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**NOVI TEEN NO. 1**  
SPORTS, B1



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**Novi NEWS**  
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**On site**

Adell to unveil major development project on former Novi Expo Center site

Kevin Adell has announced that the former location of The Novi Expo Center located at Novi Road and



I-96, which covers more than 25 acres, has been slated for significant redevelopment.

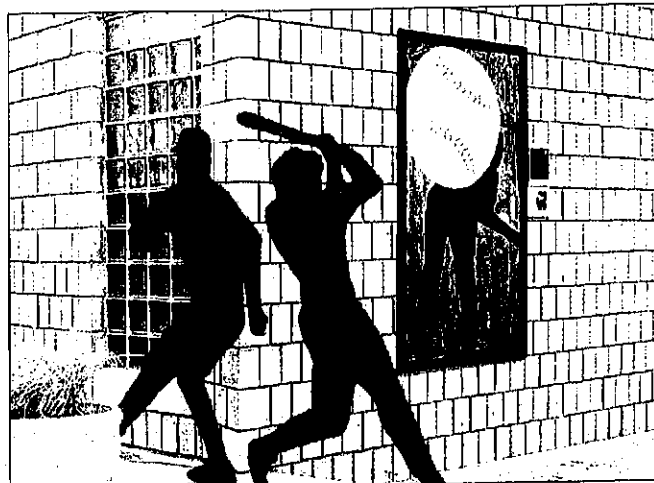
The site, which is also houses the Adell Water Tower, will be the home to a major commercial building project including a nationally-known hotel as well as business offices and other mixed usage.

Adell scheduled a press conference for yesterday morning to unveil details. Check the Novi News online edition for updates.

Adell who is spearheading the project, has joined forces with Peter Burton of the well-known Burton-Katzman firm, a company which has been around for more than 100 years.

The City of Novi has also taken an active role. "The former Novi Expo Center property is centrally located at a prime intersection fronting both I-96 and Novi Road, providing access and visibility. We look forward to the redevelopment of the Adell Family property," said Clay J. Pearson, city manager-City of Novi.

This group, along with Core Partners, will share in the development, design, construction and marketing efforts of this state of the art venue.



"Hard Ball III" by Robert Moskowitz at Ella Mae Power Park (behind the Novi Civic Center at 45175 W. 10 Mile Road).

**Great Artdoors**

DIA brings six masterpieces to Novi

By Cal Stone  
Staff Writer

The Detroit Institute of the Arts is about a 30-minute drive from Novi, but one doesn't have to go there to get an idea of what masterpieces it contains, thanks to the DIA's Inside I Out program.

The program brings high-quality reproductions of masterpieces from the DIA's collection to the streets and parks of Metro Detroit. This is its fourth year and the second time Novi has been selected to host six paintings that are displayed in various locations around the city. Two years ago, Novi was also chosen.

Please see DIA, A2

**GOTTA HAVE ART!**

Cameo activities coordinating with the Inside I Out program include:

**Twilight Tours:** of the artwork on the Novi Civic Center Campus Thursday, April 18, Tuesday, May 21, and Wednesday, June 19, at 7 p.m. All ages; free community event; register at cityofnovi.org

**Family Bike/Walk:** during the Novi Public Library's Digital Detox week Sunday, April 28, 10 a.m. to noon All ages; free community event; register at novilibrary.org

**Create your own artwork classes:** Tuesdays, May 14-June 18, 5-7 p.m. All ages; \$75 per Novi resident; register at cityofnovi.org

**Older Adult DIA Motorcoach Trip:** Saturday, May 18, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. 55 and older; free community event; register at cityofnovi.org

**Geocaching with the DIA:** Ongoing; visit dia.org for information.

Residents of Novi may visit the DIA free of charge during the designated Community Weekend, May 18-19. Visitors will receive a 10-percent discount at Café DIA and the museum shop, \$1 off Detroit Film Theatre tickets, and free admission to showings of the DFT 101 film series.

**Novi home values rising**

Commercial, industrial values down, however

By Lonnie Huhman  
Staff Writer

Even though commercial and industrial property values continue to decline in Novi, home values are improving and foreclosures are down.

"Things are looking up for Novi for 2013," said D. Glenn Lemmon, city assessor.

Lemmon said values continued to recover for residential properties during 2012 and have resulted in assessment increases in most neighborhoods for the 2013 assessments. The 2013 residential assessments are expected to increase an average of 3.86 percent, according to the 24-month sales study conducted for Novi.

The City of Novi used one-year sales studies for 2008-11 when residential activity showed overall declines.

Under the 12-month study the average assessment increase would have been 6.09 percent, but Lem-

mon said the 24-month sales study helps the taxpayer because it considers older sales.

Like the previous years, commercial and industrial values continued to decline during 2012. But Lemmon added these too are expected to show modest improvement in 2013, which would be reflected in the 2014 assessments.

"The limited data available to me indicates that the recovery will continue during 2013," Lemmon said.

Overall, a shift may have occurred in the last two years. Lemmon said comparing the sales occurring in 2011 to those in 2012 is a historical matter.

He said 2012 had fewer bankruptcies and foreclosures than 2011. "Home sale prices, in general, either increased in value or saw their decline slow compared to 2011," said Lemmon.

Last year, less than 100

Please see VALUES, A3

**Next Island Lake phase closer**

Located on northeast corner of 10 Mile, Wixom roads

By Lonnie Huhman  
Staff Writer

Phase 7 of Novi's Island Lake neighborhood is one step closer to becoming a reality, but not without concerns.

Developer Toll Brothers is proposing to add a 40.68 acre parcel near the northeast corner of Ten Mile and Wixom roads to the existing Island Lake RUD in order to construct 74 single-family residential units.

This phase will be placed on the residential-zoned property currently occupied by Dinsers Flowers and Greenhouse. (The land is being sold, and the business is closing down later this year.)

By a 5-1 vote, the Novi City Council granted the request from Toll Brothers for The Meadows of Island Lake of Novi and approved the proposed sixth amendment to the 15-year-old RUD Agreement. Part of the amendment

has the city agreeing to grant Toll a reduction in the minimum lot size from 43,560 square feet to a minimum of 12,000 square feet and a reduction in the minimum lot width from 150 feet to 90 feet.

But Councilmember Andrew Mutch views this new phase as being denser than previous ones. He cast the lone no vote, saying he would have supported the approval if a decrease in the number of lots was



Toll Brothers is expanding its Island Lake development (shown) in Novi with Phase 7 on the northeast corner of 10 Mile and Wixom roads.

considered. Toll Brothers representative Mike Noles said they would not.

Noles said any concerns have been or will

be addressed. He said the current amenities in the development take into consideration the

Please see PHASE, A3

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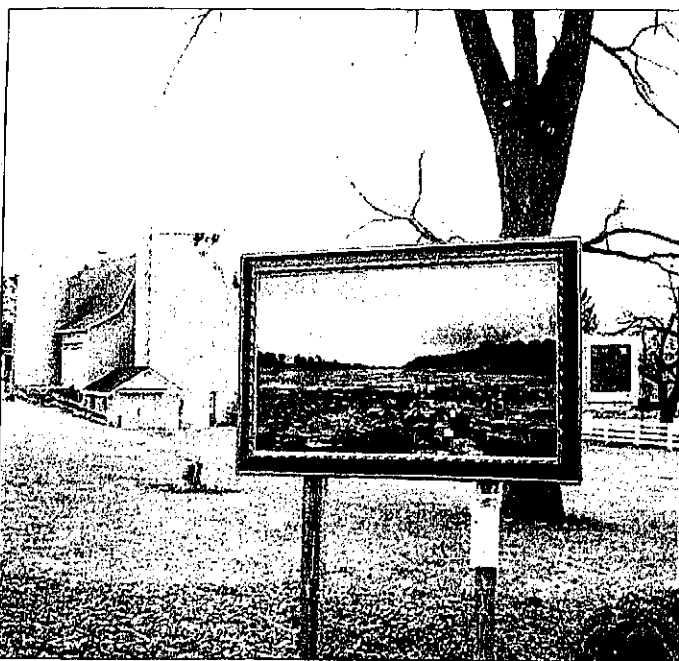
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"The Lily Pond" by Harry Charles Eaton at Michigan State University Tollgate Education Center (28115 Meadowbrook Road).



"Study for Birds" by Albert Moore at the Novi Public Library (45255 10 Mile Road).

**DIA**

Continued from page A1

Stephanie Schuetzler, recreation coordinator of cultural arts for Novi's Parks & Recreation Department, applied for the program this past fall, and was excited to learn Novi was one of 25 cities chosen — 12 currently and 13 in the summer. "The paintings are here April and May and come down at the end of June," she said. "The DIA will actually reconfigure the collection so it's never shown again with the same pieces in another city."

Schuetzler attended an orientation after Novi was picked, followed by a kick-off and DIA representatives coming to the city to scout locations. "I show them the locations I was thinking of," said Schuetzler, "and they photograph those locations and they try and match a painting with the locations. Once they selected the pieces, I contacted all of the locations to make sure we had permission to mount on the buildings themselves or on temporary mountings outside." The DIA even hires a company to handle the installations. She said DIA reps were particularly excited to mount



"Talking Oak" by William Maw Egley at Fuester Park (south-east corner of Taft and 10 Mile roads).

Robert Moskowitz's "Hard Ball III" at Ella Mae Power Park to tie in with the ball fields. The other five pieces include "The Lily Pond" by Harry Charles Eaton at Michigan State University Tollgate Education Center; "Study for Birds" by Albert Moore at the Novi Public Library; "The Countess de Brac as Aurora" by Jean Marc Nattier at the Novi Civic Center; "Talking Oak" by William Maw Egley is at

Fuester Park; and "In The Garden" by Mary Cassatt at the Meadowbrook Activity Center. There is no cost to the participating cities as Indoor 1 Out is funded through a grant from the James L. Knight Foundation. And host cities are provided with brochure maps that detail all of the displays.



"In The Garden" by Mary Cassatt at the Meadowbrook Activity Center. 25075 Meadowbrook Road.

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VOICES & VIEWS: COMMENT ONLINE

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**Talent: Super Show features arts, crafts from disabled people**

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

Teddy Fitzmaurice, president of Teddy's Ts, designs, paints and sells his T-shirts promoting human rights and disability advocacy, which he'll be doing at the Super Show at Laurel Park Place on April 6.

He also has Down syndrome, and transitioned out of 26 years of public school education, graduating from high school in 2003. The Livonia event features handcrafted items including T-shirts and hats, and it's open to anyone in Michigan who makes handcrafted items to sell or has a micro-enterprise, one-person business.

All vendors keep funds they collect from sales of their products or services. Organizers say this is the only regularly scheduled event that supports Mich-

igan people with disabilities. The event was previously held monthly at various locations in Novi during 2012.

The Fitzmaurice family lives in West Bloomfield. "We used to live in Novi, though," said mom Susan Fitzmaurice. Her son is 29 and lives independently next to her in a duplex condo.

He was involved in the Atrium Mall of Novi shows in the past. "Hopefully, we're going to make a go of it. They're being very welcoming," she said of the new Laurel Park Place location. "They're extending a lot of service to us to get it off the ground."

People with significant disabilities have limited employment options. "They want to work just like everybody else wants to work. By having a micro-enterprise, that's one way you can gain that respect."

"This isn't about charity," she said of the good quality products. "You're buying it because it's a nice quality item, and you want it."

She noted when meeting new people, "What do you do for a living?" is a common early question. "But the folks who do this have an answer to that question. It's really as much about selling and helping people be able to get out there." It's important for the community to see disabled people as having an "important place in our communities," she said.

Teddy Fitzmaurice, who began his business in April 2006, likes to take cooking classes at Schoolcraft College. He has taken his T-shirts to a number of out-of-state sites, and spent the summer of 2010 learning to silkscreen. Jennifer Granholm has one, "his mom said. The former president has one that says 'I vote. Do you?' with the Statue of Liberty in a wheelchair.

"That's his own design." He met Clinton during a Michigan visit, and also presented one to Granholm, U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow and members of Congress.

"We are part of the community. We shouldn't be sidelined," Susan Fitzmaurice said of the larger message.

There are 68 tables for the show, she said. Fitzmaurice anticipates there will still be room for vendors, due to cancellations. A wait list may need to be started. "Hopefully they'll be able to come."

Clients from many local agencies that assist disabled people have been contacted to participate in the Super Show, including Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority, Eastern Seals, Community Network Services, United Cerebral Palsy, Community Choices, Judson Center of Royal Oak, New Cen-



Teddy Fitzmaurice of West Bloomfield met President Bill Clinton during a Michigan visit, and gave him a T-shirt of Fitzmaurice's design.

ter Community Mental Health, Northbrook Psychological Clinic of Novi, Novi Psychiatry and Psychology, Oakland County Community Mental Health, Wayne County Mental Health, Wolverine Human Services of Detroit, and others.

**VALUES**

Continued from page A1

Novi properties were involved in the foreclosure process. That's about half of the number in Farmington Hills and less than a quarter of those in Southfield.

Oakland County reported approximately 7,800 foreclosure-related transactions in the past year, so Novi has about 1 percent of all foreclosures in Oakland County, according to Lemmon.

**Novi's good fortune**  
Attributing a number of factors to Novi's ability to weather the recent property value and housing troubles, he said it helps that the city is still a relatively new community in a good location with responsible leadership. "These and other factors have contributed in making Novi a place where people

**WHAT'S THE IMPACT?**



Novi Assessor D. Glenn Lemmon said state-wide, property taxes are subject to a limitation of a 2.4-percent increase for the 2013 taxes.

"So even if your home's assessment increased 19 percent for the 2013 assessment, your taxes will only increase 2.4 percent," he said. "If you added anything new to your property, it could go up more than the 2.4 percent, but in general, that's the impact."

