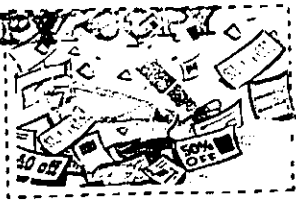


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# NOVI NEWS

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**Haggerty work**

Lane closures and delays can be expected from through October while Haggerty Road between Six Mile and Seven Mile is resurfaced. Haggerty Road will remain open throughout the project.

Work is scheduled for Monday through Saturday. Schoolcraft College has requested that work be suspended Aug. 29 and 30, which are the first two days of class for the fall semester. In addition, work is expected to be suspended after 3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31, through Labor Day weekend until Sept. 4.

The work will proceed in two phases. In the first phase, the two outside lanes will be closed, leaving the three interior lanes available for traffic. In the second phase, the interior lanes will be closed for repair and the outside lanes will be open. If any of five Schoolcraft entrances need repair, work will be done on one entrance at a time so that four entrances will remain available.

The \$1.28 million project includes milling of the existing surface; repair of existing concrete pavement and curb; placement of new asphalt surface; concrete sidewalk ramp upgrades; extension of the bike path from Wayne Avenue heading north; and new pavement markings.

The project is expected to conclude in late October barring any unforeseen delays or inclement weather.

**Win Lions tickets**

Enter our Facebook contest for a chance to win two tickets to see the Detroit Lions take on the St. Louis Rams Sunday, Sept. 9 at Ford Field. If you want a chance to be in the stands the first game of the regular season, go to hometownlife.com today. Share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get five extra chances to win if they also enter the contest. The winner will be selected at random Sept. 5.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi Mayor Bob Gatt (center) cuts the ribbon as store manager Aaron Quimby (left) and others celebrate the grand opening of Novi's Walmart yesterday morning.

## Welcome, Walmart

### Super center anchors redeveloped Novi Town Center

By Cal Stone  
 Staff Writer

Millions of dollars have been spent on revitalizing the Novi Town Center shopping complex, and the vision is nearly complete with yesterday's opening of a Walmart.

The super center includes a full food assortment and occupies over 150,000 square feet.

Aaron Quimby, store general manager who has been with the company for a dozen years, was busy preparing for the 7:30 a.m. opening

last week.

"We're getting there, just getting a few details done," he said. "It looks good."

He still had about 35 to 40 more employees to hire to bring the total

Please see  
**WELCOME, A10**

## Three file for school board

### Bagdady isn't running again

By Cal Stone  
 Staff Writer

Only three candidates filed for the two open seats on the Novi Board of Education, and incumbent president Bruce Bagdady is not one of them.

His colleague on the current board, vice president Dennis O'Connor, filed for the election, as did Brad Leidal and Tracey Cadwell, according to Superintendent Steve Matthews. The deadline to file was 4 p.m. Tuesday. Candidates have until 4 p.m. Friday to withdraw their names from the ballot.

After three terms in office, Bagdady has decided to end his service on Dec. 31 and will not appear on the Nov. 6 election ballot.

"I've really enjoyed my years of serving Novi parents, students and stakeholders," Bagdady. "I'm especially proud that we've been able to enhance educational opportunities for students, while keeping the district financially sound."

Currently in his second term as president, Bagdady was appointed in 1998 and then won four-year



Bruce Bagdady

terms in 2000, 2004 and 2008. For the past 11 years, he has served as president or vice president.

Bagdady said his wife, Carol, has "given me phenomenal support during my service on the board." All three of their children — Jenny, Justin and Andy — graduated from Novi High School, and their father was able to hand each of them their diplomas.

"Those memories will last forever," said Bagdady.

The board — which also includes Ann Glubzinski, treasurer; secretary Bobbie Murphy; and trustees George Kortlandt, Shari Lebo and Jason Manar — recently voted to extend terms from four to six years with the new terms beginning January 2013. The board meets twice monthly in the Educational Services Building.

cstone@hometownlife.com | (248) 437-2011, Ext. 237

## Bright House Networks backs Great Lakes State Fair

### Performers include Annabelle Road, Jill Jack and David Shelby

By Cal Stone  
 Staff Writer

The return of a state fair to Michigan, now known as the Great Lakes State Fair, received another boost last week when Bright House Networks announced it will be backing the event as the presenting sponsor.

"With a new name and a new venue, the Great Lakes State Fair is preparing to reclaim its historical importance as

the nation's oldest fair. Our presenting sponsorship symbolizes our commitment to help make it a great experience for everyone who attends," said Bob McCann, president of Bright House Networks, the sixth largest owner and operator of cable systems in the U.S. It serves more than 2.5 million customers who subscribe to one or more of its video, high-speed data and voice services. The four day-event will

be held from Friday, Aug. 31, through Monday, Sept. 3, at the Suburban Collection Showplace on Grand River Avenue in Novi. The exposition, convention and conference center is owned and managed by Blair M. Bowman and offers approximately 320,000 square feet of space.

"We are thrilled to have Bright House join us in the effort to revive Michigan's State Fair tradition," said Bowman.

"Bright House brings with it a vast amount of cross-promotional capabilities and resources that will help to make the event successful and enjoyable for those who attend. It is yet another example of Bright



Annabelle Road

House's long record of commitment to the community."

Other sponsors for the Great Lakes State Fair include Fox-2, Meijer, Michigan Food and Beverage Association, Michigan Ear Institute, Axis Cross Media, ITC Holdings, Suburban Collec-

tion Showplace, Genisys Credit Union, C.F. Burger Creamery, Powers Distributing, Infinity Primary Care, Leisure Works, Greening Detroit, Logos Communications, Corp! Magazine, All Seasons Communications, Met-

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# Clerk: November turnout near 80 percent

Novi City Clerk Maryanne Cornelius and her staff worked hard on the Tuesday, Aug. 7, primary election. Turnout was right around where she'd anticipated, 21.5 percent of the city's registered voters.

"We knew people were interested in what was going on," Cornelius said the Monday after the election.

The Tuesday, Nov. 6, general election will include U.S. president voting, and she said turnout's always higher for that.

"I would say it will be close to 80," Cornelius said, based on the last two presidential elections.

