

Novi News

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SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2014 • hometownlife.com

U.S. House 11th District forum

The League of Women Voters-Oakland Area is sponsoring a candidate forum for U.S. House 11th District at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, at Milford High School (2380 S. Milford Road).

The district's borders, which took effect in 2013, include the Oakland County cities of Auburn Hills, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington, Lake Angelus, Northville, Novi, South Lyon, Troy, Walled Lake and Wixom, the townships of Commerce, Highland, Lyon, Milford, Novi, Waterford and White Lake; parts of Clawson, Rochester Hills and West Bloomfield Township; and the entire Wayne County cities and townships of Canton, Livonia, Northville and Plymouth.

Running for the two-year term are two Republicans, incumbent Kerry Bentivolio and Dave Trott, and four Democrats: Anil Kumar, Bobby McKenzie, Bill Roberts and Nancy Skinner.

For information, call 248-594-6602 or visit LWVOA.org.



Corrigan movers have moved many families into Novi over the last three years.

NOVI MAGNET FOR NEW RESIDENTS

City among state's top destinations for families

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

For three consecutive years, Novi has been among the top three cities in the state that people are moving into within Michigan, according to data collected by Corrigan Moving Systems.

"This is a positive trend for Novi and it's not surprising when considering the different factors that make this a great community," said David Corrigan, president and COO of the Farmington Hills-based moving



Corrigan

company. Corrigan, the fourth-generation owner of Corrigan Moving Systems and expert in migration trends, said Novi combines a great housing market with a lot of new construction with one of the best public school districts in the state.

He said there are also great amenities, including a downtown area with shopping, dining and entertainment options available. Finally, he said the Novi market is the base for several large employers, including ITC Transmission and Ryder, which

attract residents for work.

It's mainly families moving in. Novi has been in the top five for the past five years, as well. Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids are the only cities that rank above Novi.

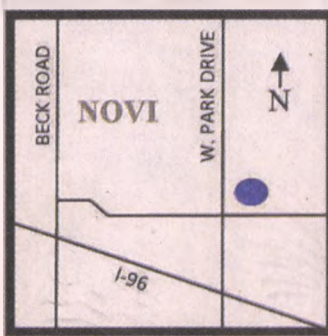
Its proximity to major landmarks and other areas in metro Detroit, as well as a variety of universities and educational facilities, also attracts people to Novi.

Population figures

According to the city of Novi, it has steadily gained population over the past 50 years, with a 2013 estimated population of

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Water storage tank



City saving big with \$3.3 million water tank

Bid comes in much lower than previous proposals

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

The new water storage tank that will soon be constructed on the northeast corner of West Park Drive and 12 Mile Road will cost the city nearly 70 percent less than earlier estimates.

By a 7-0 vote Monday, Novi City Council awarded a construction contract for the water storage facility to Sorensen Gross Construction Services, the low bidder, in the amount of \$3,363,889.

Additionally, the council awarded an engineering services agreement with Orchard, Hiltz and McCliment for the construction phase engineering services related to the project in the amount of \$231,600.

Council member Andrew Mutch said these contracts reflected a lot of good work by staff that will ultimately help the community. He said previous proposals had a storage tank/tower costing up to \$12 million.

"This is a real win for everyone," he said.

In an effort to reduce water rates from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, Rob Hayes, Novi's director of public services, said the city is proposing to construct a water storage facility to reduce peak usage from DWSD.

"A previous analysis that was shared with city council indicated that a ground storage tank at the corner of West Park Drive and 12 Mile is the most cost-effective option to achieve the desired rates savings," he said in his report to council.

According to city staff, commencement of this construction project is contingent on the city completing property acquisition of the Novi Corporate Park, LLC, parcel. It expects to do that this week.

Construction is scheduled to begin soon and completion is anticipated in late spring of 2015. The construction contract calls for final restoration of the site to be completed by May 15, 2015, in time for the high water usage season in the summer.

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This is a rendering of the water storage tank planned to be up and running by next spring.

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Novi family takes an adoption journey in war-torn Ukraine

Trip takes new twist with addition of fourth orphan

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

Kathe and Tom Ray's family will grow even more when they arrive back home to Novi from the war-torn country of Ukraine.

They're currently on a difficult journey to adopt four more children from this eastern European country that is being rocked by turmoil with neighboring Russia. They have seven children, ranging in age from 13 to 32, and in the past month the plan was to go to Ukraine to adopt three teenagers: Kristina, Anna and Yuri.

However, there have been some surprises along the way.

"We've been in Ukraine for 11 days. We had our first SDA (adoption agency for Ukrainian government) appointment on June 24. We got a bombshell," Kathe wrote by email this past week. "One of the girls we were coming for has a brother. We were faced with a life-and-death decision that had to be made within five minutes."

They were only approved for three orphans and they already had them chosen. The question before them was, "If we add on the brother, who would we leave behind?"

They decided to go meet the girl and her brother. He had just



Anna, 16, (left) and Kathe Ray after Anna said yes to being adopted by the Novi family.

turned 17 and the Rays thought he possibly might not want to be adopted and might agree to separate. They traveled to the region of Zaporozhye by prop plane to meet both kids – and Kathe said they "promptly fell in love with both of them."

"It could not have been more meant to be. We asked them to be our kids and they both said yes," she wrote.

The next day they traveled seven hours by train back to Kiev to file the papers and wait for their next referral date. In

WANT TO HELP?

The Ray family needs some financial assistance with the adoptions. Anyone wishing to make a monetary donation can go to PayPal and their account: arbonnekathe@msn.com. Mark it "gift" so no fees are assessed. "We will definitely appreciate all the help we can get!" Kathe Ray said.

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Picture-perfect



A perfect summer day unfolded June 16 at Novi's Pavilion Shore Park. The park, located at the southeast end of Walled Lake, has walking trails, picnic tables and a fishing pier. There is no swimming at Pavilion, but there is at its nearby cousin, Lakeshore Park, just a half-mile to the west. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



A seagull floats over the waters of Walled Lake near Pavilion Shore Park. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ADOPTION

Continued from Page A1

the meantime, they found out there was a way to adopt all four, so they've been "madly going back and forth between Ukraine and the States to get the necessary paperwork done and updated for four."

There next appointment was scheduled for July 8.

Tough yet rewarding

This adoption journey began in 2012, after the Rays got an email from someone who had forwarded it from someone who had forwarded it from someone else. It said that there was a boy, 15, who was visiting from Ukraine that needed a host family for the last three weeks of the summer because the original family had an emergency. They ignored it.

"Then it bugged me, so I kept going back to it," Kathe said. "Finally, three days later, I said something to my husband Tom over dinner. And he



Siblings Daniel and Anna after they wrote their letter saying they wanted to be adopted by the Rays.

said, 'Why not?' So that's how we met Vlad."

After Vlad had been with them for about a week, the Rays learned what the fate was for these kids once they turn 16.

"Every August they are turned out of the orphanage and are completely on their own. No government assistance,

no education, no housing, nothing. We were shocked," Kathe said.

Tom's response was "you know we have to adopt him" and she agreed.

"We had no clue what it would take to do an international adoption. Good thing or we probably would have said no," she said looking back.

But they didn't.

Reasons for adoption

When asked why this is important to them, Kathe replied, "Honestly, we live our lives according to the Bible. In it, the mandate for us is to take care of the widows and the orphans and to live a right life. We sort of looked at that for a long time as a nice thing, but it wasn't for us. Now we realize it was for us. It's for everyone, really."

She added, "We are just doing the right thing. What God wants us to do - take care of the orphans, give them a life and a future. And someday we're going to have lots and lots of grandchildren."



Vlad Ray was a member of the Novi High School JV football team last year. He was the Rays' first adoption from Ukraine and came to Novi in 2012.

They are both 56 years old. Tom drives a bus for Novi Public Schools and Kathe is a regional vice president and independent consultant with Arbonne International.

The journey and challenges continue

Kathe said some of the most difficult things have been working with and pulling together paperwork for two governments, raising \$50,000 (for which they ended up taking out a \$25,000 loan)

and figuring out how they were going to be out of the country for a good two months and still run everything at home.

Kathe said maybe the most difficult things is "missing our families at home and being in a foreign country where we can't even really spend time with our new kiddos."

"It's all very hard, but worth it."

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RESIDENTS

Continued from Page A1

nearly 60,000 (according to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments).

Recent population estimates released by SEMCOG for the seven-county region in southeast Michigan focused on

changes from the April 2010 U.S. Census to new figures in July 2013.

While more than two-thirds of the communities in the region grew in population, Novi had the second-largest increase in the three-year time frame, adding 4,021 residents, an increase of 7.3 percent, bringing Novi's estimated population up from 55,374 to 59,395.

Novi's population now exceeds that of the city of Pontiac (estimated 59,248) and is approaching that of the city of Royal Oak (estimated 59,478). Novi is now the eighth largest community (out of 59) in Oakland County.

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District court employees work without power

Employees at the 52-1 District Court in Novi stepped it up during a storm-related power outage to serve the public. The court was without power all day Tuesday, July 1, through midday Wednesday. The court's 65 employees remained on site to serve customers who showed up unaware that court was not in session though it was posted on the court's website.

"The employees did an outstanding job," County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said. "They kept things running under difficult conditions."

Court staff, working without computers and land line phones, set up makeshift offices on the sidewalk and in the parking lot to serve more than 300 individuals who showed up at the court over the day-and-a-half outage.

They took payments that were due for fines and fees; probation officers held meetings

with their probationers in the parking lot; informal hearings were held on the front walk with court clerks; they created docket sheets so those who had formal hearings could reschedule; and the magistrates went to the Novi Police Department to conduct arraignments.

They also notified a few hundred more individuals about the power outage, including prosecutors, defense attorneys, defendants, both parties in civil cases, police departments and the jail.

"This staff has been amazing," said Alexandra Black, 52-1 administrator. "I am so proud of how innovative and service oriented they all were."

Black told Julie Nicholson, 52nd District Court chief judge, that "it was just like the old days."

"All of the court employees are to be commended, especially Alex since she interrupted her vacation to



Pictured (from left) are Mathias Masasabi, Adam Hussey, Andrea Kot and Dawn Williams.

return to work to see us through this challenge," Nicholson said.

52-1 District Court serves the communities of Commerce Township,

Highland Township, Lyon Township, Milford, Milford Township,

Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake, Wixom and Wolverine Lake.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

M-5 to receive overdue road repairs

State Rep. Hugh Crawford, R-Novi, announced that Novi will receive more than \$100,000 in road improvements on M-5 from I-96 to 14 Mile.

The grants were made possible by the Legislature, which allocated \$115 million in existing funds to road improvements throughout Michigan. The Legislature also allocated an additional \$115 million for roads and bridges last December.

"This project makes a start at road repairs that are many years overdue in our state," Crawford said. "There are still many more roads in need of repairs. We are working on solutions that create safe and lasting road repairs for Michigan residents."

The announcement of these projects came as part of a statewide roll out of projects that have

been determined by the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Legislature.

This funding is in addition to \$285 million the Legislature approved for roads and bridges in June, which is part of the fiscal year 2015 budget.

Northern Equities Group welcomes Motor City Street Eats

Northern Equities group is set to host another popular lunchtime food truck rally from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, July 11, in Novi's Haggerty Corridor Corporate Park at the parking lot in front of the Art Institute of Michigan building, 28175 Cabot Drive.

Motor City Street Eats will return with five of the Detroit area's best food trucks: Chicken Coupe Chicken N Waffles, Jacques' Tacos, The Mean Weenie, Smokey Rhodes BBQ and Treat Dreams. Diners will be entertained by local band

The Reefermen.

More information on Motor City Street Eats can be found on its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/motorcitystreeteats.

Soar and Explore with the Michigan Activity Pass

The Michigan Activity Pass presented by The Library Network program is a partnership between nearly 400 Michigan public libraries, including the Novi Library, and more than 100 arts and cultural organizations.

Use your Novi Library card, select the location and print your pass online (<http://michiganactivitypass.info>) to start exploring. Some cultural partners offer complimentary or reduced price admissions; discounts in their gift shop or other exclusive offers for MAP pass holders only. Each pass expires one week from the date

it is printed.

The program is designed to enhance the learning experience for people of all ages through books and other library materials, and to provide reduced cost or complimentary access to arts and cultural organizations across the state of Michigan.

For more information on the Michigan Activity Pass, visit www.novilibrary.org or call 248-349-0720.

Free financial counseling available

Oakland County residents facing financial challenges will receive free financial counseling under a new Community Economic Development Association of Michigan

grant awarded to the Oakland County Treasurer's Office. Treasurer Andy Meisner announced that the \$25,000 grant to establish a Financial Empowerment Center in Oakland County will offer free one-on-one counseling for Oakland County taxpayers on personal financial matters. The counseling will be done by counselors from JVS of Southfield, a community-based nonprofit organization.

Based on a New York City model currently being replicated nationally through the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund, the initiative builds on services offered by the county treasurer to promote financial literacy, including

on-site housing counseling for mortgage and tax foreclosure prevention, on-site referrals to the Accounting Aide Society, and a multi-media financial literacy art contest for Oakland County high school students.

The grant is part of a three site Financial Empowerment Initiative replication supported by CEDAM's Michigan Communities for Financial Empowerment network, generously sponsored by the C.S. Mott Foundation. Other grantees are the City of Grand Haven and the City of Taylor.

For more information, call Meisner at 248-858-0624 or visit www.oakgov.com/treasurer.

POLICE BRIEFS

Stolen vehicle found

A 2013 Ford Explorer was stolen outside of a Novi residence on Sagebrush during the night of June 9-10. The vehicle owner said the doors were locked; however, Novi Police did not find any glass or other evidence at the scene. The owner verified that it was not repossessed. It was later found damaged on Seven Mile Road in Detroit with the tires and tail lights missing. Police did not find any identifiable prints on it and suspect the thief wore gloves.

Shed broken into

A shed at a Novi home on Arizona Avenue was broken into and a number of items were stolen sometime over the week of June 3-10. Two window air conditioners were taken, along with a chainsaw. The owner found them missing after going to the shed to get the lawn mower out. Novi Police suspect

the thief used a hammer to knock the lock open and then re-locked it when done. There are no suspects yet.

Larceny from auto

A car parked on Washington Street was robbed of several items June 11-12. The vehicle was reportedly unlocked and there were no signs of forced entry. Among the combined \$600 in goods stolen were two laptops and some prescription pills. There are no suspects.

Marijuana possession

A man was arrested and cited for marijuana possession and driving without a license June 9 after Novi Police stopped his vehicle for an extremely loud exhaust at Beck Road and West Pontiac Trail. The man told police he was in possession of a small amount of marijuana and a pipe to smoke it, which were found in the center console. He also told police he has a suspended license.