**PHASE**

Continued from page A1

ment because, "it has met all of the criteria set forth by the city."

The proposed "Meadows" phase is directly adjacent to other phases of Island Lake to the north, and on the west side of Wikom Road.

Noles said this phase would be considered part of the Island Lake community, sharing the existing clubhouse, open space and recreational facilities with the remainder of the development.

City Manager Clay Pearson has said it is important to get this property into use to continue the complex that has boosted the tax base, added families, and is a proud part of the Novi mix of housing options.

Mayor Bob Gatt said he would support the develop-

original allowable total number of units. "We've exceeded every single measure in the RUD requirements except for the number of units," said Noles.

There are currently 784 units constructed or approved in the existing Island Lake development. The addition of 74 units would bring the total number of units to 858 units, which is fewer than the amount permitted in the existing RUD Agreement (884 units), according to city officials. The RUD states a variety of lot sizes could be added.

Major Bob Gatt said he would support the develop-

ment because, "it has met all of the criteria set forth by the city."

The proposed "Meadows" phase is directly adjacent to other phases of Island Lake to the north, and on the west side of Wikom Road.

Major Bob Gatt said he would support the develop-

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## NextGen welcomes Chinese students to Novi High School

By Kathleen Hadley  
Correspondent

### WHY HOST?

"The U.S. is an awesome, awesome country!" said Nicholas Fun, who came from China to Novi High School last September to, in his words, "seek a better life." When asked what he liked about his experience this year, Fun enthusiastically replied "Everything!"

Fun is an exchange student through Oakland School's Next Gen Educational Program for Chinese students who enroll in the 12th grade and plan to attend a U.S. college. The program is managed by the Center for Management Training (CMT) in Ann Arbor. Novi High School and seven other Oakland county high schools participate in the exchange program.

Manon Bennett, her husband Rick, and their two elementary aged children are veteran host families, having hosted two exchange students in the past and currently hosting Kim Zhong. Zhong is a Chinese exchange student enrolled in Novi High School, and is extremely grateful for her generosity.

Oakland schools are eager to encourage cross cultural understanding to prepare students for a globalized economy. Now in its third year, the program is highly successful. Classmates are enriched by the exchange of cultures, host families and their students often form lifelong friendships. Chinese students contribute financially to the schools, as they pay tuition and the Chinese students achieve their goal of graduating from an American high school and earning acceptance to a U.S. college.

Lily Yen, cofounder of CMT, believes that hosting a Chinese student is a unique opportunity to welcome a new member into your family, learn about each other's cultures and make a positive difference in a young person's life. Chinese who study in America retain their positive feelings for America throughout their lives, which can be very beneficial to the U.S. when the students later become executives in international corporations. Similarly, today's American youth may later have a career with international companies, and it will benefit them greatly to have developed an understanding and friendship with people from other countries.

Bridge, the online magazine for the Center for Management Training, reports that the number of Michigan high school graduates has declined 7.8 percent between 2007 and 2012. Despite accepting a larger percentage of Michigan applications, the University of Michigan and Michigan State University still have needed to make up the loss of qualified Michigan applicants with out-of-state or out-of-country students. Not only are the accepted Chinese applicants highly qualified, but they also pay out-of-state tuition. This year Chinese undergraduate tuition alone amounted to \$108 million at MSU.

Host families receive reimbursement to cover living, travel and cultural expenses for the student.

For more information on hosting a Chinese student, visit [www.nextgenexchange.org](http://www.nextgenexchange.org), email [info@nextgenexchange.org](mailto:info@nextgenexchange.org) or call (248) 730-0669.

"They have an open, friendly heart," said Zhong. "They accept my values. They really take care of me - they treat me like a family member."



Kim Zhong (right) with her host family, the Bennetts.

The Bennetts have enjoyed being a host family and feel that it is a truly rewarding experience which has broadened their appreciation for cultures throughout the world. They continue to stay in close contact with their first two students, visiting them in their home countries and welcoming them back to Novi.

By hosting Zhong, the Bennetts benefit tremendously from the experience themselves while giving her the gift of an advanced education and a bright future. In China, a degree from an American college is highly regarded, not only because the education is of such high quality, but also due to the

experience one gains from living in America and learning the English language.

"People here are really friendly, and the teaching method is different," said Zhong.

"Here the teachers pay more attention to making the students interested in learning and shaping their personality, here teachers and students can be friends - we can talk about our lives and favorite things."

"The opportunity to host a student from China will be available to many more Novi residents for the next school year, as an increased number of Chinese students are expected."

"The Chinese students fit wonderfully well into host families"

said Amy Kilgore, counselor at Novi High School. "In China, they go to school from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., they have a disciplined work ethic, are very respectful, and have socially appropriate behavior. They make excellent role models for younger 'siblings' in the family. They are excited to be here because everything is so different."

Kilgore also has high compliments for CMT. She said that they are a very hands-on management program, regularly checking with the host family and the high school on the students' progress, guiding the student through the college application process and offering frequent cultural activities for the host families and students.

## Home & Garden Show returning to Suburban Collection Showplace

Anything and everything you need for your home and garden can be found under one roof April 5-7 at the Novi Home & Garden Show at the Suburban Collection Showplace, sponsored by the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan.

The show will host a variety of entertaining seminars and shows, designed to teach attendees useful gardening and home improvement tips and tricks.

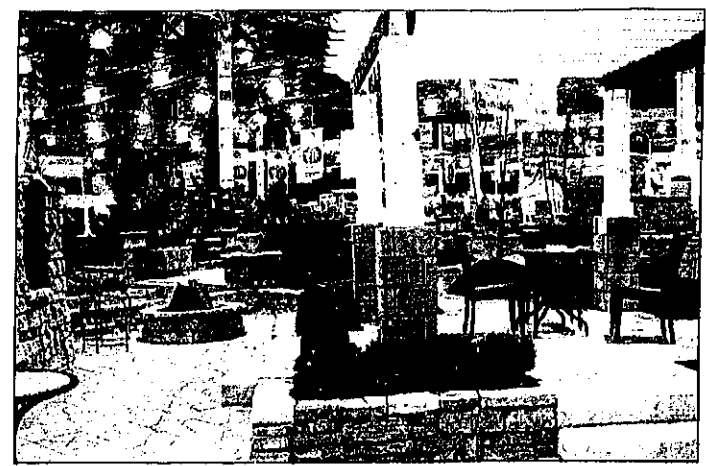
• The "Green Thumb Theatre" area will provide a variety of fun and informative seminars on gardening and landscaping. Featured presenter Don Engstrom, The Renegade Gardener, will bring three great hands-on seminars to the show.

• Browse the indoor fine arts fair hosted by The Image and Arts Council of Troy (IACT). There will be painting, pottery, artwork and more available for purchase. Artists will be demonstrating their craft as well as selling their creations.

• The Home & Garden Marketplace will display many vendors including: crafters, local businesses, and food merchants.

### DETAILS

**Event:** Novi Home & Garden Show 2013  
**Dates:** April 5-7  
**Hours:** 2-9 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday  
**Location:** Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi  
**Cost:** Adult admission (ages 13 and up) is \$8, senior admission is \$7, and children 12 and under get in free.  
**Web:** [www.novihomeshow.com](http://www.novihomeshow.com)



The Novi Home & Garden Show comes to the Suburban Collection Showplace on April 5-7.

able. Fountains & Flowers, sponsored by Huntington Bank, will feature more than 25,000 square feet of landscaped gardens, fountains, flowers, ponds and waterfalls. Enter your vote for the People's Choice for Best Overall Landscaper.

At the show, enter to win "Find the

Gnome" prizes. Enter by filling out coupons and dropping in boxes throughout the show.

Discount \$1 off coupons are available at [www.novihomeshow.com](http://www.novihomeshow.com), Oakland County Tim Horton's, Indoor/Outdoor magazine and area newspapers. Visit your local Metro-Detroit Home Depot store for \$2-off advance tickets.

## NOVI COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Local Events

#### "THE EMBRACE OF AGING"

**Time/Date:** 5 p.m. Saturday, April 20  
**Location:** Emagine Theater, Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountainwalk, Novi  
**Details:** A screening of a film on the male perspective of growing old, produced and directed by Keith Famie. Cost is \$10 with event support Alzheimer's Association, Greater Michigan Chapter.

#### ART EXPLORATION

**Time/Date:** 12:30-2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 25  
**Location:** Meadowbrook Activity Center, Novi  
**Details:** The next Lunch & Learn is a PowerPoint presentation focusing on the diverse collections of

the University of Michigan Museum of Art, presented by the UM museum's art docents. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$7 for residents; \$8.50 for non-residents.

#### SIZZLING SUMMER ART SERIES

**Location:** Fuest Park (southeast corner of Taft and Ten Mile roads, Novi)  
**Time:** 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
**June 18:** Dakini Circus  
**June 25:** John the Magician  
**July 9:** Jason Kollum: Comedy Juggler  
**July 16:** "Fisherman and his wife" theatre show  
**July 23:** Arimal Adaptations  
**July 30:** Joe Reilly  
**Aug. 6:** Try this at home!

#### TREMEUDOUS TUESDAYS

**Time:** 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
**June 18:** Dakini Circus  
**June 25:** John the Magician  
**July 9:** Jason Kollum: Comedy Juggler  
**July 16:** "Fisherman and his wife" theatre show  
**July 23:** Arimal Adaptations  
**July 30:** Joe Reilly  
**Aug. 6:** Try this at home!

Hands-On Museum  
**Aug. 13:** "3 Little Pigs - Large and in Charge" puppet show  
**Kids entertainment begins at 10:30 a.m.**  
**FRIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHTS**  
**Times:** Music starts at 6:30 p.m. and movies begin at 8:45 p.m.  
**June 21:** Out of this world! Cosmic Groove and "Robots"  
**July 26:** Sweet Summer Fun! Candy Band and "Wreck-it Ralph!"  
**Aug. 16:** Bugs and Insects! Toppermost Beatles Tribute Band and "A Bug's Life!"  
**BEREAVEMENT MEETINGS**  
**Time/Date:** 7:30-9 p.m. third Tuesdays  
**Location:** Novi Civic Center (10 Mile between Taft and Novi roads)  
**Details:** Led by Michael M. Meyer, D. Min., goal is

### WOMENHEART OF NOVI

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. fourth Wednesdays  
**Location:** Providence Park Hospital, Novi  
**Details:** For women with concerns about cardiac health to share information and sisterhood at monthly meetings  
**Contact:** Sharon Mallon, (248) 348-5189

### NOVI SENIOR CENTER

**Location:** 25075 Meadowbrook Road  
**Contact:** (248) 347-0414; [theclin@cityofnovi.org](mailto:theclin@cityofnovi.org)

### Business

#### LOCAL BUSINESS NETWORK MEETINGS

**Time/Date:** 8:45-10:15 a.m. first and third Wednesdays  
**Details:** The Novi II chapter

### GET LISTED!

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to [cstone@hometownlife.com](mailto:cstone@hometownlife.com); by fax to (248) 685-2892; or by mail to Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

More: For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Novi Calendar online at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).

Help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support and national recognition. Guests are always welcome; advance registration is required. Visit [www.abwa-novi.org](http://www.abwa-novi.org).  
**Contact:** Holly Hengstbeck at [publicity@abwa-novi.org](mailto:publicity@abwa-novi.org)

## NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

### Beaumont offering free student heart checks April 13

High school students and parents beware; the typical school sports physical may fall short in assessing heart health. Because sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death in young athletes, Beaumont Health System cardiologists and partners WXYZ-TV and 97.1 The Ticket continue to offer free Healthy Heart Check screenings to area high school students.

The next Healthy Heart Check screening is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 13 at Novi High School, 24062 Taft Road (at Ten Mile) in Novi.

The student heart screening will include a medical history, blood pressure check, an electrocardiogram or ECG, and a quick-look echocardiogram (an ultrasound image of the heart).

Although there is no charge to participate, registration is required. Call toll-free 800-328-8542 or visit [heart.beaumont.edu/upcoming-student-heart-screenings](http://heart.beaumont.edu/upcoming-student-heart-screenings) to register online.

### Walled Lake Central to host College Fair

Walled Lake Central High School (1600 Oakley Park Road) is hosting a College Fair from 6:30-8 p.m. April 30 in Central's gymnasiums. All Walled Lake Schools students are welcome to attend this very informative event. College representatives will be here to answer questions about their university and programs offered.

Over 50 colleges and universities will have representatives in attendance for students and parents at this event. In state schools include: Michigan State, Wayne State, Oakland University and the University of Michigan. Out of state schools include: Penn State, the University of Alabama, the University of Toledo and Ohio State University.

For more information, please visit [www.wlcsd.org](http://www.wlcsd.org) or contact Ann Marie Rutherford at [annmarierutherford@wlcsd.org](mailto:annmarierutherford@wlcsd.org) or (248) 956-4829.

### Fans!

Paws, the Detroit Tigers' mascot, gently re-arranges the hair of Orchard Hills' elementary student Elyse Chase during his March 20 visit to the Novi school. Paws was there for March & Reading Month and acted out the classic tale of Casey at Bat - read by Novi School Superintendent Dr. Steve Matthews.



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## SOCIAL SECURITY

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

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

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

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Law Office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of I-480-521-0530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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## Judge conducts Cipriano pretrial behind closed doors

By Joanne Maliszewski  
Staff Writer

It's uncertain why Oakland Circuit Judge Shalina Kumar at the last minute conducted a pretrial exam for murder suspects Tucker Cipriano and Mitchell Young behind closed doors March 26.

The friends face murder charges in the baseball bat killing of Robert Cipriano in April 2012 in Farmington Hills.

"Let the judge know this is unacceptable," a news reporter shouted at Kumar's court clerk as he called the media to a brief meeting to announce there would not be a public hearing.