At last week's primary, write-in congressional candidate for the GOP Nancy Cassis had passed over bracelets for her candidacy. There were no objections in Novi from voters or winning primary opponent Kerry Benivolio.

"We log all calls that come in," she said. "Not a single call involved the bracelets."

There's also a special election on Sept. 5 for the remainder of the term of the 11th Congressional District. In Novi, that

election will cost \$30,000 to \$35,000, with a district-wide cost of \$650,000.

For the Aug. 7 primary, one school had parking lot construction that dented a precinct change. Cornelius said she doesn't anticipate any precinct changes for November.

For Sept. 5, the Brightmoor Christian Church has an event, so Precincts 9 and 11 will vote at nearby Crosspointe Meadows Church, 29000 Meadowbrook. That's anticipated only for the Sept. 5 Congress race.

Nov. 6 voters in Novi will decide on U.S. president, House and Senate, state races and such

Oakland County races as commission, executive and treasurer. University boards and two Novi school board positions are also on the November ballot.

Cornelius said state ballot proposals could also appear in November, with those generally decided by late August. There are no local ballot issues, and Novi voters pick their mayor and council in odd-numbered years.

Websites she recommends for voters are [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos) and [www.oakgov.com/clerkrodelections](http://www.oakgov.com/clerkrodelections).

jcrown@hometownlife.com

### NOVI PRIMARY TURNOUTS

The following are the percentage of Novi voters who cast ballots in primary elections.

YEAR	PERCENTAGE
2012	21.49
2010	23.94
2008	18.54
2006	14.02
2004	10.03
2002	24.56
2000	14.37
1998	15.6
1996	13.8
1994	18.4

# India Day: Celebrate 65 years of independence Sunday

## Suburban Collection Showplace hosting state's largest Indian event



At India Day 2012 in Novi, local merchants sell traditional Indian wear.

More than 20,000 people are expected to attend India Day - the largest celebration of Asian Indian culture in the Midwest - held without admission at The Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday.

He is anticipating guests to include state and local officials, like Gov. Rick Warren, and Dave Staudt, Novi's mayor pro tem.

Following the ceremony, it will be a festival-like atmosphere fun for all ages with more than 300 Indian performers scheduled throughout the day. From patriotic songs and folk music to classical and Bollywood-inspired dancers, the line-up includes regional dance academies as well as professional entertainers from local groups such as Nadania, Thirak Kathak, Orissa Society, Detroit Telugu and Gujarati Samaj.

"There will be something for everyone," said Gudapuri.

In addition, attendees also will have the opportunity to enjoy a selection of authentic Indian food provided by a number of local restaurants, including Mirchi Indian Cuisine, Udipi and Royal Sweets. More than 100 vendors will be on-site to display and sell authentic Indian apparel, costumes, arts and crafts, home furnishings and jewelry.

"Our special thanks to Ford Motor Company who has been wholeheartedly supporting India Day since the inception," said Gudapuri.

Other event sponsors include Chrysler Credit Services, Consumers Energy, McDonald's, Mercedes-Benz Financial Services USA LLC, Mirchi Indian Cuisine, Royal Sweets, Ram Creations, HCL Global, Sistar Mortgage, and Global Marble & Granite.

While Gudapuri estimates that there are approximate-

ly 50,000 Indians in the metro Detroit area, the event attracts a lot of others as well.

"We're putting forth effort this year so they can understand and learn about our culture and diversity."

For more information about India Day, visit [www.illamichigan.org](http://www.illamichigan.org).

### INDIAN SUMMER STEW

Whether you're able to make it or not to India Day Sunday in Novi, here's a recipe - Indian Summer Stew - that'll provide a taste of the culture.

**Ingredients:**

- 1 cup yellow split pigeon peas (toor dal)
- 1 pound butternut squash, peeled, cut into 1/2-inch cubes (about 2 1/2 cups)
- 1 Roma tomato, diced
- 1/2 cup fresh, frozen, or dried shredded coconut
- 1/2 teaspoon turmeric
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 4 cups vegetable stock or water, or enough to cover

**Directions:**

Rinse the pigeon peas in a couple changes of water. In a large soup pot, combine the squash, drained pigeon peas, tomato, coconut, turmeric, cumin, and enough stock to cover. Bring to a boil, and then simmer, covered, 20 minutes. Remove the cover and simmer another 10 minutes.

**Tempering:**

- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 1 teaspoon brown or black mustard seeds
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 lime, juiced
- 1/2 cup minced fresh cilantro leaves

**To temper:** In a small skillet, warm the canola oil until shimmering. Add the mustard seeds and when they stop popping, add the red pepper flakes, garlic, and salt. Swirl the skillet so the contents cook evenly, and cook another 10 seconds. Then pour the contents of the skillet into the soup, along with the salt. Spoon 5 ladlefuls of soup back into the skillet (it will sizzle, be careful!), and pour back into the soup pot. Finish with the honey, lime juice, and cilantro. Adjust the seasonings, to taste, and enjoy a little Indian summer in the middle of your winter!

The Suburban Collection Showplace is located at 46100 Grand River Ave. in Novi.

**Serves 8**

Calories: 173  
 Total Fat: 6 grams  
 Saturated Fat: 2 grams  
 Protein: 6 grams  
 Total carbohydrates: 25 grams  
 Sugar: 5 grams  
 fiber: 9 grams  
 Cholesterol: 0 milligrams  
 Sodium: 435 milligrams



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For more information or to register visit [stmarymercy.org/5kforcancer](http://stmarymercy.org/5kforcancer), or call 734-655-1590.







### WELCOME

Continued from page A1

work force to nearly 300. Combine those with several hundred new jobs created by neighboring tenants, as well as construction and supplier positions, and the number gets up around 1,000.

"This is going to mean a lot to the community. It's been the catalyst for our redevelopment, a process that's six years old," said Jim Clear, general manager. "We'll have added 15 new stores to the center this year, and our restaurants already started to see increased sales starting late last year."

Novi Town Center, now in its 25th year, has been celebrating its grand re-opening with a series of events, including a free one for kids this past Saturday. The events will continue into the fall and

### NEXT EVENT

The next event celebrating Novi Town Center's grand re-opening will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25. Back to School Jam is a free, fun, family event geared toward middle- and high-schoolers. There will be bungee jumping trampolines, obstacle courses, and live music featuring three young, local, up-and-coming bands.

holiday season with live music, gift card giveaways, a ladies night out (Sept. 15), a fashion show and possibly a taste fest.

