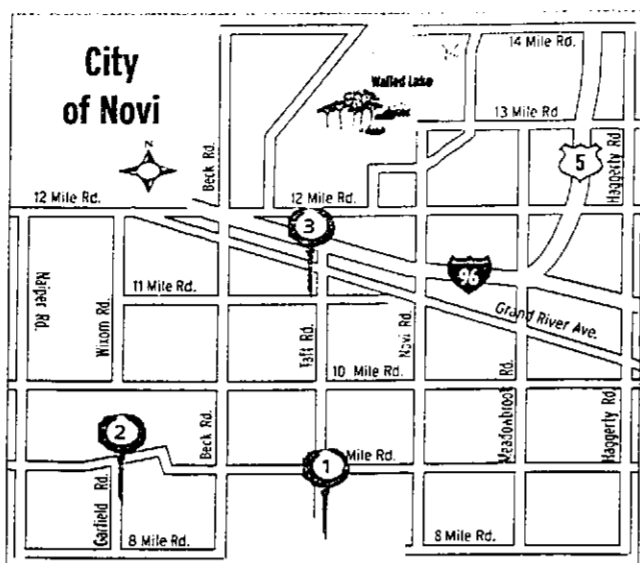
he was standing. Both were arrested and transported to the Novi Police Department where they were charged with larceny from auto.

Items stolen from two vehicles

A pair of vehicles on Garfield Drive just south of 9 Mile Road were broken into overnight on June 25. According to the police report, a Garmin GPS and 100 CDs were stolen from a Ford truck and 50 CDs were stolen from a Chevy Cobalt.

Woman has shopping bag taken at mall

A West Bloomfield woman had a shopping bag containing \$160 worth of clothes from Ann Taylor stolen after she set the bag down inside Macy's on June 24 to free her hands while looking at other items.



Compiled by staff writer Nathan Mueller

NOVI NEWS BRIEFS

Skate Bus

The Skate Bus, a new program presented in partnership with the PLUS Skate Shop in Farmington, will take local skateboarders, ages 6 years and up, to premier skate parks throughout Michigan and Ohio.

Novi News online

Have you checked out our website? It's chock full of local news from the Novi community and is updated often. There are several cool features at hometownlife.com that allow you to browse through the latest news and features from your neighboring communities, too.

Brain-friendly learning

New Morning School, Plymouth, celebrates its 40th Anniversary during the 2012-13 school-year. New Morning School is offering special programs and events throughout the year beginning in July.

Cherished memories

Hundreds of students are graduating and our photographer will be there to capture all the big moments. Graduation photos will appear in the Novi News and online at HometownLife.com.

Field day fun



Novi school district students Aakanksha Shripall, left, and Saya Tanaka team up for a relay race event during their school's May 27 field day.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi Woods teacher Michelle Donberger, left, and Novi Meadows Principal Lisa Fenchel take a break to join in on the fun that their students are having during the school's May 27 field day.



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KNIGHTSBRIDGE ANTIQUE MALL advertisement with contact information and list of items for sale.

Crystal Creek Assisted Living advertisement featuring services like bathing, dressing, and hygiene.

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS!

Large advertisement for Hometown Life Inspire magazine, including rates, dates, and contact information.

FIRE article continuation: The Novi fire marshal and the Oakland County fire investigator are continuing to investigate the cause of the blaze...

Auto workers advertisement for AirCredit Financial, offering lump sum payment options.

NOTICE TO BRIGHT HOUSE NETWORKS CABLE CUSTOMERS advertisement regarding SDV system changes.



PHOTOS BY HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Amelia Bedolla, 2, of Brighton was thrilled with plumes of water shooting out of the Splash 'n' Blast waterpark at Kensington Metropark's Martindale Beach. She was among the thousands of visitors last week to the park, looking for a way to keep cool.

# Coolin' off

Families turn to Kensington's beach, waterpark to beat the heat

By Philip Allmen  
Staff Writer

There was a steady stream of visitors to Kensington Metropark on the first day of summer last week as area residents looked for ways to keep cool.

With temperatures in the low 90s by noon on June 20, plenty of folks opted for the park's Martindale Beach and Splash 'n' Blast waterpark.

It was the first time at the Milford metropark for the Tyzo family.

Emily Tyzo of Commerce Township watched her kids Ricky and Abigail splash around in the play structure, shooting water cannons at others, and simply having a blast.

"It's our first time coming here, and we love it," Tyzo said. The

family recently moved to the area and heard about Kensington from a friend. "We'll be back for sure."

The park is a regular outing destination for Keri Bedolla of Brighton. She said she brings her daughter, Amelia, 2, as often as possible. On days like Wednesday, it's a perfect way to cool off, she said, and there's a lot to do during their visits.

"She loves it out here," Bedolla said, gesturing to her daughter as she played in the water spray. "We'll come here (to the beach) or to the paddle boats. There's also the petting farm. "It gets us out of the house and away from the TV," she added. "It's fun. It's cheap."

Chrissy Mongeau of



Martindale Beach was a popular choice for visitors near and far, with last week's temperatures in the low 90s.

Berkley was another visitor looking for a fun afternoon.

"It's inexpensive, good family fun," she explained while watching daughter Sage McDade cruise down the 250-foot winding waterslide for the first time, another feature by the beach area.

"I want to go again. I want to go again. It's fun," Sage exclaimed, jumping up and down with joy. The 6-year-old admitted she wasn't sure if the waterslide was a good idea before trying it the first time.

"I was scared to go on

here," she said. "Then I proved I could do it, and went down."

The metroparks require a \$5 daily vehicle admission fee, and annual passes are available. The Splash 'n' Blast area requires separate admission: \$4 for adults and \$3 children ages 2-15.

Following a cooler climate early this week, forecasts called for temperatures to rise into the 90s today, and continuing in the high 80s through early next week.

allmen@hometownlife.com | (248)



Sage McDade, 6, of Berkley flies down the waterslide at Kensington's splash park.



The Splash 'n' Blast features waterslides and a spray ground area. It is open 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Wristbands cost \$4 for adults and \$3 children ages 2-15.