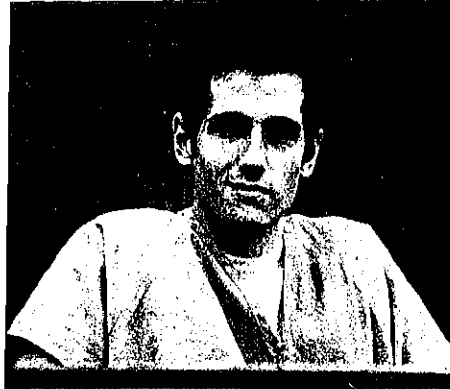
"That's the judge's call. Nothing is being contested," said Mitch Ribitwer, Tucker Cipriano's defense attorney.

Kumar never publicly announced that the pretrial exam would be moved to her chambers. It wasn't until her court clerk called for the media to move out into the hall with him that anyone realized the exam would not be public.

But Ribitwer promised that additional motions will be scheduled in May because of a potential introduction of graphic photos of the murder scene by John Skrzynski, Oakland County lead prosecutor for the circuit court division.

"The photos are very graphic and we feel they may create prejudice," Ribitwer said.

The defense attorney also said that he may yet motion the court to send Cipriano for a psychiatric review. "We are still



Tucker Cipriano

investigating that," Ribitwer said.

A psychiatric exam, Ribitwer continued, would likely address the use of certain drugs, such as mushrooms and synthetic marijuana, also known as K2, and its potential to create psychosis in the user.

Cipriano testified in late 2012 that he took the drugs before and after the murder until he was apprehended in Keego Harbor hours later.

The defense attorneys were also expected to discuss DNA and the potential of calling certain experts at the Tuesday pretrial exam. The trial is scheduled for June 10, which was moved from the original June 6 date as listed on the court docket.

Young's defense attorney, Michael McCarthy, and the prosecutor did not talk with the media. Television cameras for local channels were already set up in the courtroom in anticipation of the pretrial exam to be conducted in open court.

Some in and outside

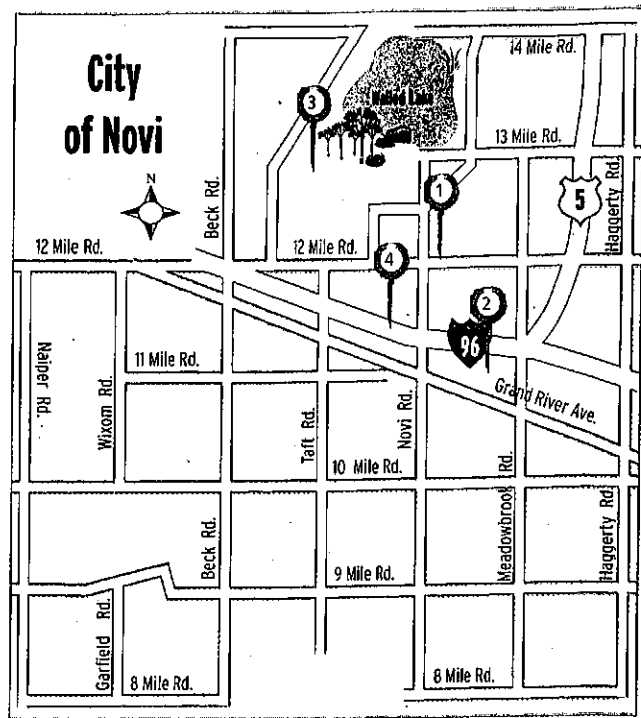
the courtroom March 26 speculated that Kumar may have decided to limit any potential for a circus-like atmosphere in her courtroom, which was near capacity with onlookers and a jury box of suspects waiting in other cases.

Cipriano is accused of murdering his father on April 16 in his family's Farmington Hills home and severely injuring his mother, Rose, and brother Salvatore. Tucker's friend, Young, is also accused in the murder.

Cipriano and Young each face five felony counts, including first-degree premeditated murder, felony murder, two counts of assault with intent to murder and armed robbery.

They are accused of breaking into the Cipriano home, in search of money and credit cards. Kumar ruled that the two would have a joint trial, with separate juries, on the felony charges.

jmaliszew@hometownlife.com  
313-550-8558



### NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

#### Catalytic converters stolen in Twelve Oaks Mall lot

There were two recent incidents of catalytic converters being cut off from vehicles parked in a lot at Twelve Oaks.

On March 26, both larceny from autos occurred in the parking area near Macy's department store. The police report stated the converters were clean-cut off. One vehicle owner noticed the theft after seeing the exhaust hanging on the ground. A description of the suspects and their vehicle has been passed onto the Novi Police road patrol.

\$5,000 in cash stolen

Metro PCS on Grand River was broken into recently and an unknown suspect got away with \$5,000 in cash from a register.

Novi Police responded to an alarm at the location on March 24 and found a rear door with a glass panel smashed in. On the security video, the suspect was hidden by a hooded sweatshirt, but was observed kicking in the glass panel.

#### Rock used to break into Dolly's Pizza

On March 23, Novi Police responded to a report of a break-in at the Dolly's location on W. Pontiac Trail and found a rock that was most likely used to smash a glass windowed door out.

The cash register had been damaged, but it appeared as if the suspect was unable to get into the cash tray because it was still locked. Security video caught a suspect wearing a hoodie.

#### Gold Buy & Jewelry robbed

A break-in happened at the Gold Buy & Jewelry location in Novi.

An employee of a neighboring business called in the report on March 22 that the location on Grand River had been broken into. It appeared that a five-gallon paint bucket was used to smash the front plate glass window. At the time of the report, it was not determined what items were stolen, but one display case had been damaged.

Compiled by staff writer Lonnie Huhman

## Novi physician one of 44 indicted in scheme

Novi physician Ravi Iyer, 42, was one of forty-four individuals have been charged in a health care fraud and drug distribution scheme, U.S. Attorney Barbara L. McQuade announced March 20.

The 13-count superseding indictment charges 44 new defendants with a drug conspiracy involving prescription drug controlled substances such as Oxycodone, Opana, Vicodin, and other drugs. Health care fraud charges were filed against 32 of the defendants, while three defendants were charged with money laundering and three defendants were charged with being felons in possession of firearms.

The superseding indictment alleges that Sardar Ashrafkhan, Deepak Kumar, John Cheek, and David Vezossi, owners of home health agencies, would

provide kickbacks, bribes, and other illegal benefits to physicians to induce them to write prescriptions for patients with Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance.

Patients were recruited into the scheme by a drug contractor or "marketers," who would pay kickbacks and bribes to patients in exchange for the patients' permitting the pharmacies and physicians to bill their insurances for medications and services that were medically unnecessary and/or never provided. During this conspiracy, prescriptions were presented to the Sav-Max (pharmacist Ahab Elmadohoun), Sav-Mart (pharmacist Waleed Yaghmour), Atrium (pharmacist Krina Patel) or Caremax (pharmacist Jayshruben Gandhi and manager Guaring Gandhi)

Pharmacies for filling. The medical professionals and health care agency owners would then bill the relevant insurers for services supposedly provided to the patients, without regard to the medical necessity of those prescriptions and services. Some of the pharmacies would bill insurers, including Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurers, for dispensing the medications, despite the fact that the medications were medically unnecessary and, in many cases, never provided. Other times, the pharmacists accepted cash from the recruiters for filling and dispensing medications.

The indictment further alleges a conspiracy to distribute controlled substances by the health care owners, physicians, pharmacies, and recruiters to facilitate the submission

of false claims to Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurers. The home health care owners paid physicians associated with the scheme kickbacks in exchange for prescriptions for controlled substances for their patients which were filled at the respective pharmacies.

The controlled substances involved included the Schedule II drug oxycodone (Oxycodone), the Schedule III drug hydrocodone (Vicodin, Lortab) the Schedule IV drug alprazolam (Xanax), and the Schedule V drug cough syrup with codeine.

individual charges of felon in possession of a firearm against marketers Toney Taylor and Troy Ivory and home health agency owner John Stephen Cheek.

"The merger of health care fraud and drug trafficking is a disturbing trend that is not only robbing taxpayers but also fueling additions to prescription drugs," McQuade said. "Prescription drug abuse has become a national epidemic, with more Americans dying from overdoses than from gunshot wounds."

Of the 10 defendants charged in the earlier indictment, all have been convicted by pleas over the last year. Those defendants included Detroit and Ohio residents. Several have been sentenced already and others are due to be sentenced in the near future.

## Napier, 10 Mile road improvements unlikely until 2016

By Diane Gale Andreassi  
Staff Writer

The big paving project of Napier between Nine and 10 Mile roads isn't expected to begin until 2016.

Installation of a traffic signal is also being considered for the Napier/10 Mile intersection, but hopes of possibly getting the work done sooner on a "fast track" are unlikely, according to Craig Bryson, com-

munications director of the Road Commission for Oakland County.

"The earliest that would be paved is 2016 if all parties agree to that date, and the financial commitments are there," Bryson said. Since the county allocates only \$1.5 million per year to pave 771 gravel roads "that justifiably need to be paved" throughout the county, any road that is being considered for paving "I guess could be

considered on the short list," he added.

Nearby residents in Lyon and Novi are concerned about the safety of the road and complain that trying to pull out onto 10 Mile from Napier during rush hours can be dangerous. Craig Russell, president of the Lyon Ridge Homeowners Association, said residents want a traffic signal installed to reduce dangerous conditions — especial-

ly for school buses on Napier.

"The shoulders of the roads are soft many times of the year," Russell said. "It's very heavily traveled. Having that road paved would allow for less congestion on 10 Mile and the traffic light is needed."

While Lyon Township and Novi "have given us verbal commitment, there is no formal agreement in place yet," Bryson said. "We can't

ask them to say absolutely yes when we don't know how much we're asking them for."

While there have been accidents reported in the area, Bryson said, RCOC traffic engineers "believe most of the crashes aren't what a traffic signal would address."

Lyon Township Supervisor Lannie Young said Napier paving costs have been estimated at \$3.5 million and of that 80

percent would be paid by federal funds. RCOC would contribute 10 percent and Lyon Township and Novi would each pay 5 percent.

"These funds have to be allocated three years in advance," Young said. "The township doesn't have a road fund — all the roads are either private or controlled by the road commission."

dandreassi@hometownlife.com  
(248) 437-2011, Ext. 262

## May 6 trial set for alleged I-96 shooter Raulie Wayne Casteel

A May 6 trial date has been set for the Oakland County man who authorities say is the Interstate 96 corridor shooter.

Raulie Wayne Casteel, 43, who faces seven counts including terrorism, will first appear in Livingston County Circuit Court on April 12 for a pretrial hearing. If no plea deal is

reached, the case heads to trial. Casteel is charged in Livingston and Oakland counties in connection with 24 shootings, three of which occurred on I-96 in Livingston County and the rest along trunk lines and side streets in Oakland, Ingham and Shiawassee counties, including in Wixom and Commerce Township.

The shootings took place from Oct. 16-18 and Oct. 27. One person was injured.

Police allege Casteel randomly fired a handgun from his vehicle at motorists along the I-96 corridor. Casteel has been found competent to stand trial. However, his attorney, Douglas Mullkoff, said

the forensic psychological exam revealed that Casteel has delusional disorder.

In Oakland County, Casteel faces 60 counts including assault with intent to murder and several felony weapons charges. He returns to Oakland County Circuit Court on April 4 for a pretrial hearing.

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## Gravel road residents can get dust-control applications

Oakland County residents living on gravel roads who would like to participate in the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) dust-control program this summer and fall can now submit their applications for the service.

The City of Novi maintains approximately 5.13 centerline miles of gravel roadway. This number does not account for approximately two centerline miles of Napier Rd, which is maintained by the RCOC.

The program involves RCOC applying mineral-well brine to gravel roads four times during the summer to help control dust. The cost to participate in the program is 37 cents per linear foot of road. Residents living on subdivision streets must

### PLACE AN ORDER

Residents must fill out and submit RCOC's dust control application. To get an application, visit RCOC's Department of Customer Services offices, 2420 Pontiac Lake Road in Waterford Township (at County Center Drive West, just west of Telegraph Road), or call the office toll free at (877) 858-4804. Applications must be received by April 29.

pay for a minimum of 1,000 linear feet of application (\$370). Residents must coordinate with their neighbors — only one check will be accepted for each order.

On mile-type gravel roads, orders will be accepted for a minimum of 500 feet with no more than one skipped section. Orders on sections of mile-type roads more than 500 feet long will be limited to two skips. Private roads are not included in the dust-control program.

Mineral-well brine is naturally occurring salt water that is pumped from the ground. When applied to gravel roads, the brine draws moisture from the air and ground, and the moisture helps to bind the materials in the road surface, reducing the amount of dust that becomes airborne and providing a better driving surface.

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Million Penny Project launched at the Wixom Public Library

The Wixom Public Library is kicking off its Million Penny Project, sponsored by the Friends of the Wixom Library and Geniuses Credit Union.

Globe trotter, 25, isn't ready to put down roots just yet

By Michelle Muñoz Correspondent

Jessica Danley doesn't want to wait for retirement to travel. She's using her early 20s to explore the world before getting a "real person job."



Jessica Danley looks out over a valley in Northern Syria from the medieval castle Krak des Chevaliers.

Though she has a degree in marketing from Walsh College, Danley is pursuing opportunities that will let her explore the world before settling down in south-east Michigan.

She isn't quite ready to sit behind a desk. Danley has had jobs related to her career — at an advertising agency and as an executive administrative assistant — but the hours weren't fulfilling.

met and never expected to have any common ground with," Danley said. "I quickly discovered that despite being from different parts of the globe, we have much in common and much to learn from one another."