Simon Property Groups of Indianapolis has managed the center since September 2009. Before the redevelopment, it was four different areas.

The Walmart addition has opened the entire complex up, making it cohesive and easier to navigate.

The newest addition will be a Dress Barn, which is slated to open Friday, Aug. 24. That will bring the number of tenants up to 40 with space available for 60.

"Ninety thousand square feet has been added this year," said Clear. He said future tenants include rue21, Dots, Big Frog, Torrid, Marices, DXL, Clothes Mentor and The Big Salad restaurant.

"Most of these will be open by October 1," said Clear.

He indicated that several retailers have also expressed interest in the former Borders location that anchors the north end of the center.

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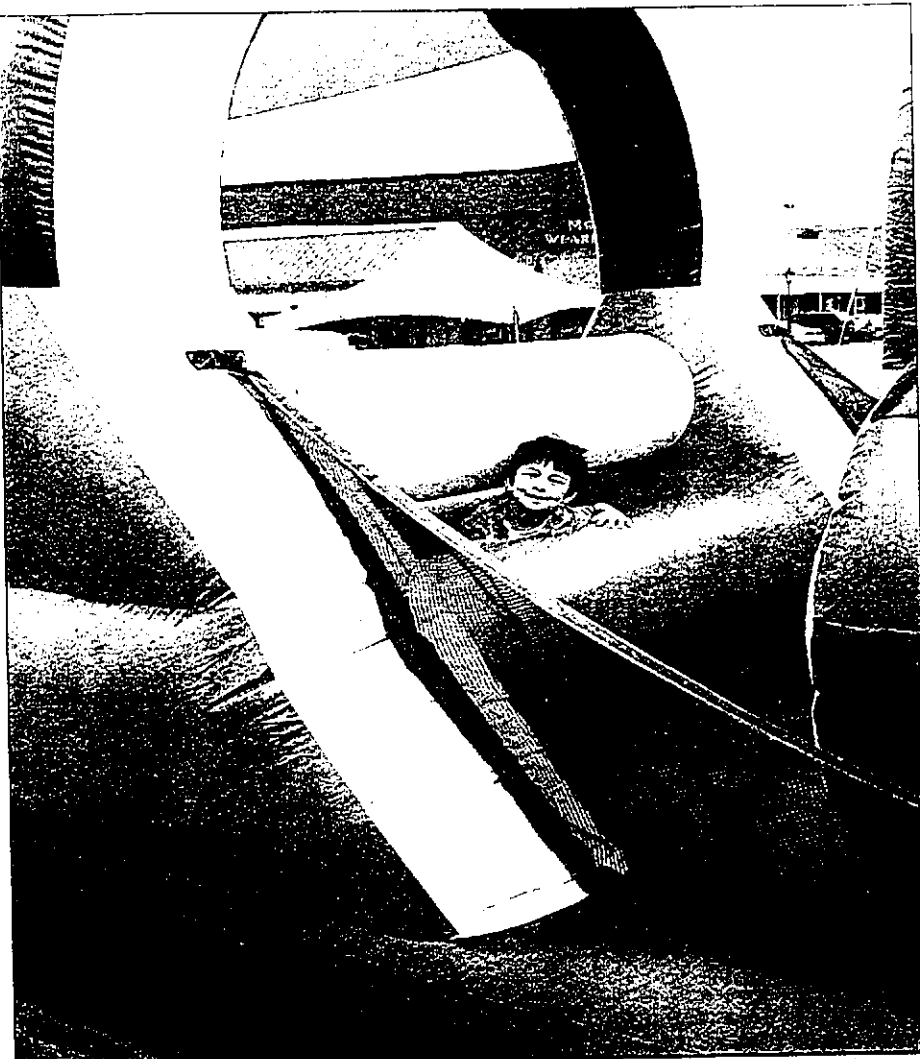


Novi firefighters Jose Villanueva and Joe Rhome show the Johnston family of Farmington Hills details of one of our city's fire trucks.

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



Cinderella visits with 3-year-old twins Lauren and Rachel Johnston, 3



Alex Roznowski, 9, of Novi, works his way through Planet X's dueling obstacle course.



Novi's Emily Buckman, 13, does a flip while her 9-year-old sister, Anna (right), prepares to do one of her own. The girls were at the event with their mother, Lillian.



Conrad Reed and Sarah Rood showed up in the WYCD 99.5 promotional van.

### FAIR

Continued from page A1

ro Sanitation, Absopure Water Company, AIS Construction Equipment and Oakland County Farm Bureau.

In addition to the announcement of Bright House's sponsorship, GLSF also unveiled the full schedule of live music, including three of Michigan's best-known American-style acts: Annabelle Road, Jill Jack, and David Shelby — to perform during three nights of evening entertainment from 7-11 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31, through Sunday, Sept. 2.

"Our entertainment lineup includes some of the most distinct local performers providing energizing performances that will appeal to attendees of all ages throughout the entire fair," said Kent Roberts, vice chairman of the Great Lakes State Fair Board.

2 Stones Events handled the booking of the headliners.

Led by front woman Amanda Bailey, Annabelle Road will kick off the evening entertainment on Friday night with a sound that uniquely combines the styles of Carrie Underwood, Johnny Cash and Lynyrd Skynyrd.

The following night will feature the winner of 33 Detroit Music Awards, singer/songwriter Jill

Jack and her band. Since the late '90s, in addition to performing with her own band, she has served as the opening act for a long list of prominent performers including Bob Seger, Emmylou Harris, Marshall Crenshaw, Chris Isaak, and Loretta Lynn.

On Sunday evening, David Shelby (www.davidshelbymusic.com) will perform songs that reflect his love for Nashville, the history of country music, and his gritty "Rock On!" sensibilities which are pure Detroit.

In addition to the evening acts, daytime performers have been booked by Studio B to provide musical entertainment throughout the four days of the fair, including a Sunday Gospel festival.