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ON CAMPUS

Grand Valley State University

Nearly 2,900 students earned degrees in April 2014, including the following locals: **Novi** – Osama M. Al-Haymi, B.B.A.; Jacob P. Blossfeld, M.S.A.; James R. Borthwick, B.B.A.; Calvin T. Bowery, B.B.A.; Elizabeth A. Engelsen, B.S.; Brian L. Forreider, B.S.; Johnson Gao, B.A.; Vincent R. Gasparotto, B.S.; Jillian M. Hilliard, B.S.; Rachel M. Koczynski, B.S.; Kaori Kuno, B.B.A.; Sarah R. Less, B.A.; Colleen E. Levinson, B.S.; Victoria M. Schnaidt, M.S.A.; Casey C. Waldo, B.S.; **Walled Lake** – Daniel J. Chung, B.S.; **Wixom** – Catherine Ann Cooke, M.S.W.

Western Michigan University

The following local students graduated during the spring 2014 semester: **Novi** – Touline Kourdie, Andrew McFarlane Hazen, Lorraine E. Govan, Brett Jeffrey Glover, Carol Ann Howell, Kelsey Lynn Baskins, Eric David Winkler, Michael Ryan DeLisle, Christian Jay Werther, Elizabeth C Zielesch, Jason Howard Hughes, Ashley Elizabeth Filipowicz, Hanna Marie Downs, Allison Marie Perlin, Jenna Leigh Karagozian, Lillian Patricia Hathorne; **Walled Lake** – Deanna Jean Blankstrom, Michelle Katherine Stepek; **Wixom** – Alicia Lee Adams, and Nicholas Andrew Ball.



Kids working on tie-dyeing T-shirts pre-soak them in slightly acidic water to soften up the material before squirting gobs of colorful dye during the June 17 event at Novi Public Library.

Tie-dye time



Ananya Kamalesh, 10, colors up her tie-dye T-shirt during a Novi Public Library crafts event for kids on June 17. About 100 kids created their own colorful, crazy-patterned shirts from scratch that day. The library will have lots of events throughout the summer for kids on vacation from school. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Novi schools among nation's best

The Movoto Real Estate Blog ranked places by how good their schools were and Novi came in second place. It selected 140 small cities (populations between 50,000 and 60,000) then used the U.S. Census' American Community Survey, AreaVibes and GreatSchools.org to collect what it deemed important education criteria.

Those criteria were: student-teacher ratio; money spent per year per student; high school graduation rate; and GreatSchools.org rating (based on test scores for the area). From there, Movoto ranked each place in each category from one to 140, with one being the best. Then it averaged each place's scores into a Big Deal Score, with scores closer to one being the best. Novi, following Chapel Hill, N.C., also managed

nine out of 10 mark for test scores and also had a fairly good student-teacher ratio of 16 to 1. It even had a high school graduation rate of 94 percent. In short, **Movoto's** top two were very similar places. Novi did have one area in which it scored better, with schools spending \$6,723 per student per year.

O'Connor wins award

Dennis O'Connor, president of the Novi Board of Education, received the Award of Distinction from the Michigan Association of School Boards at the June 18 Oakland County School Boards Association Trustee Awards Ceremony at White Lakes Oaks Park in White Lake Township. O'Connor has served 5½ years on the Novi school board. He was first elected as a trustee in November 2008 and was re-elected to a second term in November

2012. He has served as the president since January 2013. Prior to that, he served as the vice president in 2011 and 2012 and as treasurer in 2010. O'Connor also has served as a trustee on the OCSBA Board of Directors since March 2012. He was elected to a three-year term on this board in 2013.

Novi Northville Montessori Center enrollment

Novi Northville Montessori Center is accepting applications for 2014-15 enrollment. Classroom tours will be 9:30-10:30 a.m. July 23.

Children must be 2½ years old (30 months) and completely potty trained. The center offers five full days, five half days and three full days Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday only.

Visit www.novinorthvillemontessorictr.com or call 248-348-3033 for more information.

WLCSO offers free preschool programs

A free summer preschool for income-eligible children who will be enrolled in kindergarten in fall 2014 is available now. Classes are at the Walled Lake Community Education Center, and run Monday through Thursday, through Aug. 14. Enrollment is ongoing; call 248-956-5091.

The district is also offering free preschool for children living in Walled Lake area for the upcoming school year. Families of four earning up to \$71,500 per year are always eligible and those earning up to \$90,000 per year are sometimes eligible.

Half- and full-day openings in schools and childcare centers are available.

To enroll, children must be 3 or 4 years old

on or before Oct. 1, 2014. Call 248-956-5089 for a referral or visit wlcsd.org/webpages/preschool for more information.

Community Education Preschool Program

Registration is open for Novi Community Education Preschool's Young 5's, full-day 4's and half-day preschool programs for 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds. The program has certified teachers and low staff-to-child ratios. Preschool classes follow the Creative Curriculum.

Preschool C.A.R.E. (child care for before and after school) registration is ongoing via www.novicommunityed.org.

For more information about Preschool or C.A.R.E., call the Early Childhood office at 248-

449-1713.

Summer C.A.R.E.

Novi Community Education's Summer Child C.A.R.E. is for children ages 3 who have attended one year of preschool up to children going into the eighth grade.

The program ends Friday, Aug. 15. Hours of operation are 6:45 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Students will be placed in age-appropriate groups and will participate in crafts, sports, field trips, games and free play. This year's location will be at the Instructional Technology Building (Novi Meadows), 25425 Taft Road. Lunch and snack are included (except on field trips days).

Registration and scheduling is done at novicommunityed.org. Call 248-449-1713 for more information.

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Contest is open to kids up to 18 years old.

Pair of Democrats and Republicans vie for state House 38th District seat

Hugh Crawford, R- Novi, the current representative for the state House 38th District seat, is term-limited at the end of this year. Two Republicans, his wife Kathy Crawford and Dan Lauffer, and two Democrats, Jasper Catanzaro and Jason George-Wellington Dorsch, will square off in the August primary. The winners of each parties' vote will meet in the November general election for this two-year seat.

Located in Oakland County, the district includes the townships of Lyon and Novi and the cities of Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake and (a portion of) Northville.

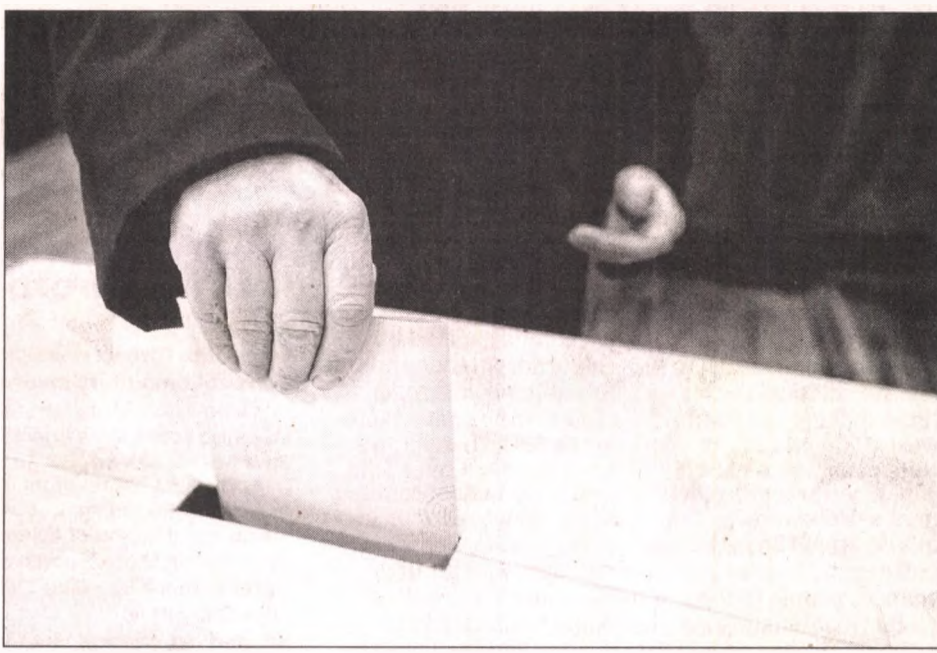
The candidates were asked nine questions. Due to space limitations in the print edition, not all are included here. However, please visit www.novineWS.com to read the entire Q&A.

Dorsch declined to participate and sent the following email (sic) to the Novi News editor: "Sorry to inform you, but I'm not using any media source's to advertise my candidacy. Although I will be excepting personal letters that are sent to me by local business's and citizen's. Their more then welcome to send their concern's, ideas, or questioner's to 24320 Fairway Hills Dr, Novi, MI 48374. As always, I will do my best to respond to everyone."

1. Why are you seeking this position?

Catanzaro: The partisan thinking and party-line voting, must be replaced with a realization that elected representatives are working for the people, not themselves or some group represented by some lobby. I can't believe that I'm actually saying that because they all campaigned on working for the people! However, we have seen this everyday with these do-nothing legislators, who work only three days a week, take the summer off and any other time off they can for whatever reason they make up. All the while, we see what needs to be done — the Michigan infrastructure (roads, bridges, water system, sewer system, electrical grid), the schools, the economy, fair treatment for all workers, the environment, and the list goes on. These issues are major concerns from the electorate. They are not being addressed so that they are either fixed or resolved. The paid legislators are doing nothing for their full time pay.

Crawford: I've an opportunity to utilize my



Voters will cast ballots Aug. 5 in the primary election. GETTY IMAGES | ISTOCKPHOTO

public service knowledge and experience in Lansing to better serve southwest Oakland County constituents. I want to influence public policies statewide to help the local citizens and communities. Just caring about people and issues is not enough, unless followed by action. I'm results-driven and never give up. For every problem, there is a solution, and I've a history of addressing and solving problems. I'm an enthusiastic optimist and will take that passion and attitude to Lansing. I've an outstanding track record as a good steward of taxpayer dollars. I want to bring that same fiscally-conservative philosophy to Lansing. I want to ensure our tax dollars are invested properly in education, roads, economic development, transportation infrastructure and health care services. I'm a hardworking, grassroots ambassador for our thriving southwest Oakland County communities. I've demonstrated enthusiasm, honesty and leadership on city council and as a commissioner.

Lauffer: I believe our community wants and deserves a truly fiscally and socially conservative state representative, as well as a contest of ideas in this race.

2. What will be your top three priorities if elected?

Catanzaro: Good paying jobs. This can be accomplished by fixing our infrastructure. Our roads and bridges are in desperate need of repairs and rebuilding. Our water and sewer systems are in some cases 100 years old and need to be properly repaired. Our electrical grid is wasting a large percentage of electricity in transmission with outdated lines

and stations. Making Michigan schools the best in the nation. The educational cuts have put a strain on school systems across the state. We have more schools in financial difficulty than ever before.

Addressing the needs of the workers and retirees in Michigan. The so-called tax cut for business was an insult. Ask any business person what benefits they have gotten and the answer would be "zero". Minimum jobs created, no actual tax cuts. However, ask a retiree and those about to retire and you will see a big increase in their tax bill.

Crawford: Economic development through job creation and road improvements: Michigan needs to cultivate a thriving and globally competitive economy with a diverse business base. Balancing the budget and keeping the tax rate low is how we will continue experiencing job growth. Road conditions impact our economic development as well as endanger our citizens. We need a creative, long-term, common sense financial solution for our roads, along with guarantees from contractors for work quality.

Education: I support additional investment in education. Our youth should develop skills to meet the demand of Michigan employers.

Health care: Southwest Oakland County is the home to a thriving health-care economy. I am committed to patient-centered health-care solutions, while protecting the rights of patients to choose their own doctors and medical plans.

Lauffer: 1. Continuing and accelerating the 2011-present progress in making Michigan more business friendly.

2. Actually reducing the size and scope of state government.

3. Not just encouraging but requiring local government pension/benefit reforms and consolidations.

3. Do you feel our state is moving in the right direction? Why or why not?

Catanzaro: The WRONG direction. Governor Snyder and the Republicans in the House and Senate promised jobs and no new taxes. What a dismal failure. Most Republicans wanted the Big Three automakers to fail. That would have been a death blow to Michigan and killed the supply base to ALL automakers. Since Republicans took over Michigan, in 2010, taxes were increased, deductions were eliminated, and Michigan now is one of the 10 worst states to retire in. In 2013, your 401 and most IRA's started being taxed. It will cost you 4.25 percent when you take money out. Charities, schools, veterans, students were also hurt by these regressive tax laws and severe spending cuts in the wrong places. Our schools have seen massive cuts, which will only drive graduates to look for work in other states. Michigan's Republican legislators, led by Governor Snyder, didn't create any jobs but penalized all the people.

Crawford: Yes, thanks to conservative policies established over the past four years by the governor and the Republican-led Legislature. Under Governor Snyder, there have been a number of

positive tax reforms in Michigan that support job providers, and the enhanced focus on Pure Michigan has resulted in increased business and tourist attraction. We need to continue to make Michigan employer friendly. The job market in Michigan is progressing under Republican leadership. We need to continue on a path that allows Michigan employers to hire and feel secure in a business-friendly environment. That's how jobs will continue to be created. Protecting the quality of life for all of our citizens is a high priority of this administration. My career is based on being a successful, life-long advocate for older adults and disenfranchised people (mental illness, physical impairments and developmentally disabled). My decades of experience will be an asset to the legislative process.

Lauffer: Since 2011, yes, we have been moving in a better direction than during the Granholm administration due to conservative economic policies.

4. In recent years, legislators have increasingly voted strictly along party lines. Do you see this as a positive, and how do you envision collaborating with members of the opposing political party?

Catanzaro: A negative. To solve problems you need input from ALL legislators. This means actually working for the people and resolving issues in a bi-partisan way. I should say multi-partisan way. It seems today there are really more than two parties anyway. I mean Republican, Tea Party, Conservative, Liberal, Democrat, Libertarian, and the list goes on. As for collaborating with the opposing party, that can only be done when the public actually demands it. No legislator can make another legislator do his or her bidding. However, if the roads aren't fixed, or schools helped to bring up standards, or real jobs aren't created, then the legislators should either not be paid or easily removed from office. Let's be honest, with summer breaks, winter breaks, holiday breaks, Mondays and Fridays off, they really don't have time to actually work for the people

of Michigan.

Crawford: Voters deserve the type of independent, critical thinking that I bring to all issues. That's how you solve problems. Over the years, some Lansing officials have met as a bipartisan group to develop joint proposals. I think that's been a good first step, but more work needs to be done. I will not abandon my core conservative values of low taxes, smaller government, economic growth and less regulations. If Democrat representatives share these common goals, then I will collaborate and work with all to reach consensus/compromise. I've been a credible and honest public servant for more than 35 years. I understand the process, and I know how to get things done for my constituents. Lansing needs someone who has a proven track record for responsiveness and resourcefulness.

Lauffer: I'll seek areas of agreement with more moderate members of the other party whenever possible but you can expect me to most often vote with the conservative majority.