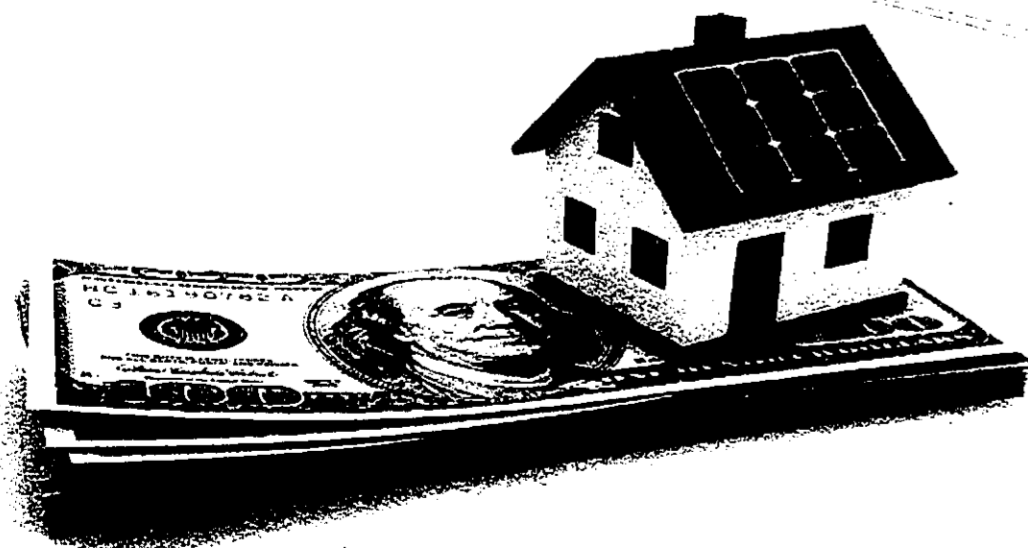
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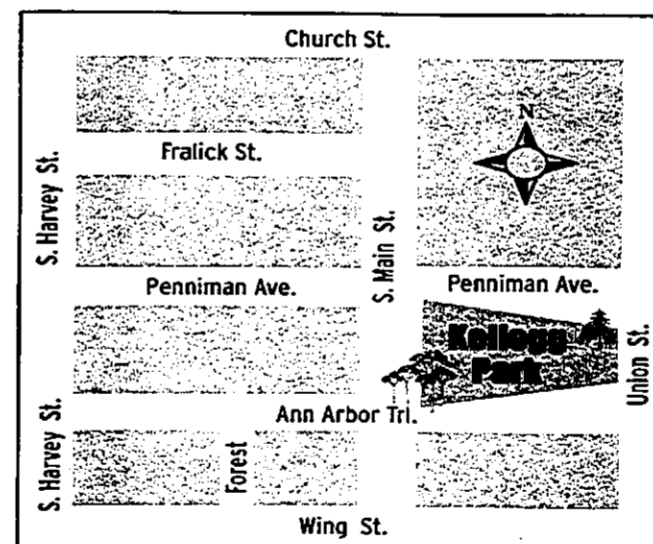
7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 30

Kellogg Park, downtown Plymouth

This fun, family-friendly concert showcases popular American composers and will conclude with the traditional classic, Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture.

**Concert is FREE in Kellogg Park,  
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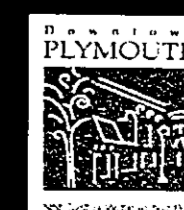
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## OUR VIEWS

# Self-evident truth

### Remember sacrifices as we celebrate a proud nation

As with many holidays born out of patriotic impulses, the true meaning of Independence Day can be easily lost amid the parades and the barbecues, among the sparklers and the games.

And it's easy to forget, because the brave sacrifices of our military men and women today come in faraway lands like Afghanistan and Iraq, that the very first sacrifices on the road to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness came right here on home soil.

Some 25,000 Americans perished, and another 25,000 were injured as the colonies fought — and died — for the right to determine their own destiny as a country, one of the truths leaders of the Second Continental Congress decided were self-evident.

Though it holds no legal authority, The Declaration of Independence, as Jefferson wrote in a letter years after penning it, the document was "intended to be an expression of the American mind, and to give to that expression the proper tone and spirit called for by the occasion."

Thus, Thomas Jefferson and the rest of the Founding Fathers laid the foundation for what has stood — for 236 years and counting — as the bedrock principle of our nation. Fifty-six men, representing colonies from north and south, signed it, each of them risking death as revolutionaries.

The leaders of the revolution — Hancock and Franklin, Washington and Jefferson — are household names. But let's not forget the 50,000 dead and wounded, whose names we've never known and never will. It was their deeds, and their sacrifices, that became synonymous with freedom.

As you line the streets for local parades, celebrate with fireworks, and grill burgers and hot dogs for the holiday picnic, remember them and honor their accomplishments.

The truth of their sacrifice, and the magnitude of its meaning, should be self-evident.

## Play it safe with fireworks

A new state law removes the ban on most fireworks that shoot into the air so pyrotechnic-lovers no longer need to smuggle Roman candles, bottle rockets, sky lanterns or anything else from neighboring states. We urge consumers to use caution.

The wider variety of fireworks for sale in Michigan is expected to translate into \$8-\$10 million annually for the state, according to state Rep. Harold Haugh, D-Roseville, one of the bill's sponsors.

Under the state law, fireworks cannot be sold to anyone younger than 18. The law also prohibits using fireworks while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Consumer-grade fireworks may not be used on public, school or private property of another person unless permission is obtained to use fireworks at that location.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's most recent data, three Americans died and 8,600 were taken to the hospital with injuries as a result of fireworks in 2010. Children younger than 15 accounted for 40 percent of those injuries.

In addition, the Michigan Department of Community Health said there were three fireworks-related fatalities in the state in 2006-10, one in 2006 and two in 2007.

Read and practice these tips courtesy of the state fire marshal.

- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities, including sparklers
  - Light fireworks one at a time
  - Keep a bucket of water or hose on hand
  - Never stand over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse
  - Never re-light "dud" fireworks that have not fully functioned
  - Never point or throw fireworks at other people
  - Only use fireworks on designated days
- Make it a safe July 4th holiday.