The Michigan State Fair, which debuted in Detroit in 1849, was one of the oldest state fairs in the United States. It moved permanently to the Michigan State Fairgrounds on Woodward Avenue in 1903 and was held there until 2009. The Great Lakes State Fair is nonprofit corporation committed to excellence in providing opportunities for the development and promotion of agriculture, education, industry and family entertainment, while preserving Michigan's heritage. The fair is organized with programs and exhibits designed to include local

### GLSF ENTERTAINMENT

The following is the complete schedule of day and evening entertainment events for the Great Lakes State Fair at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi Aug. 31 through Sept. 3.

**Friday:** 11 a.m. Kidz Klix (traditional Eastern European); 1:30 p.m. Stray Saints (alternative rock); 3 p.m. Gratitude Steel Band (inspirational); 4:30 p.m. Kaylyn Pace and the Kaylyn Pace Band (country); 7 p.m. Annabelle Road

**Saturday:** 11 a.m. Six Foot Poles (classic rock); 12:30 p.m. Michael Stefaniak (multi-instrumentalist); 1:45 p.m. Detroit Soul Men (Blues Brothers tribute band); 2:45 p.m. Paige Bolen (soul, rock, jazz and pop); 4 p.m. Tim Reeves (saxophonist); 7 p.m. Jill Jack

**Sunday:** 11 a.m. Gratitude Steel Band; 12:30 p.m. The Last; 2 p.m. Jeff Taylor Band; 3:05 p.m. Men of Grace; 4:15 p.m. Azusa Street Band; 7 p.m. David Shelby

**Monday:** 11 a.m. Jennifer Lawson (guitarist); 12:15 p.m. Saline Fiddlers (youth show band); 1:45 p.m. Marvin Thompson Jr. and Friends (jazz and soul); 3 p.m. Lyn' Dogs Band (moonlighting medical professionals); 4:15 p.m. John Philips (country)

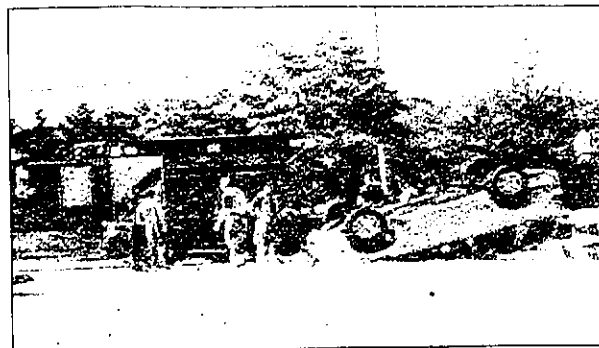


Jill Jack

and regional participation, demonstration and competition.

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### Roll-over



CHRIS JACKETT

Novi police and fire personnel responded to the southwest corner of 12 Mile and Meadowbrook roads at about 5:30 p.m. Aug. 7 after an SUV flipped over and landed in the north entrance driveway of South University. Two lanes of rush-hour traffic on eastbound 12 Mile Road were left undisturbed by the accident and no injuries were immediately apparent to bystanders.

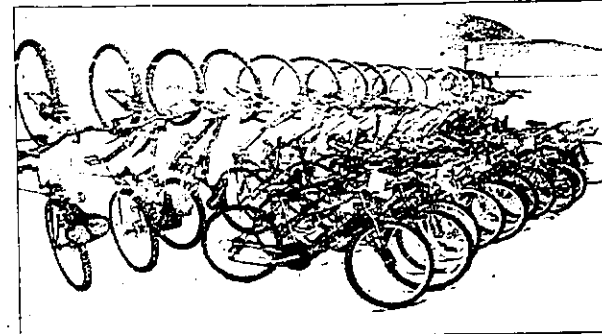
### Improvements



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Crews work on re-paving the section of Nine Mile Rd. between Taft and Beck on July 20. Traffic is currently one-way only, heading west, until the project's completed.

## Novi police want to reunite missing bikes with owners



Some of the two dozen bikes in the storage room of the Novi Police Dept.

By Lonnie Huhman

Staff Writer

Some bicycle owners could have a mood change after checking out the City of Novi's website and other related social media outlets. As part of the Bike Return program, Novi Police are posting photos of missing bikes that will help their owners to possibly find their bike.

"We are trying to be more proactive in getting these bikes reunited with their proper owners," said assistant Novi Police Chief Jerrod Hart. "We're hopeful this is a good way to do that."

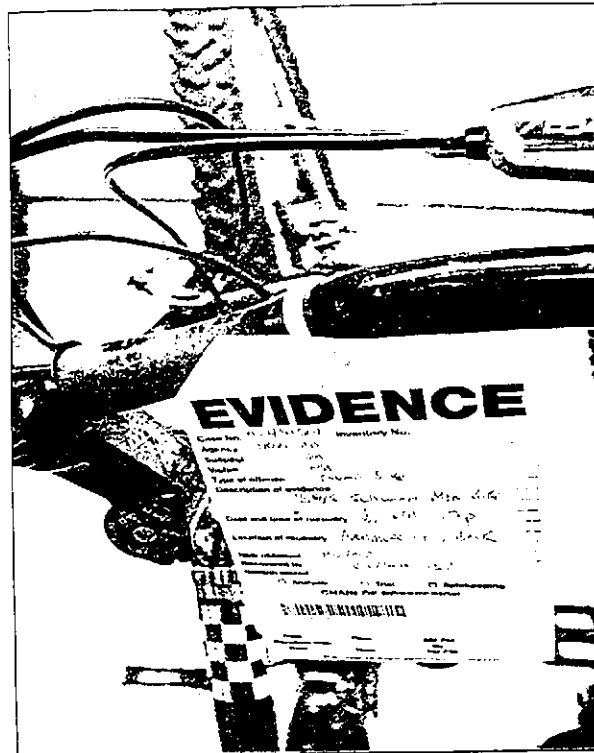
There are 35 bikes in the lost property room at the police department. Hart said these were either found by

police after getting a call about a bike sitting on the side of the road or elsewhere or citizens bringing them in.

"In the past, many times they would go unclaimed because people don't follow up and check with the department about their missing bikes," Hart said.

If a bike owner does spot his or her bike, the first step would be to contact Detective Todd Anger at the police department. Hart said it's crucial the owners be able to have some proof of it being their bike.