5. If needed, where would you cut expenses first to balance the budget?

Catanzaro: If you believe the administration, there is a budget surplus of over \$1 billion. So, if we make more cuts, there will be a bigger surplus, and still bad roads, schools, etc. However, the Legislature could actually save money by seeking better solutions. Example: just putting \$1 billion or \$2 billion in roads is not the answer. Why are the roads so bad? Is it contractors, concrete or asphalt mixes, engineer specs, truck axle weight, or something else? You cut expenses by spending wisely. This means finding a solution before you spend your dollars on fixing the problem, then fix it once and do it right. These road contracts are not to make some contractor rich and give them lifetime employment. However, there are enough roads and bridges to be fixed to keep thousands of workers busy forever.

Crawford: Cutting expenses can be accomplished, as long as we

See ELECTION, Page A6

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST August 5, 2014 PRIMARY ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Public Accuracy Test for the August 5, 2014 Primary Election is scheduled for Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in the lobby of Township Hall, located at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, Michigan.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to determine that the program and the computer being used to tabulate the results of the Primary Election count the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

The public is welcome and invited to attend.

Sue A. Hillebrand, M.M.C.
Clerk

City of Novi Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Construction Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, July 24, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Mayors Conference Room Novi Civic Center 45175 Ten Mile Road to consider:

CASE NO. PCB14-0001 27571 BELGRAVE PLACE

The applicant is requesting variances from the CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 11-216 (e) (8), to allow construction of an existing driveway slope of approximately 10.35%.

CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Design and Construction Standards, Chapter 11, Section 11-216 (e) (8) requires the grade of residential and utility structure driveway approaches and driveways shall not exceed ten (10) percent.

CASE NO. PCB14-0002 21115 POMINO DRIVE

The applicant is requesting variances from the CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 11-216 (e) (8), to allow construction of an existing driveway slope of approximately 11.2%.

CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Design and Construction Standards, Chapter 11, Section 11-216 (e) (8) requires the grade of residential and utility structure driveway approaches and driveways shall not exceed ten (10) percent.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Novi Community School District (NCS) will receive sealed proposals for:

Architectural and Engineering Design Services

Until 3:00p.m., local time, Monday July 28, 2014, at the Educational Services Building located at 25345 Taft Road Novi, MI 48374 at which time, and place, all proposals will be received. Proposals received after the above stipulated date and time will not be opened, considered or accepted.

Requests for Proposal documents can be obtained by following the link below to the NCS AE RFP e-Builder site beginning Tuesday, July 8, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.:

<https://app.e-builder.net/public/publicLanding.aspx?QS=b54bdba089db4a769a7a23c35ac00512>

If you have issues accessing the site, please contact Christa Jarnot at (248) 603-5296 or christa.jarnot@plantemoran.com.

All interested firms are invited (not required) to attend a pre-proposal meeting on Thursday, July 10, 2014 at 1:00p.m. at the Educational Services Building located at 25345 Taft Road, Novi, MI 48374. After the meeting, there will be an opportunity to visit the following facilities in the order as listed: Novi Woods Elementary, Novi Meadows (5th and 6th Grade Houses), Parkview Elementary, Novi High School and Deerfield Elementary.

All proposals must be submitted on forms furnished by Plante Moran Cresa and comply with the requirements of the RFQ/RFP. All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner (bidder) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education or District Administration. Proposals received without a sworn and notarized statement of disclosure will not be considered or accepted.

NCS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to waive any irregularities therein and accept that bid, which best serves the District's interest.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Novi Community School District (NCS) will receive sealed proposals for:

Construction Management Services

Until 3:00p.m., local time Monday, July 28, 2014, at the Educational Services Building located at 25345 Taft Road Novi, MI 48374 at which time, and place, all proposals will be received. Proposals received after the above stipulated date and time will not be opened, considered or accepted.

Request for Proposal documents can be obtained by following the link below to the NCS CM RFP e-Builder site beginning Tuesday, July 8, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.:

<https://app.e-builder.net/public/publicLanding.aspx?QS=9f3adea919244d6eb05176165903e9ea9>

If you have issues accessing the site, please contact Christa Jarnot at (248) 603-5296 or christa.jarnot@plantemoran.com.

All interested firms are invited (not required) to attend a pre-proposal meeting on Friday, July 11, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Educational Services Building located at 25345 Taft Road Novi, MI 48374. After the meeting, there will be an opportunity to visit the following facilities in the order as listed: Novi Woods Elementary, Novi Meadows (5th and 6th Grade Houses), Parkview Elementary, Novi High School and Deerfield Elementary.

All proposals must be submitted on forms furnished by Plante Moran Cresa and comply with the requirements of the RFP. All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner (bidder) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education or District Administration. Proposals received without a sworn and notarized statement of disclosure will not be opened, considered or accepted.

NCS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to waive any irregularities therein and accept that bid, which best serves the District's interest.

ELECTION

Continued from Page A5

focus on two things:
 Eliminating the waste and abuse in department spending: Three years ago, the state auditor general reported approximately \$800 million in waste and abuse in the Department of Human Services. We need to solve these types of problems, and then earmark those funds to balance the budget and/or to give back to health care for our seniors and/or to education for our local school districts.

Making additional common-sense reforms in government spending: We need to continue the momentum established by the House Regulatory Reform Committee. Over the past two years, this committee has cut expenses by removing hundreds of silly and useless bureaucratic rules and regulations that have hindered economic development, job creation and business growth.

Lauffer: I would make cuts at the MEDC, eliminate the film tax credits and reduce spending through privatization of some services. Over the years the state has raised billions for infrastruc-

ture. It has been spent on welfare, immigration and education and not particularly judiciously. Why should we believe that raising more for infrastructure will actually be spent on infrastructure?

6. If possible, where would you add additional funds in the state budget?

Catanzaro: You create good-paying jobs, in two ways. Fixing the infrastructure would bring in federal dollars. Many of our highways and bridges have been built with federal dollars. Usually 75 percent of these road projects are federally funded. By fixing the roads and bridges, we would get \$3 for every dollar we invest. These federal dollars will help fuel the whole economy and help many businesses, by the so-called "trickle down" effect. This is a real no-brainer. We have to fix the roads and bridges anyway, before someone gets killed. Second, when business sees good infrastructure, they want to relocate there. It's a fact -- good roads helps ease transportation and congestion, creating enterprise zones for manufacturing and resources like water, which we have lots of, are all incentives to bring in business which brings in

jobs, which brings in state revenue, which lowers taxes, which creates jobs and so on.

Crawford: The age demographic in the 38th District is shifting to empty-nesters and active, older adults. My focus will be to protect quality-of-life issues, particularly for this growing segment of our population. If possible, I would support additional funds to develop and implement a statewide Non-Motorized Transportation Master Plan. A healthy Michigan includes creating safe pathways for bicyclists, pedestrians, wheelchairs, etc. It is critical to continue making the southwest Oakland County region, as well as Michigan, a better/safer place to live. Education and information should be enhanced. My goal is to connect people to the plethora of existing government programs which help resolve economic hardship as well as streamline service delivery. I don't support generations of government subsidies or entitlements as a means of reducing poverty, but I do believe it's my responsibility to assure there are for everyone services and programs available that promote independence and economic security.

Lauffer: I would like to see overall government spending reduced, but would seek to prioritize that spending and not simply cut everything by the same amount.

7. What, if anything, can government do to help promote business growth in the state?

Catanzaro: Make the state business friendly by making sure federal, state or city regulations are actually needed and don't overlap with each other. Offer new business tax incentives to locate here. Again, this sounds very repetitive but fixing the roads, water systems, and electrical grid would actually save business money and time and be a reason to relocate here. It's been calculated that most drivers waste well over an average of \$300 in fuel costs and about \$400 in car repairs (shocks, tires, rims, struts, and accidents) a year by driving on these inadequate and pot-hole filled roads. You can also calculate your cost for the many extra hours spent in traffic delays. This affects business by adding fuel and transportation costs to any product they make or sell. Would you move to a home where the street was full of potholes and transportation was iffy?

Crawford: Four things:
 1. Create a job-friendly environment for business through conservative tax policies.

2. Encourage and endorse free-enterprise solutions for small businesses and corporations.

3. Continue to reduce and remove the useless bureaucratic rules and regulations that have hindered economic development, job creation and business growth.

4. Support – and keep – existing businesses in Michigan by promoting Michigan products and services.

If everyone would

commit to buying only \$10 per week of Michigan-made products, the Michigan economy would explode with an influx of millions of growth dollars into our wonderful state as well as create thousands of jobs.

Lauffer: Get out of the way of the free market.

8. Do you support changes to the way Proposal A funds education?

Catanzaro: Proposal A took away control of local spending and gave it to the state. It has done nothing to improve student outcomes. Schools have been shorted by Governor Snyder and the Republican-controlled House and Senate. Here in the 38th District, we have been cut over \$52 million in school funding since they took over in 2010. That means Northville lost \$4.8 million, Novi lost \$11.1 million, South Lyon lost \$10.2 million and Walled Lake lost \$26.4 million. Our universities have lost hundreds of millions, too. These cuts will have a devastating impact on our schools and students. Michigan is losing the battle to improve our students and their future. These cuts are also reducing the resale value of your home. Good schools greatly improve the selling value of your home. The state, not your local school board, controls most of your educational dollars. We need to review Proposal A.

Crawford: I would consider any and all suggestions to revise and/or eliminate Proposal A, but we need to carefully analyze the issue to make sure our public schools are properly and financially protected. A vibrant and growing Michigan economy will solve many of problems associated with Proposal A. Proposal A was implemented in 1995 by shifting the schools funding source from local property taxes to state sales taxes. That worked in the 1990's when the Michigan economy was strong and vibrant. Proposal A has been a funding problem over the past 14 years due to the stagnant Michigan economy. The School Aid Fund needs to fund K-12 public education – and nothing else.

Lauffer: No.

9. Gov. Snyder and others say we are underfunding our roads, leading to the disastrous condition they are now in. Do you think it was a mistake for Snyder's first budget to have cut road funding 12 percent? If so, what other funding and tax changes under this governor and Legislature were mistakes?

Catanzaro: So, Gov. Snyder is saying what HE did almost four years ago was a disaster. I have to agree with his criticism of his own budget. For someone in business, he sure doesn't know how to think ahead. The Republican-sponsored cuts to schools are still causing problems and will only grow (like the road issue). The Republican-sponsored taxes to present and future retirees will cause a migration out of this unfriendly-to-seniors state. The massive tax shift to the people, which has been calculated to be over \$1,200 per person, will

JASPER CATANZARO

Age: 68
 Years 38th District resident: 15
Community involvement: Active for many years in veteran's affairs, helping veterans get assistance both from the VA and other organizations. Active in both the American Legion and VFW.
Related experience: Worked with Ford Motor and UAW to secure jobs here in Michigan in a responsible and effective manner for both sides.
Profession: Retiree from Ford Motor Company and the UAW
Education: public schools (elementary, junior high); Notre Dame High School; Wayne State University graduate with honors
Family: Married to Linda; step-daughters Megan and Chelsea

KATHY CRAWFORD

Age: 72
 Years 38th District resident: approximately 70 years
Current Community involvement: Chairman, Novi Historical Commission; Michigan State Fair Steering Committee; Executive Board, Area Agency for the Aging Region 1b; Executive Board Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency; Novi Oaks Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (including past Secretary); Novi Senior Theater cast member and Master of Ceremonies for its annual Varsity Show; Novi Pavilion Shores Conservancy; Novi Library Friends; West Oakland Republican Club; Oakland County Republican Executive Committee.
Related experience: Vice-Chairperson, Oakland County General Government Committee; Vice Chairperson, Oakland County Ad-Hoc Webcasting Committee; Appointed by Board Chair to the Oakland County Retirees Compensation and VEBA Boards; Appointed by Oakland County Board of Commissioners to the OLHSA Board and Executive Board Member; Oakland County Finance Committee; Oakland County Prescription Drug Card Committee; Oak 65- Senior Citizen Issues; Lake Board (Walled Lake); Oakland County Planning & Building (Former Member); Honorary Lifetime member of the Optimist International Club; (Honor Club Citation Award); State of Michigan "Minuteman Award"; Michigan's "Governor Milliken Award"; Michigan Recreation and Parks "Innovative Programming Award"; Business and Professional "Women of the Year Award"; Novi Parks and Recreation Foundation "Hugh and Kathy Crawford Award"; Novi Rotary Foundation "Paul Harris Fellow Award"; City of Novi Honoree on the City's "Walk of Fame"; Novi's "Outstanding Citizen Award"; "Novi Distinguished Service Award."

Profession: Oakland County Commissioner – 9th District (2010 to present); Novi City Council member (2007-2010); Public Service in Field of Aging for Oakland County citizens (30+ years)

Education: Farmington High School graduate; college courses
Family: Married to Hugh Crawford for 49 years; three grown children -- Doug, Amy and Kelly; grandchildren Alexis, Devin, and (foster care) Destiny and Diamond

DAN LAUFFER

Age: 67
 Years 38th District resident: 3
Community involvement: Kiwanis, Knights of Columbus
Related experience: Chaired a fund-raiser for Iraqi Christians that raised over \$6,000. Worked as a basic literacy instructor for adults with developmental disabilities for 10 years; leader of conservative clergy group; graduate and teaching assistant at Garrett Theological Seminary and Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.; recipient of two national awards for leadership and church growth; selected by chief of police and mayor from the area pastors to mediate a labor dispute between the police and the city in the City of Worth and in one night we averted a 'blue flu'; originated a grassroots planning committee in Worth with long-range goals and time frames; appointed to the following committees of the United Methodist Conference – Committee for Social Issues and Committee on Evangelism; consultant to several churches for church growth; tour host for two trips to Israel after a summer of archaeology in that country; started two food pantries. coordinated the work of 17 churches to provide Thanksgiving dinner for over 300 homeless persons for three successive years while a pastor in Rockford, Ill.
Profession: retired pastor (27 years) and college professor (15 years)
Education: B.A. Olivet Nazarene University; M.A., Northwestern University
Family: married to Christine for 47 years; children – Christian, 36 and Andrew, 32

only take more buying power away from the average Michigander. The elimination of deductions from almost all charities, college tuition, etc., has hurt those institutions. Each of us is paying dearly for the mistakes of Gov. Snyder and the Republican House and Senate.

Crawford: It's not an issue of finger pointing and blaming. It's an issue of priorities. Roads were not a top priority four years ago. Governor Snyder's first year was filled with many challenges – the biggest was to implement policies that balanced the state budget by making necessary financial structural changes to eliminate deficit spending behaviors and practices. Roads are a majority priority in 2014 if we're going to continue to promote economic development.

We need creative, long-term, common-sense financial solutions for our roads, along with guarantees from contractors for quality work. We need to re-evaluate the road-funding formula with the expressed purpose of not creating new taxes. We need a combination of revenue-generating options to fund our roads. The road-funding formula also needs to focus on traffic density. It's not about raising taxes, but how we spend existing revenues in a cost-efficient manner to repair, restore and maintain roads and bridges.