Celebrate our nation's 236th birthday during Fourth of July festivities, but please be sure to handle fireworks safely.

## LETTERS

### Inform yourself

This letter is a product of diminishing enthusiasm. The recent polls (47-46 percent) that theoretically reflect the inclination of Michigan voters (minus the fence-straddlers) convince me that I write in vain.

Ninety percent of prospective voters — whether informed and knowledgeable or not — have made up their minds.

Nevertheless, if you are reading this page of this humble paper, I commend you. You are, at least, seeking opinion and information that might change your mind ... but I doubt it. But you are seeking!

My concern is that a great many of those, who have made up their minds or not, will not be reading this page nor any other newspaper, nor magazine, nor book; their sources of information will be TV sound bites, commercials, coffee break chatter, barroom proclamations, hair salon analyses — unsubstantiated small talk of microscopic worth. It seems that a large segment of our voters are impervious to facts. They remind me of the waiter who sees only what he chooses to see regardless of all meaningful efforts to attract his attention.

Otherwise, how could Michigan have become a swing state with a 50-50 possibility of supporting Romney for president? Incredible!

Patrick M. Downey  
Novi

### Political word game

When Rep. Lisa Brown was banned from speaking on the House floor after uttering the word "vagina," it was ostensibly because she used "offensive" language. According to Ari Adler, spokesman for House Republicans, Majority Floor Leader Jim Stamas determined Brown's comments "violated the decorum of the House." This is ironic since Republicans nationwide have been responsible for introducing the term "transvaginal" in legislation regulating women's health care. As Rep. Brown points out, vagina is a medically and anatomically correct term. It is difficult, therefore, to understand the thought process of Republicans such as Rep. Mike Carlton who stated: "It was so offensive, I don't want to say it in front of women."

An important issue at stake here is the use of power to silence opposition. In a democracy, it is imperative to consider diverse points of view when crafting legislation. Committee chairs often deny minority members the right to express their views during the writing of new laws. Frequently, after bills are passed, they are given "immediate effect" designation by voice vote, rather than the required two-thirds majority by a roll call vote.

These silencing tactics are typical of those used by totali-

### 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.

tarian regimes. Unfortunately, the June 14 action by Rep. Stamas was not an isolated incident. We Americans are rightfully proud of our democracy. But in Michigan it is rapidly being taken away from us by an arrogant and power hungry Republican majority.

Flo Smith  
Wolverine Lake

### Paying more for using less

In the interest of conserving energy, we've been educated and advised to invest in "Energy Star" labeled appliances. Likewise, when we consider a furnace, when we consider a furnace, "High Efficiency" models are recommended, again, to lower our energy consumption.

We're lowering the temperature of the water in our water heaters. We're increasing the "R value" of our insulation and caulking all the little gaps that leak heat out of our homes. Not only are new and replacement windows manufactured with increased insulating quality, they're now tinted in a variety of colors and strengths to limit the heat of the summer sun. When we're away from home or sleeping, programmable thermostats save on the energy used to heat and cool our homes. Even our light bulbs have changed.

When we want to make changes or when it's necessary, and when we have the means, we're doing all we can to curb our consumption of "energy." It's working. We're using less. It's no surprise that now, as a result of our efforts, our energy provider is experiencing a reduction in their profits, and they're not happy. They apparently have the same overhead and need to continue receiving the same revenue.

Has our energy provider been able to or considered downsizing? Have they looked into ways to become more efficient

Gerald Maxey  
Farmington Hills

themselves, as we consumers have? Maybe not. Consumers Energy has taken the least complicated and simplest measure to insure their continued "profits." They've decided to raise our rates for the energy we're striving so hard to use less of.

In conclusion, our reward for being responsible consumers is to pay more for using less.

Alice Dinan-Thimm  
Birmingham

### Forcing religious beliefs

So the religious war against women, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights has finally come to Michigan thanks to the Republican party. HB 5711 was rammed through the House and forces religious Republican viewpoints on women and the doctors who care for them.

State Rep. Lisa Brown spoke up about this injustice and was gravely down and banned from speaking about anything.

This is democracy? Forcing religious beliefs on people sounds like something that happens in the Middle East or down South not in Michigan. This story has gone viral and now we're a laughingstock. Republicans need to be reminded that one of the main reasons our forefathers came here was to escape mainstream religion and its intolerable iron grip on every facet of our lives.

Our Founding Fathers saw first-hand the oppression and corruption religion had on affairs of state so they gave birth to the separation of church and state. We need to be really careful here, people, and watch Republicans like a hawk or they will gut the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Think I'm kidding, check out the Florida-style voter suppression laws they rammed through — SB 751, SB 754 and SB 803.

Mitch Dubanik  
Livonia

### Object to welfare drug testing

Our Legislature is again considering mandatory welfare drug testing. Why would such a punitive and draconian measure even be considered? Of course, the cost would come out of the recipient's check, so poor people are subsidizing drug testers without any finding of probable cause.

We are baffled as to the purpose, except some legislators must own stock in drug testing companies.

Rather than the poor being punished, they could be better helped by counseling for depression and despair. Punitive measures to punish the poor are counter-productive and without merit.

If the legislation comes to the governor's desk, it should be vetoed.

# Farewell, friends: Thanks for everything

By Nathan Mueller  
Staff Writer

My time in Novi has come to an end. It was three years ago this month that I had a talk with our executive editor and was asked to make a move from the South Lyon Herald (where I worked for two years) to the Novi News as part some reorganization in the company.

I accepted, but initially I was bummed. I had formed many great relationships with the people in the South Lyon area and didn't know if Novi was the place for me. Now, as I sit in my self-made Novi Public Library office for the last time, I am having a hard time saying goodbye.

As a journalist we are often taught to detach ourselves and refrain from forming friendships with our sources to prevent bias from creeping into our work. However, when it comes to community journalism — which I think the Observers and Eccentric and Hometown Weeklies group does better than anyone — it can be hard because we are at every event and every meeting in our communities.

There is a certain level of trust and respect needed between a reporter and their sources to get them to talk to you, share information off the record and understand there might be moments when the topic isn't positive and a story has to be written.