After the trip to China, Danley decided to get back into theater by performing in the St. Dunstan's Theatre production of Chicago in Bloomfield Hills.

While living in China she met the cast of a stunt show and wound up with her part in the Zorro Comic Book Stunt Show in India.

"It was such an amazing experience. You get to learn so much about the other culture," Danley said. "It's so much more than just tourism; you're actually going there and living there and getting to know the people."

Her favorite trip of all the countries she's seen ends in a tie between Syria and Taiwan. She said Syria's rich history and Taiwan's diversity made them the most exciting.

Though her parents think she is "ridiculous," she knows in the future her adventures will pay off. Through e-mails and Skype, she has stayed in touch with people from around the world that she's met, like the film students in Lebanon or the Persian political refugee and human rights activist in Paris.

After India, Danley plans to return to Taiwan to teach a summer English course. Beyond that, she thinks she'll get a full-time job in marketing and move into her own place.

"I'm really glad that I've had these experiences now," she said. "I'll always have my degree, I can always go back to school and I can always have a career, but I'm really glad I got to do these things."

'Amazing experience'

After graduation, she and some friends began traveling and using CouchSurfing.com to find new friends and places to stay.

Danley taught English language summer courses in Italy and Taiwan and decided to use that skill to keep traveling. She recently returned from a four-month trip to China where she taught English at a university.

"It was such an amazing experience. You get to learn so much about the other culture," Danley said. "It's so much more than just tourism; you're actually going there and living there and getting to know the people."

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Common ground "I have been shown amazing kindness and hospitality by the people I've

UPDATES FROM YOUR CITY

Pavilion Shore Park construction under way, completed in summer

Construction at Pavilion Shore Park, located at 43390 Thirteen Mile Road, is underway. The park, scheduled to open in July, will provide access to Walled Lake with a fishing pier and boardwalk.

Senior travel opportunities

"Travel and change of place impart new vigor to the mind," said Roman philosopher Seneca. Group travel opportunities, offered through City of Novi's Older Adult Services, will have participants discovering new places, meeting new people, and making lasting memories.

Theater looking for dancers, singers and actors

The Novi Civic Theatre is seeking dancers, singers and performers ages 18 and up to be a part of a one-of-a-kind, interactive comedy wedding production. The production's colorful cast of characters will include a bride, groom, minister, parents, bridesmaids, groomsmen, and other guests.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

ALBRIGHT, RICKY C. Age 42, passed away March 28, 2013. He was born on October 17, 1970, in Ann Arbor, son of Evelyn and the late Carl Albright.

ANTHONY, CINDY L. Age 61, of Novi, passed away March 26, 2013. Full obit and online condolences at: www.casertinefuneralhome.com

BALES ROSEMARY CULLEN Age 92, 1916-March 15, 2013 obitonlinefuneralhome.com

CUMMINS, KENNETH Nov. 1, 1922-March 13, 2013 obitonlinefuneralhome.com

GRAHAM, HOMER Passed away April 1, 2013. Please call the Phillips Funeral Home for arrangements at 248-437-1616.

HAND, PHILIP MIKEAL Beloved infant son of Jessica Handman and Mark Handman, passed away March 28, 2013.

HEUSER, JOSEPH LEO Formerly of Milford & Howell MI, Heuser, Joseph L., 2013 Visitation will be held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty St., Milford, on Friday, April 5, from 6-8pm.

KERR, NONA MAE June 18, 1915 - March 18, 2013 obitonlinefuneralhome.com

MORGAN, WILLIAM R. Age 57, passed away March 25, 2013. He is survived by his parents Ted and Low Ann Morgan; sisters Terry (Phyllis) Williams; nephews Brian and Eric. Memorial service will be held at a later date. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

MORGAN, WILLIAM R. Age 57, passed away March 25, 2013. He is survived by his parents Ted and Low Ann Morgan; sisters Terry (Phyllis) Williams; nephews Brian and Eric. Memorial service will be held at a later date. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

HAUSER, RICHARD E. Age 82, of Novi, passed away March 29, 2013. He was born January 21, 1931 in Bloomington, Illinois, son of Albert and Mabel (Young) Hauser.

SUTTON, ALFRED EUGENE "GENE" Age 79, died peacefully Monday, March 25, 2013. He was born October 8, 1933, in Toledo, Ohio, to Albert and Stella (Philo) Sutton.

TIBBS, SUSAN H. Age 57, of Florida, formerly of Novi, passed away March 20, 2013. Visitation April 2, 2013 at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

SPRAWKA, FLORENCE June 18, 1923 - March 16, 2013 obitonlinefuneralhome.com

STANBROUGH, ELIZABETH January 6, 1922 - March 15, 2013 obitonlinefuneralhome.com

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

ENGAGEMENT

King & Renner

Novi's Amy King and Brian D. Renner, of Birmingham, are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of David and Sandra King, of Novi. She is a registered nurse on a neurology floor at Providence Hospital.

The groom-elect is the son of David and Christine Renner, of Novi. He founded his own online business, Movie Insider LLC.



Amy King and Brian Renner

NEWSMAKERS

Gorman's promotes Newkirk

Gorman's Home Furnishings and Interior Design promoted Dawn Newkirk to director of fashion merchandising from interior designer.

In this position, Newkirk will be responsible for selecting accessories and styling the lifestyle collections found in the retailer's four metro-Detroit showrooms.



Newkirk

Newkirk brings more than 25 years of experience in management, marketing and interior design to Gorman's.

Newkirk also worked as a sales manager with Marrow Furniture Galleries in North Carolina and as a visual display director with Robb and Stucky Furniture in Florida.

Your invitation to Worship

A large grid of church listings for various locations including Brighton, Milford, Novi, Walled Lake, Whitmore Lake, Livonia, Plymouth, Northville, Highland, and South Lyon. Each listing includes the church name, address, phone number, and worship times.

### OUR VIEWS

## MEAP scores Avoid using scores as a political tool

Wide variances in the Michigan Education Assessment Program test parameters from year to year often make comparisons difficult. In 2011, the state began what are called "cut scores," which is a process most akin to the dreaded grading curve of the baby boomer generation. MEAP scores from 2009-12 show a deep drop in science scores after the cut scores were instituted.

It seems all the state's fifth- and eighth-graders appear to struggle with science, based on the cut scores system.

That's a dangerous fact, considering Gov. Rick Snyder and his charter school supporters make no secret in their belief that public schools are ineffective.

Based on Snyder's well-publicized commentaries that public schools have failed

**And if educators are in a quandary, where does that leave parents and other taxpayers who are trying to make sense of the scores? They aren't the only ones in a quandary. Educators also struggle to spin the test results to show their district's strengths.**

Historically fall in behind the higher reading, writing and social studies scores on MEAP.

In the MEAP world, only fifth- and eighth-graders are tested in science. Reading and math, however, are tested in each grade level (three-eight) that has the pleasure of enduring MEAP. It appears that even MEAP does not consider science as basic a subject as reading, writing and arithmetic for consistent testing.

MEAP has never been a favorite among educators. It is administered in the fall of the academic year. That means teachers spend the start of each school year reviewing last year's material. Furthermore, while accountability in education is essential, educators are now admitting that they do what they heretofore had denied. Namely, they teach to the test.

That begs the question: Are students learning what they need to know, or what educators fear might be on the test?

And if educators are in a quandary, where does that leave parents and other taxpayers who are trying to make sense of the scores? They aren't the only ones in a quandary. Educators also struggle to spin the test results to show their district's strengths.

Unfortunately, this all results in incredible pressure placed on students to perform well on those tests. Gone is the thrill of learning something new.

If Snyder and his supporters who believe that public education, particularly in science, fails students and leaves them ill-prepared for a high-tech world, then why make attempts to gut public education in favor of the more costly charter schools? It is akin to the practice in past centuries of locking up a destitute man in prison — thus keeping him unable to work — until he pays his bills.

It's time for Snyder's administration to stop making public education and standardized tests, such as the MEAP, a political football to be tossed and will for whatever is the ideological whim of the moment.

Rather, the time has come for Snyder and the Legislature to support public education rather than demean it.

The whims of politicians pose a greater threat to our children than low science scores on the MEAP.

### COMMUNITY VOICE

#### Are you planning on going anywhere for spring break?



"I will be working, and the kids will be with day care. So, unfortunately, no plans."  
Rhonda McCaffery  
Novi



"I'm going to Florida with my family."  
Nicole Walker  
Novi

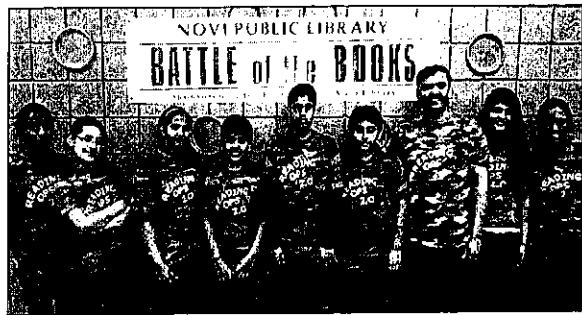


"I'm going to Florida with my family."  
Mikayla Semeleer  
Novi



"I'm working, so no big plans."  
Zakara Lewis  
Novi

### LETTERS



First Place — Reading Ops 2.0: Shiven Acharya, Advay Muchoor, Megha Patri, Eshwar Pitchiah, Ananya Prayagaj, Lahari Vavilala. Coach Pitchiah Balasubramanian and co-coaches Minu Pitchiah and Mahati Vavilala.

#### Battle of the Books

The Youth and Teen Services Department of the Novi Public Library would like to acknowledge and congratulate the 65 fifth- and sixth-grade Novi students who participated in our 10th annual Battle of the Books at the Novi Civic Center on Saturday, March 23.

Twelve teams participated, reading the same six books and coming together in a competition to answer questions about those books. We also celebrate the commitment of their parents and coaches who spent so many hours reading and preparing these youngsters for the competition. To us, all of these young people are winners.

The names of the teams and their members are as follows:

**First Place — Reading Ops 2.0:** Shiven Acharya, Advay Muchoor, Megha Patri, Eshwar Pitchiah, Ananya Prayagaj, Lahari Vavilala. Coach Pitchiah Balasubramanian and co-coaches Minu Pitchiah and Mahati Vavilala

**Second Place — Rockin' Readers:** Nikita Babon, Shivani Bongu, Haarika Karlapati, Saranya Nistala, Neha Surapaneni, Nishika Uppala. Coach Kavitha Karlapati

**Third Place — Invincible Bookworms:** Saketh Addanki, Raveena Joshi, Nishtha Kakar, Suhas Navada, Vinay Panyam, and Ankit Udupa. Coach Vidya Panyam.

Between the Lions: Shrey Devulapalli, Srihari Ganesh, Alvin Li, Parth Nakirkanti, Hardeek Nichanamella, Nikhil Suraparaju. Coaches Sheetal and Shravan Devulapalli

**FIM:** Naomi Davis, Lily Evans, Lynette Lee, Sherry Ye. Coach Shalaka Tipnis.

**Flying Penguins:** Bradley Gamm, Mathew Gamm, Serdar Karahann, Arnab Talukder. Coach Mousumi Sarkar

**The Immortals:** Vishnu Bhatnagar, Rohan Deme, Shishir Kareddy, Meghansh Poreddy, Kishore Sirigiri, Brian Tsang. Coach Venu Bhatnagar.

**Pagetumers:** Domenic Delibero, Ethan DeLibero, Lukas Delibero, Nicolas Delibero, Brendan Ireland, Daniel Netter. Coaches Nahed Delibero and Julie Netter

**Reading Warriors:** Ajay Arora, Sahas Dandapanitula, Michael Hu, Nikhil Mantena, Anika Qureshi, Dhairya Shah. Coach Indira Dandapanitula

**Team Birds:** Johnathan Hong, Ben Wang, Jason Zhang. Coaches Xu Feng and Jin Yang

**Team Name:** Katie Blaszkiewicz, Carol Dai, Maddie Donberger, Lauren Kill, Linda Weng, Stacey Zeng. Coach Michelle Donberger

#### 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.

the cold as they did when it was warm. The problems with bus-ing in the district have reached an all-time high, overcrowding, and route problems cause a significant inconvenience for the students who rely on a bus to get to and from school.

Year after year, the district has been suffering from budget cuts and financial problems. Often, to help balance the budget, the transportation program must be cut, but the changes made for this school year have really changed the game. Prior to the 2012-13 school year, buses have been carrying more and more students each year, but now they have become extremely cramped. Many students complain about having to sit three to a seat every day. Although three elementary school students can fit comfortably in one seat, that is not the case for those who go to high school. Diseases can pass quickly, and it's often a safety risk if the third student doesn't fit fully behind the seat in front of them.

Not only has overcrowding reached an all-time high, the routes have been cut in order to get students home on time. Buses now drop students off at one entrance to their subdivision. On my bus, some students have to walk over half a mile to reach home. This might not seem like such a problem when the weather is pleasant, but when the wind blows and the snow falls, walking this distance can be troublesome for students who simply want to get home without being exposed to the elements. This walk even causes some students to stop riding the bus all together. One student who I talked to had ACL surgery and can no longer walk home from the bus ride and now requires getting a ride from a friend to get home.

Conditions like this are quite frankly unacceptable for a district of Novi's caliber and can be solved with some quick changes of bus schedules and routes for next year.

Thank you to many others that made this day very special. Proceeds will be used for youth programs and summer scholarships for children in the City of Novi.

**Novi Youth Assistance**  
School bus system needs work. The temperature in Novi is declining every day now as we head into the season of winter, and students from the Novi Community Schools district have to walk just as long in

Stefan Santrach  
Novi High School student

## Hiller's mobility carts help disabled, loved ones shop

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Heather Pizar of Northville Township used to have a tough time shopping with her 10-year-old daughter, Sarah, who has Mowat-Wilson syndrome, which creates mobility limitations. Whenever Heather would go shopping, she would have to push the grocery cart and, at the same time, pull Sarah in her adaptive stroller, which was difficult.

