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The Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair welcomes the assistance of community volunteers. Anyone interested in contributing time as a fair volunteer can apply at www.michiganstatefairinc.com/volunteers.

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Vaccinate your child now before the back-to-school rush. Oakland County Health Division offers immunizations at two locations: 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Building 34 East, in Pontiac, and 27725 Greenfield Road, in Southfield.

Clarification: symphony auditions

Regarding student musician auditions as announced in the Aug. 15 story, anyone interested in auditioning must complete an audition packet and have their request confirmed prior to audition date. Packets and additional information are available at www.detroit-mys.org or by calling audition coordinator Judy Darby at 248-684-6058.

NOVI NEWS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2013 • hometownlife.com

NOVI CHARTER CHANGES TO GO BEFORE VOTERS

Five proposed for Nov. 5 election ballot

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

City of Novi voters may see on their Nov. 5 election ballot five proposals to amend the city charter in regard to gender neutrality, publications, posting ordinances, withdrawal of funds and general administrative plan.

City Council unanimously approved a resolution to submit

the ballot proposals to the Attorney General's Office and Governor's Office for approval.

Former Mayor David Landry, part of a seven-member charter review committee, said the charter was last reviewed in 1977, and these ballot proposals are an effort to modernize it. He said the goal was not to pick and choose, but to look at the entire charter from start to finish in order to prioritize the changes they deemed necessary.

The other six members are Mayor Bob Gatt; council members Wayne Wrobel and Laura

Marie Casey; City Manager Clay Pearson; City Clerk Maryanne Cornelius; and longtime resident Fil Superfisky.

Landry said they came up with 19 suggested changes, which were then whittled down to five ballot proposals. The state requires the questions be 100 words or less and in neutral language that addresses the specific language changes being proposed.

The changes will not impact taxes or millage rates, and

See CHARTER, Page A2

FUTURE 'GEM'



A group involved in the development of Novi's Pavilion Park Shore visit the park, along the south shore of Walled Lake, in preparation for the grand opening on Aug. 24. Shown (l to r) are Aaron Staup, construction engineer; Matt Wiktorowski, Novi Field Services manager; Jim Hess, oversaw daily construction efforts at the park; and Jason Mangum, director of Novi Parks and Recreation. JOHN HEDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pavilion Shore Park set for opening

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

It's almost time to open Pavilion Shore Park to the public and let everyone see what it has become - and what it will become in the near future.

The changes taking place at the Novi park, located at 43390 13 Mile, are evident to all who have been by it lately. Over the past several months, the piles of dirt have been removed and new amenities have been installed. Construction is nearing completion, said Jason Mangum, Novi's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services director.

See PARK, Page A3

GRAND OPENING SATURDAY

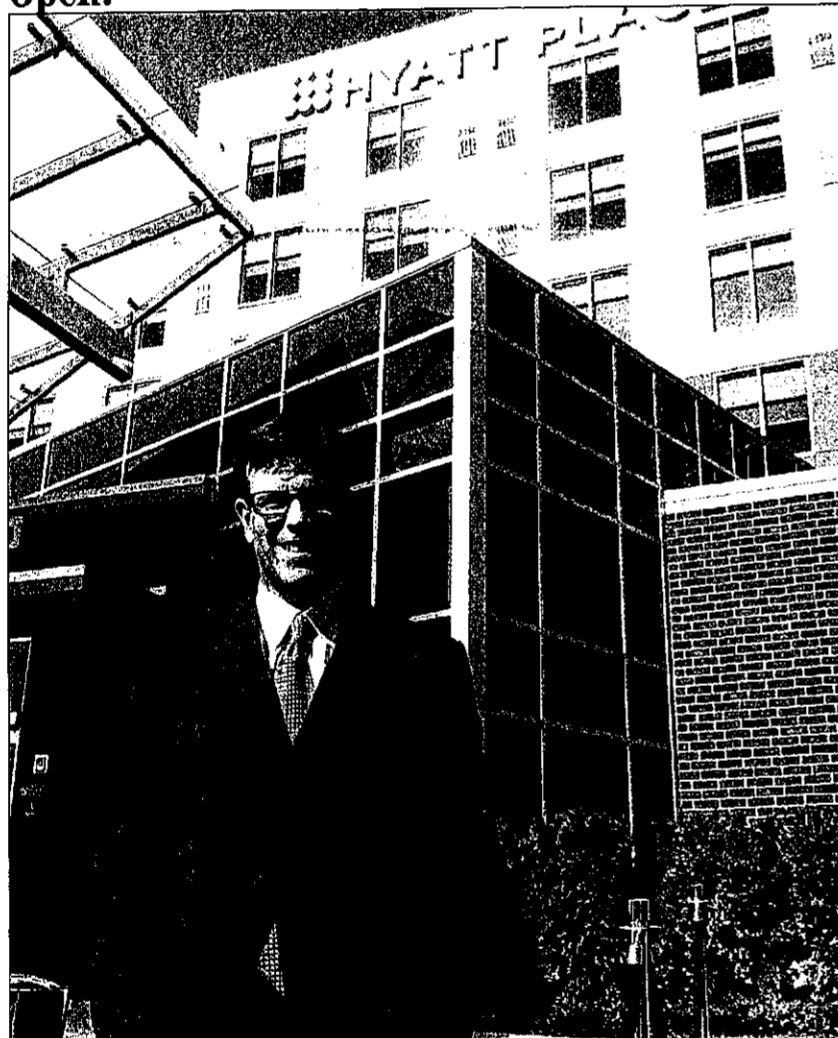
The grand opening celebration is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24. This will be a free event that will include a picnic lunch, fishing, games, live music, model boat demonstrations, and more. The official dedication will take place at 11:15 a.m.

Parking is available onsite, and shuttles will run from Lakeshore Park (601 South Lake Drive) for overflow parking.

The celebration is presented in partnership with Oakland County Parks, Gander Mountain, Arts Novi, Metro-West Steelheaders, Michigan Scale Model Boat Club, Novi Concert Band and the Novi Historical Commission.

See EVOLVING, Page A2

Open!



Blair Bowman, owner of the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, stands in front of the new Hyatt Place, which is located on the east side of the facility. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Tuesday morning to unveil the new hotel, opening just in time for the Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair on Labor Day weekend. For more photos and a video of the ceremony, visit www.novinews.com. CAL STONE | NOVI NEWS

The way we cover Novi is evolving fast

I started reading a newspaper from cover to cover at about age 10. My older brother, Roy, was a prep football star and my mom got out the scissors every time he made the paper. Dad coached football so it was just about religion in our house. By the time our gridiron hero graduated from high school, that scrapbook was three inches thick and full of memories. I didn't know it at



Larry Kuehlen

the time, but my mother's devotion to poring over those pages forged a connection to community newspapers that still resonates with me today. Our mission of informing

and enhancing the lives of readers has been constant, but just about everything else has changed. The biggest difference between then and now is how fast news travels. Papers still arrive at the house and our readers - some with scissors in hand - still want to know who is getting married, which family welcomed a baby into the house and what business is opening down the road.

But our readers also want to know what is going on as news develops, and we are evolving to meet the challenge. In case you haven't noticed, we have even changed the name of our company to O & E Media to better reflect not only what we do, but our commitment to the future of community journalism.

See EVOLVING, Page A2

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Wixom market

Perennial flower seller Kathy Kramer begins to set out her product at the Aug. 8 Wixom Farmers Market. The market, which runs 3-8 p.m. each Thursday and is followed by musical groups, takes place at Sibley Square Park along Pontiac Trail east of Wixom Road. JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



EVOLVING

Continued from Page A1

The name of the your hometown paper hasn't changed but the way our journalists cover the news certainly has. We are committed to breaking news online and engaging readers as stories unfold through social media. When a beloved prep football star died unexpectedly, Sports Editor Ed Wright reached out to the community, wrote a compelling account of what happened and had it online at our website, www.hometownlife.com, in hours. A link to the story was posted on our Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/OEHometown and within two days thousands of people had read the story before it hit newstands.

Photographer Bill Bresler was shooting video a short time after a major fire broke out in Westland. Our digital readers knew that a serious situation was unfolding, and we reported that a firefighter was missing long before other outlets had a sense of what was

going on. Again, thousands of our readers were aware of the news as it occurred and many mourned the loss of the firefighter on our Facebook page.

When it comes to election coverage, we're the first to post local results and comments from those winning offices. We also post crime news online every day, not just on Thursday and Sunday. And we're interacting with readers on Facebook, both through the overall OEHometown page, as well as the Novi News page.

We cherish every reader who subscribes to one of our 13 newspapers and are proud of the work we do in print. But we also want to encourage people to visit hometownlife.com every day. Our site truly has something for everyone. Our reporters are in the communities they cover, writing about interesting people, events and issues that hit home. We have special sections that focus on women, families, area events and lifestyle.

If there's a community festival in western Wayne or Oakland counties, O & E Media is likely covering it with a story, photo

gallery and video. Our devoted readers already know that we have the best prep sports coverage around, but they may not know that we now feature college sports online too thanks to our new partnership, Gannett Michigan. Hometownlife.com also has enough state, national and world news to keep readers informed without getting overwhelmed.

And just in case you aren't convinced to make us part of your digital routine, we also give away plenty of prizes like tickets to the Detroit Tigers, Detroit Lions and just about every concert that comes through town.

So bookmark hometownlife.com and come back often. Like us on Facebook and follow breaking news on Twitter @Hometownlife. The news we cover is all about you, so don't be left out.

Larry Ruelien is managing editor of digital content & audience development for O & E Media. Contact him at: lruelien@hometownlife.com, 313-222-8730 or on Twitter @Hometownlife

CHARTER

Continued from Page A1

Landry said the passage of these proposals will "ultimately be up to the voters."

According to Landry, proposed ballot question No. 1 is a comprehensive change, similar to that undertaken by other communities, that re-states the charter in gender-neutral language. It would remove, for example, the various references to "he," "him," and "his" when identifying the tasks of the legislative and administrative officials in the city.