Friendship probably isn't the right word because I don't spend time with my sources outside of work. But I am not ashamed to call many people in Novi friends because they get how the relationship works. Friends will be honest. Friends will

disagree. Friends will understand. I can honestly say I never once protected a Novi friend. If they did something good, I wrote about it. If it was bad, I wrote about that, too.

Looking back on it, Novi was exactly what I needed to advance my career. There is a business-like approach to getting things done in this city — which probably explains why Novi has weathered the financial storm better than most and continues to grow — and I had to adapt to fit in.

It also helps that while many of the city's leaders and employees take their roles seriously, they don't take themselves too seriously. Novi is a great city because everyone who lives and works here wants to be great. There is no such thing as going through the motions because then they might fall behind.

It would be great to have a full page to personally thank all the people in Novi who have helped shape me as a reporter and as a person, but they all know who they are.

As you read this I have already started my new job with the same company, at the South Oakland Eccentric. I sought out the position a few months ago because I wanted to get closer to my Royal Oak home and was ready for a new challenge.

It's not that Novi was no longer a challenge. But if there is one thing I take away from my time here, it's that you can never wait for things to happen, you have to make them happen. And for that I say, thank you, friends.

Nathan Mueller is now the staff writer for the South Oakland Eccentric and can still be reached via his current e-mail, nmuel@annett.com.

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



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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Danielle O'Brien works with Caroline Barriett, 4, on making a "dream catcher" during a June 21 kids' crafts session at the Novi Public Library. The library, located on 10 Mile Road between Taft and Novi Road, will be offering lots of activities through the summer for kids - including a summer reading program.

Living is easy



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Theresa Brenner has an enjoyable water fight with Kyle Swan, 9, at Novi's Lakeshore Park on June 20. The temperature on that day, the first of summer, got up to 92 degrees and as a result - Lakeshore was packed with people trying to beat the heat.



By 3 p.m. on June 20, Novi's Lakeshore Park had about 60 visitors to its beach and waters trying to beat the heat of the 90 degree day.

These photos and others in photo galleries at hometownlife.com are available for purchase, contact Web Editor Larry Ruehlen at lruehlen@hometownlife.com.


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- Chicken** - Chicken Quesadilla, Chicken Burrito, Chicken Tostitos, Chicken Quesadilla, Chicken Burrito, Chicken Tostitos
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# SPORTS

JEFF THEISEN, EDITOR  
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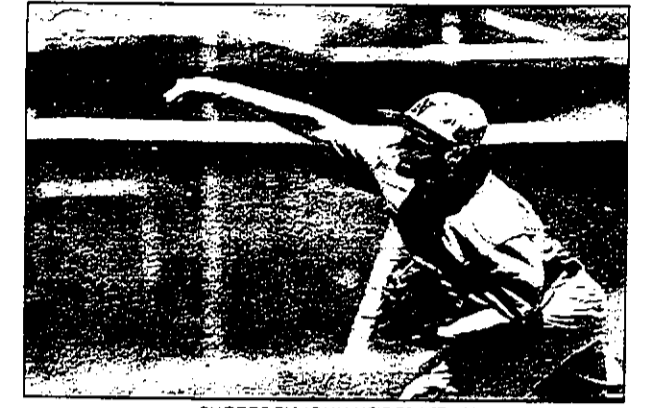
## All-Star baseball game has two local representatives



Novi's Logan Regnier slides in before the tag.

By Sam Eggleston  
Correspondent

Earning a trip to the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Game is a huge accomplishment for any player to achieve. In fact, in the history of top-quality baseball at Northville High School, only three players have ever been selected. Matt Williams, who played collegiate ball at Duke and was later drafted by the



Mustang pitcher Matt Stojkov works against Brighton.

Please see ALL-STAR, B3

## Five Mustangs earn All-State honors on the diamond

By Sam Eggleston  
Correspondent

All-State honors for Michigan's baseball and softball teams were recently announced and Northville did well in the selections as five Mustangs earned honors. For the Northville softball team, Jennifer Buckingham put an exclamation point on her impressive season by earning All-State First Team honors for Division I players as an outfielder. Standout pitcher Laura Pond was given the nod as an honorable mention selection. The baseball team had one First-Team All-State selection in Matt Stojkov while Jeff Gertley was named to the Second Team along with Connor Smith as a utility player and infielder, respectively. "All three were great leaders in their own way and extremely coachable and unselfish," said Northville baseball coach John Kostrzewa. "They are all very competitive and have a very strong desire to be successful. It has been a pleasure to have the opportunity to coach these three guys." Smith was Northville's shortstop this season and led the team in runs scored with 40 and

second in runs batted in with 36. He also has the single-season record at Northville for doubles with 18. "He's a very good shortstop who committed only three errors all season — which is an amazing accomplishment," said Kostrzewa. "He really was our spark plug that got things going." Gertley went 9-1 on the mound this year and led the Mustangs with a .534 on-base percentage. When he wasn't pitching, Gertley could be found playing centerfield for Northville. "His combination of pitching, offense and defense made him a very unique and special player," said Kostrzewa. "Jeff is an incredible athlete." Stojkov was 11-1 on the mound and allowed only five earned runs all season. He was Northville's No. 1 pitcher and threw against the toughest teams the squad faced all season — including three wins over a very tough Plymouth squad. What's more is that he batted clean-up for the squad and led the team with 40 RBIs this year. "He was absolutely dominant on the mound this season," said Kostrzewa.



Mustang Jen Buckingham bunts to advance a base runner.

PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER

## Novi's Kozinski leads talented golf field

By Jeff Theisen  
Sports writer

Novi junior golfer Brad Kozinski helped lead the Wildcats to a KLA A Division and Conference title as well as an Oakland County Championship. Kozinski had one of his best rounds of the year with a 73 at Oakland County for co-medalist. He averaged 75.7 for 18 holes and 37.5 for nine. "He is one of the best players in the area and has been for three years," said coach Brad Huss. "He is a true leader and a very personable young man with the ability to play at the college level. I rank him among the 10 best players I have coached and he is only a junior." "He also qualified for the Michigan Jr. Amateur by shooting a 74 at Pheasant Run."