Thanks to Pizar's hard work and the kindness of Hiller's Markets, that's no longer true. Hiller's recently purchased one of the carts for disabled loved ones of customers for each of its seven Michigan stores, making it much easier for Pizar and Sarah, who attends Cooke School in Northville.

"It's Hiller's Market that has really taken the initiative. No one made them do this. I was just so impressed by them," said Heather Pizar. "Hiller's stepped right up and said 'We want them in our store.'"

Justin Hiller, Hiller's vice president, said the move was a no-brainer. "It's just all about the customers," he said. His dad and grandfather in the business taught him that.

There are two Hiller's near 39950 W. 14 Mile Road in Commerce Township, and 425 N. Center Street in Northville.

The cart was designed by Alabama mom Drew Ann Long, who got a manufacturer and is now instrumental in marketing it via www.carolinecart.com.

"I saw an advertisement in a trade magazine," said Hiller. "I think the majority of people just don't think how difficult it is" to shop with a disabled person.

Caroline's Carts can accommodate an adult up to 250 pounds, said Pizar, who is married to Sandor. They have four children.

Hiller said he paid \$850 per cart, about twice what a regular grocery cart costs. "The retailer takes on maintenance responsibility. The cart has a foot-operated brake.

"It's just starting to get traction now," he said of the local effort. "It's been a very positive response. I think there are still those individuals who take advantage of them."

He's heard thanks from Pizar, who worked for about a year and a half on the effort and also

approached other grocers. Her daughter was diagnosed at age 4 with the fairly rare disorder, which causes seizures. "She is mobile and she loves to get outside and play," Pizar said of Sarah. "I'm not the only parent in the community who could benefit from this."

The Caroline's Cart has a harness. Its handles swing open to allow the disabled person to sit facing the shopper, which Pizar said is helpful for her daughter to be able to see her.

"So that's another advantage of the cart. I'm just so impressed with this mom designing this," Pizar added.

"I can't tell you how convenient it will be. It's a real blessing, absolutely," Hiller's said to her. "We're going to lead by



JOHN HEIDER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hiller's Vice President Justin Hiller has made sure that all of his stores have one of the "Caroline's Carts" that patron Heather Pizar utilizes for her daughter Sarah, 10, who has problems riding in a typical grocery cart. The cart, with an attached seat, is capable of safely welcoming a person with disabilities — with its swing-out handles.

example. I'm just really touched and impressed by that statement."

The Hiller family bought the Caroline's Carts as part of their philosophy of doing business. Justin Hiller said it wasn't difficult to buy the carts over the phone and have them delivered.

"It's equally important we do good as individuals," the third-generation owner said. "That's what we're trying to do. This is just more about helping our fellow man. We try to help the community as much as we can."

jbrown@hometownlife.com

### NOVI NEWS BRIEFS

#### Michigan Paralyzed Veterans gear up for Awareness Day

The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) is getting geared up to observe PVA Awareness Week during the week of April 8-12. During this time, the MPVA will be hosting their Annual Awareness Day on Thursday, April 11.

This annual event is the MPVA's way of inviting the public to learn more about their organization, and their mission to contribute to the highest quality of life for people with a spinal cord injury or disease. The chapter will be welcoming

in dozens of vendors with products and services that are pertinent to those living with a disability including: accessible vehicles, unique wheelchairs, and even an accessible golf program that individuals can try out for themselves. The event is free to the public.

"We would be delighted to have as many people as possible share this day with us, as it not only recognizes our Chapter's fifty-plus years of service, but it is also a time for us to advocate and educate about spinal cord injury and disease," Michael Harris, MPVA's executive director explains.

Guests who stop into the MPVA's Chapter on April

11 will also have a chance to enter an all-day drawing with the chance of winning a set of Tiger baseball tickets for the Thursday, April 25 game, courtesy of Wright & Filippis.

Light refreshments and beverages will also be served, and all those interested in finding out more about MPVA's Awareness Day can contact Jaclyn Koehls, deputy executive director, at (248) 476-9000 ext. 06.

#### Recycling center open house

Residents of the RRRA-SOC communities will be able to see on April 20

where their recyclables go after they're picked up at the curb. The Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County (RRRA-SOC) and ReCommunity will host an open house at the Southfield materials recovery facility, 2000 West Eight Mile Road. The open house will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 20. (Please note the HHW event only runs until 2 p.m.)

Guided tours will allow guests to see the single-stream sorting facility, and employees will be on hand to answer questions. The open house is timed to coordinate with Earth

Day, and is the same date and location as the spring Southfield Household Hazardous Waste event. The hazardous waste event and open house events are open to residents of Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wixom.

Guests must wear flat-bottom, closed toe shoes for their safety. For more information, visit www.rraassoc.org or call (248) 208-2270.

#### Bill Compton Run

The Walled Lake Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will hold its fifth annual Bill Compton Support Our Troops 5K-Run and 1M-Fun Walk at 9 a.m.

Sunday, May 26. This event raises funds for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Lawrence A. Sims Wixom Post 2269 and Operation Hug-A-Hero.

This non-timed event will start at the corner of East Walled Lake Drive and Perland Street in Walled Lake's Historic Lakelmont District.

The event is open to individuals and groups of all ages. After March 30, registration fees will increase by \$5 per person and \$25 per group. For more information about the event, go to www.WalledLakeRun.org or contact Jennifer Stuart at (248) 926-9004 or jstuart@walled-lake.com.

#### CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT 18.246 FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 97-18 AS AMENDED, THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE AT ARTICLE 25, "GENERAL PROVISIONS," TO ADD SECTION 25.5 "SERVICE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, SPECIAL USE APPROVAL REQUIRED," TO REQUIRE SPECIAL USE APPROVAL FOR THE SALE OF ALCOHOL FOR CONSUMPTION ON PREMISES AND TO AMEND ARTICLE 16, "TO AND TO-TOWN CENTER DISTRICTS," SECTION 16.01, PRINCIPAL USES PERMITTED, TO DELETE SUBSECTIONS 12 AND 13 AND TO RENUMBER SECTIONS 14-16.

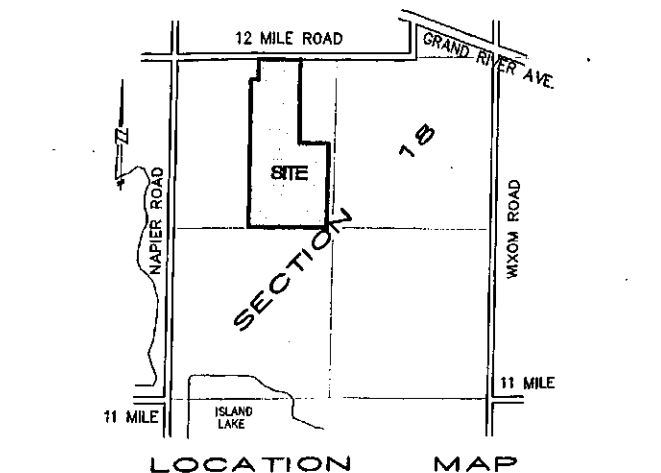
All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing. The proposed text amendment is available for examination and review at the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Any written comments must be received by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 24, 2013.

Novi Planning Commission  
David Greco, Secretary

Published: April 4, 2013

#### CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider ASHERINA BRIDGE SITE PLAN NUMBER 15-12, LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF TWELVE MILE ROAD, EAST OF NAPIER ROAD FOR OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION OPTION, PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WETLAND PERMIT, WOODLAND PERMIT AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. The applicant is proposing 146 single-family detached homes with associated infrastructure. Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department in the Novi Civic Center.



All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 24, 2013.

David Greco  
Novi Planning Commission

Published: April 4, 2013

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# From great loss comes musical resolve

## Wife's death leads local musician to support leukemia research

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Steven Ross Jahn, 53, lost his wife, Renee, to leukemia in 2010, when she was only 46.

"I really didn't pay much attention to what leukemia was," said Jahn, who lives in Salem Township with a Northville address. "It's a very hard thing to overcome and beat."

He's a musician and songwriter whose Dreamway Entertainment is involved in performances to benefit leukemia research. Jahn is also owner of Dreamway Mobile Homes/Steven Ross Jahn Realty, and seeks to have a substantial portion of commissions they receive given to leukemia research. He recalled when the housing market implod-



Steven Ross Jahn

ed in 2008 and the stress that put on their family. "I think that caused her immune system to be compromised," he said. His wife didn't have a bone marrow transplant.

He works in the manufactured home brokering business, and met Renee in 1980 at an earlier job. "It was my turn to wait on her," said Jahn, whose performances include tributes to Toby Keith.

"Three months later, we were married." The couple has three children ages 33, 30 and 25, as well as five grandchildren.

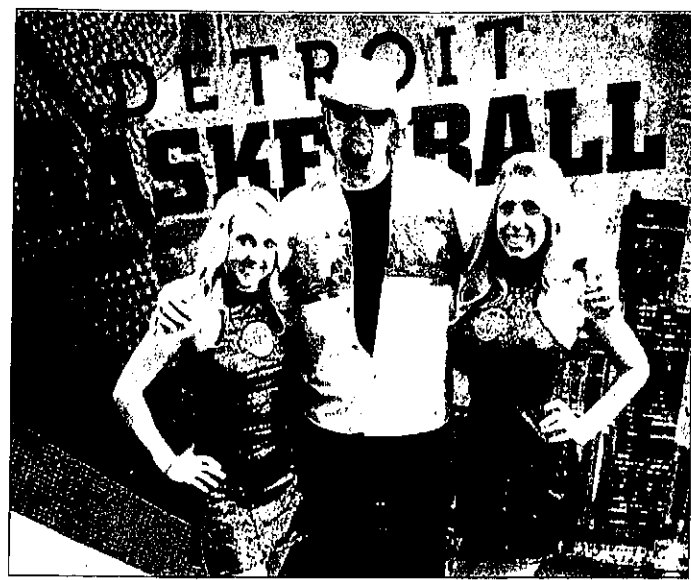
After they married, the man he worked for and that man's wife died in a plane crash. Jahn went to another business. After that, the Jahns relocated to south Texas.

"Boy, what a culture shock that was," said Jahn, who was born in Flint and sang gospel as a child.

He was later in a Star Search contest in Texas, advancing multiple times but not appearing on the Ed McMahon TV show. Jahn recorded an album here of songs about living in south Texas, *South Texas Wind*.

In 1990, he went to Nashville to record his *Santa Bring My Daddy Home*, based on a real-life girl with a dad in Iraq she wanted home for the holidays. That song got a lot of airplay in Michigan.

He's written and recorded other music, including *Christmas Is My Favorite Time of Year* and *I Saw Your Picture in the Paper*. Jahn opened his own manufactured home business, noting the difficul-



Steven Ross Jahn appears at a Detroit Pistons function as Toby Keith.

ty of touring as a musician with family responsibilities. His subsequent recorded and performed music has included both Christian and country. His wife was diagnosed July 23, 2009, and went

into remission but then had a relapse. They had lived on Portage Lake, where he'd built them what was to be a retirement home. Jahn's move to the Northville area had him buy a home from a man who lost his son to leukemia, also at a young age.

His business is supporting the Leukemia Research Foundation of America, based in the Chicago area. Jahn has worked some time to get provisions for tax write-offs for support, noting the complexity of IRS regulations.

He's also doing benefit performances as others and himself, as are friends, one of whom appears as Willie Nelson. Jahn recently did a *K-Wings* show in Kalamazoo as Toby Keith. "We had fun with that,"

he said. His wife was working on a banner for him when she had a brain hemorrhage and was rushed to the hospital.

"She was trying to help me get the show going," said Jahn, who knows his wife would be proud of the work being done now. He'd tried to perform right after she died but couldn't. "It was just too hard. I wasn't emotionally ready."

For more information on Jahn, including how to contact him, visit [www.stevenrossjahn.com](http://www.stevenrossjahn.com). He and the others are available for private parties and fundraisers. Reach Jahn at [www.dreamway-entertainment.com](http://www.dreamway-entertainment.com), via e-mail at [info@dreamway-entertainment.com](mailto:info@dreamway-entertainment.com) or by phone at (734) 545-3407.

"We had fun with that," jcbrown@hometownlife.com

### Bladder Leakage/Incontinence Study

Cypher Research is conducting a confidential market research study with males and females who use disposable incontinence underwear (not liners) for bladder leakage.

The study would involve trying free products at home and participating in a 90 minute interview in our Canton office. As a token of our appreciation you will be compensated \$175 for your time.

NO sales or clinical tests involved, we are only interested in your opinions.

If you are interested in participating, please call Kathy at 734.397.3400 X 3 to see if you qualify.

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### NORTHVILLE / NOVI CHURCH CALENDAR

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Road  
Contact: (248) 349-8847 or visit [holyfamilynovi.org](http://holyfamilynovi.org)

**Mass Schedule**  
Time/Day: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday-Friday; 7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 4:30 p.m. Saturday

**Holy Days:** 9 a.m., 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Reconciliation, beginning 9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment.

**CROSSPOINTE MEADOWS CHURCH**  
Location: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road

Contact: (248) 669-9400, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit [www.crosspointemeadows.org](http://www.crosspointemeadows.org)

**Sunday Worship:** 11:15 a.m. Bible study classes: 10 a.m. for all ages

**Details:** Nursery and older children programs available. Worship blends traditional and contemporary elements resulting in a multi-sensory worship experience.