Lauffer: Gov. Snyder was under severe budgetary constraints at the time. I'm against any overall tax increases but think we can spend more on roads by better allocating funds and eliminating so-called prevailing wage laws.

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Local church sends youth on mission to Appalachia



Fifty youth and some church leaders from First United Methodist Church of Northville packed their vans and tool truck to leave at 5 a.m. July 6 for Salyersville, Ky., for a week with the Appalachian Service Project. The group worked Monday through Friday on homes in and around Salyersville. Teams of approximately seven people (five young adults, two adult leaders) will do pre-scheduled home repairs, construction projects and provide Christian fellowship (and lunches) to the families they'll serve. This is the 28th year the church youth have participated in the community service project. WENDY BETTS

High school sweethearts start a new life together

As Diane and Jim Panzone approach their 50th wedding anniversary, their romance has been steeped in a life-long, shared passion for life. It has taken them together from high school classrooms to dance floors and from athletic courts to politics.



High school sweethearts Diane and Jim Panzone have begun their next life adventure together at Fox Run in Novi. LINDSAY ASH

Moreover, their romance has seemingly made time stand still, even as it now enters a new chapter at Fox Run retirement community in Novi.

They met as high school students in Detroit and began dating. Jim took Diane to the senior prom, which turned out to be the first of many proms they would attend together.

They married and each become teachers. They worked together at the same high school — she taught English and

economics, he taught government. The couple volunteered each year as chaperones at the senior prom.

“When Jim took me to our senior prom, he thought it was last one,” Diane said, jokingly.

At age 50, Diane and Jim retired. They traveled a bit and then began spending winters in Florida near Fort Meyers. They couple also began country line dancing. They joined a dancing


club in Florida and formed many long-lasting friendships with their fellow dancers.

Diane and Jim moved two months ago from a condo in Warren to Fox Run. The first thing they did together was to install a full wall of built-in bookshelves in their new apartment home to help them keep up with their shared interest in reading.

They continue to do things together, whether it is participating in volleyball games or engaging in political committee discussions. And they travel back to Florida during the winter months to rekindle friendships there.

Their “snowbird lifestyle” seems to have taken new root in their new retirement locale. So has their love for one another.

The Fight for Conservative Values




MADDOCK

He's the Conservative Challenger Who's Fed Up With Big Government Tax & Spend Liberals

State Senate

They're BOTH Republicans

VS



KOWALL

He's the 14 Year Career Incumbent who Voted for .44¢ Gas Tax, Obama Care, Detroit Bailout & Min. Wage Hike

On August 5th....

YOU Decide

MattMaddock.com



Be sure to take advantage of all the great events we have planned for the month of July. Join in for fun, informative, and entertaining activities throughout the entire month!

Events At: Independence Village of Plymouth 14707 Northville Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 734-453-2600	Sunday Brunch & Open House	Events At: Independence Village of White Lake 935 Union Lake Road, White Lake, MI 48386 248-360-7235
<p>Fourth of July Celebration Wednesday, July 2 1:30 pm</p> <p>Join your own Village Joy Singers as they help Independence Village celebrate Independence Day. Our thirty-voice choir will present a program of all your patriotic favorites. Light refreshments will be served.</p>	<p>Sunday Brunch Sunday, July 20</p> <p>Bring your family and friends and join us for a delicious chef-prepared brunch buffet. In addition to the delicious breakfast and lunch food, be sure not to miss the fantastic desserts our chef has prepared especially for this event.</p> <p>Cost \$17.00 adults, \$13.00 ages 6-12, ages 4 and under are free.</p>	<p>Ice Cream Social Wednesday, July 9 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm</p> <p>Two of our favorite things come together for this fun event—ice cream and being social. Create your own ice cream with a variety of flavors and toppings, then sit down with your friends and swap stories like you used to do at the local soda fountain.</p>
<p>Art in the Park July 11 - 13 Friday, 11:00 am - 8:00 pm Saturday, 10:00 am - 7:00 pm Sunday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm</p> <p>Be sure to stop by our booth during Michigan's second largest art fair. Located in downtown Plymouth, it's a great weekend of art, food and fun you won't want to miss.</p>	<p>Summer Celebration Open House Saturday, July 26</p> <p>Join us for the July Open House and enjoy an old fashioned picnic with everything but the ants! It's a chance for us to get together as a community, tell a few stories, and share a laugh and a meal.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please Call for Details</p>	<p>Time to get Jazzy Thursday, July 31 6:00 pm</p> <p>What could be better than some cool jazz and an ice-cold martini? Independence Village of White Lake proudly presents an evening of jazz with vocalist Sheila Landos. Enjoy exquisite appetizers and be part of the scene.</p>
<p>America the Beautiful Patriotic Presentation Monday, July 30 1:30 pm</p> <p>Celebrate America through song and story. "Suzanne and Jim" will inspire your patriotic pride with this star-spangled show.</p>		

PLEASE RSVP THREE DAYS BEFORE THE EVENT

Novi nurse, son spread compassion and healing

Oakwood Hospital nurse Maribeth Guys, RN, CPNP, said she had always felt the call to serve above and beyond her traditional role in health care.

Guys, along with her son Nicholas, had that opportunity recently when she traveled to South Africa on a mission trip to bring medical care to an impoverished area of that country.

"It was one of the best things I've ever done," said Guys, a Novi resident who works at the Oakwood Taylor Teen Health Center in Taylor. "I just loved it. It's a whole different way of practicing medicine and nursing. It changes you."

Guys had heard about the opportunity through

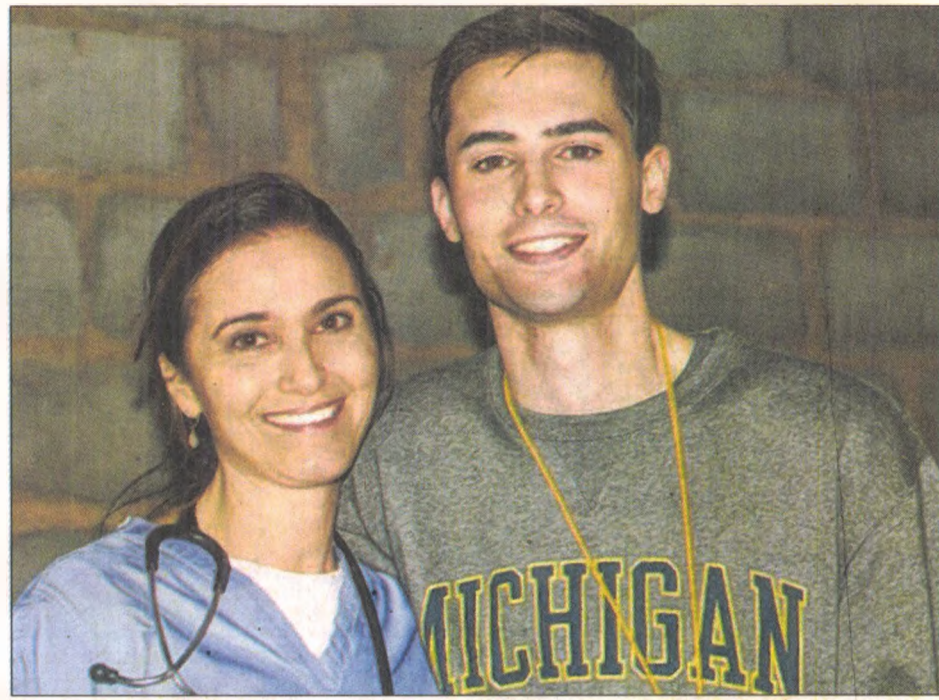
Africa Christian Ministries. She had never been able to take part, however, until this year, when she and her 21-year-old son — who is a senior at the University of Michigan, pursuing a career in medicine — took part. Preparation for the 16-day trip took six months. The Guys' committed in November and traveled with the group in May.

They landed in Durban, the largest city in the South African province of KwaZulu-Natal and from there took a two-hour trip to the townships of Sikhawini and Ingwavuma where they would conduct five health clinics during their stay. Everyone had to bring along five suitcases — three of which were filled with medi-

cines such as antibiotics, asthma medications, antifungals and analgesics as well as eyeglasses and sunglasses. The medicines were donated, many of them came from Guys' Oakwood colleagues. As they left the relatively prosperous city behind, they traveled over nearly impassible roads where cows, chickens and dogs roamed free to the dormitories that would be their temporary home.

"There was no comparison between Durban and where we were," Guys said. "It was very remote. Some people didn't have electricity; many didn't have running water."

"We only had hot water sometimes, we frequently lost electricity;



Novi resident Maribeth Guys, an Oakwood Hospital nurse, and her son Nicholas traveled to South Africa on a mission trip to bring medical care to an impoverished area of that country.

we slept in bunk beds — but it was still a luxury to us," she added.

The missionaries spent the first three days of the trip sorting medicine and preparing for the clinics. When Guys arrived at her first one, she said the site that greeted her was very humbling.

"People generally got in line the night before," she said. "You would pull up and find, literally, a hundred people lined up just to see you. I took that responsibility very seriously. I was very moved by that."

The group put on five clinics throughout the 16-day period. Guys said they treated more than 800 people and more than 300 of those were children. They administered to people with fungal, upper respiratory and skin infections, people who suffered from asthma and other allergies exacerbated by the dusty conditions, as well as many who suf-

fered from abdominal pain due to parasites. For Guys, helping the young people was particularly rewarding.

"For many of the children, it was the only physical exam they would get in a year," she said.

Many of the adults suffered from the general fatigue that came from living in adverse conditions. Also, many had eye issues as a result of spending a lot of time outdoors with no protection from the intense African sun.

"They were just sore and tired. They had to walk to get their water, or walk to get to any sort of jobs that they had," Guys said.

The clinics were generally nine-hour days with 15-minute breaks to eat or use a restroom. That didn't count the time heading to and from the clinics, as well as the chores before and after. Guys said they were drained every day.

Guys said that the experience was difficult and humbling and it served as a reminder to how fortunate we are. It was an eye-opening experience, she said, to find such poverty within a short drive from a major city.

"Two hours is nothing," she said. "You wouldn't expect to see something like that in 2014. It's really another way of life and you forget how easy it is here. It gave me a tremendous perspective."

Her son agreed. "One thing in particular that I took away from the trip was an appreciation for the strong spirit displayed by so many of the people we cared for and got to know in South Africa," he said. "Even while living and working in very difficult conditions, most everyone was happy, especially the children. That is something we at home should learn from."

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See the Christmas in July special section in print or online beginning July 24th

Publication Dates:

July 24: Observers and Hometown

July 27: Eccentrics

Look for this holiday icon hidden on the pages of the either in print or online Christmas in July section. Correctly identify all of the pages where the icon is hidden and mail the entry form or enter the contest on Facebook.

- **Tony Bennett** (Value \$198)
- **Cutco** Paring and Trimmer Knife Set (Value \$125)
- **\$50 Meijer Gift Card**
- **\$25 Schokolad*** Chocolate Factory Gift Card
Six will win (good only at Northville location)



2014 Holiday Icon

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- **Ten others will win Emagine Theatre movie pass and Buddy's Pizza coupon**