Above all, a serial number is the best way in establishing ownership. However, a person can also help identify by giving some background like how and where it may have



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Novi Police Department evidence locker room is filled with about two dozen bicycles that have been found and turned in by citizens or police officers. The department is looking for ways to get these bikes back in the hands of their owners.

been lost or taken as well as some detail about the bike only they may know.


Check out the website (<http://cityofnovi.org/Services/Police/Administration/BikeLostAndFound.asp>) -- if you see your bike or have a question, call the police department at (248) 348-7100.

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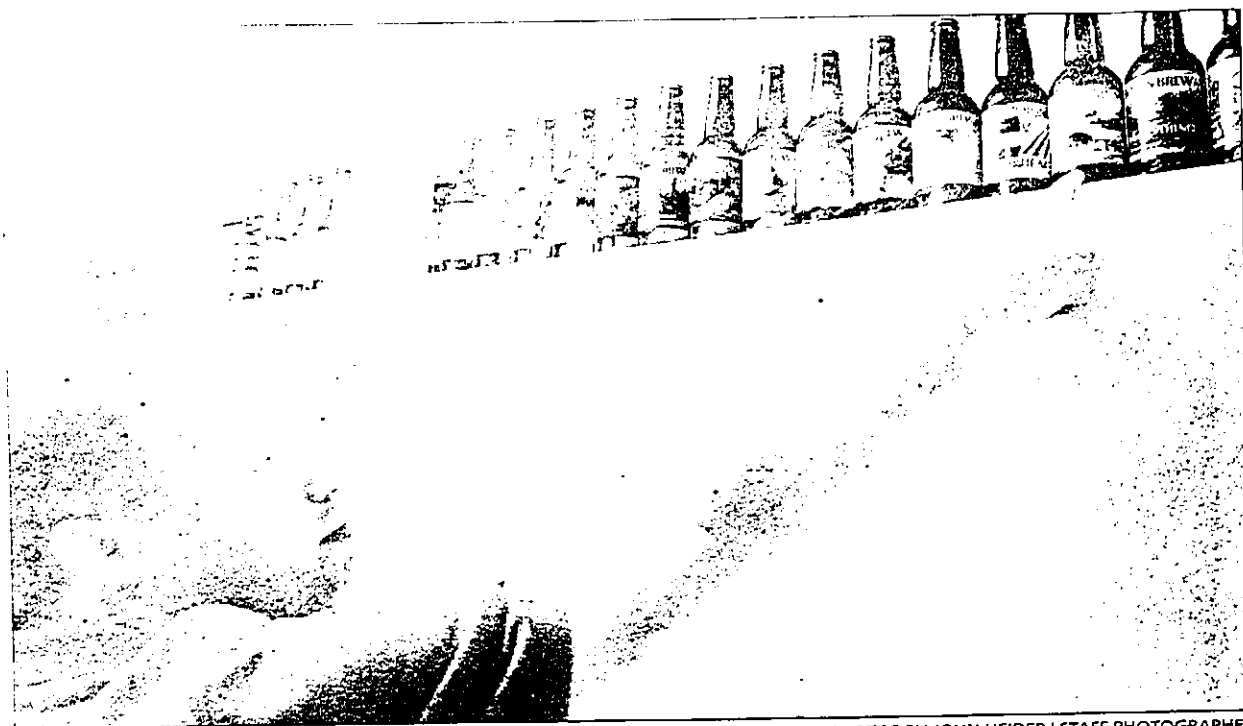
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Short Brewing Company is opening a new business headquarters in Wixom. Location will serve as shipping, receiving center



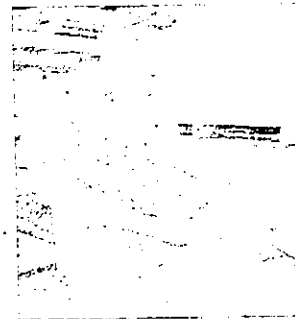
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

By Lonnie Huhman

Short's Brewing Company is expanding its microbrew operations into Wixom by establishing its business headquarters there, bringing with them their own brand of Michigan-made success.

"This location made perfect sense to us," said Short's business/finance manager Scott Newman-Bale. "It really helps us far as logistics for shipping and receiving."

In 2004, Short's was started by Joe Short in Bellaire, Mich. after he honed his brewing skills with the Michigan and Jackson Brewing Companies. Starting out as a small brew pub, the beers produced there and the



Scott Newman-Bale takes a look at some of the six-pack bottle carriers for Short's Brewing Co. in their new Wixom distribution warehouse on Aug. 8.

new Michigan-produced beers compete on quality with Michigan beers, which led to the

company's popularity to expand further into the Midwest.

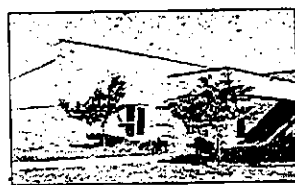
Newman-Bale, who is also a Wixom resident, said beer sales on average have increased 60 percent each year since 2004. In addition, merchandise sales have doubled each year as well. Recently, Short's put \$2 million into expanding its northern Michigan location, where the famous beers are made.

Now they are working on getting the business part of their operations better established. This

negotiated the lease of 11,640 sq. ft. of industrial space located at 28011 Grand Oaks Court in the office/warehouse that housed Century Hardware. Newman-Bale said Century Hardware will continue to operate out of the location, just in a smaller area.

Short's will be training a staff of five to get the new location off the ground. They will also seek licensing so they can begin to offer training courses at the location on microbrew operations.

"Wixom has been very



Short's Wixom distribution warehouse off Grand Oaks Court.

part includes information technology and accounting as well as the running of their extensive T-shirt sales department.

With the help of Signature Associates, Short's

hospitable and helpful," Newman-Bale said. "We hope to give back some of that friendliness that has been given to us."

Short's defines itself as a purely Michigan owned and operated business with a community focus. It has been an economic stimulus for the state through bringing in visitors to its renowned pub and generating sales of merchandise, Newman-Bale said.