**FIRST TEAM**  
Gavin Garriss, South Lyon  
The junior was also a co-medalist with Kozinski at Oakland County. Garriss also shot 73 at the Farmington Invite and at the KLA A Conference Tournament for sixth overall. Garriss qualified for regionals and was voted the Team MVP for the second year in a row. He averaged 78 for 18 and 39 in nine-hole matches.



Novi's Brad Kozinski provided a strong 1-2 punch with Brad Kozinski for the Wildcats.

Gavin is a hard-working player who the other teams worry about because he is capable of having a really great round," said coach Tom Jackson. Charlie Green, Catholic Central  
The junior helped the Shamrocks to a sixth-place finish at the State Finals with a 75 and 77 for a two-day total of 152. The Shamrock captain averaged 76.7 for 18 and 38 for nine. Andrew Sarokin, Northville  
The sophomore led the Mustangs in all but two of the team's 18-hole

tournaments. He averaged 38 for nine and 78 for 18. "He was clearly our best player," said coach Jeff Balagna. "He played No. 1 for us in all our tournaments, and he was never phased by having to play against the best kids from other schools. I could always count on Andrew to put a good score. In addition, he is the hardest worker on the team, always working on his game in season and out of season." "He finished top 10 in tournaments twice, was All-Conference and was an individual regional qualifier." Garret Buckley, Novi  
The Novi sophomore provided a great 1-2 punch with Kozinski. He averaged 78 for 18 and 37 in nine-hole matches. He was medalist at the KLA A Conference tournament with a 2-under-par 70 to earn All-Conference honors for the second consecutive year. "He too is one of the best golfers in the area and his hard work and dedication to the game are second to none," said Huss. "He will play golf at the college level in three years. Hard to believe he is only a sophomore." Jake Kneen, Lakeland  
The sophomore shot a season-low 69 at the Huron Valley Invitation-



Novi's Brad Kozinski is the 2012 All-Area Golfer of the Year.

Please see GOLF, A3

## Novi Elite runner-up in Brighton



The 18U Novi Elite came in second place this past weekend in the 2012 Brighton Classic in Brighton. The team was led by coaches Rob Reilly, Eric Carlson, and Mike Weber. The great effort came from Elite pitchers Andy Carlson, Matt Forche, Jeff Weber, Luke Bageris, Justin Azar, Kyle Matel and Alex Barry. Also contributing to the great weekend was Michael Zugaro, Wes Guenther, Alex Hamilton, Jack Sinkovich, Nick Shelar, Matthew Stefan and Justin Rush. Not pictured are Patrick Carney and Grant Wheeler.

## Second at Frankenmuth



The 12U Northville Mustangs took second place in the Frankenmuth Baseball Classic on June 17. The Mustangs won their bracket to advance to the championship round, where they lost a close game (5-4) to the St. Clair Shores Mariners. Pictured (l to r, front) are Mitchell Smith, Jackson Stegmeyer, Ryan Perkins, bat boy Drew Rankin, Jonathan Michalak, and Ben Brady; (back) Coach Eric Stegmeyer, Ben Schmidt, Zachary Swain, Lucas Buccellato, Tyler Troyer, Shane Rankin, Carson Bayoff and Coach Glenn Perkins.

## Repeat Soccer Champions



Northville Arsenal successfully defended their title this spring and won the 2012 Spring WSSL U11 Boys Division 1 Title for the second straight season. Pictured (bottom row from left): Domenic Angelosanto, Evan Greens, Jett Wolter, Nick Kouyoumjian; middle row: Jackson Cooney, Anthony Montemayor, Jack Borchanian; back row: John Bebb (assistant coach), Sean Gibney, Matthew Martin, Joe Hardenbergh, Brendan Bebb and Greg Borchanian (head coach). Not pictured are Carter Goebel, Reid Garback and Alex Karam.

Northville's Andrew Sarokin averaged 38 for nine holes and 78 for 18 to land a spot on the All-Area First Team.



## GOLF

Continued from page B1

for the Eagles. He averaged 78 for 18 holes.

**Alex Kleckner, Lakeland**  
Also a sophomore for the Eagles, Kleckner carded a 69 to win medalist honors at the KLAA Conference tournament at Lakeland CC. He also averaged 78 for 18 holes. The round of 69s by Kleckner and Kneen are new school records.

### SECOND TEAM

**Matt Evasic, Northville**  
The Mustang junior played at No. 2 and 3 throughout the year while averaging 81 for 18 and 38.5 for nine. Evasic finished fourth at the KLAA meet to earn All-Conference honors. He was the team captain.  
**Matt Sherry, South Lyon East**  
The Cougar junior averaged 38 for nine and 79 for 18. He earned All-Conference honors with a 75 at the KLAA Conference tourney. Sherry co-lead the Oakland County Division II Tournament with a 74.  
**Kyle Koehler**  
The Lion junior averaged 40 for nine and 80 for 18. He shot a 76 at the KLAA Conference tournament to earn All-Conference honors.  
**Johnny Walker, Novi**  
The Novi senior averaged 39 in duals and 82 in tournaments. He shot a 74 at Pheasant run to earn All-Conference honors and shot a 76 at Oakland County. He helped the Wildcats win back-to-back conference titles.

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Catholic Central's Charlie Green led the Shamrocks to a sixth-place finish at the Division 1 State Finals.

## ALL-STAR

Continued from page B1

Chicago Cubs, and Bryce Jenney, who continued his career at Michigan State, were the first two. This year Matt Stojkov will be the third.

"Matt is very deserving of his selection to the All-Star game," said Northville coach John Kostzewa. "His performance on the mound this season was spectacular and he deserves every accolade he has received."

Joining him in the game, which was slated for Tuesday night at Comerica Park (after the sports section went to print) was Novi Wildcats senior Logan Regnier.

"He is maybe the most gifted baseball player All-Star baseball game has two local representatives Northville's Stojkov, Novi's Regnier earn a place on the West roster Earning a trip to the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Game is a huge accomplishment for any player to achieve.