Landry said proposed ballot questions No. 2 and 3 would seek to modernize the publication requirements when the city needs to provide notice of some action that has been taken or will be taken. Instead of requiring publication in a newspaper or posting at City Hall, the city would be allowed to post notices on its website or elsewhere, where publication requirements are not already dictated by some state law or other requirement.

No. 4 seeks to update the city's administrative plan to reflect how administration actually is conducted; to accommodate the need for flexibility in the provision of services and to combine related sections in a single description of the administrative plan.

No. 5 deals with the requirement of Section 8.10 that requires, in addition to authorization and budget appropriation for spending by City Council, two signatures on a "check" drawn on the city's account. This does not reflect the modern approach to payment of amounts due. Eliminating this section would remove the requirement for a "check" but not the existing requirements for approval of expenditures and budget appropriations, which will remain in the charter.

The proposals must be certified by the Attorney General by Aug. 27 to appear on the ballot. The city expects to hold town hall meetings in the coming months. To learn more, go to <http://cityofnovi.org/Government/CharterReviewCommittee.asp>.

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PARK

Continued from Page A1

"Things have gone really well," said Mangum of the project to renovate the city-owned property along Walled Lake. "We are excited because it's really beginning to take shape. Once the grass comes in and we put some other finishing touches, it will be a gem for the community."

Project details

The development of the 11-acre park was largely funded by a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant in the amount of \$437,500. A funding match of 30 percent (\$137,500) was required, of which \$30,000 was donated by the Novi Parks Foundation.

Prior to the work, the park was meadow grass with a lot of open space that was mowed occasionally. The water front was not in good shape with pieces of cement and metal along it.

The new park will provide access to Walled Lake with a fishing pier and boardwalk. The construction included putting in landscape walls and terrace, two parking areas, shoreline stabilization, and native plantings.

Mangum said it's their hope the park will promote active lifestyles with plentiful pathways and offer green open space for a variety of activities. The park opening marks the completion of phases one and two included in the five-phase conceptual plan.

"Pavilion Shore Park enhances Novi's comprehensive park system with unique amenities for fishing and walking and a stone terrace with great views of Walled Lake," said Mangum. "We are excited about the park and look forward to citizens enjoying it." To learn more about Pavilion Shore Park and additional park facilities, visit cityofnovi.org.

lhuhman@hometownlife.com | 248-437-2011, Ext. 255, Twitter: @lhuhman



A look at the park before the renovations. This is where the new pier is now located.



Novi's new Pavilion Shore Park, as seen from the corner of Old Novi Road and 13 Mile. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

State fair taking health, safety precautions

Organizers for the Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair have a precautionary plan to protect the health and safety of the animals that will be on display and the people who will be attending the family-friendly event Labor Day weekend at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

"We're taking proactive steps to protect fair goers and animals again this year by

partnering with Elite Surface Shield to ensure the health and safety of our animals and attendees, making our fair one of Michigan's only bio-secure events," said Mike Watts, executive director of the fair.

Elite Surface Shield (www.elitesurfaceshield.com)

is a Novi-based company that provides a unique antimicrobial technology which effectively controls and protects people, animals and the planet against bacteria, mold, yeast, algae and fungi. ESS protectants are also widely used on electronic products, athletic equipment, water crafts and recreational vehicles.

All of the fair's high-touch surfaces - including concession areas, animal pens and restrooms - will be treated with ESS's long-lasting, non-toxic, antimicrobial protective coating. The protectant lasts from 50 to 90 days and works around the clock to protect against the spread of viruses and infectious diseases.

In addition to the anti-bacterial protectant, fair goers will

have easy access to numerous hand washing and sanitizing stations throughout the fairgrounds. Additionally, all live-stock - including dairy cows, beef cattle, sheep, goats, rabbits, poultry, pigs and horses - will be closely inspected prior to being cleared for participation and competition at the fair. Visit www.MichiganStateFair.LLC.com for more fair details.

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CC school year starts with new program

Bring Your Own Device requires iPad purchase

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Many schools don't start until after Labor Day, but for Detroit Catholic Central students the school year is well under way — and there's a lot to look forward this year.

"The year has started off really good, but it will get a bit more difficult soon enough," said senior Daniel Collins. "We are excited, especially the seniors. The football season is always a great time of the year."

CC started on Aug. 14, and with the new year comes a new way of doing things in the classroom called Bring Your Own Device. Freshman, sophomore and junior students for 2013-2014 school year are required to purchase an Apple iPad device for school use, while seniors are exempt from the requirement. "We've been busy working trying to make sure the trans-



Detroit Catholic Central World History teacher Dave Wilson begins the second full day of classes for students on Aug. 15. All students, except seniors, are expected to bring and utilize iPads to all of their classes as they're being incorporated into CC's curriculum. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

students at the Novi school. Even though he is not required to have one, Collins said many of the students like the idea.

"It's an exciting new way of learning. I think many of us and teachers are really looking forward to seeing how this will work," he said. The first all-school mass was celebrated on Aug. 15, which was the Feast of the Assumption. Waterstradt said they were honored to have Bishop Ronald Fabbro, from the Diocese of London, Ontario, present the mass.

Looking forward, the next big event is CC's homecoming week and Boys' Bowl, which is a yearly football match up between the Shamrocks and another Catholic school. This year it's against De La Salle. This will definitely be a big week for the seniors. "We can't wait. It's always a fun week," said Collins, a varsity football player.

Dan Waterstradt

tion goes as smoothly as possible. As with all new things, undoubtedly there will be some bumps along the way," said CC Admissions/Public

Relations Director Dan Waterstradt. These will eventually replace the traditional text books as all materials go online. CC

selected iPads because they have the greatest compatibility with book publishers from among all of the devices available. There are nearly 1,100

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Costs associated with athletics worth the lessons learned

How do parents know that a new school year is about to start? They have to spend money, of course.

While that is not entirely true, most parents, when August rolls around, begin to spend money to get their children ready for school. There are backpacks and new shoes, new clothes and probably a haircut.

A new back-to-school expense in recent years has been the cost associated with participation in



Steve Matthews
SUPER TALK

extra-curricular activities. The most visible manifestation is the pay-to-participate fee associated with athletics.

Here in Novi the cost for high school athletic participation is \$175 and for middle school athletic participation it is \$75. Our pay-to-participate funds are deposited into

the General Fund because the athletic budget is part of the General Fund as required by law. The revenues generated from pay-to-play then are used to offset the expenses that we have in athletics.

Why do we charge a fee to participate in extra-curricular activities? Economics.

The Novi Community School District budget for athletic expenses for 2013-2014 will be \$775,253 dollars. This is the same amount of money that

was allocated in 2012-2013.

We have approximately 1,000 high school students who participate in athletics and approximately 500 middle school students. That is roughly one out of every two students who attend our middle and high school. While we have caps on individual expense and family expense, if we assumed that everyone paid the full fee, we generate revenue of approximately \$175,000 at the high school and \$37,500 at the middle school in pay-to-participate fees for a total of \$212,500.

The purpose of pay-to-participate is to offset some of the expenses associated with athletics. The cost of athletics is more than the revenue generated through pay-to-participate, but our district believes athletics is important and so we continue to fund it.

We receive a set amount of revenue from the state — our per pupil revenue. That revenue pays for the expenses associated with running our comprehensive academic and extracurricular program. The primary expense is for our employees — teachers, administrators, bus drivers, Food Service staff, secretaries, technology workers, etc.

After paying for our employees, then pay for the other programs that we believe are valuable. Out of our per pupil state funding, we pay for technology and textbooks, and classroom supplies and lab supplies. We pay for lawn mower repairs, toilet paper, and

paper towels. We pay to heat and cool our buildings. There are a lot of things that we pay for in order to maintain quality in our school district.

Because revenue is limited we look for additional ways to support programs that are valuable but for which we don't have enough money to fully fund. Athletics happens to be an area where we can generate revenue to support the program.

In the past school districts did not charge a pay-to-participate fee. That was when local districts controlled both the revenue and the expenses. Now we control expenses but not revenue.

We do have additional revenue streams but they cannot pay for personnel. For example, our sinking fund pays for building repairs and cannot be used for general fund expenses or people. There is a legitimate concern about school budgets. Our community deserves to know how we spend our money and how we fund programs. If we did not have a pay-to-participate fee we would have to find another way to raise that revenue or cut programs.

The revenue generated from pay-to-participate helps to pay for uniforms and referees. It pays for transportation to events. It pays for supplies and equipment. It pays for coaches. But it does not pay for everything.

The Novi Athletic Booster group provides financial support. That support is greatly appreciated.

But even with their support, the district continues to budget money for athletics.

Some teams also have additional fundraising activities. Concern expressed about additional expectations is justified. Our athletic budget pays for the basic program.

The additional revenue some athletic teams collect through selling cookies, selling coupon books, or asking parents for a one-time additional donation for the program provides for things that our athletic budgets do not cover. The teams and coaches are under no pressure to collect extra revenue but many (most) do because they want to provide an extra perk, if you will, to those who participate on the team.

Does the cost of participating in extra-curricular athletics require more from parents? Yes.

Is the cost worth it? I believe that it is because athletic participation helps reinforce to our young students things they learn in class. It teaches teamwork and leadership. It teaches how to set goals and work hard to achieve them. It teaches students how to get up after they have been knocked down. It teaches students how to work with others to accomplish a big goal.

There is a cost associated with these lessons. But it is a cost that I believe is worth it.

Dr. Steve Matthews is superintendent of Novi Community Schools. He can be reached at 248-449-1204 or smathews@novi.k12.mi.us.

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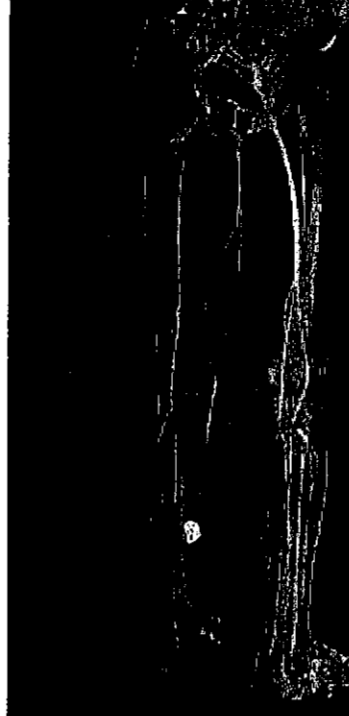
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Sciatica is a compression of the sciatic nerve, usually by an L4 or L5 disc herniations. As you know, sciatica can be a very painful problem, even crippling at times.