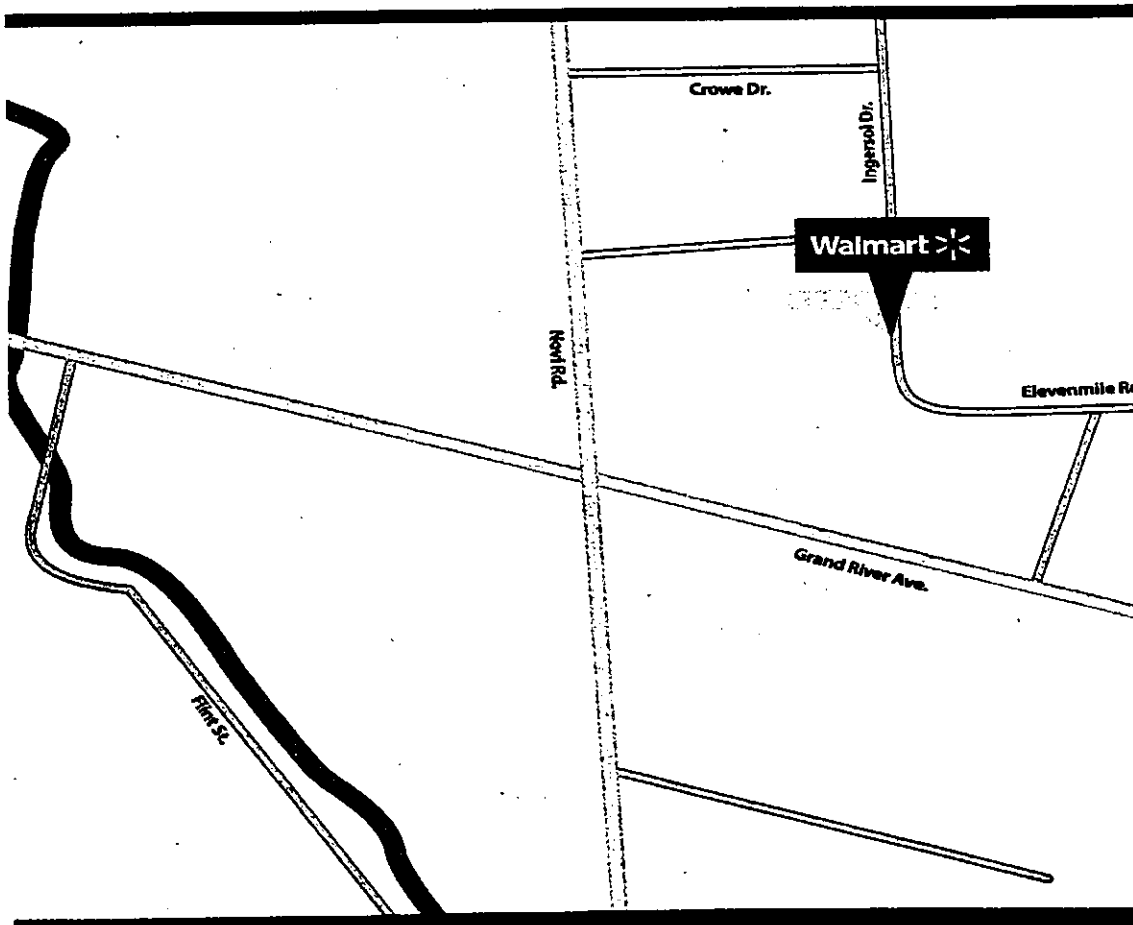
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NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

Novi's Once Upon A Child achieves Gold Standard

Once Upon A Child (27277 Novi Road), a gently-used children's reseller, was recognized for achieving a Gold Standard measurement, reached when a store achieves a set of standards set forth by the franchisor during the evaluation process. The Novi store achieved the customer experience, store operations and consistent brand identity to earn Gold Standard recognition for the third consecutive year.

"Being recognized as a Gold Standard store is a very significant accomplishment, but even more, it means we're succeeding in providing our customers the best shopping experience possible," said Angie Michalak, owner of Once Upon A Child of Novi. "Portraying a standardized look and maintaining a high level of experience for my customers helps ensure a consistent brand appearance, which in turn contributes to a more positive shopping experience. By reaching the Gold Standard, we're helping create an identity that customers recognize and value."

Cooper Standard reports second quarter earnings of \$3.28 per share

Cooper Standard Holdings Inc. (OTCBB: COSH), the parent company of Cooper Standard Automotive, a global supplier of automotive sealing, fluid and anti-vibration systems, announced financial results for the second quarter ended June 30.

The company reported net income of \$77.3 million or \$3.28 per share on a fully diluted basis in the second quarter of 2012, compared to \$19.0 million or \$0.71 per share in 2011. Current quarter net income reflected a \$53.4 million benefit related to the reversal of the valuation allowance on the company's deferred income tax assets in the United States and lower restructuring expenses, which were partially offset by higher selling, general and administrative expense, unfavorable foreign currency

movement and the gross profit items mentioned above. Net income for the six months ended June 30, 2012 was \$101.1 million, compared to \$64.0 million in the same prior year period. This is primarily reflective of the aforementioned items on a year-to-date basis.

"Cooper Standard again achieved double-digit EBITDA margins in the second quarter, despite a fragile and challenging European business environment and softness in other regions," said Jim McElya, chairman and chief executive officer, Cooper Standard. "Our innovative product offering, global footprint and strategic investments will drive Cooper Standard's future growth."

The company reported revenue of \$734.5 million for the second quarter of 2012, compared to \$760.5 million in the second quarter of 2011. Sales were up 4.3 percent in the quarter when adjusted for \$59 million of unfavorable foreign currency movements. Improved sales in North America along with contributions from acquisitions more than offset weakness in Europe.

Revenue for the six months ended June 30 was \$1.50 billion, compared to \$1.45 billion in the same period in 2011, reflecting strong vehicle demand in North America and sales from acquired businesses, offsetting varying volume and mix in other regions, and unfavorable foreign currency movement.

Gross profit for the quarter was \$114.4 million or 15.6 percent of sales, compared to \$123.7 million or 16.3 percent of sales in the second quarter of 2011. Gross profit was impacted by lower European volumes, unfavorable foreign currency movement, increased raw material prices, higher operating costs associated with vehicle launches, production transfers and expansion activities. These negative factors were partially offset by increased vehicle production volume, primarily in North America, and lean initiatives.