In fact, in the history of top-quality baseball at Northville High School, only three players have ever been selected. Matt Williams, who played collegiate ball at Duke and was later drafted by the Chicago Cubs, and Bryce Jenney, who continued his career at Michigan State, were the first two. This year Matt Stojkov will be the third.

"Matt is very deserving of his selection to the All-Star game," said Northville coach John Kostzewa. "His performance on the mound this season was spectacular and he deserves every accolade he has received."

Joining him in the game, which was slated for Tuesday night at Comerica Park (after the sports section went to print) was Novi Wildcats senior Logan Regnier. "He is maybe the most gifted baseball player that I have coached with a 6.5 (second) speed in the 60 and arm strength that reaches anywhere from 87 to 90 miles per

hour," said Novi coach Rick Green, who coached such notable as former All-Star Kevin Cissel (University of Michigan) and current Major League Baseball player Mitch Maier (Toledo). "Logan hit an inside-the-park home run at Novi and also hit a wood-bat home run this season."

Regnier also had six outfield assists this season, throwing out four runners at the plate and two at third base. He hit .475 on the season with 31 runs batted in, seven home runs and 19 stolen bases.

Stojkov was 11-1 on the mound this year and gave up just five earned runs. His only loss was a 3-1 decision against Brighton in the regional game where he struck out 13 and gave up just four hits. He had 40 RBIs this season.

Besides Stojkov and Regnier, the West roster includes Tony Dileo (Rockford), Wes Vaughn (East Grand Rapids), Josh Snyder (Zeeland East), Cam Wysocki (Forest Hills Northern), Justin Alleman (Holt), Drew Bechtel (Beal City), Evan Hill (Mt. Pleasant), Josuah Knorr (Blissfield), Zach Leimbach (Walled Lake Central), Alex Rapano (Midland), Derek Schneider (Portage Central), Brady VanderWeele (Parchment) and Christopher Williams (Shepherd).

The East will consist of Jake Balicki (Birmingham Groves), Ryan Bazzer (Canton), Gabe Berman (Birmingham Hills Andover), Devon Bronson (Southgate Anderson), Daniel Clouse (L'Anse Creuse North), Chad Cook (Lutheran Northwest), Jacob Cronenweth (St. Clair), Alex Daar (University Liggett), Tommy Eng (Troy Athens), Dylán Eschenburg (Eisenhower), Cameron Gibson (Grosse Pointe South), Anthony Gonzalez (Stoney Creek), Richard Guglielmi (Plymouth), Randy Kundak (Dixie Chilly), Kevin Mannon (Sterling Heights Stevenson), Anthony Misiewicz (Anchor Bay), Brett Sunde (Bishop Foley) and A.J. Susiek (Auburn Hills Avondale).

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# Summer training is key to fall success

## Northville urges student-athletes to train in off-season

By Sam Eggleston  
Correspondent

The Northville Mustangs girls cross country team just keeps getting better and better, but coach Nancy Smith isn't likely going to take all the credit. In fact, Smith has long promoted the fact that her team focuses on making themselves better throughout the summer months. It's not uncommon to visit Cass Benton and see an entire group of Northville harrisers running together. "I expect, and hope, that all my athletes attend summer conditioning that we have beginning the first day of break," said Smith. "We offer this daily at 8 a.m. Also in there two times a week is strength conditioning, which is run by

Total Performance this summer at the high school." Those same Mustangs aren't required to condition during the "dead week," which is mandated by the Michigan High School Athletics Association. Like many schools, Northville's dead period is the week of Fourth of July. Off-season conditioning isn't just important for cross country runners, either. Football players are often found hitting the weights and working on their conditioning, too — a key factor in the success the team has had the past two seasons under Matt Ladach. "Our summer training program is critical for our success," said Ladach. "We train throughout the entire school year and we continued training through the

summer as well." This summer finds the Mustangs doing more than just lifting dumbbells, however. The football team — which had 115 players out on Monday — is doing a "confidence course" three days a week. That consists of United States Marine Corps calisthenics in the high school parking lot, flipping tires (up to 570 pounds) and hitting tires with sledge hammers. "I guarantee you that nobody else in our division is doing what we are, and I am optimistic that our efforts will separate us from our competition," Ladach said. Times have definitely changed since the days when the coaches were high school athletes themselves. "It has changed a lot from when I first

started and when I was in high school," Smith recalled. "I do not remember training much in the summer. Cross country is much more competitive now and if you come into the season out of shape and not ready, you never catch up to the athletes that have prepared themselves." Athletes who haven't started summer training can contact the coaches of the sports they hope to participate in for suggested summer programs, or contact the athletic department for training times and coach contact information. "Don't get left in the back when the season starts by not prepping what you can do over the summer to make you a better and strong athlete," suggested Smith.

### 16-1-2 record



Following the varsity team on the road to their conference and association victories last week, the Northville Mustangs JV girls soccer team wrapped up their year with two outstanding offensive displays, besting Plymouth 7-1 and Hartland 4-0. These victories cap off a dominating and successful season for the team which finishes with a strong record of 16-1-2 and an impressive goals for/goals against statistic of 55-5. Highlights include two wins and a tie against cross-town rivals Novi, and a fine showing at the Saginaw Heritage Invitational held April 28 where the team recorded shutout wins against all three opponents Saline, Grand Blanc and DeWitt. Pictured (l to r, bottom) are Hailey Barba, Kailey Danaher, Katie Michowski; (middle) Lauren McBroom, Kelly McHugh, Kyra Dahring, Erin Provagne, Morgan Gozdro, Sarah Castellano, Christina Minna, Karen Lovelace, Carly Kuehl; (top) row: Head Coach Lindsey Blair, Megan Cragel, Tara Pawloski, Anna Giacomini, Leah Taubitz, Gabby Menocotti, Jenna Baughman, Megan Thomas, Jenny Willerer, Alana Dorfstatler, Emily Holbrook and Assistant Lydia Blair. Not pictured is Suzie Reddick.

