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INSIDE

Chemo Fairies

Cancer survivor and artist Pamela Campau's exhibition, "Chemo-Fairies," is on display at the Assarian Cancer Center at Novi's Providence Hospital.

— Page 16A

Literacy as a tool

Each and every day, students in Bridget Zahradnik's first grade class at Parkview Elementary School know they're going to be engaged in something fun. What they may not know, however, is whatever they do, it's going to be educational as well.

— Page 20A

SPORTS

Jirasek Park

The Jirasek sisters, Andrea and Stephanie, don't care that they are lacking a true home field. No matter where they roam, they'll make it home.

— Page 1B

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Budget: Round one done

■ City manager says future looks bright

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Even with reductions in funds from state government and the economy still in recession, the economic outlook looks pretty rosy for the city of Novi, according to City Manager Rick Helwig.

"Novi is in an enviable financial position today," said Helwig, who presented the city's proposed 2005-2006 budget to city council on March 31.

City council met for round one of its budget policy work sessions at 9 a.m. April 9 in council chambers. Additional sessions are slated for 9 a.m. April 16 and 30. All sessions are aired live on Channel 13.

In his written message to council, Helwig, who plans to leave his position in February 2006, said both economic and urban growth cycles are affecting the city of Novi's financial planning and service delivery.

"Novi is in an enviable financial position today."

Rick Helwig
City Manager

Helwig, who has managed cities during economic recessions from 1982-1984 and in 1992, believes Michigan is still in a recession.

He suggests increasing rainy day funds by 1 percent, from 14 percent to 15 percent, of the general fund for economic downturns, emergencies and special opportunities for the city. Helwig also said the city should align budget resources with invest-

continued on page 3

Library land swap on hold

■ School board to readdress issue May 5

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Public Library will have to wait three more weeks to find out if the Novi Community School District wants to make a land swap.

The library board presented a proposal to the school board on April 7, which included a land trade of its property at Ten Mile and Taft roads, for a section of property which is owned by the school district at Eleven and Beck roads.

The school board said it needed some more information before making a decision and will address the issue at its Thursday, May 5, public meeting at Orchard Hills Elementary School.

E. Lippe

The library board feels its current facility, located right next to Novi High School, is too small for the growing community.

Also, officials say, it is becoming increasingly dangerous to access the library parking lot at certain times of the day: in the morning when school starts, and in the afternoon, when it lets out.

Terry Margolis, library board president, said that the library has a few options if the school board rejected the proposal. It would either have to move off site to a temporary facility and then renovate and build, which would be the fastest way, or add to the facility while still operating the library and move to the new part, renovate the old part, then move back.

"One of the downsides of renovation is the kind of moving that you have to do and the health and safety of both the staff and patrons while you're doing it," Margolis said. "The other down side to that is, you would end up putting a lot of money into both and it takes longer to move."

The school board is questioning the cost of nine acres of the Beck and Eleven Mile property compared to its original appraisal; what would be the impact of having a library constructed there; and what would it do to the

continued on page 3

Sister's work is singer's inspiration

■ Up for 13 awards, Heard works in Novi

By Kim Kovelle
RECORD STAFF WRITER

In eighth grade, Amy Heard admits she was so shy, she only sang in her closet with the door shut.

She giggles about the school musical that yanked her talent to the limelight.

"It was about peer pressure," Heard said. "I was cast as Dee Dee, one of the popular crowd, which was hilarious."

But when her voice exploded on stage that first time, audience jaws hung wide.

Now working at Novi's Providence Hospital, the Howell resident is up for 13 Detroit Music Awards April 20.

Her vocal, guitar and piano work span pop, rock, folk, acoustic and Christian genres.

But at the heart of her four-song disc are the songs — and life — of her late sister.

"Danielle was really something," Heard said. "If you listen to her music, you can get a little idea."

Ballad beginnings

Raised in Macomb, Ill., Heard was the second born of three girls.

Her dad, a Presbyterian Evangelical grief counselor, managed a string of Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants.

"My parents were real into ballads," Heard said. "Ever since a young age, I've loved Olivia

continued on page 3

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Musician Amy Heard is up for a number of awards at the Detroit Music Awards in the categories of pop, rock and Christian. Heard works at Novi's Providence Hospital and lives in Howell.

Novi Fire Department has burning needs, says chief

■ Three out of four stations outdated

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Cracked driveways, lingering diesel fumes and lack of sleeping facilities.

These are just some of the problems at some of Novi's fire stations.