**Destiny Worship Center**  
Location: Ridge Wood Elementary School, 49775 6 Mile Road, Northville  
Contact: [DestinyW3C@gmail.com](mailto:DestinyW3C@gmail.com) or visit [www.DW3C.org](http://www.DW3C.org)

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

**Sunday Worship:** 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. (SS at 9:30 for all ages) Ministry for Special Needs Adults contact [judy@emmanuel-livonia.org](mailto:judy@emmanuel-livonia.org)

**FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road  
Contact: (248) 349-2345 or visit [www.faithcommunity-novi.org](http://www.faithcommunity-novi.org)

**Worship with Easter Cantata**  
Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, March 24  
**Maundy Thursday Service**  
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28

**New Visitor Luncheon following service**  
Date: Sunday, April 14  
**Rummage Sale**  
Times/Dates: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 18 and 9 a.m. to noon April 19

### GET LISTED!

**Submit:** Send calendar submissions via e-mail to [ctone@gannett.com](mailto:ctone@gannett.com); by fax to (248) 685-2892; or by mail to Church Events/Northville/Novi, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

**Women's Bible Study**  
Time/Date: 9:15-10:30 a.m. Saturdays

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

**Sunday Worship:** 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.  
**Sunday School:** 9:30 a.m.

**Ladies Bible Study:** 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays

**Men's Bible Study:** 9 a.m. first Saturday of every month

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NOVI-FAMILY INTEGRATED CHURCH**  
Location: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road  
Contact: (248) 349-3647 or [firstbaptistchurchofnovi.org](mailto:firstbaptistchurchofnovi.org)

**Family Bible Hour:** 9:45 a.m.  
**Family Worship:** 11 a.m.  
**Bible Study:** 6 p.m.

**Family Movie Night:** 5:30 p.m.; fourth Sunday of every month

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE**  
Location: 200 E. Main Street  
Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit [www.fpcnorthville.org](http://www.fpcnorthville.org)

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

**FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
Location: 21260 Haggerty Road, north of 8 Mile Road  
Contact: (248) 348-7600 or visit [dfcnazarene.org](http://dfcnazarene.org)

**Sunday Schedule:** 9:30 a.m. Worship service with Praise Band, Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments; 11 a.m. Traditional worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School

and Adult Bible Fellowship; 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's program, Youth Worship Service

**Wednesdays:** 5:30 p.m. Family Meal, \$5 per person, \$15 per family; **Currently on Wednesday nights:** 6:30 p.m. Children's VBS/Caravan, Club 56, Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Group

**Thursday Schedule:** 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group  
**Wednesdays:** 5:30 p.m. Family Meal, \$5 per person, \$15 per family; **Currently on Wednesday nights:** 6:30 p.m. Children's VBS/Caravan, Club 56, Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Group

**Thursday:** 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE**  
Location: 777 West 8 Mile Road, Northville  
Contact: (248) 349-1144 or [www.fumcnorthville.org](http://www.fumcnorthville.org)

**Sunday Worship:** Meditative - Held in the Chapel - 8 a.m.

Contemporary - Held in the Sanctuary - 9:15 a.m.  
Traditional - Held in the Sanctuary - 11 a.m.

**Sunday School:** Nursery - 8 a.m.  
Nursery - 12th grade - 9:15 a.m.  
Nursery - 6th grade/Special Needs - 11 a.m.

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Location: 41415 9 Mile Road, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi  
Contact: (248) 349-0565

**Sundays:** 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship

**HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road  
Contact: (248) 427-1175 or [holy-crossnovi@gmail.com](mailto:holy-crossnovi@gmail.com); visit [holy-crossnovi.org](http://holy-crossnovi.org)

**Sunday Worship:** 7:45 and 10 a.m. Sunday School and Nursery Care: 10 a.m. Worship Service

Alzheimer's Support Group: 10 a.m. second Saturday of month.

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Location: 39200 West 12 Mile Road (east of Haggerty Road), Farmington Hills

**LAKES BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Location: 309 Ker Road, Walled Lake

### Organist to perform



Internationally acclaimed organist Lance Luce will perform a concert of theater music accompanied by a silent movie at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 14, at Meadowbrook Congregational Church in Novi. A staff organist at the Fox Theatre and Redford Theatre, Luce has performed throughout the United States, Canada, England and Australia. He served as head staff organist at Radio City Music Hall in New York, playing on the largest Wurlitzer ever built. He has made numerous recordings including being part of the famous "Theatre Organ Greats — A Salute to Radio City Music Hall." With a background in pipe organ repair and installation, Luce also is a church organ consultant to Evola Music. He has designed more than 250 organ installations in churches, theatres and homes. The concert is free, though goodwill offerings will go toward sustaining Meadowbrook's Music Series. The church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight Mile and Nine Mile roads. For more information, visit [www.mbcc.org](http://www.mbcc.org) or call (248) 248-7757.

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**SPORTS**

**No. 1 Forest Hills Eastern dismantles Wildcats**

Novi boys lacrosse bounces back to defeat Farmington

By Chris Jackett  
Correspondent

Even though it was the first game of the season under a new coach, Novi's boys lacrosse team wasn't about to start the season against a pushover team. Stepping right up to the toughest challenge available, the Wildcats (1-1) visited Forest Hills Eastern March 25 to take on the state's No. 1 ranked team. However, the Hawks (3-0) had too much firepower, steamrolling Novi 18-4 as senior netminder Mitch Adams made 16 saves on 34 shots.

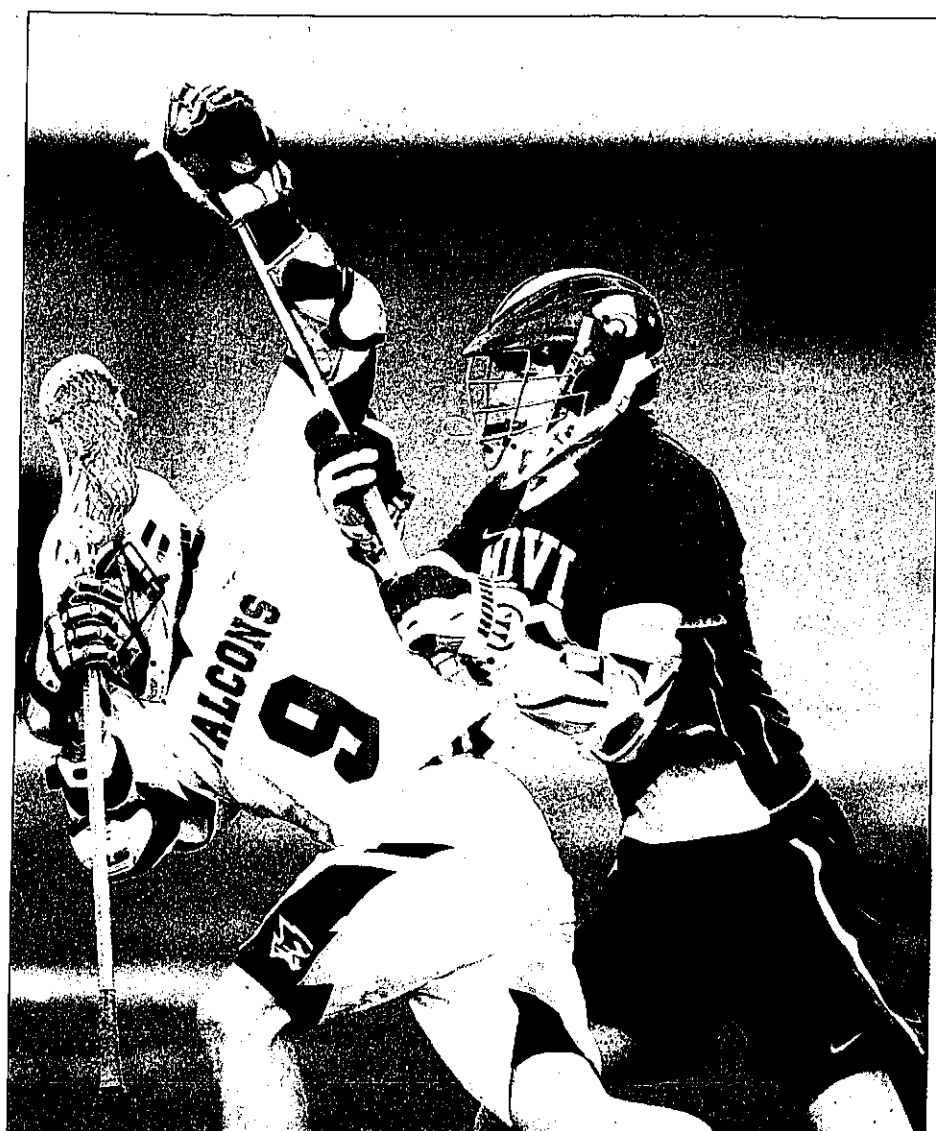
In the limited offensive opportunities, junior Mark Ghanam led the way with two goals, while senior Lucas Buck and junior Alex Caprara contributed one goal apiece. "It was a well-played

**ON TAP**

Novi's boys lacrosse team (1-1) will return from spring break to face Huron Valley (1-0) on the road Wednesday before hosting Brighton (0-1) April 12, both at 7 p.m. "After a long week off of lacrosse with spring break we will get right back into the season with three games the first week back against Huron Valley, Brighton and Rochester Adams," Novi coach Eric Hoffman said.

game by Forrest Hills Eastern," Novi coach Eric Hoffman said. "They are one of the best teams in the state. We are still working to get everyone on the same page."

Please see LACROSSE, B2



Novi Wildcat Keith Pravato knocks Farmington High's Nick Gensheimer off track during the teams' March 28 game in Farmington. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Novi kickers split with Plymouth, Canton**

Antolec impresses as new netminder in high-profile games

By Chris Jackett  
Correspondent

In order to make a deep run in the Division I playoffs, Novi's girls soccer team will likely need to go through one or more of the Plymouth-Canton schools, so they wanted to get an early look.

The Wildcats (1-1-0) took on both Plymouth and Canton last week, both on Canton's turf, with split results. All three teams finished last season ranked in the top 14 and show promise of being ranked again this spring.

Novi started the week March 27 with a rematch of the 2010 state title game, taking on Plymouth and Ms. Soccer frontrunner Madi Lewis, a senior forward and University of Michigan signee.

"It was a very good high school soccer game, played between two very talented teams," Novi coach Brian O'Leary said. "They are currently ranked 17th in the country."

Lewis played a large role in the Plymouth victory, assisting on both goals for her team. Scoring began midway through the first half when Lewis beat a defender and drew others toward her before passing the ball off to teammate Zoe Foster for a one-timer into the back of the net.

Novi responded four minutes later when junior Katrina Koomen headed a throw-in by junior Tay-

lor Pavlika toward the net, where senior Erin Dircks hit a shot that was blocked by a defender, but Dircks fired the rebound past the goalkeeper from 10 yards out to tie it 1-1 heading into halftime.

Both teams traded chances in the second half, with Novi senior netminder Jade Antolec (four saves) making a few big steps to keep things deadlocked.

"Our goalie, Jade Antolec, made a good save on crossing ball that was one-timed hard to the near post, but she rotated over quickly to make the save," O'Leary said.

Despite four "dangerous" corner kicks, Plymouth got the difference-maker with five minutes left. Lewis crossed a ball to Morgan Klumbe, who one-timed a rocket into the goal, allowing Plymouth to claim the 2-1 victory.

"For the game I was very pleased with our play," O'Leary said. "For a first game we did a lot of good things and, because we were playing such a talented team, we learned a lot about ourselves."

"Forwards Erin Dircks and Chloe Allen played very well together for a first game. Our defense of Kaylin Hooman, Karissa Koomen, Kendall Kramer and Natalie Greenhalgh was much more organized in the second half."

Novi outshot Plymouth 8-5, but each team only got four on net apiece. Novi also had the corner

kick advantage 5-1. The very next night, the Wildcats headed south again to battle Canton. Novi took the upper hand 10 minutes into the game when a corner kick from Pavlika that found senior Cat Nussio at the near post, for a flick to the far post, where junior Jessie Parvana headed the ball into the goal for an early 1-0 lead.

The 'Cats added to their lead when Dircks flicked a Pavlika throw-in to Nussio for a one-timer. Novi made it 3-0 at halftime with two minutes left in the half when Dircks found Pavlika for a 35-yard rip from the midfield.

Canton got two goals back with 15 and 14 minutes remaining, respectively. However, the Wildcats would regain a lead with nine minutes left when Dircks received a ball over the top from junior Kendall Kramer. Dircks took it in to beat Canton's netminder for a 4-2 lead that would end as the final result.

Novi outshot the Chiefs 10-8 as Antolec had six saves and 10 grabs from off the line, including two Canton corner kicks.

"We got strong games from some new players including Amanda Minissale, Megan Riley and Chloe Allen," O'Leary said.

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

**Novi lady lacrosse notches first victory of season**

Wildcats defeat Rochester Adams 6-4

By Chris Jackett  
Correspondent

With one game under the belt before spring break, Novi's girls lacrosse team is off to a good start for the program's second season.

The Wildcats (1-0) defeated Rochester Adams 6-4 on the road March 25. Senior Morgan Egner (four saves) anchored the goalkeeping duties in the victory.

Novi coach Caitlin Warda said the game was shortened due to weather, but her Wildcats pushed through for a victory.

Junior Megan Paul and freshman Gina Salemi scored two goals apiece to lead Novi to the win. Salemi and senior Jordan Howard assisted on Paul's two goals, while juniors Nicole Lazzara and Haley Parker assisted on Salemi's two goals.

Parker also notched a goal for herself on a penalty shot. Sophomore Alanna Clark scored Novi's final remaining goal off a face-off. She also won six of the Wildcats' 10 face-offs throughout the game.

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

**ON TAP**

Novi's girls lacrosse team (1-0) is off for spring break until a home opener 7 p.m. Monday against Plymouth, which will be followed by trips Wednesday to Northville and April 12 to Farmington, both for 7 p.m. starts.