## Waza FC West 95 Black's run ends in regionals

By Chris Jackett  
Boys Soccer

Waza FC West 95 Black's regional run following their under-17 boys State Cup championship was cut short on the first day last weekend in Saginaw with a 4-1 loss to Nebraska's Omaha FC 94/95 E1 early June 23. Novi's Matt Wilson and his teammates fell behind 1-0 in the 18th minute and Omaha piled on three more goals in a six-minute span 59 minutes into the game before Waza got on the board with two minutes remaining. Omaha would cruise through pool play, outscoring three opponents 12-4. However, Waza did well to get victories the next



Novi grad Joey Ferriss (2011) has signed to play collegiate hockey at the University of Connecticut.

two days, defeating Missouri's Raytown SC BGFC 94/95 in a 3-2 contest June 24 and then beat Minnesota's St. Croix Juventus 4-1 June 25.

Waza outscored their opponents 8-7, with Kristian Rego (Bloomfield Hills Lahser) and Donald Payne (Farmington) scoring twice each as Kev-

in Hoxha (Taylor Truman), Ronnie Basin (North Farmington), Alek Ivayevli (Westland John Glenn) and Dan Ovesea (Canton) scored one apiece.

### Hockey

The North American Hockey League's Michigan Warriors recently announced 2011 Novi grad Joey Ferriss had signed to play collegiate hockey at the University of Connecticut.

The 19-year-old former Wildcat led Novi to a state title in 2011 before helping lead the Warriors as the second leading scorer with 14 goals and 27 assists in 59 games, plus two points in four playoff games. Ferriss will look to help Connecticut exceed their Atlantic Hockey Association quarterfinal finish from last season, when they finished 16-19-4 in the regular season.

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

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**Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights!**  
**4th of July Family Fun!**  
Submit a photo and brief description to tell Scoop how you and your family have fun on the 4th of July!  
Mail to:  
**Scoop the Newshound**  
41304 Concept Drive  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
Deadline for submissions:  
All entries need to be received at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers by close of the business day on July 27th. Winners to be announced in the August Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.  
You could win Movie Passes admitting up to 4 people to Emagine Theatre and a Free Buddy's Cheese Pizza!  
July 4th FUN!  
Youth Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Youth Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Youth Community: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's information to contact winning entry: (Phone, email, home address) \_\_\_\_\_  
Selected winners will have their name, age, hometown and photo in the next Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights

**Join Scoop's Birthday Club!**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Parent's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Fill out the form and have your parent's fill in their name and signature. Clip and mail, it's that easy!  
\*Required for Birthday Club  
Mail to:  
**Scoop the Newshound**  
41304 Concept Dr.  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

**Scoop's Craft Corner**  
**4th of July Holiday Centerpiece**  
Materials  
3 - cardboard tissue rolls  
Craft glue  
Scissors  
Paint - red - white - blue  
Ribbon - red, white or blue or (combination)  
Yellow and Orange gift tissue wrapping  
Cardboard base - example - top of shoe box  
Decorative trimmings - stars, glitter, confetti (optional)  
Instructions  
● Cut the 3 tissue tubes into 3 different heights.  
● Paint one tube red, one white, and one blue.  
● Paint your cardboard base the color of your choice. Allow paint to dry. When tubes and base are dry, glue bottom of each tube to the cardboard base. Allow the glue to dry.  
● Add ribbon and decorative trimming (i.e. stars, glitter, confetti). Use your creativity.  
● For the look of flames, tuck in yellow and orange tissue wrapping in each tube. Take the scissors and snip into stripes. Fluff and style tissue paper to create flame fullness.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
Sydney Spiridon Garden City July 1  
Matthew Lamole Beverly Hills July 2  
Isabelle Schwarz Farmington Hills July 13  
Dalen Cobb Westland July 29

**Share your talent!**  
Do you write, draw, make crafts, take photographs, or do something else that you would like others to know about?  
Share your talent with us. We may share your extraordinary talent in an upcoming Scoop's Hound Dog Highlight.

**Earn Extra Money**  
Are you looking to do something fun this summer and get paid doing it. Here are a couple of ideas to make some cash during your summer break.  
● Have a Car Wash  
● Grow and Sell Sunflowers  
● Make and Sell Soap and Candles  
● Collect Pop Bottles from Friend and Family  
● Count and Roll Coins for a Portion of the Profit  
● Have a Bake Sale and Lemonade Stand  
● Sell your Unwanted Toys and Games  
● Become a Dog Walker  
● Do Extra Chorus for Your Parents

**Freezer Pleasers!**  
Here is a fun and easy treat to kick off the summer. What you need is an ice cube tray, toothpicks, plastic wrap and your favorite beverage.  
Just fill the ice cube tray with your selected beverage. Carefully wrap the plastic wrap around the filled ice cube tray. Now insert the toothpicks into the center of each ice cube compartment. Put this in the freezer for about 1 hour. ENJOY.

# REAL ESTATE

JULIE BROWN, EDITOR  
JLBROWN@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM  
(313) 222-6755  
FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Local building initiative puts Michiganders back to work

### Equal standard usually avoids litigation

By Robert Meisner  
Guest Columnist



**Q:** I have a question where we had valet parking services for some of our residents, but then we decided to cut out the service. One of our residents, who is an African American over the age of 40, is threatening to sue the association alleging that the new parking system violates the Fair Housing Act by discriminating against him on the basis of race and age. What do you think we should do?

**A:** It is unlawful to discriminate against any buyer or renter because of race, age or disability as it violates the Federal Fair Housing Act, among other statutes. It is also unlawful to refuse to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices or services when such accommodation is necessary for a person with a disability to have an equal opportunity to enjoy a dwelling. When, however, the parking or other regulations

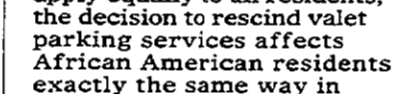
Building Industry Association (BIA) announced that on Tuesday, June 5, in New Hudson, the groundbreaking ceremony was held for the first home being constructed for the Made in America/Built in Michigan initiative. The home is being built by Rick Elkow of Elkow Homes, a building company based in Wixom, and a member of the Building Industry Association of South-eastern Michigan (BIA).