Nothing's worse than feeling great mentally, but physically feeling held back from life because your back or sciatica hurts and the pain just won't go away!

Fortunately, if you are suffering from any of these problems, they may be relieved or eliminated by non-surgical spinal decompression combined with cold laser therapy.

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A medical study found patients went from moderately painful to almost no pain with decompression treatments. Those that took pain pills improved less than 5%.

- Am Society of Anesthesiologist, 2006 Chicago, IL

Another study presented at the American Academy of Pain Management in 2007 showed...

"Patients reported a mean 88.9% improvement in back pain and better function... No patient required any invasive therapies (e.g. epidural injections, surgery)." These are just two studies out of a dozen done in the last few years, all showing promising results.

Finally, You Have an Option Other Than Drugs or Surgery

New research in a treatment called low level laser therapy, or cold laser, is having a profound effect on patients suffering with pain. Unlike the cutting type of laser seen in movies and used in medical procedures, cold laser penetrates the surface of the skin with no heating effect or damage.

Cold laser therapy has been tested for 40 years, had over 2000 papers published on it,

Here's What Our Patients Had To Say...

"I had low back pain and leg pain...I couldn't sit or bend. After spinal decompression, I am doing amazing. I can play soccer again, and play with my son. The Decompression felt good, it released the pain from my lower back and leg."
- George R.

"I had severe leg pain...After Dr. Kramer put me on spinal decompression, it made a TREMENDOUS difference in eliminating the pain, and it felt good. I am now able to do the things I was accustomed to doing on a daily basis."
- Tyrone B.

"I had excruciating lower back pain. I could hardly move, sit or walk. Dr. Kramer provided IMMEDIATE relief, and now I have been pain free for over 7 months. I feel RE-BORN again!"
- Rosie B.

"I had terrible back pain that went down my leg for 7 months with no relief...After seeing Dr. Kramer, I'm able to work long hours and carry things I couldn't before. It's like a miracle to me."
- Sister Marie R.

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and been shown to aid in damaged tissue regeneration, decrease inflammation, relieve pain and boost the immune system. This means that there is a good chance cold laser therapy could be your pain solution, allowing you to live a more active lifestyle.

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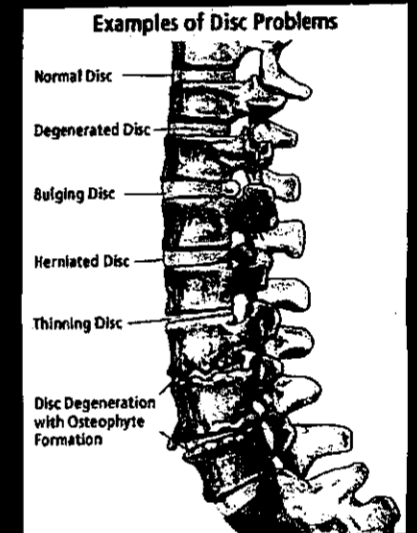
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The 3-Day Walk for the Cure begins on Aug. 16 around 7:30 a.m. in Novi as breast cancer fighters stroll along Grand River Avenue west of Beck. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A path to a cure

Local walkers take on battle against breast cancer

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

The 1,000 walkers who made the three-day, 60-mile trek in the annual Susan G. Komen Michigan 3-Day to beat breast cancer drew a lot of praise and love from supporters along the route.

But one woman who came in for a large batch of support, as well as providing her own dose of inspiration, traveled the entire 60-mile course without ever setting foot on the path.

JoAnn Thomas of Sterling Heights, a one-year breast cancer survivor, spent the entire walk in a wheelchair, the victim of a broken foot suffered just two weeks before the event. Even more impressively, her boyfriend Frank Woodward pushed Thomas the entire 60 miles in her wheelchair.

"I wanted to walk last year, but my oncologist wouldn't allow it," said Thomas, who said she immediately began focusing on this year's walk. "Then this (pointing to the large cast on her leg) happened. I was devastated."

Woodward, who said he and Thomas have been dating for some six months, saw the disappointment in his partner's eyes and the answer was simple.



By 8 a.m. on Friday most of the group that had begun at Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace had passed Beck Road as they headed west along Grand River Avenue.

"It's just overwhelming. They're cheering and I didn't really do anything. All the women who fight (cancer) did something. It's so emotional, it's an amazing event."

RHONDA MILLER
Canton

"I couldn't let her miss out on this," he said. Rhonda Miller of Canton, in her first time walking, found the event to be inspirational. Miller walked in honor of her best friend, three-year survivor Amy Siebert, to raise money "so they can find a cure so younger kids don't have to go through" breast cancer.

Miller was moved to tears by the support shown as the walkers made their way along

ing the route was doing so in honor of someone or in memory of loved ones who've passed away.

Luckily for Alicia Paulina of Milford, her hometown is still battling. Her sister, Angela Horvath of Gregory, is a one-year survivor who couldn't make the walk. So Paulina made it for her.

"I want to support her and all of these other women," said Paulina, who made the walk for the first time. "She's my sister. You do anything for your family."

Not all of the support for the event comes in the form of walkers. Nearly as many volunteers, crew, safety and medical folks are on hand, supporting the walk in various ways.

Lisa Kubany of Westland parked her car at the entrance to one of the pit stops along the route Friday. Walkers stopped by to sign their names in a show of solidarity.

"I'm doing this out of pure love and hope that one day we will never have to fight this disease again," Kubany said. "I lost a good friend's mother to this disease and my mother-in-law is now a five-year survivor. So I do this out of love and hope."

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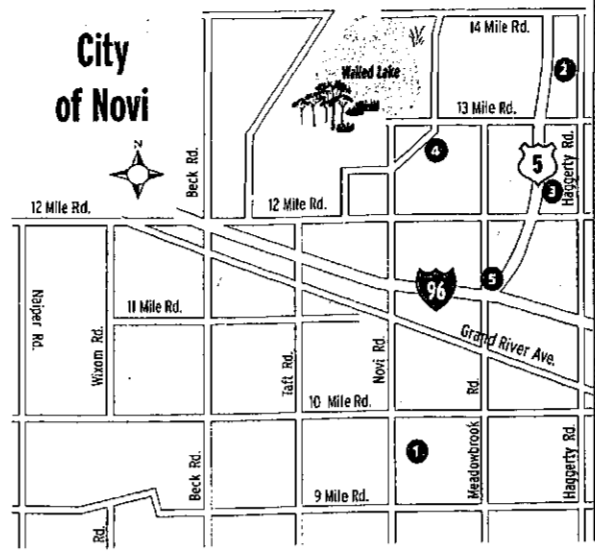
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NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

iPad stolen at Novi Ice Arena

A Plymouth woman had her iPad stolen from her vehicle, which was parked at the Novi Ice Arena at 42400 Nick Lidstrom Drive on Aug. 13. She reported to police that her iPad was hidden underneath the seat, but the vehicle may have been unlocked. There were no signs of forced entry. There are no suspects.

Batteries stolen from site

Eleven batteries were stolen from six heavy-construction pieces at a site on Cabot and Mackenzie drives sometime on Aug. 13-14. An unknown suspect took the batteries from some Caterpillar diesel equip-

ment and a hi-low. There were no witnesses or evidence to indicate a suspect.

Tire slashed

A vehicle parked at the Art Institute of Michigan had its tire slashed on Aug. 13. It was reported that the front passenger side tire had been slashed by an unknown person while parked on Cabot Drive. The victim found the tire flat and had it taken to Discount Tire where the slashing was discovered.

Air Conditioning Unit Stolen

An AC unit was stolen from a foreclosed home located on Hearthstone Drive sometime in the last month. It was reported to Novi Police

by a representative of Coldwell Banker. Police found a copper pipe leading to the missing unit had been cut. The unit was valued at \$1,000.

Marijuana Possession

A Brighton man was arrested for violation of the medical marijuana law and possession of a dangerous concealed weapon on Aug. 4. Novi Police stopped the man on eastbound M-5 after spotting him driving erratically on I-96. He reportedly barely made the exit to M-5. Upon making contact with him, police reported smelling the marijuana inside the vehicle. A search turned up marijuana and paraphernalia, and a knife.

Compiled by staff writer Lonnie Huhman.

Dembs CSC trial set for Oct. 21

Dr. Jeffrey Lee Dembs, 61, a former doctor at My Kid's Doc office in Novi, is accused of criminal sexual conduct and will go to trial, set for Oct. 21 by Oakland

County Circuit Judge Shalina Kumar. Dembs is charged with one count of first degree and two counts of second degree CSC, each with a person younger than 13. More

than 70 incidents with a teenage friend of the family and patient allegedly occurred at the West Bloomfield residence, in Las Vegas and on a boat starting spring 2009.

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Email your essay to: cbjordan@hometownlife.com
Subject line: "PAWS FOR APPLAUSE"
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Sat., Aug 26th 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Plymouth Ice Fest organizer owes money

Wixom-based Signature owes city \$20,000

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

With the Plymouth Ice Festival's executive producer missing in action, bills from this year's event unpaid and no plans for a festival next year, downtown Plymouth boosters recently put together a team to organize a show for January 2014.

Sam Walton, whose Wixom-based Signature Professional Group produced four ice festivals beginning with the one in 2010, has not returned calls or emails in recent months, those who have worked with him say, and has outstanding debts from the 2013 festival, including a bill of around \$20,000 for

city services, such as cleanup and public safety.

In Walton's absence, Tony Bruscato, operations director of the Downtown Development Authority, and Wes Graff, president of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, have enlisted people familiar with event production and fundraising to run the 32nd annual ice festival. The festival is planned for Kellogg Park and downtown streets for the second weekend in January.