The aforementioned factors also contributed to a reduction of gross profit for the six-month period, moving to \$236.1 million from \$244.5 million in last year's comparable period.

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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 at oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.

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## Soccer alumni to play in memory of former coach

By Chris Jackett  
Correspondent

Every once in a while, a coach can have a life-long impact on their players and, when that coach is gone, those players want to have an impact on others around them.

Novi soccer players from the past 25 years are returning to Meadows Stadium at noon Saturday for an alumni game in memory of former boys and girls soccer coach Larry Christoff, who passed away July 28, 2009, at age 66 after a lengthy battle with prostate cancer. "We actually got together with him briefly before he passed away," said Nichole Stocks, a 1995 grad who went by Nickie Borashko back in the day. "He had a really hard last year, so he had a great time." Stocks, along with 1996 alum Erin Vogel and 1995 alum Bob Hart, have coordinated the coed alumni soccer game to benefit the Michigan Institute of Urology,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NICKIE STOCKS.

A group of former Wildcat captains pose with former Novi coach Larry Christoff in 2009 a few days before Christoff lost a battle with prostate cancer. Several of the players are raising funds for the Michigan Institute of Urology in memory of their former coach via a coed alumni soccer game Aug. 18.

Please see ALUMNI, B2



A quartet of former Wildcats pose with former Novi coach Larry Christoff (left) during an annual breakfast gathering several years ago.



A trio of former Wildcat captains pose with former Novi coach Larry Christoff in 2009 a few days before his death. Several of Christoff's former players are raising funds for the Michigan Institute of Urology in memory of their former coach via a coed alumni soccer game Aug. 18.

## MHSAA ruling allows waivers to age limit

By Sam Eggleston  
Correspondent

When high school football practice started across the state last week, an Upper Peninsula player named Eric Dompierre was able to take the field with his teammates despite being 19 years old. Dompierre, who has Down syndrome and turned 19 in January, was the first player to receive a waiver from the Michigan High School Athletic Association, which announced his application

to waive the maximum age rule. Prior to this summer when the ability to petition for a waiver for students with certain disabilities to continue to play past the age limit, no students were allowed to play MHSAA-sanctioned sports if they turned 19 years old before Sept. 1. Dompierre - who is 5-foot-2-inches, 140 pounds and plays receiver for the Ishpeming Hematites - and his father, Dean, led a campaign this past spring and into the summer to allow for exceptions to the rule. After a

vote from MHSAA member schools, the ability to request a waiver was approved. "The waiver won't have an impact on every school, nor will everyone who applies be approved - but the Dompierre family said it was a giant step in the right direction." "Jill and I are extremely proud of how Eric was willing to advocate for himself and for others in his shoes," Dean Dompierre wrote in an e-mail to the Detroit Free Press. "We're also very thankful to those people across Michigan and the nation

who stepped forward to sign our petition, write letters, and/or spread the word in support of these young people. We appreciate the willingness of school personnel across Michigan to include them in high school athletics alongside their classmates for a full four years. "We're especially happy for those other students who were able to secure their own waiver for next year. We wish them luck throughout their sports seasons." Northville doesn't have any players who will be

petitioning this year, but the school chose to vote in favor of the rule change. "As a district, we voted yes," said Northville athletics director Bryan Masi. "I agree there had to be a middle ground and I believe the MHSAA took the correct approach." Masi said that people do need to understand that the age limit was in place for good reason. Players tend to be larger, faster and stronger in their late teens and the age limit protects the younger athletes. In addition,

it prevents student-athletes from being started late in school just to give them an edge on the athletics field in their later years. "The ruling, said Masi, likely won't change the face of MHSAA sports. "I do not think it will have too much impact on MHSAA athletics," he said. "Schools still need to submit a request and the request will be evaluated by the MHSAA." For more information about MHSAA rules, please visit the organization's website at www.mhsaa.com.

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**Novi Black wins Palomino AL Championship**

Novi Black, representing NYBL, won the Palomino American League Championship with a 6-5 win over the Livonia Braves. The team reeled off eight straight victories to finish the season. Pictured (from left, back row): Asst. coach Ron Breaugh, Matt Brasil, Mark Breaugh, Mike Beaton, asst. coach Dave Beaton, Andrew Breaugh, Austin Dixon, Brandon Rademacher, Manager Tim Rush. Front row: Kiefer Haffey, Kyle Lash, Austin Wertheimer and Eric Lash. Not pictured, Luis Carrasco.



**Broncos kick up title**

The U12 Northville Bronco sweep "Battle by the Bays" Traverse City Baseball Tournament. The Broncos dominated the four team tournament with a 4 and 0 record defeating West Michigan Clubhouse, Kingsley and beating Petoskey twice for the Championship Trophy. Front row (from left): Nick Fegert, John Lobbia, Scott Granzotto, John Jeannotte; Back row: Coach Fred Stinebiser, Matt Stinebiser, Cooper Smith, Coach Mike Granzotto, Stephen Ernst, Mattie G and Jack Sargent.

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# 12 tips for making small talk

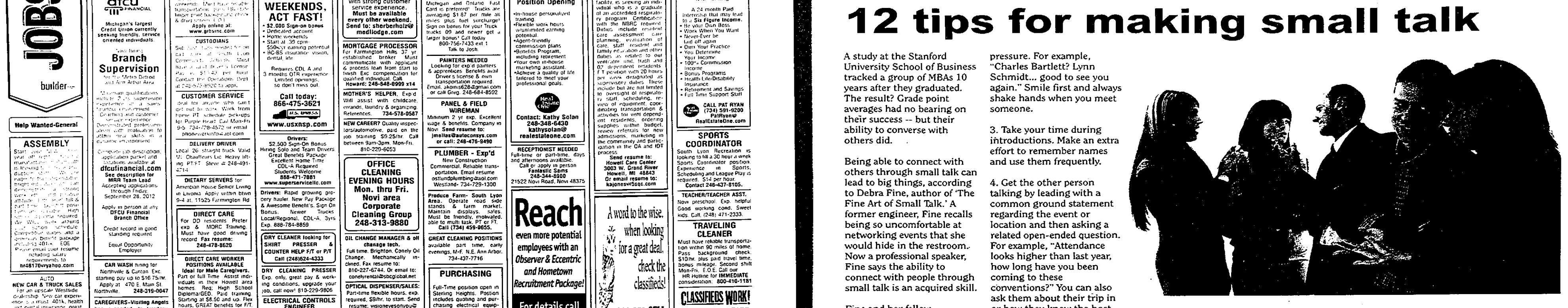
A study at the Stanford University School of Business tracked a group of MBAs 10 years after they graduated. The result? Grade point averages had no bearing on their ability to converse with others.