Several other BIA members are also involved in the program, including Todd Hallett, AIA, of TK Design & Architecture in Howell, who designed the home and DTE Energy's Builder-Developer Liaison, Robert Veresan, AIA, who is working toward making the home net-zero in terms of energy consumption and emissions. The group was joined by Lyon Township officials, including Supervisor Lannie Young and Treasurer Patty Carcone, along with other guests from within the residential construction industry. Community residents, from the Twin Pines neighborhood where this home will be built, also joined the festivities.

Michael Stoskopf, BIA's CEO, and one of three originators of the program, remarked, "This groundbreaking marks a Back to the Future moment as Rick and his team help bring new construction back to its roots as a local and state-focused endeavor. By committing to use American-made materials and supplies — with a particular emphasis on Michigan-made products — means that jobs will be created and sustained here, thus strengthening our economy."

Supervisor Young echoed these sentiments, adding, "This is a terrific day for BIA, Elkow Homes and Lyon Township!"

Headquartered in West Bloomfield, Building Indus-



Robert Meisner

**Q:** Does the board have a right to request the resignation of a board member?

**A:** I do not think that for the resignation to be effective it is dependent upon the board accepting it unless there is such a provision in the bylaws. Once the director resigns, it is effective at the time of the resignation, if it is done in accordance with the requirements of the association bylaws to the extent that there is any provision for such. Of course this depends on the specific state statute and governing documents. For example, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 11th Edition requires acceptance of someone asking to be excused from a duty or position. In fact, there is language that the duties of the officer must not be abandoned until the resignation has been accepted and becomes effective. However, most new nonprofit statutes provide that a resignation is effective upon communication to the board president or other officers. It is the communication of resignation that fulfills the resignation requirement. As a result, you should discuss this matter with your legal counsel.

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

Address	Price	Address	Price
47121 Yarmouth Dr	\$315,000	33412 Myrna St	\$115,000
GARDEN CITY		8822 Oporth	\$121,000
33269 Alvin St	\$86,000	16524 Trillium Ct	\$121,000
784 Arcola St	\$34,000	18530 Fox	\$121,000
6555 Henry Ruff Rd	\$75,000	17244 Inkeeper Rd	\$171,000
29851 John Hawk St	\$200,000	24307 Lynton	\$350,000
29009 Krauter St	\$35,000	14393 Mercedes	\$40,000
32660 Marquette St	\$70,000	17455 Norborne	\$207,000
31783 Rosslyn Ave	\$21,000	753 Ethan Dr	\$156,000
29655 Winter Ct	\$34,000	32081 Hazelwood St	\$29,000
LIVONIA		420 Lansdowne Dr	\$146,000
50153 Grant St	\$266,000	26369 Mackenzie Dr	\$79,000
529 Fernside Ave	\$246,000	29854 Malvern St	\$66,000
48289 Greenwich Ln	\$222,000	29555 Wilmouth St	\$76,000
44820 Harsdale Dr	\$150,000	7430 N Farmington Rd	\$131,000
47334 Pavilion Rd	\$327,000	7809 Rivergate Dr	\$55,000
11405 Northview St	\$125,000	32132 Shandra Ln	\$87,000
42350 Saratoga Cir	\$128,000	11328 Sharon St	\$35,000
4527 Shoreview Dr	\$202,000	WESTLAND	
4218 Timberline Dr	\$205,000	HOWELL - New, unad. town's. Beautiful community w/many club amenities. NMLS 271518. *400000	
8503 Trafford Ct	\$85,000	\$175-225,000. MI FINANCE OPEN 7 DAYS PER WEEK	

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

Address	Price	Address	Price
4171 Willoway Place Dr	\$230,000	35523 Heritage Ln	\$120,000
2698 Brady Dr	\$175,000	FARMINGTON HILLS	
4248 Lakeridge Ct	\$325,000	27453 Arden Park Cir	\$100,000
4240 Wabek Lake Dr S	\$300,000	27202 Bridle Hills Dr	\$174,000
3431 Westchester Rd	\$300,000	59591 Mary Ln	\$175,000
BIRMINGHAM		61131 Saddlereed Dr	\$271,000
463 Golf View Blvd	\$233,000	61150 Saddlereed Dr	\$254,000
1936 Hayes St	\$345,000	61181 Saddlereed Dr	\$320,000
724 Hindman Ravines Dr	\$380,000	26373 Shermans Way	\$50,000
1798 Pembroke Rd	\$147,000	SOUTHFIELD	
588 Pierce St	\$1,650,000	19815 Butternut Ln	\$125,000
1759 Washington Blvd	\$235,000	17627 Cornell Rd	\$35,000
1978 Webster St	\$275,000	16911 Crescent Dr	\$103,000
2092 Yorkshire Rd	\$200,000	29760 Red Leaf Dr	\$95,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS		29422 Rock Creek Dr	\$71,000
4291 Willoway Place Dr	\$230,000	WHITTE LAKE	
4698 Brandy Dr	\$175,000	18155 Shumard Ln	\$305,000
4248 Lakeridge Ct	\$325,000	17627 Cornell Rd	\$35,000
4240 Wabek Lake Dr S	\$300,000	16911 Crescent Dr	\$103,000
3431 Westchester Rd	\$300,000	29760 Red Leaf Dr	\$95,000
BIRMINGHAM		29422 Rock Creek Dr	\$71,000
463 Golf View Blvd	\$233,000	WHITTE LAKE	
1936 Hayes St	\$345,000	18155 Shumard Ln	\$305,000
724 Hindman Ravines Dr	\$380,000	17627 Cornell Rd	\$35,000
1798 Pembroke Rd	\$147,000	16911 Crescent Dr	\$103,000
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4240 Wabek Lake Dr S	\$300,000	WHITTE LAKE	
3431 Westchester Rd	\$300,000	18155 Shumard Ln	\$305,000

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Crossword Puzzle Present Danger

CROSSWORD PUZZLE
ACROSS
1 Sniper
93 Storage
2 Raines or Wilcox

Crossword grid with numbers and letters.

Answer to Last Week's Puzzle
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30 hrs per week, 9:30-12:00
30 hrs per week, 9:30-12:00

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Milford Township is seeking

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