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SPRING VARSITY SPORTS SCHEDULES

Catholic Central Shamrocks

BASEBALL

All games at 4 p.m. unless noted.  
 4/5 Utica Ford  
 4/6 @Brother Rice, 11 a.m.  
 4/8 @Ortonville-Brandon  
 4/9 @Monroe  
 4/10 Divine Child  
 4/13 DeLaSalle, 2 p.m.  
 4/15 Detroit Western  
 4/16 @Rockford, 3:30 p.m.  
 4/17 @Orchard Lake St. Mary's  
 4/20 University of Detroit, 11 a.m.  
 4/22 @University Liggett  
 4/24 Brother Rice  
 4/25 @Divine Child  
 4/26 Harper Woods, 4:30 p.m.  
 4/29 @Bishop Foley  
 5/1 @DeLaSalle  
 5/4 Orchard Lake St. Mary's, 2 p.m.  
 5/8 @University of Detroit  
 5/11 @CHSL Semifinal, TBA  
 5/16 @CHSL Final, 7 p.m.  
 5/21 @Anchor Bay  
 5/28-6/1 State Districts, TBA  
 6/8 State Regional, TBA  
 6/11 State Quarterfinal, TBA  
 6/14 State Semifinal, TBA  
 6/15 State Final, TBA



4/22 Milliken Millwork Invitational  
 4/22 Holiday Inn Express Invitational  
 4/29 SunTel Services/Seaholm Invite  
 4/29 Walled Lake Invitational, 12:30 p.m.  
 5/6 NextTee Boys/Seaholm Invite  
 5/9 Ann Arbor Pioneer Invitational, 9:15 a.m.  
 5/10 Harbor Springs Ram Invitational  
 5/11 Harbor Springs Ram Invitational, 9 a.m.  
 5/13 Brighton Invitational, 8:30 a.m.  
 5/15 CHSL Championship  
 5/20 Chelsea Invitational, 8:30 a.m.  
 5/20 Grosse Ile Invitational, 9 a.m.  
 5/20 Sailor Invitational, 9 a.m.  
 5/28 Forest Hills Invitational, 7:30 a.m.  
 5/29-6/1 State Districts  
 6/5-6/8 State Regionals  
 6/14-6/15 State Championship

TRACK AND FIELD

All meets at 4 p.m. unless noted.  
 4/8 @University of Detroit  
 4/15 Orchard Lake St. Mary's  
 4/20 @Ypsilanti April Showers Relays, 9 a.m.  
 4/22 @Divine Child  
 4/26 @Jackson, 3 p.m.  
 4/29 @DeLaSalle  
 5/4 @Ossawatomie Relays, 3 p.m.  
 5/6 Brother Rice  
 5/11 @Ann Arbor Huron, 10 a.m.  
 5/17 @State Regional Championship, 2 p.m.  
 5/19 Shamrock Freshman Invitational, 10 a.m.  
 5/21 @CHSL Championship, 2 p.m.  
 5/24 @Oakland County Championship, 3 p.m.  
 5/28 @Larry Steeb Meet, 4:15 p.m.  
 6/1 @State Final, 10 a.m.

LACROSSE

All games at 7 p.m. unless noted.  
 4/3 DeLaSalle  
 4/12 @St. Michael's College, 7:30 p.m.  
 4/13 @Upper Canada College, 3 p.m.  
 4/16 @Brother Rice, 6 p.m.  
 4/23 @University of Detroit  
 4/26 @Culver Academy, 7:30 p.m.  
 4/27 @New Trier, 3 p.m.  
 4/30 Orchard Lake St. Mary's  
 5/2 @Cranbrook, 6:15 p.m.  
 5/7 @Catholic League Semifinals  
 5/11 @CHSL Championship  
 5/14 @Troy Athens  
 5/17 East-West Showcase, TBA  
 5/18 @East-West Showcase, TBA  
 5/16-6/1 State Districts  
 6/5 State Semifinals  
 6/8 State Finals

GOLF

All meets at noon unless noted.  
 4/15 @GC Invitational 1 p.m.  
 4/21 Milliken Millwork Invitational

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PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wildcat goalie Mitch Adams brings the ball upfield during Novi's March 27 visit to Farmington High.

LACROSSE

Continued from page B1

Things seemed to get better two days later at Farmington (0-3) as Novi rolled to an 11-4 victory. Ghannam was again at the tip of Novi's offensive helm with five goals and two assists. Caprara, Buck and Austin Nicholson added two goals each. "The team played much better as a team," Hoffman said. "It was a good team win. All facets of the game went well against Farmington." Adams made eight saves on nine shots before the reserves took over.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi's Mark Ghannam scored on this play during the Wildcats' March 27 visit to Farmington High.

SPORTS BRIEFS

**Recreational softball**  
 Now in its second year, the Kensington Valley Senior Softball League is recruiting players age 55 and up from Northville, Novi, Brighton, Howell and the surrounding areas to form new teams. Season will begin May 28; games will be played at 10 a.m. Tuesdays. Interested players/teams, please contact one of the following for additional info: Charlie Gabbart, Northville Recreation, (248) 449-9947; Tori Heglin, Novi Recreation, (248) 347-0422; Chris Galatis, Howell Recreation, (517) 404-3323.

**Crafters sought**  
 The Novi Athletic Boosters Holiday Kick-off Art & Craft Show will be held at Novi High School on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a juried show, more than 250 booths are available at \$60 each. The show will be spread out in the school's atrium, cafeteria, performance gym and fieldhouse, allowing ample space for all exhibitors. To download the exhibitors application, visit www.noviathleticboosters.com/craft-show. The application deadline is March 1.

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Hurley ranked No. 1 in Midwest age class

By Chris Jackett  
 Correspondent

Like many eighth-graders, Mary Beth Hurley enjoys watching television, playing with her dog and even has her favorite and not-so-favorite school subject. However, this Novi resident also happens to be the top-ranked 14-and-younger girls tennis player in Michigan.

The U.S. Tennis Association currently ranks Hurley, 14, No. 1 in both Michigan and the Midwest region, which includes Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi Middle School student Mary Beth Hurley practices at the Franklin Athletic Club on March 18.

"I started when I was 4 years old," Hurley said. "I wasn't doing that well and now it's all coming together and I'm performing at a high level."

In her most recent G14 tournament action, Hurley won the USTA National Open title 6-1, 6-1 over fellow Michigander Alyvia Jones of Midland on Nov. 23, 2012. Since then, Hurley has taken on older competitors in the G16 and G18 brackets, where she is ranked No. 9 and No. 40 in Southeast Michigan despite being several years younger. Hurley said she is currently ranked 28th nationally in her G14 age class.

"I can always improve on stuff," Hurley said. "I want to be top 10 in the nation and work on my serve so it's a weapon." Spending between two

and four hours per day playing tennis at the Franklin Athletic Club in Southfield or Bloomfield Open Hunt Club in Bloomfield Hills, Hurley said the effort is finally paying off and she doesn't want it to stop.

"I want to be a professional tennis player," Hurley said. "If that doesn't work out, I am interested in being a physical assistant."

She said her biggest word of advice to other young lifelong efforts is to not give up.

"I would just say that you have to work hard and be persistent," Hurley said. "Even if you're not having success at that

point in time, it comes."

With high school on the horizon in the fall, Hurley said she isn't sure if she'll be joining Novi High's highly ranked girls tennis program, which finished 11th in Division I and second in the KLA last spring behind baseline rival Northville.

"I might do it, but I might not," Hurley said. "If I do it, then I can't do all the tournaments, and my ranking might drop."

Points are earned toward a higher USTA ranking by winning matches at various USTA tournaments. Since her G14 national title, Hurley has competed in four G16 tournaments and one G18 tournament, winning three of them, one being the G18 tournament. Each tournament consisted of five-to-seven matches for Hurley.

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



Mary Beth Hurley, a Novi Middle School student, works with a professional tennis coach on March 18 at the Franklin Athletic Club in Southfield.

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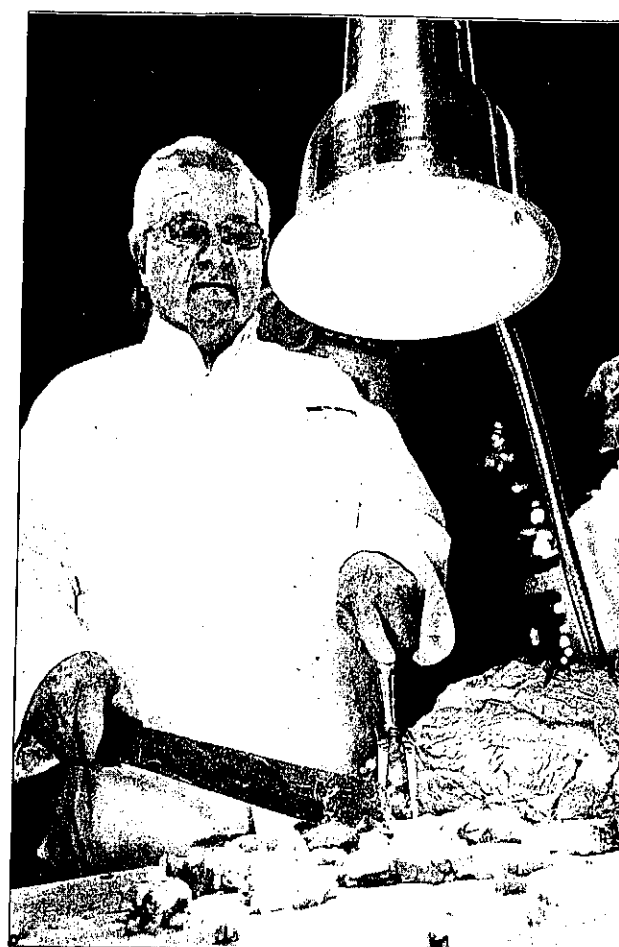
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# BUSINESS

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## Food's good



John Czarniecki, of Michaels and Assoc., carves some roast beef at the March 20 Gordon Food Show at Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace. Michaels and Assoc. is a supplier of Black Angus beef to Gordon Foods. The meeting gathered thousands of cooks, restaurateurs, caterers and food service workers in one hall as they sampled everything needed to keep a kitchen and hungry people going. Gordon Food Service Marketplace was given preliminary site approval by the City of Novi's Planning Commission to bring a shop into Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk.

## Botsford to spend \$7.5 million on facility improvements

As part of the 2013 capital budget, Botsford Hospital's Board of Directors recently approved a \$7.5 million Facility Refresh Plan.

"Our main goal is to give the hospital a warm and inviting, as well as sleek and contemporary, feel that would be conducive to healing," said James Smith, Botsford Hospital's vice president of strategy and business development. "We are building both functional and aesthetic improvements into the Facility Refresh Plan."

Other goals include improving navigation, keeping Botsford competitive with other area hospitals and supporting the hospital's commitment to excellence and quality in the delivery of personal and compassionate health care.



Smith

Smith said that more than 90,000 square feet of space—roughly equivalent to two football fields—is targeted for updates as part of the first phase of the hospital's Master Facility Plan.

"This will serve to strengthen the hospital and refresh our facility, some of which dates to 1965," Smith said.

Public areas where patients and visitors circulate, patient rooms and nurse's stations are the plan's main focus. Updated signs and material finishes are planned to guide visitors more easily to their destinations in the

hospital.

Botsford's clinical staff will provide input about the flow and functionality of the design for patient rooms.

The construction bidding process is continuing through mid-June. By early July, contractors will begin. The improvements should be completed within 24 months of the start of construction. Affected areas will be taken out of service on a scheduled basis through October, 2015.

Botsford has partnered with two outside firms for the Facility Refresh Project.

Prante Moran CRESA of Southfield has worked on project feasibility and provided benchmarking and cost analysis. Design work is being performed by HKS Architects, PC, of Northville.

## NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Salon donates

The Gina Agosta salon in Novi donated six complete outfits and six filled Easter baskets to the Salvation Army of Livingston County for children in families that cannot afford either.

### Friedman hosts clothing drive

Friedman Integrated Real Estate Solutions, a provider of commercial real estate services, will be hosting a professional work clothing drive from April 15-19. The drive will benefit Career Dress, a nonprofit organization that provides work clothes for women in search of employment, and NSO Joe's Place, a nonprofit organization that provides men with dress clothing for work.

"Metro Detroit is expected to add close to 40,000 jobs in the next few years. This charitable initiative is especially important, as it better equips

members of our community who have upcoming interviews, or are starting new jobs," said Stan Finsilver, executive vice president and sponsor of Friedman's Charitable Committee.

Both organizations are in need of gently-used suit outfits including pant suits, jackets, button-up shirts, blouses, slacks, purses, jewelry and closed-toe shoes. To increase the drive's impact on the community, Friedman is encouraging other organizations to join this initiative throughout the Metro Detroit area. Friedman will provide marketing materials to any company that wants to publicize the drive.

In addition, Friedman will be traveling to Farmington Hills, Novi, West Bloomfield, and Southfield to collect donations on Friday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All organizations interested in participating should contact Friedman's Charitable Committee at charitable.committee@freg.com or (248) 324-2000 to register for the drive.

## Manor of Novi gets sub-acute unit

Ciena Healthcare, a manager and operator of skilled nursing and rehabilitation communities in Michigan and Connecticut, recently launched a comprehensive sub-acute unit with a Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) program at its Manor of Novi facility in Novi.

The sub-acute unit will provide a comprehensive program to those recovering from heart ailments with high quality care in a new setting. With the latest in rehabilitation treatments and a highly trained staff, the goal is to help patients achieve their optimal state of health and return home, rather than back to a hospital.