"We would rather Walton show up and lead the production, but we felt we had to step in to make sure there was possibly going to be one," Bruscato said. He described his and Graff's role as "guiding the process," while others, including a fundraiser who previously worked with Wal-

ton, actually produce it.

'Owes a lot'
Paul Raukar of Ice Dream Sculptures, where his wife, Tajana, is the chief ice-carver, said Walton owes him "a lot" of money for work they did for the 2013 show. Raukar said they made 65 single-block carvings for show sponsors.

"He never paid us," for the 2013 show, Raukar said Friday. "We had some problems that year before," but eventually got paid, he added. "We're just disappointed after all the work we did for him," Raukar said. "He doesn't return phone calls or anything anymore."

Raukar wouldn't say exactly how much he and his wife are owed. Calls to Walton Thursday and Friday went to voice mail and were not returned.

Bruscato said the festival is an important event for downtown business owners, bringing people in during what is normally a slow retail month. He said he and Graff are confident the show will go on.

Back to basics
Organizers, Bruscato said, want to get back to the basics of ice sculptures "so that when people get to the park, they'll be wowed by some of the spectacular sculptures." Some of the non-ice-carving activities, Bruscato said, could be

dropped.

Bob Parent, owner of Sun and Snow, the downtown sports goods shop, applauded the efforts toward a 2014 show and said his business "will do anything and everything we can to promote it." Sun and Snow has been a major festival sponsor, particularly of its winter sports events, like a cross country skiing course.

"The last guy that did it, we haven't heard from," Parent said. "We were concerned." The ice festival had been run as a nonprofit, overseen by a citizens committee, but the committee disbanded last December and Walton said he would try to run the festival as a profit-making enterprise.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
313-222-2405
Twitter: @mattjachman

'Great' folks feel the drive to succeed

When hard pressed to answer the question "Has the bar that determines 'great' been raised or lowered during the first decade plus 3 of the 21st century?" - the debate that rages on both sides of the aisle would find little solace in "it depends" as a response.

Each example provided by the staunchest believer can be countered by some aspect of that example that dims the light that has been shed.

It is not enough to say a person or an organization has demonstrated "greatness" through a single act or a specific moment in time. The media landscape is abundant with scripted processes that are designed to bend the bar just enough for there to be an acknowledged "winner" and offering up a newly-crowned talent

and have sustained what they do through single-minded consistency.

It is not to suggest that there has been no adjustment to the changing times, but it can be argued that greatness becomes the standard when there has been adjustment. The hallmark of great people and great businesses is the consistency of their performance across a spectrum of time and a body of work that encompasses change but does not abandon core principles. There is comfort that comes from the consistency of a product (i.e., the light bulb) or a service (i.e., phone service) and its reliability when it is time to perform.

The same expectation occurs when individuals are called upon to consistently perform across a body of work and reliably deliver the best outcomes.

We reward those individuals with titles that capture their consistency. Their titles are earned and reflect their ability to be a 'force' in

the minds and hearts of those whom they have touched.

The process of becoming 'great' is not determined by audience vote or instant replay, but the willingness to recognize that when greatness is in front of you, the only obligation you have is to pursue it with enthusiasm, tenacity, fervor and the unrelenting belief that it can be achieved.

The pursuit highlights the important realization that, as individuals, we are motivated by an internal drive to expand beyond our talents and boundaries to explore new ideas, new ways of being and new places in which to operate on a platform of creativity and commitment to a larger picture.

Raising the bar, clearly, raises the behavior and sustains the business. It is the beginning.



Lee Meadows
TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

as the latest of the greatest when their standard may have consisted of out-surviving 11 people stranded on a Hawaiian beach or slogging their way through a series of desperate attention-seekers would endure just so most people would recognize them as the third person voted off the island.

While these events make for happy distractions, they should not be confused with events that over time demonstrate the consistency of brand image and leadership focus.

The Golden Arches of McDonald's have been around since the 1950s and from that lofty perch have watched a number of competitors come and go. The argument can be made that they rarely focus on what some other rival is doing, but they stay true to their brand

Lee E. Meadows, Ph.D., is a professor of management at Walsh College. He can be contacted at lemeadows@walshcollege.edu.

Welcome!



A ribbon-cutting ceremony for Arbor Dental Associates took place Aug. 9 to celebrate the business' relocation from Farmington Hills to Novi, remaining on 12 Mile Road. Pictured (l-r) are Dwayne Arnett; Michelle Arnett; Ann Roche; Debbie Burton; Dr. Chris Paulson, his daughter, Emalyn Paulson, and his wife, Dr. Tiffany Chmelak-Paulson; Diane Sweigard; Carrie Godman; and Shauna Lonsway, Novi Chamber of Commerce.

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.

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

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 Livonia office is on Six Mile Road west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.
www.ssdfighter.com

'Wrecking Crew' to premiere Saturday at Novi library

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The Novi Public Library will show *The Wrecking Crew* at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, at the library on 10 Mile, east of Beck Road.

The library was approached by an independent film company from California about the showing, said Julie Farkas, library director.

Farkas said one man involved in the production of *The Wrecking Crew*, which tells of studio musicians on hit music of the 1960s and early 1970s, has a Novi connection and relocated to California due to his film work. The film was also scheduled to be shown in Royal Oak and Grand Rapids.

"As soon as I saw the trailer, I was hooked. And I grew up with that music. I was super-excited," said Farkas, who recalls her parents listening to such musicians as Sonny and Cher, Glen Campbell, The Beach Boys, Monkees and others.

"It's a win-win," Farkas said of the event, also a benefit for the library. Tickets are \$10 and available in advance in person at the Novi library; half of the cost will benefit the library.

That evening, there will be a popcorn machine and the Read a Latte Café will be open for refreshments.

"You're getting the movie feeling when you're coming," Farkas said. Tickets will be available for 200 people and will be sold at the door if any are left.

"It's just something unique for us to try," she said. Director Denny Tedesco, will do a Q&A that evening at the library. He said he was inspired by his late father Tommy, a guitar player and California studio musician of that era. The younger Tedesco got the idea for making the film in 1996, with his dad passing away of cancer the next year.

"There is a light at the end of the tunnel," Tedesco said of his project. "If I did nothing, it would never have been finished. It's a thrill right now. It's just a matter of people hearing about it."

The name comes from the older musicians, dating back to the 1950s, who resisted rock and roll and said, "They're (younger musicians) going to wreck the business."

He got donations for his project from all over the world, including from the music industry's Herb Alpert and Jerry Moss, along with smaller donations from many.



Guitarist Tommy Tedesco

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"They want to see it done," Tedesco said. He recalled when *Standing in the Shadows of Motown*, about Detroit's Funk Brothers studio musicians, premiered.

"They had an angel right at the beginning. I never had funding. I started filming on my own," said Tedesco, who started as a technician, came up through lighting and ultimately started producing about 15 years ago.

"The movie's awesome. It's about musicians making a living at something they love to do," he said of the Motown one.

The California music scene wasn't strong until the mid-1960s, Tedesco said.

He has interviews ranging from Dick Clark to Cher, as well as Campbell, who was also a session player.

The musicians liked their family feeling. In 2006, Tedesco finished the film, putting it together and getting it into festivals and garnering critical acclaim.

He's heard praise from Elvis Costello, Jeff Beck and Peter Frampton.

"Then we knew we had a great film. I've been very fortunate to get the support of all these people," he said.

He's still taking *The Wrecking Crew* out on his own and noted support like that of Marriott hotels for the visit here is helpful. Tedesco and colleagues are continuing to seek investors.

Earlier on, he and his family financed the project themselves.

Tedesco isn't a musician, due to his reluctance to rehearse. "I could have been a one-man band with everything (instruments) I did. I like what I do and I respect hanging out with musicians. They're a very special breed."

More on *The Wrecking Crew* is online at www.wreckingcrewfilm.com. The Grand Rapids showing will be at 7 p.m. Friday at the Wealthy Theater-Peter Wege Auditorium, 1130 Wealthy SE.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Royston appointed economic development director

The City of Novi appointed Lauren Royston as the new Economic Development director responsible for the coordination of the city's economic development efforts for corporations. She is working within Novi's Neighborhood and Business Relations team to advocate for Novi as a location of choice for quality, sustainable investments.



Royston

requirements that safeguard preservation of values. Royston replaces Ara Topouzian who left the position to become the executive director of the Troy Chamber of Commerce.

Additional temporary promotional signage permitted

The City Council approved a temporary promotional sign ordinance waiver allowing businesses in Novi to post one additional promotional sign during the Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair Aug. 27 through Sept. 2.

Applicants must apply by Aug. 26. Applications can be submitted at the Community Development Center or can be mailed to Ordinance Division, Community Development Department, 45175 10 Mile, Novi, MI 48375.

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OPINION

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

OUR VIEWS

Protecting our water resources begins at home

Anyone taking a drive past Newburgh Lake in Wayne County's Edward Hines Park recently has probably noticed much of the lake's surface is covered by a green mat of algae.

The algae makes it tough to maneuver canoes and kayaks, is an obstacle to fishing, sucks the oxygen out of the water and probably isn't what Wayne County officials had envisioned when they invested nearly \$12 million on a restoration project back in 1998 to clean up the lake.

The reality is the lake, which is located in Livonia along Hines Drive, is actually doing pretty good despite the algae. Fish populations are relatively healthy (and much healthier than they were prior to the restoration project) and it remains a great place to see birds and other wildlife that thrive along its banks.

Yet it stands as an example of the impact people can have on a watershed, especially urban watersheds like the Rouge River, which has been impounded to create Newburgh Lake and other small lakes in the area.

The algae in Newburgh Lake is due to non-point source pollution — essentially soil erosion and the fertilizer that runs off lawns in upstream areas like Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Westland and even as far away as Novi and Salem Township. It may be hard to believe that somebody applying too much fertilizer on a lawn in Novi could have a negative impact on a lake in southern Livonia, but water (and everything it carries with it) moves downstream through rivers and streams and ultimately collects in impoundments like Newburgh Lake.

Also, excessive storm water runoff, especially after heavy rains, causes soil erosion. This sediment, which in Michigan contains phosphorus that causes algae blooms, also collects in impoundments and lakes.