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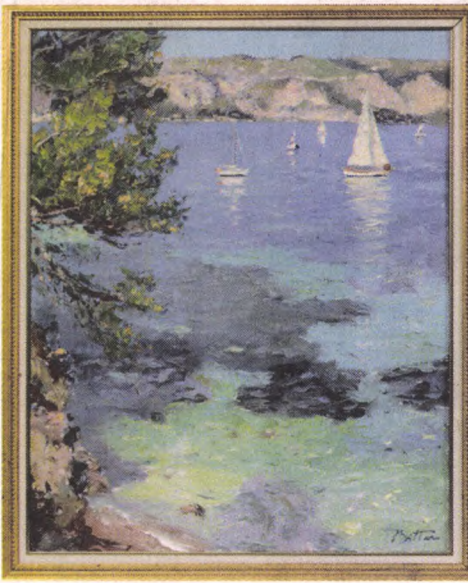
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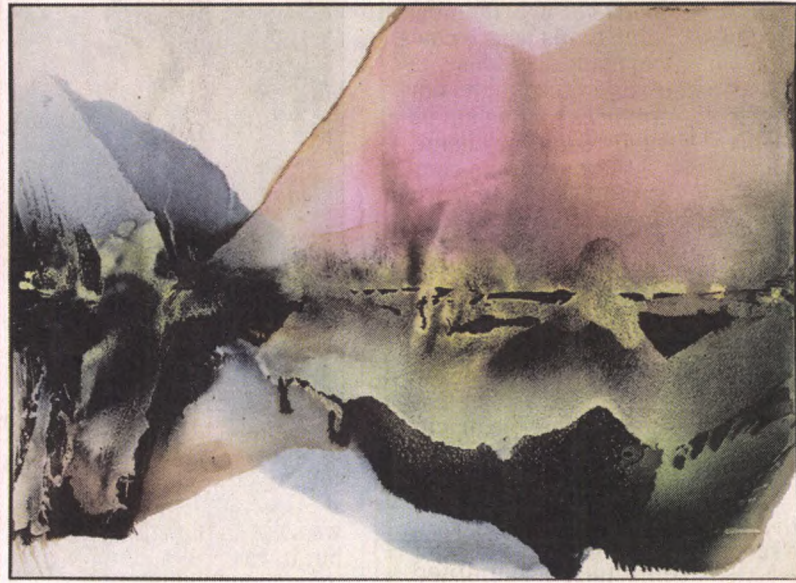
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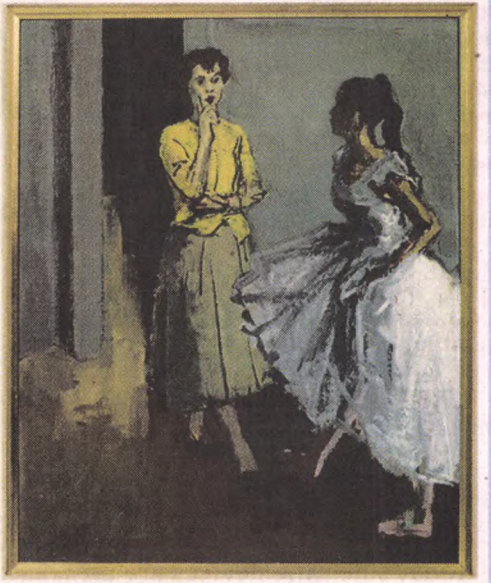
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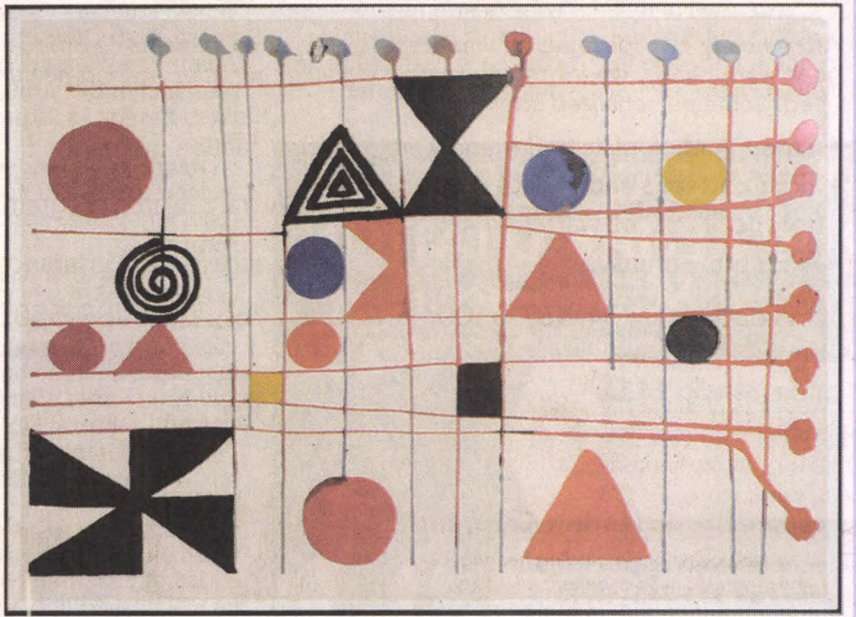
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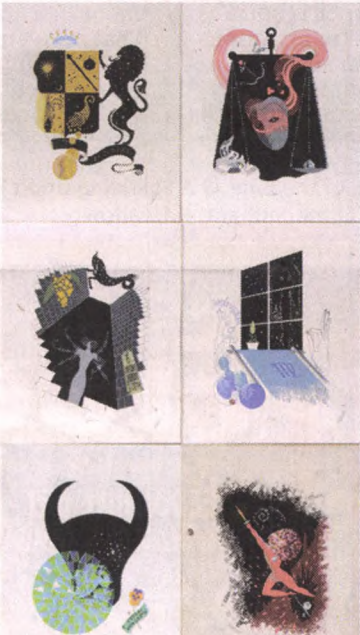
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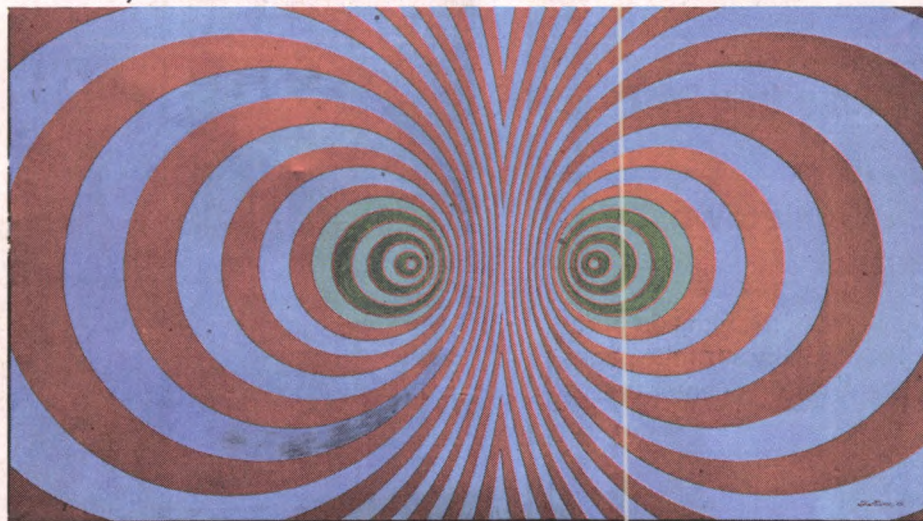
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Two new "read boxes" were introduced to the community in late June in ITC Park (Napier Road) and Rotary Park (off Nine Mile).

Novi Rotary rallies for readers

In an effort to spread goodwill and build better community friendships, the Novi Rotary Club concentrated its efforts on literacy this past spring. As a result, two new "read boxes" were introduced to the community in late June in ITC Park (Napier Road) and Rotary Park (off Nine Mile).

Last year, the Novi Public Library launched this reading initiative in Lakeshore Park.

"The read box was an instant hit with park visitors and over the three months that it was available to the public, over 200 books were taken, read and shared," said Julie Farkas, library director.

The purpose of the boxes is to promote summer reading, said Jaelyn Kochis, incoming Rotary president.

"Most people have a chance to rest and relax during the summer

months," Kochis said. "Vacations tend to occur and students are out on break. What a great time to grab a book and escape."

In partnership with the Novi Public Library, the Novi Rotary donated \$1,500 toward the construction and decorating of the boxes. This year's artists were Novi High School students Caleb Foerg, Josh Dilworth and Adam Van Wiemeersch, plus Jaelyn DeCarolis from the Art Institute of Novi.

Readers of all ages are welcome to take a book, read, enjoy, share and return.

"A special thanks goes to the city of Novi's Department of Public Services for building and installing the read boxes and Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services for determining the box locations," Farkas said.

Read boxes will be filled on a weekly basis by library staff and boxes will be available in the parks until early October.

"Our goal is to build a love of reading when enjoying our Novi parks each summer," Farkas said. "Plans for future boxes are being considered, knowing the value and uniqueness they bring to our community."

Sparkling Good Time



Karen Kupchonic, the new Older Adult Services manager for Novi, chats with Noreen Doulet, left, at the Meadowbrook Senior Center on June 19. The pair were there along with dozens of others to enjoy A Sparkling Good Time Luncheon, which included summertime themes, lunch and live music. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Attendees of the June 19 A Sparkling Good Time Luncheon applaud the works of the trio band Crossroads at the Meadowbrook Senior Center.

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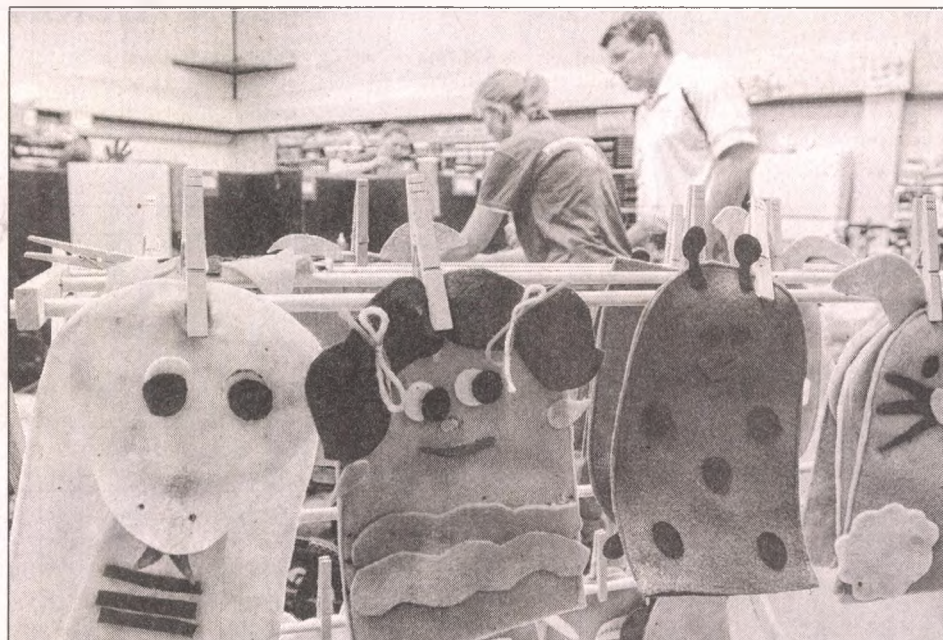
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THE DOOBIE BROTHERS
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Cooke School's ConnectUS program features a circuit completed within the school's activity room so that students go from station to station and slowly create their puppets.



Some of the felt puppets drying on a rack, awaiting their new homes.

CONNECTING A SPECIAL COMMUNITY

Cooke School's ConnectUS growing for impaired young adults

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

Eileen and Michael Whalen started ConnectUS as a way to provide programming for multiply physically impaired, wheelchair-bound adults over the age of 21. Little did they know that five years later it would grow and become an important community resource.

ConnectUS was established in 2008 to fill a big need for individuals, like Michael, who are transitioning into life post-graduation from the Cooke School in Northville.

Eileen was worried there wouldn't be much for her son Michael to do, so instead of waiting for something to come along, they created their own nonprofit corporation to help out where they can. It operates in the Livonia, Northville, and Plymouth communities.

"We asked ourselves, what can we do?" she said. "This is based on the belief that everyone has something to offer and that the needs of one can be an opportunity for another."

She added, "Our goal is to make the connection happen."

The program is designed to provide stimulating activity for members, as well as educational and social connections for student interns and volunteers. It consists of regularly scheduled adapted activities for the program's members.

Each month, the program hosts events enabling impaired young adults to take their volunteer buddies through assembly lines of adapted equipment. At these events, they produce things like book covers and all sorts of felt hand



Cooke School student Lisa Nguyen shares a high-five with Nadine Harris (right, off-camera) as assistant Kay Kane (left) directs Nguyen through the ConnectUS workshop June 6. The program allows Cooke students, regardless of their physical or cognitive abilities, to help to make hand puppets, which are then given to kids in local foster care home. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

puppets.

One recent activity that took place at Cooke was the International Puppet Assembly Program. Another activity is baking of ginger cookies and dog treats.

"Everyone is gaining from this program," said Jessica Onkka, Michael's teacher at Cooke. "This has been huge for our staff and school."

Onkka said Eileen's level of effort has made ConnectUS a working success and she expects it to be a fixture at Cooke for years to come. Cooke Principal Jennifer Bugar agreed.

"It's a fantastic program because it gets its participants involved in important activities that act as a bridge to the community," Bugar said.

It's a true cooperative project through which the members interact with community volunteers, who are invited to

share their time and talents.

Michael graduated from Cooke last month, but through ConnectUS he will be back to help out someone just like him.

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FRI/SAT LS 11:45
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D-BOX LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE 4:00, 9:40

EARTH TO ECHO (PG)
11:30, 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:00

TAMMY (R) 12:20, 2:40, 4:50, 7:05, 9:45 FRI/SAT LS 12:00

DELIVER US FROM EVIL (R)
FRI-MON, WED 11:15, 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50 FRI/SAT LS 11:55
TUE 11:15, 2:10, 4:40, 9:50

TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION (PG-13) 11:05, 2:30, 6:05, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:10

22 JUMP STREET (R) 6:45, 9:20

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2 (PG) 11:40, 2:00, 4:25



Student volunteer Millissa Brooks talks to Cooke student Melissa Pond during the June 6 workshop.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PROVISIONS OF THE NOXIOUS WEED ORDINANCE

TO: All owners, occupants or possessors of subdivided lands or lots:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Chapter 21, Article II, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, all noxious weeds, or other weeds, grass, brush, or deleterious, unhealthy growths exceeding a height of eight (8) inches, growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City of Novi, shall be cut down, destroyed or removed as the case may be, at least twice in each year, once during the last half of the month of May and again during the last half of July of each year and more often as may be necessary.

If the owner or occupant, or any person or persons, agent, firm, or corporation having control or management of any subdivided land upon which any building or buildings have been erected shall fail, refuse, or neglect to comply with the above mentioned Code provisions, the city shall cause the weeds, grass, brush, deleterious, unhealthy growths, rubbish, to be cut down, destroyed or removed. Provided, further, that any lands which are situated within the floodplains or any natural streams or watercourses, or any area between the lower or upper banks of such streams or watercourses shall be exempted from the provisions of such Code provisions. The expense incurred by the City in the cutting, destruction or removal of same together with a fifteen (15) percent administrative charge will be levied and collected against such property in the manner provided by law.

Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in Chapter 21, Article II, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, may also result in the prosecution for same, and liability to the extent of the penalty therein provided.

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ENGAGEMENT



Sarah Bardsley and Weston Laabs, both of Northville, are engaged to be married. Sarah is the daughter of Guy and Vicky Bardsley of Northville. She is a graduate of Michigan State University and the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. Weston is the son of David and Susan Laabs of Northville. He is a graduate of Michigan State University and is currently serving in the U.S. Coast Guard. A July 26 wedding is planned in Hartland. BRENT TAYLOR

WEDDING



Sara Cooley and Steve Broschart were married March 1, 2014, in Sierra Madre, Calif., where the couple makes their home. Sara is the daughter of Roger Cooley of Plymouth and Linda Cherry of Ann Arbor. She earned her bachelor's degree in biology and anthropology from the University of Virginia and has graduate degrees from the University of Michigan and University of Arizona. She is currently the prevention director at Partnership for a Positive Pomona, a nonprofit in greater Los Angeles. Steve is the son of Rebecca and Ronald Broschart of Portland, Mich. He has a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Michigan, as well as a doctorate in aerospace engineering from the University of Michigan. He is currently employed as a mission design engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, Calif. Michael Dauber, a friend of the groom, acted as clergy. A reception was held at Nature Friends Clubhouse, Sierra Madre. The couple honeymooned in Greece and Turkey.

BIRTH



Steven and Kyle Pryce of Plymouth announce the birth of their son, LaVerne Steven Pryce, June 5, 2014. He was born at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. Proud grandparents are Wayne and Mary Kay Pryce of Northville and Randy and Sue Woods of Fowlerville.