"At Ciena Healthcare, we are committed to being at the forefront of innovative programs, enhancing the overall quality of care for our residents, and the leader in providing health care services important to the communities we serve," said Mohammad Qazi, CEO. "Our goal is to expand specialty units such as this to other Ciena Healthcare facilities where there is a need and where we can make a positive difference."



Lisa Berthold (left) is the Manor of Novi administrator, shown with Kim Johnson, director of nursing.

The sub-acute unit allows physicians to follow CHF patients' progress through an evidenced-based rehabilitation program. The unit combines comprehensive care by a health care team of CHF-trained nurses, certified therapists, licensed social workers and registered dietitians along with patient education and involvement, a cornerstone to the Ciena Healthcare CHF program. Physicians and pharmaceutical

experts work closely with the patient and their support network of family and friends to educate and create highly supervised exercise and diet programs to improve the patient's quality of life.

The CHF sub-acute program aims to address the critically important need to deliver the most advanced care and information to cardiac patients, with the goal of decreasing hospital length of stays and hospital readmissions.

## 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 [www.advantageoakland.com/expand](http://www.advantageoakland.com/expand), or

call (248) 858-0783.

### Small Business Loan Workshop

April 4, 9 a.m. to noon  
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## Co-op foreclosure differs

By Robert Meisner  
Guest Columnist

**Q:** Can you give me some information about a foreclosure in a co-op, as opposed to a condo?  
**A:** First, you get rid of the person not paying the maintenance fees and you get a new shareholder liable for future obligations. In most instances in a co-op, a corporation has a first lien on the share so it is ahead of the bank and gets paid in full before the bank gets dime one.

If the bank forecloses and takes back the apartment, in most instances, a subsequent sale is still subject to board approval.



Robert Meisner

just like any other prospective purchaser of a co-op unit. Moreover, if the bank wants the shares transferred to it, it has to pay all of the back charges and has to stay current going forward. Unfortunately, the opposite is the case in the condo situation.

There is usually a bank ahead of the condo association so in a condo foreclosure, unless there has been an assignment of the mortgage after the association lien is recorded, the bank will take priority, but this issue is the subject of a case where the condo association is seeking leave to appeal with the Michigan Supreme Court.

**Q:** My neighbor just dedicated some land to the city, but, frankly, I believe I had adverse possession to a substantial portion of that land before it was dedicated. I think there is a statute barring adverse possession against the government, so do I have any chance?

**A:** You are best advised to see a condemnation and/or real estate attorney in your jurisdiction, but in a recent case from the appellate court in Washington State, the court indicated on a case with similar facts that the statute providing immunity from adverse possession on a governmental entity did not apply when the adverse possession had occurred while the property was still privately owned. In effect, because the adverse possession was against a private owner and was complete before the dedication, title had vested in the adverse possessor and the former owner had no interest to pass to the city.

**Robert M. Meisner** is a lawyer and author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit [meisner@meisner-law.com](mailto:meisner@meisner-law.com). This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

## Police advocate smarts when it comes to home security

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Lt. Debra Newsum of the Canton Police Department knows exterior illumination goes a long way toward making your home less of a break-in target. "Illuminate your house," said Newsum, special services lieutenant for the Canton department. "I like the motion ones." The motion-activated lights let you know if someone's approaching your home. "Thieves are looking for concealment," she said. "Anything you can do to harden the target is what we tell people."

Many people install home alarm systems, the lieutenant said, and advertise that outside their home with a window sign. She also advocates for good locks on windows and doors. "A solid front door is best, Newsum said, rather than one with a window a thief can break and reach through to open a door. "They look really pretty and they have the beveled glass. You want really a solid, solid door."

Homeowners often put a dowel in a sliding door's track to prevent entry from outside. Newsum said places like Home Depot and Lowe's sell many braces for various doors and windows, but you always have to think about fire safety when getting out quickly from inside, she emphasized. Newsum said many people put screws in tracks to keep windows from going all the way up, and there are also manufactured items for that. Thieves can easily get through just a plain screen open in warm weather, she said.

Newsum and her department have a booklet, "How Secure Is Your Home?" available there. It lists a number of home security tips. "It's not like other communities has a false alarm ordinance which begins with a couple warnings. "It's not etched in stone," she said. "We do try to work with people." Weather can sometimes cause false alarms, she said, adding you can be cited for repeated human error. "Pets can cause trouble with motion-activated alarms, and Newsum doesn't believe those are necessary. "That's huge," she said of keeping an eye out for your neighbors. "Knowing your neighbors are, knowing their patterns." Community Watch in Canton and similar programs in other communities help. "Now most people don't know their neighbors," she said, adding you should only confide vacation plans in a neighbor you trust. Newsum also said snow removal and mowing are key when you're away, along with having newspapers stopped and mail held. She shows the driveway for her neighbor's way.

"All it does is advertise to somebody you're not home," Newsum said. "Crime happens every-

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Dec. 3-7, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.	2480 Woodmont Dr E GARDEN CITY 33721 Alta St 32212 Alvin St 215 Helen St 33451 Kathryn St LIVONIA 16020 Alpine Dr 24950 Andrea Ct 11446 Brockfield St 11473 Cavett St 14147 Deering St 15118 Fairfield St 18820 Filmore St 15097 Inkster Rd 11445 Mayfield St 17526 Parklane St 40255 Largo St 32818 Vermont St 14081 Warner Ct NORTHVILLE 18232 Cedarwood Dr 16196 Crystal Downs E	\$180,000 \$40,000 \$34,000 \$60,000 \$65,000 \$237,000 \$275,000 \$143,000 \$85,000 \$88,000 \$27,000 \$150,000 \$133,000 \$127,000 \$190,000 \$280,000 \$125,000 \$143,000 \$470,000 \$343,000	
49200 Freestone Dr 18744 Grande Vista Dr 738 Grandview St 47820 Manorwood Dr 18088 Maple Hill Ct 19555 Mainier Ct 613 Nova St 24950 Andrea Ct 50431 Rose Ter 48902 Running Trout Ln 39668 Southwind Ln 18417 Stoneridge Ct 41085 Waterfall Rd PLYMOUTH 48040 Ashwood Dr 17526 Parklane St 40255 Largo St 32818 Vermont St 14081 Warner Ct REDFORD 18717 Denby 11336 Garfield 15220 Garfield	\$312,000 \$160,000 \$62,000 \$620,000 \$230,000 \$70,000 \$233,000 \$570,000 \$143,000 \$370,000 \$234,000 \$775,000 \$273,000 \$415,000 \$150,000 \$200,000 \$180,000 \$36,000 \$47,000 \$3,000	19310 Garfield 26500 Greenwood 25337 Vanhoose 15832 Kinloch 17544 MacArthur 9225 Riverview WESTLAND 39358 Abruzzi Dr 7424 August Ave 33921 Avondale St 7652 Cherrywood Dr 37771 Colonial Dr 34615 Ford Rd 8433 Hugh St 35106 June Dr 8270 Perrin Ave 1455 S John Hix St 30471 Steinhauer St 1954 Waltham St	\$35,000 \$14,000 \$11,000 \$13,000 \$45,000 \$54,000 \$40,000 \$218,000 \$85,000 \$120,000 \$167,000 \$34,000 \$31,000 \$63,000 \$16,000 \$86,000 \$43,000 \$65,000 \$85,000

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 19-23, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.	2351 Yorkshire Rd BLOOMFIELD HILLS 5900 Forest Way 3875 Lakeland 1149 Ivyglen Cir 739 Kenneboc Ct 3068 South Blvd 1910 Tierton Rd 6984 Woodbank Dr BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP 1238 Copperwood Dr 488 Fox Hills Dr S A-7 COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP 6124 Borowy Dr 2015 Glen Iris Dr 3276 Lechmere Ct 3785 Thomas Ct FARMINGTON 39376 Glenview Dr FARMINGTON HILLS 32239 Alameda St	\$122,000 \$320,000 \$850,000 \$194,000 \$450,000 \$150,000 \$2,200,000 \$170,000 \$660,000 \$55,000 \$193,000 \$167,000 \$200,000 \$196,000 \$138,000 \$57,000
40788 Lenox Park Dr 47346 Scarlet Dr N 30340 Westview Dr 39805 Village Wood Ln 47250 W 11 Mile Rd SOUTH LYON 54995 Brentwood Dr 24627 Bromption Way 24356 Glenwood Dr 1155 Horseshoe Dr 24849 Martindale Rd 195 Wellington Ln SOUTHFIELD 27590 Bradford Ln 30130 Brentwood 19467 Madol Dr 30271 Spring River Dr WHITE LAKE 737 Hilltop Dr 964 Sunnybeach Blvd	\$225,000 \$230,000 \$233,000 \$60,000 \$90,000 \$40,000 \$40,000 \$40,000 \$240,000 \$184,000 \$160,000 \$190,000 \$150,000 \$69,000 \$79,000 \$95,000 \$203,000 \$67,000	

### REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

**Investors**  
A program on "Do It Yourself Rental Property Management" will be held 5:30-9:30 p.m., Thursday, April 11, at Club Venetian, on John R. just north of 12 Mile in Madison Heights. It's being offered by the Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland. The seminar is free to members, \$20 for nonmembers. Call (800) 747-6742, www.REIAofOakland.com, or e-mail [reia@aol.com](mailto:reia@aol.com).

Many investors think renting out their investment property is easy, but that's not the case. There will be a class 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 6, at the Royal Oak Senior Center, on Marais, also sponsored by the Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland. It's part of a series of 10 classes, and will cover "Financial Analysis of Investing." Cost is \$49 plus \$10 for materials.

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# Car Report

## Advertising Feature

### New Ford campaign positions EcoBoost as 'And Not Or'



By Dale Buss

Ford is planning an expansive new advertising campaign beginning next month, but with a twist—at least for Ford. The new initiative will begin with traditional TV and print treatments and only then segue into an extensive social media and digital phase. Lately, Ford has gotten a reputation for doing just the opposite.

But the main point of this effort, which Ford is calling its "And Not Or" campaign, is to highlight the fact that buyers can have great fuel economy with Ford's EcoBoost engines as well as other important attributes of Ford vehicles including roominess, styling and performance.

"We're going to communicate good fuel economy, but we're the brand that gives you 'and' as well—for example, fuel economy with functionality," Scott Kelly, Ford's marketing-communications manager, told me. "It's a unique proposition. Our brand promise is that we 'Go Further.' With this, we're trying to underscore that we are the brand that goes further."

Another primary goal, Kelly said, is to fortify Ford's position in what the company has defined as the "super segment" of the vehicle market that is comprised of small cars and small SUVs—or, in Ford's case, the Fiesta, Focus and Fusion cars and Escape SUV. Much of the industry's growth is expected to occur in those mileage-sensitive parts of the market over the next few years.

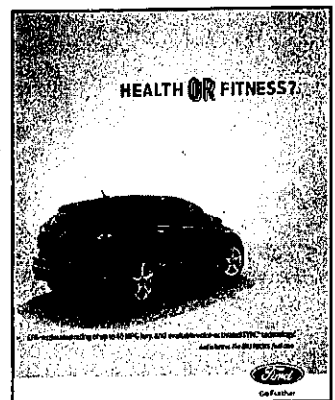
And while 2013 presents a bit of a lull for Ford in terms of important new small vehicles, he said, "This is a year of sustenance, so we're making bigger state-

ments about the brand."

The "And Not Or" campaign will unfold with humor-based TV and print advertisements that begin with a television ad for Focus that poses the absurdity of ordering "sweet or sour chicken" at a Chinese restaurant. Other creative executions will be based on concepts including "black or white photography" and "rock or roll music."

"We know humorous ads do better on TV and they're more interesting to watch," Kelly said. "You'll see an even mix of humor and information, all around the idea that 'and' is better than 'or.'"

And while EcoBoost has skyrocketed in popularity with American automotive consumers, as well as awareness—about 50 percent of Americans already are aware of the engine sub-brand—Ford wants to build on its success. To do so, he explained, TV and print are the best tools "for building mass awareness. Then we'll use digital to explain more about what



Ford's new ad campaign: "And Not Or."

EcoBoost is."

Of course, this is exactly the opposite approach of what Ford recently has made a specialty among automotive advertisers: teasing with social media marketing efforts and then bringing in traditional media treatments. That's what it is doing currently, for instance, with the second execution of its Ford Fiesta campaign that Ford debuted three years ago by "seeding" the new car with 100 bloggers and other online influencers.

The "And Not Or" campaign will be "huge," Kelly said, covering the rest of 2013 and involving six of Ford's key nameplates overall. In marketing terms, he said, it really will comprise a big way for Ford to "Go Further."

"A big message is fuel economy," he said. "You've got perception versus reality. Perception doesn't equal what we actually have. In every segment where we compete we actually beat Toyota on fuel economy. So we're trying to change perceptions. The top purchase reasons for people now are all about fuel economy; that's No. 1 on their lists for what vehicles they'll consider."

So, Kelly said, this campaign in part is a reflection of Ford's efforts "to figure out Ford's unique positioning on fuel economy. Every brand just seems to be communicating EPA numbers, and it's getting more and more cluttered. Especially be-



The new 2014 Ford Fiesta will be featured in the campaign.

cause there is a lot more scrutiny of the EPA numbers these days" by regulators, "you also have to be clear that the numbers are 'EPA-estimated.' Your message can get drowned out.

"So we're going to communicate good fuel economy, but we're the brand that gives you 'and'—as in, fuel economy with functionality."

For example, Kelly said, Ford's approach already has been evident in how it has positioned its new C-Max hybrid versus the Toyota Prius V: as a new offering which provides not only better mileage but also better driving performance as well as roominess.

Also, Ford has been advertising the popular EcoBoost option on its F-150 trucks, touting the fact that its best-selling vehicle provides not only segment-leading fuel economy but also towing and performance capabilities that pickup-truck owners demand.

"We," Kelly said, "give you both."

"And not or."

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