And you don't have to live along a river or stream to contribute to the problem. In fact, the storm drains that dot most suburban streets are really the headwaters of a watershed. Everything that gets swept into or flushed down a storm drain eventually makes its way into local waterways.

That's why it is important for homeowners and other property owners to take certain steps that can have a huge impact on keeping waterways healthy. Here are just a few of the precautions people can take to help:

» Make sure you or your lawn service provider use only phosphorus-free lawn fertilizers.

» When applying fertilizers, keep them on the lawn and off paved surfaces, where they will be swept into storm drains. If you do get fertilizer on paved surfaces, sweep it up.

» Use native Michigan plants when possible; they soak up more storm water than turf lawns and help control erosion.

» Build rain gardens with native plants or install rain barrels to help keep storm water on your property, rather than have it go directly into storm drains. This helps prevent stream bank erosion.

» Keep pet wastes, leaves and debris out of street gutters and storm drains.

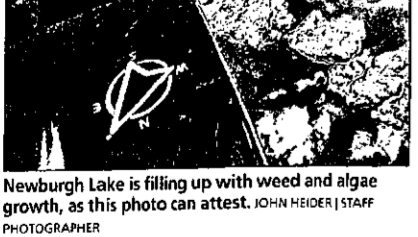
» If you are still on a septic system, have it inspected and pumped at least every three to five years.

» Purchase household detergents and cleaners that are low in phosphorus to reduce the amount of nutrients discharged into our lakes, streams and coastal waters.

» Clean vehicles at a car wash rather than in the driveway or street, where soaps and cleaners will be make their way into storm drains.

All of this non-point source pollution has a negative impact on drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries and wildlife.

Everyone, whether they realize it or not, has an impact on the health of local waterways. Every one lives upstream to some body of water. We live in a state that in many ways is defined by its magnificent water resources. As such, we have an obligation to protect and preserve them for future generations. And it starts at home.



Newburgh Lake is filling up with weed and algae growth, as this photo can attest. JOHN HIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NOVI NEWS

A GANNETT COMPANY

Cal Stone, Community Editor
Susan Rosiek, Executive Editor
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COMMUNITY VOICE

What's your community voice question?

This was asked at the Novi Public Library.



"What's going on with the construction all of a sudden, especially near where I live at 10 Mile Road and Beck?"
Lindsey Louder
Novi



"Why is there no help for single mothers from the City of Novi?"
Angela Derrick
Novi



"How is the Novi varsity football team going to be this year?"
Keith Smith
Novi



"Considering all of the new construction happening, what are we going to do with the increased traffic, especially on 10 Mile?"
David Berdsh
Novi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Baffled by decision

As a Novi tax-paying property owner, I find it puzzling that Ms. Carter was not appointed as the new principal at Novi High School. Dr. Matthews stated that Ms. Carter "knows our initiatives, our students/staff, our teacher evaluation system, our schedule, what positions need to be hired, the building and is ready to begin right away fulfilling these roles." What more can an outside candidate provide that Ms. Carter isn't already providing?

I hope and pray that she is not being denied the position because of her gender or race. The DOE should consider awarding Ms. Carter a one-year contract as principal and then offer a long-term contract after she continues to prove herself qualified to be principal through her 2013-14 very successful performance.

Frank R. Cadicano
Novi

Reading program success

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over, students have spent an unbelievable amount of time reading over the past few months, and we are so proud of them. The Novi Public Library's 2013 Summer Reading Program was the most successful to date, with 1,710 children and 332 adults participating. The children alone logged in over 22,000 hours of reading during the seven-week program.

As always, the library also offered a number of programs to entertain its patrons. There were crafts, movies, and entertainers galore. The culminating event for all age groups was the chance to go to Paradise Park and ride go-karts, play laser tag and mini-golf, and try out the climbing wall and trampoline, after which they could enjoy pizza and a drink, all generously donated by Jeff and Theresa Wainwright, owners of Paradise Park. This was the library's second year working with such an outstanding Novi business that really cares about our readers.

There are many other members of our community who supported the Summer Reading Program participants in their accomplishments, too. We could not have conducted our program without the help of our teen volunteers, who helped participants in the reading program register and log their time, and assisted with craft and other programs and a myriad of other jobs.

We also owe a large debt of gratitude to those who supported and sponsored our efforts. Among them are The Friends of the Novi Public Library, Auntie Anne's Pretzels, Benihana, Riverside Skating Arena, Applebee's of Novi, and Paradise Park.

Many thanks go to the Northville and Walled Lake school districts, which kindly distributed our program brochures to their schools, and to the Novi Community Schools, which partnered with us to promote reading over the summer. Students were encouraged to read and keep track of their time spent reading, take Accelerated Reading Tests at the library to document their progress, and turn in their reading lists at the beginning of the new school year.

Finally, we want to thank the parents, grandparents, and caregivers who brought their children to the Novi Public Library and encouraged them to read. Without their support our Summer Reading Program would not exist.

Novi Public Library's Youth & Teen Services Department

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. Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday for Thursday's print edition.
Web: www.hometownlife.com
Mail: Letters to the Editor, 101 N. Lafayette St., South Lyon, MI 48178
Email: cstone@hometownlife.com
Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

Process, not candidate, flawed

I read with interest the front page article in the Novi News regarding filling the position for principal at Novi High School. I have also read the editorials regarding same. While not being familiar with the procedures followed for this hiring process, as a former human resources manager in industry, I do have some observations and comments regarding the controversial taking place.

The article states that there were 67 candidates for the job and that "Of the 67 candidates, Carter and Charles LaCiar (also an assistant principal at Novi High) were the two finalists." I find this rather shocking, that only two individuals out of 67 were considered "qualified" and made the final cut, and that these two qualified people were both from the Novi High School system.

Why then, bother to post the job at all, if the "only qualified candidates" come from within the Novi High School? I find it hard to believe that not one of the 65 remaining candidates was considered competent enough to fill the position.

Nicole Carter did not receive a total commitment vote from the Board of Education. It is my opinion that this vote was not directed toward Ms. Carter, but rather toward the selection process itself.

The Novi school system is ranked sixth best out of 82 in the state, according to the annual Newsweek/The Daily Beast Survey, and that is something our community should be very proud of. Based on this recent experience, however, how can we expect to get qualified candidates to apply for positions within the Novi school system and continue to keep our outstanding rating when it would appear that the selection process is flawed?

Ms. Carter is no doubt an excellent candidate for the principal position, but it is regrettable that the process is so skewed. Unfortunately, this may preclude additional qualified candidates coming forward in the future.

Kaye Cunningham
Novi

HUD regulations wrong

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is set to issue a new regulation that will have horrible consequences for suburban and rural communities nationwide. Under this regulation, called "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing," HUD will have the absolute power to integrate forcefully any community or neighborhood it deems "too white."

As a result of this new policy,

prosperous and homogeneous communities like Milford will cease to exist as we know them. And unlike the escape from Detroit in the late 1960s, white Americans will no longer be able to flee to the suburbs. The white flight option will be stripped from us. Diversity will be enforced on us no matter how inhumane the consequences.

This is wrong. Homogeneous communities like Milford formed organically and naturally. These communities aren't the result of "white privilege," they're the result of white people choosing to live in places that to them seem most likely to affect their safety and happiness. But HUD is set to annihilate our communities by deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of those communities. Look no further than Detroit, Pontiac, Inkster, etc., if you doubt the validity of this statement.

Perhaps you might be thinking, "What's wrong with integration? Isn't diversity our greatest strength?" Even if you don't think there is any redeeming value in preserving homogeneity, consider the following: Under this HUD rule, you will no longer have the freedom to live in a safe and secure community where crime is low, property values high and the economy stable. You will no longer have the freedom to send your children to schools where they aren't at risk of getting mugged on a daily basis. You will no longer have the freedom to choose who you associate with — or not associate with. This HUD rule isn't about whiteness, per se. It's about you.

Something to ponder, however: Thanks to the 1965 immigration law, the United States will soon cease to be a majority white nation. Thanks to this new HUD regulation, white neighborhoods will also cease to exist. If a majority white nation is morally repugnant and if white neighborhoods are morally repugnant, then what is the logical end goal here? The implications are frightening.

Daniel Poole Jr.
Milford

Health program marks milestone

July 1 marked the 47th anniversary of Medicare, a program that impacts more than 40.3 million senior citizens of America.

Medicare is one of the remaining pillars of our health-care safety net for seniors, including the vast Baby Boomer generation.

In 1966, former President Lyndon Johnson stated, "This program is not just a blessing for older Americans. It is a test for all Americans, a test of our willingness to work together."

He was right. Medicare continues to be vital for seniors today, especially since it may be the only source of health-care coverage for seniors due to companies cutting and reducing earned supplemental health-care coverage. Congress needs to preserve Medicare to prevent seniors from becoming economically impoverished from the rising costs of health care.

Our nonprofit group, protect-seniors.org, has written to the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee supporting the continued maintenance of Medicare and I urge all retirees together to make sure America's senior generation is not left unprotected.

Gerald Whating
South Lyon

Author's tough tale of foster care has happy ending

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

In 2011, Bonnie Virag of Novi self-published her life story in *The Stovepipe*. She was born in 1936 in Simcoe, Ontario, to a mother who had a total of 18 children.

Virag was taken with four siblings including twin Betty, 4, by the Children's Aid Society and put in foster care in rural Canada.

"We never saw our family again," the author recalled in a recent interview. She's now married to Anthony, and has two sons and three grandsons.

Virag and her siblings went through years of abuse and neglect, as detailed in her book. The title comes from the stovepipes the siblings would gather around for warmth and eavesdropping.

After her book was

published, she met five younger siblings she didn't know about. "It was great," she said. "Someone threw a little party where we all got together. I loved all of them. They were all so personable and nice."

Her regret is not having known them sooner.

Her four sisters who were in foster care with her are alive, as are the five younger siblings, with the family mostly in and around Ontario, Canada. Virag and her husband came here in 1964 for his work as a mechanical engineer. She trained in dressmaking and later had a successful business for window treatments.