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MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
21355 Meadowbrook Rd. in Novi at 8 1/2 Mile
248-348-7757 • www.mbc.org
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister
LO: 0000178398

OAK POINTE CHURCH
50200 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi
Saturday Worship 5:15 p.m.,
Sunday 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
Casual, contemporary service
Phone (248) 912-0043
www.oakpointe.org

Highland

HIGHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
680 W. Livingston Rd. • Highland, MI 48357
248.887.1311 • www.myhumc.com
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Kids Church: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
MS & HS Youth: 10:30 a.m.
Check our website for summer youth activities and special events: www.myhumc.com

Milford United Methodist Church
1200 Atlantic St., Milford, MI 48381
Sunday Worship: 9:30 am
Children's Church: 9:40 am
Groups for Children, Youth and Adults
248-684-2798
LO: 0000193048

ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI
46325 10 Mile Rd. • Novi, MI 48374
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
Msgr. John Kasza, Pastor
Parish Office: 347-7778

NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
41671 W. Ten Mile Road • Novi, MI 48375
Sunday Worship 9:45 a.m.
Rev. Jane M. Smith, Pastor
248-349-2652
www.umcnovi.com
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South Lyon

New Hudson

NEW HUDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
56730 Grand River Avenue • New Hudson MI 48165
(248) 437-6212 • Gerald S. Hunter, Pastor
Sunday School & Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Worship-10:30 a.m.
www.newhudsonumc.org

WEST HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
1116 S. Hickory Ridge Rd., Milford, MI 48380
248-887-1218
Sunday Worship 9 am & 11:15 am
Wed. Kids-6:30 pm/Adults-6:45 pm
Also Small Groups / Ministry Teams

The Church of Christ
21860 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon, MI 48178
248-437-3585 • www.southlyoncc.org
9:30 a.m. Sunday School,
10:30 a.m. Praise and Worship
Wednesday Midweek Ministries 7 p.m.
Troy Singleton, Minister
LO: 0000179315

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN
(Missouri Synod)
Pastor Terry Nelson
437-8810 • 486-4335
Griswold Rd. at 10 Mile
Worship: 10 a.m.; Sunday School: 10 a.m.;
Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m.
LO: 0000178331

NEW HOPE - A Unitarian Universalist Congregation
57865 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI 48165
Phone: 248-474-9108
Sunday Celebration of Life Service 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Suzanne Paul, Minister
Website: http://www.newhopeuu.org

Freedom Life Church
Where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is Freedom Cor 3:7
1208 E. Commerce, Milford
Worship: Sun 11am, Wed 7pm
We are here through Christ Jesus
to provide Freedom to those who
are hurting, diseased, addicted
LO: 0000178488 and depressed

Fellowship Evangelical Presbyterian Church
22300 Pontiac Trail (S of 9 Mile)
Sunday Worship @ 9:30 am
Sunday School @ 11 am
Wednesday mid-week programs
Rev. David Brown, Pastor
248-437-2222 • www.fellowshippepc.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON
60820 Marjorie Ann St., South Lyon 48178
Phone: 248-437-2983
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Rob Freshour / Assoc. Pastor: Randy Weeks
Website: www.fbcsouthlyon.com
E-mail: fbcsouthlyon@bcglobal.net
LO: 0000178388

Northville

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
www.fpcnorthville.org
200 E. MAIN ST. AT HUTTON
Worship, 9:30 am.
Sunday School for all ages, 10:30 am.
248-349-0911

United Methodist Church
(248) 349-1144
777 West 8 Mile Road
(8 Mile and Tait Road)
Worship Times: September - May 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Memorial Day - Labor Day 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Marsha M. Woodley, Lead Pastor
www.umcnorthville.org

first united methodist church south lyon, mi
640 S. Lafayette
(248) 437-0760
Worship: 8:15 am, 11 am & 6:30 pm
Sunday School: 9:40 am
Rev. Sondra Willabee, Lead Pastor
southlyonfirstumc.org

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
Wisconsin Synod • Reynold Street Pkwy.
at Liberty St.
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All Classes 9:00
Pastor Scott Miller, (248) 437-1651

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248•348•9030

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40000 Six Mile Road
Northville, MI 48168
248-374-7400
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8 a.m. | 9:30 a.m. | 11 a.m.
A different music style from classic to modern
www.wardchurch.org
LO: 0000178490

Shepherd's Way Lutheran Church, ELCA
59255 10 Mile Rd.
South Lyon MI 48178
Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Education Hour 10:15 AM
Rev. Bart Muller, Pastor
248-573-7320
www.shepherdswaysouthlyon.org

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www.ecrossroads.net
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9:30 la Contemporary Service
11am la Family Worship Service

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Sunday, 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
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Religious Education 349-2559
Rev. Denis Theroux, Pastor

Our Savior Apostolic Lutheran Church
54999 8 Mile Rd. at Currie Rd., Northville, MI 48167
248-374-2268
Sunday Worship:
10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Fellowship/Coffee
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Wednesday Bible Study (Colossians) at 7 pm
LO: 0000188227 Pastor Andy Whitten

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Reed Heckmann, Pastor/Teacher
www.solidrocksouthlyon.com
LO: 0000188848

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Saint Andrews Episcopal Church
16360 Hubbard Road - Livonia
South of Six Mile Road
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Childrens Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
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OUR VIEWS

Proposal 1 helps to improve jobs climate

Businesses would benefit from passage

A proposal that helps Michigan businesses without hurting local governments and schools is a good deal for everyone, including homeowners.

That's why voters should support Proposal 1 during the Aug. 5 state primary.

Proposal 1 eliminates Michigan's personal property tax, an equipment tax paid only by businesses and collected by local governments. It also reconfigures the Michigan Use Tax, a separate state tax, to make up for municipalities' lost revenue.

Businesses have long complained that the tax, levied in perpetuity against the equipment they use, hurts their ability to expand.

State officials have argued the tax hurts their ability to bring new businesses – and jobs – to Michigan.

Businesses have long complained that the tax, levied ... against the equipment they use, hurts their ability to expand.

Among Great Lakes region states, only Indiana levies such a tax and even that tax lessens as equipment ages. Michigan's tax dates back to the 1890s and is a throwback to a long-ago time when geography trumped all other factors and even big businesses were local, rather than international,

in scope.

With all that in mind, Michigan legislators last year authorized a phase-out of the tax.

But they overlooked one important point – what the phase-out would mean for municipalities already struggling to balance their budgets.

In a rare move, legislators agreed to scrap the phase-out unless voters pass Proposal 1. But the onerous tax would remain in place if voters say no. A full exemption given this year to small businesses would also be scrapped.

A better option is to support Proposal 1. Here's what it would do:

Split state use tax revenue into two shares, with one share – called a community stabilization share – going to Michigan municipalities to offset losses from the personal property tax elimination.

In real terms, slightly more than \$96 million would be generated in replacement local revenue for 2015-16. That share would jump to \$380 million by 2016-17 and rise for many years after that under the state's formula.

Individual municipalities' shares would be determined by new agency, the Local Community Stabilization Authority.

The use tax is levied against a host of activities, from boat and off-road vehicle sales to telephone services. At present, it all goes to the state.

School districts, which already receive use tax money, would see their share increase, another plus under Proposal 1.

To cover the state's loss of revenue, large-scale manufacturers would pay a new Essential Services Assessment, while select tax breaks granted mostly during the Granholm administration would be allowed to expire without being replaced.

That action alone should find favor with local voters concerned with governmental "picking winners" among favored industries while ignoring others.

Proposal 1 would also keep the use tax at its current 6 percent, dispelling any notion that it is a tax increase lying in the weeds.

It's a somewhat complex formula and not everyone is convinced it will work.

State Sen. Gretchen Whitmer, the Senate's Democratic leader, is perhaps the proposal's leading critic on just those grounds.

Yet, critics are in the minority.

An overwhelming majority of state legislators from both parties supported putting Proposal 1 on the ballot.

The proposal itself has received support from a wide-ranging number of organizations, including the Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Fraternal Order of Police, the Michigan Association of School Boards and the Michigan Farm Bureau, among many others.

All these groups agree that Proposal 1, while perhaps not a cure-all, is a vital step toward making Michigan more competitive. It's another step toward changing Michigan from a job loser to a job leader.

But their endorsements aren't the most important.

Yours is.

It's an endorsement we strongly urge you to give. We urge you to vote **YES** on Proposal 1 in this year's primary.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Do you think mayor and council members deserve raises, respectively, to \$6,500 and \$4,500 annually?

Asked of residents at the Novi Senior Center and Meadowbrook Commons.



"No, that will mean our rent will go up again. Most of us live on a limited budget, so it's difficult to think of rent going up more."

Jean Radke
Novi



"I'm undecided at this point."

Barbara McDonald
Novi



"No, I think the job is a voluntary one for service to the community."

Jane Bishop
Novi



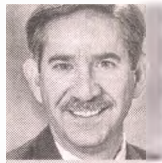
"I don't they should get one because I think they're probably already earning a decent income from their full-time jobs. Plus, who gets raises anymore?"

Rose Brink
Novi

GUEST COLUMN

Council, mayor deserve an increase in compensation

Novi became a city 1969. Before that, Novi was a township. When Novi became a city, residents approved the first city charter in 1969. That initial city charter underwent a comprehensive review after just nine years, in 1977. Thereafter, for the next 36 years, the charter was not comprehensively reviewed until 2013, when city council appointed a Charter Review Committee to review each provision of Novi's 1977 city charter and report back to the council on recommended changes.



David B. Landry

GUEST COLUMNIST

I have had the privilege of being a member of that Charter Review Committee. The committee currently consists of nine people: three elected officials (Mayor Bob Gatt and city council members Wayne Wrobel and Laura Marie Casey), two members of the city administration (Interim City Manager Victor Cardenas and City Clerk Maryanne Cornelius) and four members of the community at large (Phil Superfisky, Tom Marcus, Doreen Poupard and myself). Interestingly, two of the four members representing Novi residents, Superfisky and Marcus, were residents of Novi when the charter was last reviewed in 1977. Their historical perspective has been invaluable. Poupard is a resident of Novi's Fox Run community and I have been a resident for 19 years and was an elected official for 10 years.

When the Charter Review Committee initially met, we committed to review the city charter with no preconceived agenda. Accordingly, we proceeded to review each of the 17 sections of the charter in order. We discussed each section, what its purpose was, how it was intended to function in 1969 and 1977 and how it functions 37 years later. Obviously, things have changed in 37 years. However, the basic governmental principles of accountability, openness and responsibility to our residents have and will remain inviolate for not only 37 years, but 137 years and beyond.

What we as a committee found was that the city charter still functions quite well. The founding members of our community did an excellent job. However, the city they lived in and the city we live in are in many ways very different. For starters, no one in 1969 or 1977 would have dreamed that every resident could pull out an iPhone and with the click of button tap into a city website and learn of every ordinance, every pronouncement and every available piece of land for sale in the city. The Internet has drastically changed the way the city communicates with its residents. Additionally, in 1969 and 1977 the founding members of our city set forth in the city charter various city departments. No one dreamed that "Information Technology" would be a city department. Moreover, at its very basic

MICHIGAN CITY	CURRENT POPULATION	MAYOR'S COMPENSATION	CITY COUNCIL'S COMPENSATION
St. Clair Shores	59,749	\$10,070	\$7,935
Roseville	47,299	\$10,259	\$8,370
Farmington Hills	80,756	\$9,325	\$8,216
Battle Creek	51,911	\$7,800	\$4,800
Portage	47,126	\$7,500	\$5,000
City of Novi	56,912	proposed \$6,500	proposed \$4,500

level, the 1969 and 1977 city charters spoke in terms of a city clerk and every other city employee in masculine terms only.

On Aug. 5, Novi residents will have an opportunity to consider another recommended change in the city charter – the amount of compensation paid to Novi's elected officials. Currently, the mayor receives \$20 per meeting and city council members each receive \$15 per meeting. This adds up to approximately \$800 a year for the mayor and \$600 a year for council members. After 37 years, I believe our elected officials deserve more.

Having served as a city council member for four years and as mayor for six years, I have a firsthand understanding of the time commitment, the effort commitment and patience commitment required to do the job right. Simply put, I believe our elected officials deserve more than they received in 1969.

In 1969, Novi had a population of 9,902. Our current population is 56,900. That is six times as many people to represent. That translates into six times as many people to listen to and six times as many people to be responsible to. The number of city employees, the number of city businesses, the amount of infrastructure and sheer scope of public safety issues have increased geometrically. To be frank, the job of an elected official is different in the Novi of 2014 than the Novi of 1969.

Yet at its core, the job of being an elected official is very much the same. Elected officials at a local level must still be available a mere phone call away. Yes, we had telephones back in 1969! Elected officials at the local level must be available to meet with residents one-on-one. That is, truly, the beauty of local government. Each elected official must remain approachable to every citizen. Yes, there are citizens who abuse that right. Yes, there are citizens who feel it is their God-given right to tell you as an elected official that you are making boneheaded decisions and, yes, there are residents who will threaten you with that time-honored phrase, "I will remember this at election time!" However, only elected officials who serve for the wrong reason are swayed by such outbursts. Indeed, in many ways the job of an elected official is the same – only six times bigger and, with current technology, six times as many ways for residents to communicate with elected officials.

After serving as an elected official for 10 years and practicing municipal law for more than 30 years, during which time I have represented elected officials at the local level, I am convinced that the right amount of compensation for local officials lies somewhere between zero and an amount which would

cause people to run for office just for the money. To be a local elected official and to do the job right, a person must be willing to do the job not for the money. However, to do the job right requires so much effort that, in my opinion, it would be simply inappropriate not to provide some modicum of appreciation in monetary terms.

Thus, the key question is, how much is an appropriate sum between zero and an amount which would result in people seeking the job just for the money? This much I am convinced of – that amount is more than it was in 1969 and 1977.

While certainly not deterministic, it is always appropriate to consider what similar communities do and benchmark Novi against similar communities (see chart).

On the Aug. 5 ballot is a proposed charter amendment to compensate the mayor at \$6,500 and council members at \$4,500 annually. As can be seen from the chart, Novi would still pay less than similar cities. However, Novi would be far more in line than its current approximate \$800 compensation for the mayor and approximate \$600 for council members.

The annual increase in cost to the city if this charter amendment proposal passes would be approximately \$29,600 annually.

To do the job right, local officials must have a love for their community. This is because local elected officials must be willing to commit the time and patience to learn a great deal of information about the city budget, maintenance costs, personnel issues, union issues and a host of information about running a city which the average resident simply does not know.

More importantly, to do the job of a local elected official right, a person must be willing to commit the time and to personally care enough to deliberate thoughtfully on decisions which will effect and define this town and the people who live here for many years to come. In a word, an elected official must be willing to do the job *responsibly*. As an elected official in Novi for 10 years, I have a tremendous amount of respect for those who have served before me and for those who are currently serving. For that effort, our elected officials, in my opinion, deserve a token of appreciation somewhere between zero and an amount which would cause them to do the job for the wrong reasons. I believe \$6,500 for the mayor and \$4,500 for council members is such an amount.

I urge you to vote yes on the Charter Review Question on the Aug. 5 primary ballot.

David B. Landry is a former mayor of Novi and a 19-year resident. He and his wife Julie have raised three children in the city.

NOVI NEWS

A GANNETT COMPANY

Cal Stone,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of
Advertising

Saga continues with old psychiatric hospital property

David Schostak, CEO of Schostak Brothers and Co., was making some remarks at the June 25 groundbreaking for the long-awaited Northville Park Place development located at the corner of Seven Mile and Haggerty roads in Northville Township.

Surrounded by members of his company, the project's financial backers and our newspaper staff, Schostak said the project, which will include retailers and restaurants, is an excellent example of cooperation between the public and private sectors. Yet all it took was a quick glance around to determine there wasn't anybody at the ceremony from the public sector, particularly Northville Township. Frankly, I've never been to a ribbon-cutting ceremony not attended by elected officials. Usually there are more of them than you can shake a stick at.

It was a strange, almost awkward moment in an otherwise celebratory affair at which Schostak said a number of tenants have already signed lease agreements, including Chipotle, Granite City Food and Brewery, Rusty Bucket, Sherwin Williams, BurgerFi and Jimmy John's.