Being able to connect with others through small talk can lead to big things, according to Debra Fine, author of 'The Fine Art of Small Talk.' A former engineer, Fine recalls being so uncomfortable at networking events that she would hide in the restroom. Now a professional speaker, Fine says the ability to connect with people through small talk is an acquired skill.

Fine and her fellow authorities on schmoozing offer the following tips for starting -- and ending -- conversations:

1. As you prepare for a function, come up with three things to talk about as well as four generic questions that will get others talking. If you've met the host before, try to remember things about her, such as her passion for a sport or a charity you're both involved in.
2. Be the first to say "hello." If you're not sure the other person will remember you, offer your name to ease the pressure. For example, "Charles Bartlett? Lynn Schmidt... good to see you again." Smile first and always shake hands when you meet someone.
3. Take your time during introductions. Make an extra effort to remember names and use them frequently.
4. Get the other person talking by leading with a common ground statement regarding the event or location and then asking a related open-ended question. For example, "Attendance looks higher than last year, how long have you been coming to these conventions?" You can also ask them about their trip in or how they know the host.
5. Stay focused on your conversational partner by actively listening and giving feedback. Maintain eye contact. Never glance around the room while they are talking to you.
6. Listen more than you talk.
7. Have something interesting to contribute. Keeping abreast of current events and culture will provide you with great conversation builders, leading with "What do you think of...?" Have you heard...?" What is your take on...?" Stay away from negative or controversial topics, and refrain from long-winded stories or giving a lot of detail in casual conversation.
8. If there are people you especially want to meet, one of the best ways to approach them is to be introduced by someone they respect. Ask a mutual friend to do the honors.
9. If someone hands you a business card, accept it as a gift. Hold it in both hands and take a moment to read what is written on it. When you're done, put it away in a shirt pocket, purse or wallet to show it is valued.
10. Watch your body language. People who look ill at ease make others uncomfortable, even when you're not.
11. Before entering into a conversation that's already in progress, observe and listen. You don't want to squash the dynamics with an unsuited or ill-timed remark.
12. Have a few exit lines ready, so that you can both gracefully move on. For example, "I need to check in with a client over there," "I skipped lunch today, so I need to visit the buffet," or you can offer to refresh their drink.

When should you exit a conversation? According to Susan RoAno, author and speaker known as the "Mingling Maven," your objective in all encounters should be to make a good impression and leave people wanting more. To do that, she advises: "Be bright. Be gone."



Being able to connect with others through small talk can lead to big things, according to Debra Fine, author of 'The Fine Art of Small Talk.'

## Crossword Puzzle: Destiny's Child

- ACROSS
- 1 Scamp
  - 7 Caravan's warning
  - 10 Chord
  - 14 Corn
  - 19 leader's
  - 20 Robins' hit
  - 21 The Four
  - 22 Stadium
  - 23 Speaker of a remark at 45
  - 25 Dashboard
  - 26 feature
  - 28 Doogie
  - 30 Laugh loudly
  - 31 Impressed
  - 33 The Shepherd
  - 36 "Carmen" composer
  - 38 Jose of "Moulin Rouge"
  - 41 Wood's Iron
  - 43 Joborgam
  - 44 Gentle as
  - 50 Fireplace
  - 51 "Dudeo," for one
  - 54 -- brakes
  - 55 volunteer
  - 56 Willyngly
  - 58 Journalist
  - 59 Plot
  - 62 Delibes
  - 63 Spartaucus' opera
  - 64 "Spartacus" setting
  - 67 Persian
  - 68 "Spartacus" composer
  - 68 Make a necklace
  - 70 Part 2 of remark
  - 74 Glen
  - 75 Cookbook
  - 76 Yarnall
  - 77 February forecast
  - 79 Dismay
  - 80 Composer
  - 82 Paint layer
  - 83 Recedes
  - 84 Camata
  - 85 "The Time Machine" author
  - 90 Shook up
  - 92 Palindromic prep
  - 93 Part 3 of remark
  - 98 St. Bilko
  - 100 Fireplace
  - 101 "Fancy" for one
  - 102 Jacket style
  - 103 Lid
  - 105 Masters' River
  - 106 Palliative
  - 107 "Rule Britannia" composer
  - 108 QE II section
  - 110 Epps or
  - 111 Twisted
  - 112 Officeholders
  - 115 "Samson and Delilah" composer
  - 118 End of remark
  - 121 Right a wrong
  - 124 Youngster
  - 125 Social climber
  - 131 Prepare for combat
  - 132 "Dragnet" star
  - 137 Astro de Waart
  - 138 "The Time Machine" people
  - 140 Frinzy
  - 141 Sphere
  - 142 Singer/actor
  - 143 residue
  - 144 Keen
  - 146 Regulatory
  - 147 Hirsch
  - 148 Unimprov-able
  - 48 Notre Dame's River
  - 49 Bass or
  - 50 Dart
  - 51 Farmer's place
  - 52 Joan Van
  - 53 Branch
  - 54 Italian city
  - 55 Quail
  - 56 "Magnon" feature
  - 57 Lennon's
  - 58 Computer acronym
  - 59 "The Time Machine" film clip joint
  - 60 Pack
  - 61 Peppers
  - 62 Soupsie
  - 63 Ingredient
  - 65 Perfume
  - 105 Lea lamer
  - 107 P.D.Q.
  - 108 Vacation sensation
  - 110 Mite
  - 111 Melville title
  - 112 Medical stuff
  - 113 WWO or
  - 114 Temp or
  - 115 Sun
  - 116 Fed
  - 117 Federal agcy.
  - 118 Chief-maker
  - 119 Bonanza
  - 120 Actress
  - 121 Thurman

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