Surgery on her right hand wasn't done right, and she couldn't continue

her business. She opted to dig up her Children's Aid Society records, and tell her family's story.

"The books have flown off the shelves in Ontario." She met with a Children's Aid representative in Guelph, Ontario, who wanted copies.

"I do have a spiritual aspect in my life," said Virag, who viewed her surgery and changed path as a divine intervention. She's been pleased with book reviews, as well as reader reaction.

Virag had wondered why the three older brothers didn't help them more, but discovered they were serving in World War II. Her book is a serious one, although she can joke a bit about her large family: "I always say that was before birth control and TV. The winters were long and cold in Canada."

She's an American citizen but retains a dual

status in Canada. Her book is on Amazon and Barnes & Noble, as well as the major Canadian book seller. It is also an ebook.

"It's been a thrilling journey for me," said Virag, 77. It took about five years to write.

She approached a handful of big publishers but went the self-publishing route; some sisters were ailing and she wanted the book in their hands quickly.

"When I gave them a copy of the book, they were so thrilled." The sisters cried when they read it.

Virag isn't an expert on foster care but remains concerned about its quality. In the U.S. of the 25,000 teens who age out of foster care in a year, eight of 10 end up in

prison, on the streets or dead, she said. She's also concerned about children who die of abuse.

"Where do they go from there? There's no safety net for them," Virag said of 18-year-olds.

She likes to see children remain with parents when possible. "I think they have to work within the family."

Virag also cited the concept of a home-like place with one parent for five kids, living in a unit.

"It just needs a whole new overhaul of the foster care system," she said.

Many, in tough times especially, will take foster children for money "like they did in our case" rather than out of compassion, she said. She and Betty saw

their birth mom again at age 9 when visiting a tobacco farm where she worked. "She jumped in the back of the car and hugged and kissed us."

Years later, when Virag was married she saw her mother near the end of her life.

"I had this buried so deep inside me," Virag said of the story. It was difficult to write, but once done she agreed it was therapeutic: "I think it was very therapeutic to my sisters, too."

The five sisters turned out well in adulthood. "They all came through it pretty good," Virag said.

She's proud of it being chosen by Kirkus Reviews (Indie) as among the top 100 nonfiction titles for 2012. More can be found at www.bonnievirag.com.

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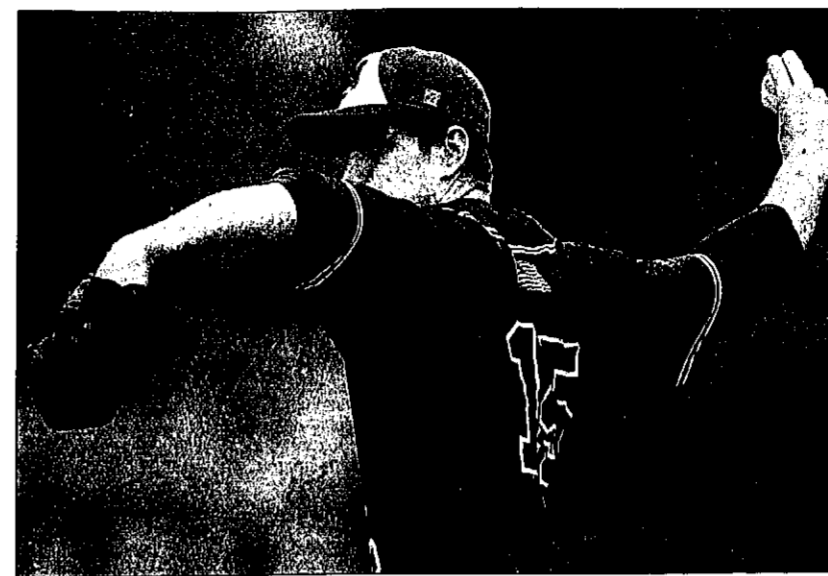
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SPORTS

CAL STONE, EDITOR
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KLAA BOYS SPRING SEASON



Novi pitcher Ryan Davis in action last spring. JOHN HEIDER (STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Hardware haul heavy again

Teams make impressive showing at tourney time

By Jeff Theisen
 Sports Writer

The 24-team Kensington Lakes Activities Association continues to pump out incredible competition both within the league and on the state level.

The KLAA had a top-notch spring and finished off the school year with another impressive showing come playoff time.

This is the third of a three-part series focusing on how the KLAA fared, not only during the season, but also in the various state tournaments.

The teams discussed are only ones in sports that are sponsored by the MHSAA, as there are several other squads that are also some of the best in the state.

The stories are broken in boys and girls segments.

All records are taken from the site www.klaastanding.com and/or www.mhsaa.com.

Track and field

The KLAA has incredible balance both on the track and in the field. But by far the most impressive offering throughout the year was thrower Calen Prena from Walled Lake Central.

It's not often people come to a track meet to see a thrower, but he was worth the price of admission and then some. At Milford, he threw the discus into the woods because the space provided simply wasn't long enough for his throws.

His throws were some of the best in the country. He went on to win both the shot put and discus at state, but his throw of 210-1 in the discus obliterated the old state record of 197-11. Prena helped Walled Lake Central finish fourth overall at state.

Grand Blanc brought balance to the Division 1 state finals and helped the Bobcats finish runners-up, putting two KLAA teams in the top four.

KLAA STANDINGS

TRACK AND FIELD

Division winners
 Central - Livonia Stevenson (5-0; Novi conference champ)
 South - Plymouth (5-0)
 West - Grand Blanc (5-0)
 North - W.L. Western, W.L. Central (4-1; Central conference champ, Western association champ)

BASEBALL

Division winners
 Central - Livonia Stevenson (13-3)
 South - Canton (11-5; conference and association champ)
 West - Brighton (14-2; conference champ)
 North - Walled Lake Northern (13-3)

GOLF

Division winners
 Central - Novi (8-2)
 South - Plymouth (10-0; conference champ)
 West - Hartland, Howell, Grand Blanc (7-3)
 North - Lakeland (10-0; conference champ)

LACROSSE

Conference winners
 Kensington - Novi (6-0; association champ)
 Lakes - Brighton (7-0)

3,200 relay and Brian Kettle in the 1,600, both with third-place finishes.

Individually, the KLAA had all-state finishes in all but four events - 100 dash, 300 hurdles, 800 run and 800 relay.

The most dominated event for the league, by far, was the discus. Not only did Prena demolish the record books, but the KLAA claimed all but two of the top eight spots. South Lyon's Trevor VanAsselt reset his own school record with a launch of 170-1 to clip Walled Lake Central's Sawyer Dmoch (169-2) in fourth on the last throw of his high school career.

Rounding out the list were Finckney's Mike Boom in fifth, Walled Lake Central's Austin Shamoun in seventh and Howell's Peter Cender in eighth.

Baseball

The KLAA sported seven teams that finished with 20 or more wins.

But come tournament time, it was Howell which carried the torch the furthest, reaching the final four before falling to runner-up Brother Rice.

The league claimed plenty of success in districts, with Howell, Northville, Grand Blanc, Livonia Stevenson, Hartland and Walled Lake Northern all claiming titles.

While Howell was the lone representative to win a regional title, Northville and Grand Blanc both reached the regional finals.

KLAA football meets media, hits the practice fields

By Jeff Theisen
 Sports Writer

A good idea became a reality this year as the KLAA offered its first Media Day on Aug. 8, just a few days before the first practice.

All 24 teams were represented, with coaches and two or three key players attending a luncheon at Novi High School.

The coaches got up and talked just a couple of minutes about their team and added a few tidbits about the upcoming season.

"Mr. any day of the week. I take that title very seriously and respect that title."

On the Media Day event, Burnside was glad to see it work out so well in its inaugural year.

"This is a cool event," Burnside said. "When anything is new and proposed, you wonder how it is going to work; how many people are really going to be here? After everybody got here and you start to see everybody, it's pretty cool. I think it's really cool for the kids to come in here and see this."

Northville head coach Matt Ladach did win the Central Division last year, but the 5-4 record was not up to his liking.

"It definitely serves as motivation - 5-4 doesn't sit well with Northville High School anymore," he said. "We've had a great off-season, a tremendous off-season. Our kids have really been working their tails off."

Ladach really like the first KLAA Football Media Day. "It gives us an opportunity to show off what we do as a league and to really show off some of the athletes we have in this conference," Ladach said. "We all have individual pride in our programs, we also take great pride in the conference we play in."

South Lyon East got its first taste of playoff football

See FOOTBALL, Page B2

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South Lyon East got its first taste of playoff football

See FOOTBALL, Page B2



Novi football head coach Jeff Burnside addresses the media and other KLAA coaches at a gathering Aug. 8 at Novi High School. With him are Wildcats Benin Serraj (61) and Marshall Sayles (35). JOHN HEIDER (STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Seven straight titles



The 2013 Novi Black won its seventh straight league championship July 29 at Novi High School against Detroit Western High School, 5-3. The group of coaches and core players of this team have been a part of seven straight city championships over the last seven years. This team finished the season with a league record of 17-2. Players are part of local high school varsity programs such as Novi, Detroit Catholic Central and Walled Lake Western. The team was led by head coach Rob Reilly and assistant coaches Tim Rush and Mike Weber. Pictured are (bottom, from left) Matt Brasil, Mark Brough, Mike Millette, Jeff Weber, Austin Wertheimer, Michael Zugaro and Ethan Vieaux; (top, from left) coach Mike Weber, Brandon Mazell, Michael Beaton, Bill Clark, Joe McKeegan, Justin Rush, coach Tim Rush, Alec Hamilton, Justin Azar and coach Rob Reilly. Also on the team are Edward Turek and Matthew Gluck.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Espinoza to do battle for MMA title

When Novi wrestling alum Jaime Espinoza graduated in 2007, it didn't take long before he began mixing his wrestling experience with a jiu jitsu background to venture into mixed martial arts. Now the second-ranked Espinoza, 24, News will have a full array of sports previews and schedules in next Thursday's paper for Novi, Northville and

event at 7:30 p.m. Friday at 4300 Dearborn Street in Melvindale. Doors for the show are at 6:30 p.m. and general admission costs \$25. Cage side seats are \$45 and VIP tables are \$40, available at www.ticketriver.com.