Using the word "cooperation" to describe the relationship between Schostak Brothers and Northville Township is a pretty big stretch, especially when it comes to the long saga surrounding the former Northville Psychiatric Hospital property. It is a story filled with lawsuits, annexation attempts and now legal wrangling.

Not even a week before the ceremony, Northville Township Supervisor Bob Nix was informing other board members at a public meeting that a number of



Kurt Kuban

"transactions have yet to be fulfilled" by Schostak pertaining to the brownfield agreement between the company and the township. Although Nix didn't elaborate on the point and township officials won't discuss the matter publicly, it is obvious they are not happy with the relationship with Schostak, no more than they were when the company convinced Livonia officials to support the failed annexation attempt of the property.

You may recall last year the township created a brownfield authority so it could capture TIF (tax increment financing) funding from the 82-acre property owned by Schostak, which it will use to demolish the old hospital buildings on adjacent property owned by the township. However, due to a lawsuit, the township has to share those funds 50/50 with Schostak.

Now that the University of Michigan Northville Health Center is open, the township can begin to collect taxes on the property. The latest issue between the township and Schostak is how those TIF funds will be distributed - essentially, who gets the first dollars and when.

Schostak wants the money to put in the necessary infrastructure to support the development, while the township needs the money to tear down the old hospital buildings, which have become a public hazard and haven for trespassers. So you might say the relationship is at another impasse. Most likely it will be left up to the courts to figure it all out - and the



Work continues on the Northville Park Place development June 25 at Seven Mile and Haggerty. The first phase of the project is expected to open next spring. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

legal bills will continue to mount.

There have also been rumors that Schostak may try to sell the property the hospital sits on to the University of Michigan (currently U-M leases the property from Schostak), which would be devastating to the township because a non-profit wouldn't have to pay property taxes. In such a scenario, the township would have far less tax revenue to demolish the old hospital buildings and implement the park plan it has for the property.

So when you add it all up, expect this saga to have a few more turns before all is said and done.

Township officials are certainly happy that the development is finally moving forward. In fact, many were in attendance Monday when the U-M Northville Health Center opened its doors for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. In fact, Nix himself helped cut the ribbon. It was quite the dichotomy to the Schostak groundbreaking ceremony.

I suspect once the initial phase of Northville Park Place opens next

spring, township officials will show up with smiles on their faces, help introduce the various businesses to the community and root for their suc-

cess. In the meantime, they will hold their noses as they continue to "cooperate" with Schostak Bros.

Kurt Kuban is community editor of the Northville Record. He welcomes your feedback at kkuban@hometownlife.com.

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Blues, Brews, Brats celebrates adult community party

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

Get your blues on this Saturday in downtown South Lyon during Blues, Brews and Brats.

The Chamber of Commerce for the South Lyon Area is sponsoring the summertime, sit-back-and-relax adult community party from 4-11 p.m. at the Whipple Street parking lot on the corner of Whipple and N. Warren streets, across from the South Lyon Fire Department. The location is new this year, keeping local streets open for

traffic throughout the day.

There is no charge from 4-5 p.m., however, a \$3 admission fee will be charged after 5 p.m. Organizers of the third annual event will enforce a 21-and-older age requirement after 9 p.m.

"It's very much an adult event," said chamber Director Kim Thompson of the third annual event. "The nature of it — beer, blues music and bratwurst — are not particularly kid friendly. People under 21 are welcome to come until 9 p.m."

Get your blues on

Entertainment will be provided by Steve Nardella Band from 5-6 p.m.; Michael May & the Mesarounds from 6:30-7:30 p.m.; The Detroit Blues Band from 8-9:15 p.m., and Doug Deming & Dennis Gruening with The Jewel Tones from 9:45-11 p.m.

Nardella is an American blues, rock and roll, blues rock and rockabilly guitarist and singer. Michael May & The Mesarounds focus on the bluesy side of jazz, and the jazzy side of blues, performing jump, swing, blues, R&B, New Orleans and rockabilly. Detroit Blues Band has been around in various forms since 1976 and is an east-side staple at the Blue Goose Inn in St. Clair Shores. Detroit native Doug Deming has garnered widespread attention for his deft guitar work and memorable songwriting. With a decade of touring and recording to his credit, he, along with The Jewel Tones, continues to bring noteworthy traditional and original roots music to his audiences.

Blues, Brews and Brats is a good thing for some local merchants.

"I think any time we have a local event it helps keep the downtown vibrant," said Mark Childs, co-owner of South Lyon Cycle on S. Lafayette. "It keeps things local rather than going outside the community."

Train Hopper IPA and Edward's Portly Brown, South Lyon's Witch's Hat Brewing Company's two



Doug Deming, an east-side Detroit native who lives on Florida's Gulf Coast, will show off his guitar work and songwriting at South Lyon's Blues, Brews & Brats this Saturday.

most popular beers, will be served along with Labatt Blue Light and Sierra Nevada. Northville Winery will bring Cabernet, Chardonnay and hard cider.

Five percent of proceeds from the Edward's Portly Brown beer sales go to the Humane Society of Huron Valley.

"It's an opportunity for us all to get together

and enjoy the town, over music, over brats and over beer," said Erin Cottogim, Witch's Hat co-owner. "I think it's a great event."

Chefs from Palate of Milford will offer a wide variety of bratwursts from cheddar and a spicy Italian to a buffalo chicken and blue cheese to a brat that's super hot. Hot dogs and Polish kiel-

basa are also on the menu.

Between 900 and 1,300 people have attended past Blues, Brews and Brats events and this year's attendance hinges largely on weather conditions, Thompson said. Profits go to support chamber programming.

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August 1	John E. Lawrence	Willow Creek Ford between Lilley & Haggerty	
August 8	Tim Bowman	Home Depot Ford & Lorz	
August 15	Alexander Zonjic	Sams Club Ford & Lorz	
August 22	Randy Scott	Super Bowl Ford between Canton Center & Sheldon	

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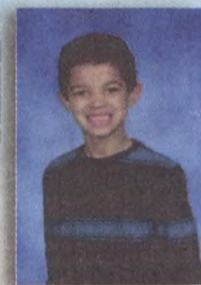
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Novi's Wang proving his tennis mettle

Eyes boys 18 USTA National Tourney in Kalamazoo

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

It's only a two-hour drive, but Novi High School's Tim Wang can't wait to get to Kalamazoo.

That's where he'll play for the second straight year in the U.S. Tennis Association's Junior Nationals in the boys 18 division.

Wang went 1-2 in last year's boys 16 draw, but a recent showing at the USTA Midwest Closed Championships in Indianapolis indicates he could be more of a factor when the Nationals begin Aug. 2.

Wang, who will be a senior

this fall at Novi, knocked off top seed Martin Joyce (Hinsdale, Ill.), 7-6 (8-6), 6-4, in the Round of 16 at the Midwest Closed. Wang's run ended in the quarterfinals against No. 2-seed John McNally (Cincinnati, Ohio), 6-1, 7-6 (7-3).

McNally, who went on to capture the tournament, is ranked No. 2 nationally by the USTA. "I think the entire year, I've improved a lot," said Wang, who is ranked No. 46 nationally by tennisrecruiting.net. "I've been a lot more focused. I'm developing parts of my game. It started with a good high school season and I pretty much carried that work ethic

into my USTA play. I ended up picking up a lot of good wins and I just kept it going."

Breakthrough

The victory over Joyce proved to be a signature win for Wang.

"I think the key to that was to just play my game," said Wang, who owns a 46-18 singles record over the past 12 months. "He was the number one seed, so I was the underdog going in. I just needed to stay focused and not get too ahead of myself, not overwhelm myself with the fact that I had a lead on him. I pretty much stayed solid throughout the entire match. I kind of

See WANG, Page B2



Novi's Tim Wang was the MHSAA Division 1 top flight singles champion last year as a junior. USTA



Latif Alashe (left) is continuing his soccer career with Detroit City FC after being a standout at Northville High and the University of Michigan. PHOTOS BY JON DEBOER | DCFC

ALASHE CAN STILL KICK UP HIS HEELS

Ex-Northville High, Michigan standout thrives with DCFC

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The first half was played in searing heat, but Latif Alashe wouldn't trade it for anything.

More than a year removed from his soccer days at the University of Michigan, the former all-state player from Northville High was still glad to be on the pitch as a member of the Detroit City FC, which plays its home games before spirited crowds at Detroit Cass Tech High School.

Despite the recent conditions that felt like being in the Brazilian jungle, Alashe logged a strong 45 minutes June 29 and assisted on his team's first goal, by Jeff Adkins, as Detroit City FC knocked off the first-place Indiana Fire, 4-0.

Alashe, however, was subbed out for the second half.

"It was extremely hot,"



Former Northville High and University of Michigan standout Latif Alashe goes high for a header in a recent Detroit City FC game.

Alashe said. "I was watching the World Cup game today and they were talking about how hot it was down there. I step outside here and we're going to do the same thing so ... the second you stepped out of the locker room, you were already sweating. It was that hot. I thought we managed it well and we were able get a goal in the first half to settle our nerves. I thought the game went well."

Alashe, who graduated from U-M with a degree in

mechanical engineering, continues to play despite holding down a full-time job in supplier quality with Chrysler in Auburn Hills.

Different times

He'll be the first to admit his conditioning is not quite the same as when he made 72 starts at Michigan from 2009-12.

"It's a lot tougher now to continue playing when you work from eight to five, but a lot of guys do it on the team and I try my best,"

said Alashe, who plays in the midfield. "There's days when I don't feel like going to practice because I'm so tired from work. But we come out here and give it our all. We got a lot of younger guys pushing us to do our best. It's kind of a balancing act, but I try my best. It's not definitely where it was, but it's getting there."

Detroit City FC, in its third season, is a member of the National Premier Soccer League, which is under the umbrella of the U.S. Adult Soccer Association. The NPSL, which has 77 teams across the country, has no age limits and is considered a fourth-tier league made up primarily of current and past NCAA Division I and II players.

Despite the humidity and temperatures approaching 90 degrees, 2,858 fans came to watch the June 29 game. Le Rouge supporters, spearheaded by their Northern Guard section, create a spirited atmosphere as they chant in unison throughout the 90-minute match while setting off smoke canisters every time the home team scores a goal.

See ALASHE, Page B3

Johnston earning his keep in USTA

Northville High junior is doubles champ, singles runner-up at boys 16 Midwest Closed in Indy

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Connor Johnston is making the most out of his summer tennis calendar.

The incoming junior at Northville High booked a runner-up finish recently in the boys 16 singles draw at the USTA Midwest Closed in Indianapolis, while also capturing the doubles crown by teaming up with Daniel Boussom (Goshen, Ind.) for a 6-3, 6-0 victory in the finals over Jonathan Kroot (Indianapolis) and Joe Thomas (Canton, Ohio).

The 5-foot-11 Johnston has climbed up to No. 35 in the latest USTA rankings and will compete again next month in the prestigious USTA Nationals in Kalamazoo.

"I played really well the whole tournament," said Johnston, who was the Southeast Michigan Tennis Association Qualifier champ in June. "I knew I had to conserve my energy a lot because it was a week long."

In his first six singles matches at the Midwest Closed, the second-seeded Johnston gave up a mere 13 games in 12 sets before falling to longtime rival Gianni Ross (Burr Ridge, Ill.) in the finals, 2-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-0. Johnston earned a spot in the semifinals with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over David Horneffer (Brookfield, Wis.).

Johnston, who won his previous three encounters against Ross, may have run out of gas against the No. 1 seed.

See JOHNSTON, Page B2



Northville's Connor Johnston (left) and Daniel Boussom of Goshen, Ind., recently teamed up for the USTA Midwest Closed boys 16 doubles title.

KATHY JOHNSTON

Dube sets sights on MSU tennis career

Ankle injury slowed CC grad in Midwest Closed

BY BRAD EMONS
Staff Writer

Michael Dube's junior tennis days are over, but in the fall he'll gear up again for what he hopes is a successful four-year career at Michigan State.

The Livonia native, who graduated in May from Novi Detroit Catholic Central High School, signed an NCAA letter of intent last November with the Spartans.

He is one of two incoming recruits for coach Gene Orlando.

Dube, who recently played his last junior event at the USTA Midwest Closed in Indianapolis, had a comfort level with MSU's returning players and coach.

"I really like them a lot," Dube said. "Also, they have good academics and a good tennis program, too."

Dube qualified last year for the prestigious boys 18 USTA Nationals in Kalamazoo, where he

posted a 3-2 record overall while falling in the Round of 64 to Collin Altamirano (Santa Barbara, Calif.) in straight sets.

"I thought I did pretty well and got a pretty good draw," Dube said.

Rated a four-star recruit by tennisrecruiting.net, Dube posted a 31-13 singles record in USTA tournament events during the past 12 months.

In Indianapolis, Dube captured his first-round match before retiring with an ankle injury after playing just one game in the opening set against No. 2 seed John McNally (Cincinnati, Ohio).

Dube, who injured his ankle playing soccer two weeks prior to the Closed, was able to rebound in the consolation bracket and win four of five matches.

"This year I didn't play that many tournaments, but ones I played I did pretty well, especially this last tourna-



Livonia native and Novi Detroit Catholic Central grad Michael Dube will take his talents to Michigan State. DAN DUBE

ment at the Closed," said Dube, who was the Southeast Michigan Muthig Junior Qualifier runner-up to Novi's Tim Wang, 6-4, 6-4. "I was coming off a sprained ankle and I was still able to do pretty well in the back draw, at least. I was playing through pain for most of the tournament.

I just wanted to go in and play my game and play competitive tennis, which I thought I did."

As a freshman at CC, Dube teamed up with his older brother Joseph to help the Shamrocks win the 2010 MHSAA Division 1 state title. Joseph, who will be a senior this fall at Marist (N.Y.) Col-

lege, was the state runner-up at No. 1 singles, while Michael took the No. 2 singles flight.

Dube was also state semifinalist at No. 1 singles both in 2011 and 2013 (losing in three sets to Northville sophomore Connor Johnston).

A four-year honor roll and National Honor Soci-

ety member at CC, Dube plans on majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology at MSU.

"We are excited to have Michael and another great player from southeast Michigan," Orlando told msuspartans.com following the signing. "One of our recruiting goals each year is to win with Michigan talent and Michael adds to that tradition. Michael's biggest attribute to his game is his ability to find ways to win. He's a hard worker and will only continue to grow in our program."

Although he did not qualify this year for Kalamazoo - in large part because the draw has been reduced from 196 to 128 - Dube plans to stay busy training under coach Grant Asher at The Sports Club of West Bloomfield.

"I'll played in a couple of ITA, college-age tournaments this month and it should prepare me pretty well for the fall coming up at Michigan State," Dube said.

bemons@hometownlife.com

WANG

Continued from Page B1

built on his mistakes. And I ended up pulling off the win."

Wang, who took the boys 16 Midwest Closed title last year, has been working closely with Josh Molino, a teaching pro from the Sports Club of West Bloomfield.