Sports previews, schedules on deck

Although the Novi News will have a full array of sports previews and schedules in next Thursday's paper for Novi, Northville and

Detroit Catholic Central, several teams are getting started this week with tournaments and contests on the road.

On Saturday, volleyball will compete in the Dakota Tournament, boys tennis will head to the Rochester Invitational, field hockey will head to an East Grand Rapids Tournament and boys cross country will compete in the South Lyon Invitational at Island Lake, all before many of their classmates are out

of bed yet.

Boys golf will head to Plymouth Salem 2 p.m. Monday while the boys soccer team visits Walled Lake Northern 7 p.m. the same night.

Golf will then face Livonia Churchill in a conference meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday at Whispering Willows, while field hockey heads to Dearborn Edsel Ford at 4:30 p.m.

Soccer will then face its biggest early-season challenge at 7 p.m.

Wednesday at Canton, which has served as the Wildcats' kryptonite the past few years.

Novi all-sports passes available

Novi Athletic Boosters all-sports passes for the 2013-14 school year are available during registration at Novi's middle and high schools. Community members and students who haven't included passes on their registration vouchers may purchase them by

downloading a form at www.noviatleticboosters.com under "Forms" from the Coach's Corner menu.

Passes provide entry into all high school and middle school regular home sporting events. Individual passes are \$40 and family passes for all family members living in one household may be purchased for \$180. Regular admission for high school events is \$5 and adult admission for middle school events is \$3.

FOOTBALL

Continued from Page B1

last year. The Cougars will bring back a loaded defense, which hopes to

carry the play until the Cougars figure out some way to replace all-world QB Cam Thomas, who is now practicing at Western Michigan University. "After last year, the way the program has

gone, it's been building every year," coach Mike Lindman said. "We believe in ourselves. We believe we're going to come back to the playoffs again. We've got very, very good athletes coming back. I believe we are reloading. We're excited."

Lakeland

Lakeland just missed out on the playoffs last year and head coach John Maltese hopes it serves as extra motivation to keep up the momentum at all times. "I'm very excited for this upcoming season,"

he said. "We've learned some lessons from last year and we've had a long off-season to put steps in to correct these problems."

"Every play is important. You take a handful of plays from last year's 5-4 season and it's 6-3 or whatever the case may be. I think they learned a very tough lesson."

"It's a cool deal," he said. "I get to see a lot of friends and my kids get to get out a little bit. I think we have great players, we have great coaches and we've got really nice school systems with fine communities - any

conferences and this is by far the best and the strongest. I thought it was a nice event to showcase our league."

Milford

Milford coach Pat Fox really appreciated the Media Day, not only for his team, but to get the camaraderie back from his peers. "It's a cool deal," he said. "I get to see a lot of friends and my kids get to get out a little bit. I think we have great players, we have great coaches and we've got really nice school systems with fine communities - any

time we can promote those things, I think it's a great thing for our communities. To stand united together is a pretty cool thing."

With Media Day in the mirror, Fox is looking to hit the fields and get ready for the opening game just a couple of weeks away.

"I'm pretty excited, we have a great group of kids," he said. "Our seniors are showing great leadership. They're a very hard-working group. The Juniors and seniors are meshing real well together and we're very pleased with them."

Practices begin

And the excitement finally hit the field Aug. 12 as Michigan high schools were able to open fall football practices.

South Lyon was the first to hit the field as the Lions opened practice at 12:01 a.m. that Monday. "It was so exciting for the players, both varsity and JV, under the lights and Welcome to the Jungle being played," head coach Mark Thomas said. "It feels like it was my first year coaching - you got to love high school football."

"I don't know what other people do on Friday nights in the fall, as this is what I've done for 36 years - high school football. Go Lions!"

For more information about Golf in Michigan visit www.TeelUpMichigan.com To Advertise in this directory, call Jim Sabatella at 313-223-3246

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KLAA GIRLS SPRING SEASON

Teams shine despite Mother Nature's anger

By Jeff Theisen
Sports Writer

The spring season is one of the busiest seasons of the year for girls sports with track, softball, soccer, lacrosse and tennis all featured.

Despite the season starting out in horrific weather, the 24-team Kensington Lakes Activities Association fought through it all and continued to shine right up to the end of the school year.

The following is the third of a three-part series focusing on how the KLAA fared, not only during the season, but also in the various state tournaments. The teams discussed are only ones in sports that are sponsored by the MHSAA, as there are several other squads that are also some of the best in the state. The stories are broken in boys and girls segments.

All records are taken from the site www.klaastanding.com and/or www.mhsaa.com.

Track and field

The KLAA proved it has plenty of balance both on the track and off at the Division 1 state finals. Northville led the charge team-wise with a seventh-place finish, followed by Walled Lake Central in ninth and Novi 10th.

The league showed big-time power in the discus with three placers in the top five, led by Central's Josephine Jackson in second.

Novi's Kerri McMahan claimed a state title in the high jump by clearing 5.6. South Lyon's Brady Covert and Churchill's Ashley Cochran tied for fourth.

Brighton were the lone teams to reach the regional finals.

Brighton matched up with perennial state champion Brother Rice and the run came to an end as the Warriors would go on to claim another title.

South Lyon was on the other side of the bracket

and cruised by Rockford (10-6) to win a regional title. The unified team's season came to an end in the final four with an 11-10 loss to Forest Hills Eastern-Northern. It was the furthest run in school history for the South Lyon Unified squad.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, August 12, 2013 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

Maryanne Cornelius, City Clerk

Publish: August 22, 2013

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Novi High freshman and varsity tennis player Allison Lollo hits the court. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

KLAA STANDINGS

TRACK & FIELD
Division winners
Central - Salem (5-0, Northville conference champ)
South - Churchill (5-0)
West - Milford (5-0, association champ)
North - Waterford Mott (5-0, W.L. Central conference champ)

TENNIS
Division winners
Central - Northville (5-0, conference, association champ)
South - Plymouth (5-0)
West - Brighton (5-0, conference champ)
North - Walled Lake Northern (5-0)

SOCCER
Division winners
Central - Novi (9-0-1)
South - Plymouth (9-0-1, conference, association champ)
West - Hartland (8-0-2, conference champ)
North - Walled Lake Northern (6-1-3)

SOFTBALL
Division winners
Central - South Lyon East (12-4)
South - Plymouth (15-1, conference, association champ)
West - Grand Blanc (13-3, conference champ)
North - Lakeland (14-2)

LACROSSE
Conference winners
Kensington - South Lyon United (9-1)
Lakes - Hartland (9-0, association champ)

Softball

It was an unusual year as the league did not get a team past the state quarterfinals and into Battle Creek. Canton was the lone team to reach the quarterfinals by knocking off South Lyon in the regional finals. Hartland and Grand Blanc also reached the regional finals before the season came to an end there.

Lacrosse

The KLAA was well represented deep into the tournament with Brighton, Hartland

and South Lyon United each reaching the semifinals. Hartland beat Brighton in overtime in the quarterfinals to reach the final four. The Eagles fell to eventual champion Rockford in the semifinals.

South Lyon was on a run before several members of the team chose not to play in the quarterfinal game because it landed on the same day as prom. South Lyon went on to lose 18-5.

jtheisen@gannett.com
248-437-2011, ext. 228

CITY OF NOVI
NOTICE OF ADOPTION
ORDINANCE NO. 13-160.02

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 13-160.02 TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 22, "OFFENSES," ARTICLE VI, "OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC SAFETY," DIVISION 1, "GENERALLY," SECTION 22-112, "FIREWORKS," IN ORDER TO INCORPORATE CHANGES TO STATE LAW REGARDING THE PROHIBITION OF THE IGNITION AND DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS EXCEPT ON CERTAIN DAYS AND THE HOURS OF DISCHARGE

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, August 12, 2013 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

Maryanne Cornelius, City Clerk

Publish: August 22, 2013

CITY OF NOVI
NOTICE OF ADOPTION
ORDINANCE NO. 13-23.29

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 13-23.29 TO AMEND CHAPTER 22, "OFFENSES," ARTICLE V, "OFFENSES AGAINST THE PUBLIC PEACE," SECTION 22-86, "NOISE DISTURBANCES PROHIBITED," TO LIMIT THE CURRENT EXCEPTION FOR LAWFUL FIREWORKS BY REFERENCE TO CERTAIN TIMES WHEN THE DISCHARGE WILL BE PERMITTED.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, August 12, 2013 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

Maryanne Cornelius, City Clerk

Publish: August 22, 2013

City of Novi
Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Novi Civic Center 45175 Ten Mile Road to consider:

CASE NO. PZ13-0041 2016 WEST LAKE DR LAKA 2018 WEST LAKE DR
The applicant is requesting variances from the CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 2400 to allow a reduction in the side yard setback to 7 ft. (10 ft. required) for a proposed addition to an existing structure to be converted to a residence and attached garage. The property is located north of South Lake Dr and east of West Park Dr., in the R-4 Zoning District.

CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 2400 requires side yard setbacks of 10 feet minimum in the R-4 Zoning District.
CASE NO. PZ13-0042 47209 BECK RD
The applicant is requesting variances from the CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 2400 to allow a reduction in the exterior side yard setback to 35 ft. (50 ft. required) for an existing building proposed for redevelopment to a restaurant use. The property is located north of Grand River Ave. and east of Beck Rd., in the OST Zoning District.

CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 2400 requires front and exterior side yard setbacks of 50 feet minimum in the OST Zoning District.
CASE NO. PZ13-0043 43700 GEN-MAR DR
The applicant is requesting variances from the CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 2400 to allow a reduction in the required number of parking spaces from 223 to 185, Section 2507 to allow loading and unloading between 8 pm and 7 am and Section 1905.8(2) to allow installation of a 1,500 gallon bulk argon gas storage tank with alternate screening. The property is located at the east end of Gen Mar, west of Novi Rd in the I-1 Zoning District.

CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 2505 requires minimum quantities of parking spaces for specific uses and occupancies. Section 2507 limits loading and unloading operations and Section 1905 limits accessory structures and requires screening.
CASE NO. PZ13-0044 43150 GRAND RIVER
The applicant is requesting a variance from CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 28-5(2) a 3 to allow installation of a ground sign immediately adjacent to a setback required to the right of way line. The property is located north of Grand River and east of Novi Rd., in the TC Zoning District.

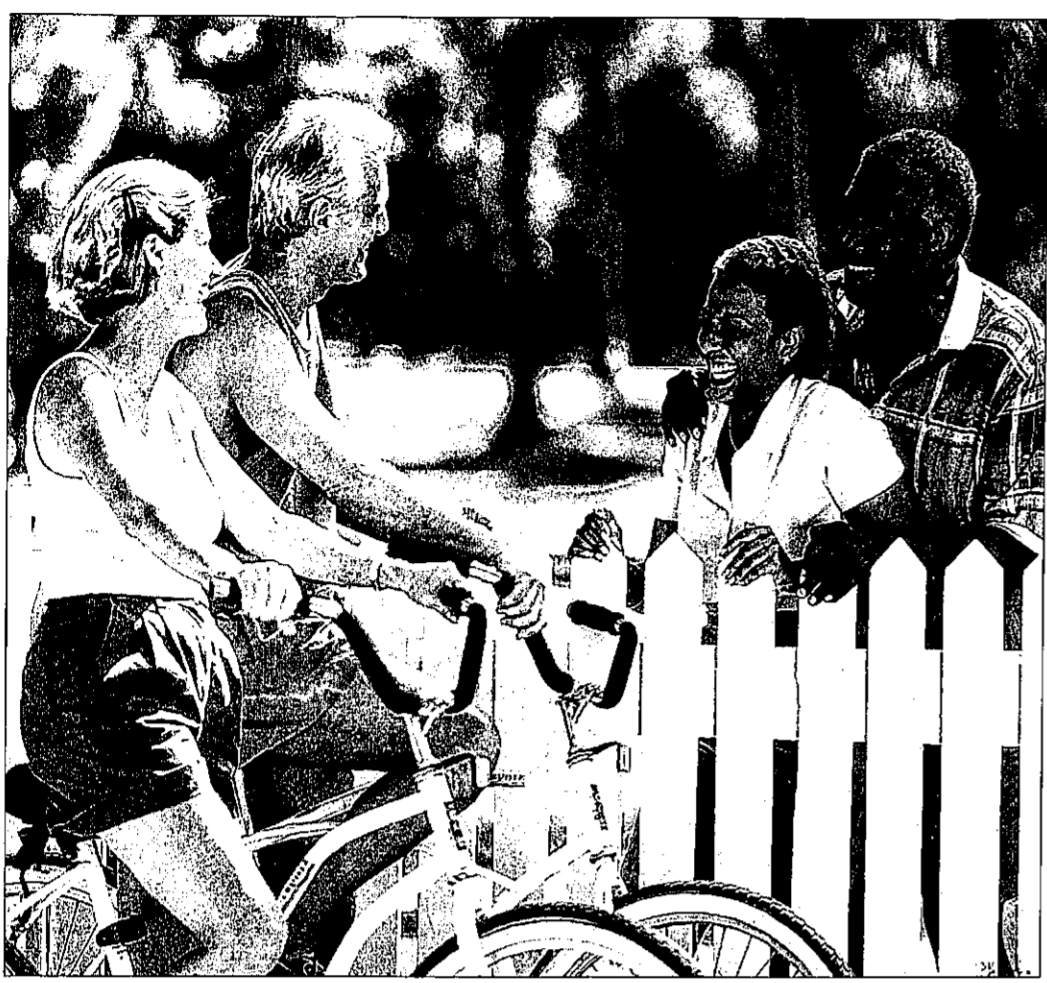
CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 28-5(2) a 3 requires ground signs be placed a minimum of 3 feet from a future (planned) right of way line.
CASE NO. PZ13-0045 46424E 25514 BECK RD LOT 13, LOT 14, LOT 16 AND LOT 18 OF THE PIONEER MEADOWS SUBDIVISION
The applicant is requesting variances from the CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 2400 to allow construction of new single family homes with reduced front setbacks of 40 ft. (45 ft. required), reduced rear setbacks of 40 ft. (50 ft. required) and reduced aggregate side yard setbacks of 30 ft. (50 ft. required) on existing non-conforming lots. The applicant is also requesting an exception from Section 3107 which requires issuance of building permits within 12 months of approval of variances. The request is to allow the variances to remain valid for issuance of building permits within 18 months of approval date. The properties are located east of Beck Road and north of 10 Mile Road in the RA Zoning District.

CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 2400 requires that structures constructed within the RA zoning district have a minimum front yard setback of 45 ft., a minimum rear setback of 50 ft., and an aggregate side yard setback of 50 ft.

Publish: August 22, 2013

REAL ESTATE

JULIE BROWN, EDITOR JCBROWN@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-227-6755 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Good to know good neighbors in times of need, joy

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

Denise Semion of Plymouth Township values neighbor Joanne Wibright. "When I'm gone, she waters my pathetic little garden," said Semion, who lives by Wibright in the Lake Pointe subdivision in northern Plymouth Township. "She has a magnificent garden. She's bringing over a bounty of tomatoes soon."

Semion, communications manager for the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, and her husband attend the Wibrights when they're out of town. "It's always a comfort to know you've got somebody to depend on," Semion said. "The women also talk over the fence, gaining emotional support. Semion had a medical issue with her mom. "We talked for a while and she gave me a hug," she said.

Semion moved to the neighborhood in 1994, Wibright shortly after. Semion will give Wibright leftover cake for their three kids at home (there's another off at graduate school) to reciprocate.

"I think Lake Pointe has always had a good reputation for nice houses and nice people," Semion said of her purchase. She also considered freeway access for commuting.

Realtor Bob Bake of Plymouth, with Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel, has been in the business since 1967. Bake, who grew up in Northville, agrees good neighbors matter when buying. "I don't think buyers give enough attention to who might live behind them or next to them," he said. He knows Plymouth and Northville well, but still encourages prospective buyers to ask a neighbor or two about living there.

"It makes sense to make an inquiry privately with a neighbor," he said. The prospective buyer can ask about schools.

"It can really help the buyer make the right judgment," Bake said. "I think neighbors are important. They are to me."

You can even visit the local police station to check reports on any safety

issues. "I think that's a good step to do as well," he said. Due diligence on buying includes schools for those with children. "Schools are always a major influencing factor for young families," Bake said. Walkability and bus stop location are key.

He encourages a visit to the local elementary, middle or high school to check it out.

Bake has been in his Plymouth home 25 years. "Yes, I'm very fortunate," he said of his residence. "I really had a high comfort level before I made the transition." His work gave him that knowledge.

He knows others who've been adjacent to a lightheaded, pro basketball court in the rear yard. "It's a real noise-maker," Bake said. "You really have no privacy on your patio or terrace."

That can happen with a backyard pool, too, he said, although the season is much shorter.

jbrown@hometownlife.com

Expect to pay in Rome

Q. Are residential housing prices any more reasonable in Rome than has been the case in the past? A. Generally not, since the availability for building new residences is limited by space and stringent municipal regulations. If you want to purchase an apartment or house overlooking the city, perhaps 20 minutes away from the Coliseum, it can be even more expensive, similar to Paris or New York. As in the U.S., you should retain a lawyer, along with an experienced real estate broker, before you sign any agreement.

Q. I am thinking about buying a villa either around Sienna, Italy, or Florence, Italy. Am I better off buying a condominium or a villa and where? A. Both cities are quaint and majestic and offer housing at relatively reasonable costs depending, of course, on the location. If you want a reasonable apartment, you can find one in Sienna near the center of town at a reasonable cost, but in Florence you will have to go outside of the core city if you want anything resembling a high rise. As to a villa, anywhere in Tuscany can be lovely, but more pricey, look carefully before you leap!

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling, and Operating a Condominium." It is available for \$24.95 plus \$5.95 for tax, shipping and handling. "Condo Living 2" is available in both print and e-book editions. The e-book is available for download through iTunes, Amazon.com, and BarnesandNoble.com. He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$2.00 for tax, shipping and handling. Call 248-644-4433 or visit www.meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Seminar

The Meisner Law Group announced that Robert M. Meisner will conduct a four-week course Tuesdays in October from 7-9 p.m., covering "Introduction to Successful Condominium Operation."

This seminar is designed for board members and officers, managers, developers, and association members living in or working with a condominium, subdivision, cooperative, or community association. Explore the many legal issues involved in the successful operation of an association. Cost is \$95 (\$85 per person when two or more enroll from the same organization). For registration information, contact The Meisner Law Group at 248-644-4433 or 800-470-4433, via email at: rbmeisner@meisner-law.com, or visit the seminar page on the website: Meisner-law.com.

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures. Many sellers are misinformed or not sure about how the procedures work. Organizers will also discuss the internal workings of short sales and the different steps involved.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. Thursdays at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon. Additional parking across the street in back. Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. Email Georgia@addevaldealtyrealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTours.com.

Seminar on Tuesdays, Thursdays

A free seminar on government-insured reverse mortgages is offered by Colonial Mortgage Corp. on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 2 p.m., held at various locations. RSVP with Colonial Mortgage at 800-260-8484.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. each first Tuesday of the month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate. Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. Any questions or concerns, call Wayne Kochler at 313-277-4168.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

Table with 3 columns: Address, Price, and Agent/Company. Includes listings from Bloomfield Hills, Farmington Hills, and Livonia.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

Table with 3 columns: Address, Price, and Agent/Company. Includes listings from Canton, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Northville, and Plymouth.

Large advertisement for 'HOMES SERVICES' featuring 'BUY & SELL' and 'RENTALS' sections. Includes various home services like waterproofering, electrical, and HVAC, as well as real estate listings and services.

Advertisement for 'PERSONALS' services, including medical, dental, and personal care services. Features 'MEDICAL MALPRACTICE' and 'DENTISTRY' sections.

Crossword Puzzle Secret Swimmers

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for 'Secret Swimmers'. Includes 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' clues and the puzzle grid itself.