"What I've been working on a lot with Josh is developing other weapons on my serve and my forehand," said Wang, who captured the Southeast Michigan Tennis Association Junior Qualifier (June 3) with a 6-4, 6-4 win over

Livonia's Michael Dube. "And as of late, they've shown and paid dividends in my game. I've really developed weapons on top of my solid game. I think that's where I took my game to the next level."

Getting started

Wang, who captured the MHSAA Division 1 No. 1 singles title as a junior, got his tennis start as an 8-year-old at the Novi Sports Club.

"I just wanted to pick up tennis," Wang said. "My sister (Jenny) played on the high school team. My parents never really played tennis. They really didn't know much about it, so

they just put me in a few groups at the Novi Sports Club and the coaches there thought I was improving quickly and I really loved the game. After then, I just couldn't stop playing."

Wang climbed the junior ladder and landed two years ago with Molino, who also coaches the Detroit Country Day boys varsity team.

And what the teaching pro found was more than a willing student of the game.

"Tim came over to us a couple of years ago and he was already a really, really good player," Molino said. "But he's just taken advantage of the coaching

staff here, not only myself, but my father (Armand Molino) and Ed Nagel, and he's really just grabbed as much info as he could from each person to get better."

Molino said Wang's leadership qualities is what separates him from others.

"He really leads by example," he said. "He's got the work ethic and his dedication, but we really never have to tell Tim what to do. It's a great thing for a young coach. He's always asking questions and is willing to learn. Every time he steps onto the court, he's trying to find a way to get better at something. I think that goes back to being a leader. You just don't have to tell some of these guys what to do. They figure it out on their own and kids start to follow. We got a younger group coming up and it's great for our area for a guy like Tim to be leading the way and hopefully passing it on to some of these other guys."

Practice partner

Wang also struck up a relationship with Jack Murray, a Birmingham Roper grad now playing at the University of North Carolina.

"I was traveling with Jack a lot and he was instrumental in bringing Tim over," Molino said. "And once he got here, he just really showed the caliber of young man. He's really done a great job working every day

and he's a great leader."

It's less than a month to Kalamazoo, but the wheels are already in motion to make a splash.

"We're really excited to get back to work," Molino said. "In the past year, he's made that move where he can beat a guy like Joyce, who is going to Ohio State. He had a great run at the (Midwest) Closed. He didn't finish as strong as we liked, but next four weeks we're really going to sharpen the tools and mentally get him prepared because it's a whole different animal. Midwest is one thing, but when you have these Florida kids, California and Texas, you got to be ready for the heat and the battle each day. I think he's going to have a great run. He's going to take it match-by-match. And hey, there's an unseeded guy who won it last year and who knows? I think Tim has all the tools you need."

Wang just feels fortunate to make the draw in a junior tournament that is considered a stepping stone for all the highly-regard American players.

Kalamazoo kid

"Last year, I didn't do that well," Wang said. "This year, it's going to be tough. It's tough just to make Kalamazoo, because they cut the draw to 128 instead of 196. I kind of got lucky."

After considering Michigan and some Ivy League schools, Wang recently committed to Columbia University,

which finished 22-2 last year and reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament before falling to USC.

"It would really nice to be able to play at home and have my parents and friends watch my matches, but at the end of the day I felt my home was New York," said Wang, who plans to study economics. "After I visited Columbia, I pretty much knew it was the right decision for me."

"I liked the coaches, Bid (Goswami) and Howie (Endelman). I like the team and they had a lot of success this year. They finished ranked 16th, the highest in their history. I definitely think their program is on the rise. I felt Columbia was the best place to be the best tennis player I could be and get the best possible education. I'm really excited about that."

Meanwhile, Molino is glad he can guide Wang through another tennis season.

"Tim's a character guy," Molino said. "He's funny, he's witty, smart. He's just a great guy to be around. Always positive. Even when he's not playing his best or we got to sit him down against somebody who is a little bit weaker, the guy is as intense. He's really a great young man and we're lucky to have him. We're happy to have him another 11 months before he goes to Columbia."

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JOHNSTON

Continued from Page B1

"I've beaten him more than my fair share," Johnston said. "I got tired, I lost my legs."

Johnston, in his second season in the boys 16 division, is 52-21 overall in singles matches during the past 12 months. Among his tournament victories are the Midwest Level 1 Indoor Closed (Feb. 3), the USA National Open singles and doubles (Dec. 1) and the USTA Midwest Level 1 Fall Closed (Nov. 11).

Johnston's success comes as no surprise to Grant Asher, a teaching pro at Franklin Racquet Club in Southfield and men's head coach at the University of Detroit Mercy entering his fifth year.

"For starters, Connor is a tier-one athlete," Asher said. "He can play any sport and be great at it. In fact, he has played a lot of different sports. It was only a matter of time before he developed at a higher level. As far as skill set goes, Connor has worked real-

ly hard on developing his forehand and developing his serve. His backhand is extremely good, which is a little unusual. The backhand is not normally as strong as somebody, but his is outstanding. Actually the forehand was a little bit attack-able at the highest level, but he's done a nice job of developing his forehand and his serve as a weapon. And it's paying dividends for him now."

Johnston was the MHSAA Division 1 top flight singles runner-up last fall to Novi's Tim Wang and the No. 2 state champ as a freshman. He got his start as a 7-year-old at the Novi Sports Club. His older sister Chelsea was a member of the Grand Valley State University team, while sister Haley played No. 1 singles for Northville.

"My parents played occasionally," Connor said. "My dad (Jeff) was a hockey player."

Johnston was scheduled to play one tune-up tournament, USTA Midwest Zonal team event in Missouri, before the Nationals start

Aug. 2 in Kalamazoo. Last year, he won his first-round match against Avinash Vemuri, 6-3, 6-2, before falling to 11th-seeded Alexander Lebedev, 6-3, 6-2, in the Round of 128.

He is trying to add more weapons to his game this season.

"I'm trying to have a bigger serve and a bigger forehand," Johnston said.

Johnston, meanwhile, has become more than a willing student. That is why is a five-star recruit (by tennisrecruiting.net) and will be a top recruit by NCAA Division I programs (beginning Sept. 1).

"I hold everybody to a pretty high standard and I think everybody could be a little bit coachable, but Connor is among the best I've had," Asher said. "And that's one of the reasons why he and Tim Wang (Novi) developed. They're always open and receptive to continuing to progress. Once that kind of stops, people kind of tend not to develop their skill set. He's very coachable."

bemons@hometownlife.com

Orthodontist expands to Novi, changing industry

After walking in the door at Today's Orthodontics, people are immediately drawn to the therapeutic and relaxing fragrance in this orthodontist office's tranquil, stylish, and spa-like atmosphere.

These are just some of the things orthodontist Dr. Nicole Teifer is doing to make the experience of straightening teeth into one that is pleasantly shaped by the comfortable environment and the use of the very latest in technical advancements.

Additionally, an exclusive VIP membership is available whereby patients are guaranteed not to miss school or work, and popular creative



Dr. Nicole Teifer has expanded her practice to Novi, in addition to a Canton office.

contests keep patients receiving prizes. Patients experience concierge service that meets their needs when Teifer sees them in semi-private and private treatment rooms that she has personally

designed with an artistic flair complete with music and mood lighting.

It is a source of pride that in just two short years, since opening her North Canton Orthodontics practice in 2012, over 1000 people have received sensational smiles with Teifer's help. With the addition of her new location in Novi, Teifer has proudly achieved record growth and has become one of the largest elite treatment providers of Invisalign and Invisalign Teen in the state of Michigan.

"You can straighten your teeth without anyone knowing," said Teifer, "and it's especially great because the In-

visalign can be taken out for eating, brushing, and flossing."

It wasn't too long ago that metal wires or brackets used to be an orthodontist's only option, she said.

"This new innovation is exciting, as I am able to prescribe a series of clear removable aligners that accurately achieve a perfect smile without people really noticing," Teifer said.

She said Today's Orthodontics strongly believes that parents should have options when it comes to their family's oral health, and for this very reason, convenience plays a key role in scheduling visits. Fourteen dream team

members give top priority for patients to Teifer when their schedules permit, and at a price point that is conveniently offered at zero money down.

Part of this convenience is also conveyed in the use of state-of-the-art equipment called the Itero scanner. This new equipment used at Teifer's two orthodontics locations, literally, allows patients to see their new smile before they start treatment, and negates the need to make impressions of one's teeth that can take up to three separate appointments.

"With the Itero scanner, only 10 minutes is required," said Teifer, "so my patients, regard-

DETAILS

Today's Orthodontics, PLLC newest location is at 44110 W. 12 Mile (near Twelve Oaks Mall) in Novi and can be reached by calling 248-306-9330. The North Canton office is located at 44633 Joy Road, Suite 300. Log onto todayortho.com for more information.

less of age, are extremely thrilled about the time they can save."

Teifer is an active provider of "Smiles Change Lives" and donates much needed orthodontic treatment to children throughout metro Detroit.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fox Run developer one of the Top 100

Erickson Living, developer and manager of Fox Run retirement community in Novi, announced that IDG's *Computerworld* magazine has selected it for the fourth consecutive year as one of the "Top 100 Organizations" that have created a dynamic and challenging environment for their information technology professionals. Specifically, the company was ranked 14th (Large Company Category: 5,000+ employees), and recognized for having a work culture where creativity is valued, career opportunities are advanced, and excellent benefits and compensation are provided.

Aisin grand opening

Tier One supplier Aisin World Corp. of America and Aisin Technical Center of America will celebrate their combined new North American headquarters with customers, government officials, employees, and members of the Northville community during a grand opening ceremony beginning at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, July 14. The headquarters is located at 15300 Centennial Drive in Northville Township.

Those expected to attend include Mike Saito, CEO, Aisin World Corp. of America and Aisin Holdings of America, John D. Koenig, president, sales and marketing for Aisin World Corp. of America, Yoshi Kato, president of Aisin Technical Center of America, and Nigel Francis, senior vice president, Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Aisin, which has had a Michigan presence since 1984, provides a growing number of automotive components and systems

to global automakers. The company's new 200,000 sq. ft. building is home to 300 employees, who support sales and marketing, administration, logistics and warehousing, and a state-of-the-art technical center.

At the ceremony, Aisin will present a \$50,000 donation to Northville Parks & Recreation to be used to build a pavilion at Community Park, a 119-acre recreation area with baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse fields.

Signature leases in Novi

Signature Associates has negotiated the lease of 3,200 square feet of industrial space located at 40120 Grand River Avenue, Novi, to ARB, LLC. Steve Kozak and Kris Pawlowski of Signature Associates represented the landlord, Brewer Properties.

'Woman to watch'

The Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants has named six female members as "Women to Watch" for 2014, including Northville's Dianne Wells. Wells is a partner at Plante Moran in Southfield. She was among three CPAs to be named "Experienced Leaders" - individuals who have advanced to a higher level or leadership position within their organization, authored articles, mentored other professionals, taken steps to improve their workplace, given back through public or community service, and/or contributed to the profession.

Wixom mayor applauds Obama
Wixom Mayor Kevin

Hinkley announced support and participation in President Obama's Maker Movement initiative and a companion program of the Manufacturing Alliance of Communities; "Mayors Maker Challenge."

The "Maker Movement" is a grassroots effort to democratize access to high-tech tools needed to design and build almost anything, and to build a community around creativity, design, and manufacturing. According to Hinkley, the "Maker Movement holds potential to enhance education in communities and improve overall quality of life for our residents".

Mayors from the Manufacturing Alliance of Communities participated with Obama in the first Maker Faire held at the White House on June 18. This White House event helped increase awareness of the great potential for boosting innovation and entrepreneurship in manufacturing, in the same way that the Internet and cloud computing lowered the barriers to entry for digital startups, creating the foundation for new products and processes that can help to revitalize American manufacturing.

Kroger contributes to leukemia, lymphoma battle

Rachel Mason, deli/bakery coordinator, District I, Novi-based The Kroger Co. of Michigan, was a teenager and a college student when she heard the words "you have cancer." Overwhelmed by a diagnosis of Hodgkin's lymphoma, Mason underwent four months of chemotherapy and several rounds of radiation as she battled the life-threatening disease. She also survived a serious blood infection.

Today, Mason is a nine-year survivor of Hodgkin's lymphoma and part of the impetus behind a \$134,959.95 donation from The Kroger Co. of Michigan to local Leukemia & Lymphoma Society chapters. Employing the national Kroger theme "Cancer Ends with Me," the campaign included scan card contributions of \$1, \$2 or \$5 and coin box donations at the cash registers in Kroger stores.

The campaign included \$28,520.44 from coin box contributions, \$103,734.01 from scan cards, a \$205.50 Kroger Community Rewards contribution, and a \$2,500 check donated by Kroger to celebrate the grand opening of its first marketplace store, located in Shelby Township. One hundred percent of the proceeds benefit local LLS chapters.

Get your Grub Crawl tickets before it's too late

Tickets are on sale for the 10th annual Northville Grub Crawl scheduled for 6-10 p.m. Tuesday, July 22.

The following restaurants are scheduled to participate: Brann's Sizzlin' Steaks and Sports Grille; Brick's of Northville; Burger Loft; Cantoro Market and Trattoria; Claddaugh Irish Pub; Edward's Cafe and Caterer; Fred's Ice Cream; Gaucho Brazilian Steakhouse; Honey Tree; Northville Sports Den; Northville Winery/Joe's Gourmet Catering and Events; Poole's Tavern; Rusty Bucket Restaurant and Tavern.

Participating restaurants provide free samples of appetizers and signature items along

with cash bar specials for the "Crawlers." Ticket holders receive a flier and event map that highlights their grub crawl starting point. Free shuttle transportation operates on a 15-minute schedule to take Crawlers from one restaurant to the next.

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at the Northville Chamber of Commerce office (closed Mondays), 195 S. Main St.; Gardenviews, 117 E. Main St.; and Good Time Party Store, 567 Seven Mile.

The event has been sold out in recent years.

For more information and a list of participating restaurants, contact the chamber at 248-349-7640 or visit www.northville.org.

Vibe scholars



Vibe Credit Union on June 19 awarded five high school seniors each a \$1,000 college scholarship as part of the ongoing FU\$E Young Adult Program. The five recipients will continue their education this fall and were chosen based on their demonstration of character, concern for the community, and scholastic achievement. "We are happy to provide the opportunity for these students to take the next step toward their educational goals and future careers," said Tom Reagan, Vibe CEO. "We have been providing FU\$E Scholarships to our young adult members for six years now and have presented a total of \$30,000 in scholarships." Reagan and CFO Ron Lang with the 2014 FU\$E Scholarship recipients Christine Rysenga, Berkley High School; Deirdre Gerke, South Lyon High School; Sara Weldon, Whitmore Lake High School; and Brittany Gates, Churchill High School. Not pictured is Justin Rogers, Berkley High School.

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