City leaders will be taking a close look at approving some major improvements to Novi's older fire stations during budget talks this month, which began April 9.

Several members of city council say three of the four stations need major updates.

"We have a need for some capital improvements for the fire stations that haven't been done for quite a while," said Council Member Lynne Paul last week.

The fourth and newest station on 10 Mile Road just east of Wixom Road is a state-of-the-art facility.

"Station No. 4 should be the model," said Jeff Johnson, assistant fire chief.

City administration has proposed improvements to the stations in the next budget, with some council members suggesting even more updates.

City Manager Richard Helwig included vehicle exhaust systems for the three older fire stations in the 2005-2006 budget. Paul said the stations have no exhaust when diesel fire trucks idle inside the garages. She and other council members believe this is a health and safety issue for the firefighters who breathe these fumes, which also stain the inside of the buildings and firefighters' gear.

"These trucks have been running in those garages for 20 years. The walls are covered with soot and diesel grease," said Fire Chief Art Lenaghan. The cost to install the exhaust systems for all three stations would be about $70,000.

Resurfacing the driveway at Fire Station No. 1 on Grand River Avenue at Market Street is another priority, at a cost of about $65,000, according to Paul.

"It's falling apart, and we have big, heavy trucks carrying fluid," she said. The sidewalk in front of Station No. 1 also needs work.

Council Member Laura Lorenzo wants to shift $68,000 in funds from Parks, Recreation and Forestry to the fire department in the next budget. She added that with the adoption of a naming rights policy in the city, the parks department should receive additional funding.

Chief of Police Doug Shaeffer suggested that the city hire two new police officers this year and two next year. Lorenzo, however, would like to see one additional police officer and one Fire

continued on page 4

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi City Councilmember Lynne Paul, left, and Novi City Fire Chief Art Lenaghan take a look at fire station No. 1's crumbling driveway. The station, originally built in 1981, is in need of a lot of updates and repairs.

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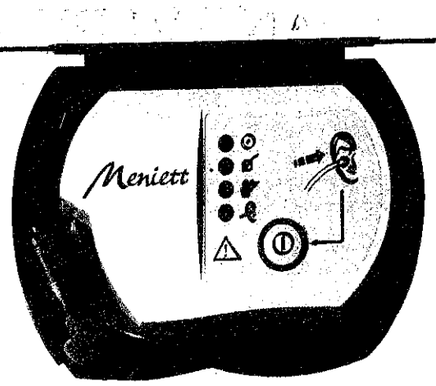

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City manager says future looks bright

continued from front page

ments in basic services and capital improvements.

Retaining and attracting talented city employees, providing them with proper resources, not hiring new staff but not scheduling any layoffs are other key budget messages from the city manager's office.

Additionally, the retirement of the chief operating officer in June and the elimination of the position saves the city $149,781.

Helwig emphasized that the city would like to maintain its current millage rate of 10.5416 — the sixth lowest rate in Oakland County. A mill is $1 per $1,000 of the taxable value of property. For example, if a home's state equalized value is $200,000, the taxable value would be $100,000. So, city taxes alone on a $200,000 home would be $1,054.16.

City managers are asking for $445,000 to upgrade the city's information technology system and $447,000 to upgrade the city's fleet of vehicles.

Budget discussions will also focused on the Capital Improvements Program, service improvements and capital outlay requests.

For more information about the city's proposed 2005-06 budget, visit the city's Web site at www.ci.novi.mi.us. A copy is also available at the Novi Public Library and the city clerk's office on the second floor of the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.

TUNE IN

The next budget policy work session will be aired live at 9 a.m. April 16 on cable Channel 13, the government access channel. The final budget session will also be at 9 a.m. on April 30 in council chambers.

School board to readdress issue May 5

continued from front page

impact of having a library constructed there and what its effect on the value of their remaining property.

Having heard this proposal from the library board, the school board now has other questions to answer. What is the school district contemplating for that land? Does this affect future options for the land? And, what conceivable value does the land at Ten Mile and Taft roads have for school district purposes if a trade is made?

"Whenever you try to do something that involves exchanging property, it's always complicated," said Brenda Evans, library director. "I think each board has very good intentions, to represent their entities as best they can and then also to think beyond the needs of the school board and the library board and look at the needs of the whole community."

Evans explained that currently, when she looks out the window at the library, she sees cars backed up on Ten Mile Road as they try to turn in to both the high school and the library.

"I don't think that we're giving people a place to get in safely and that isn't very good customer service on our part," she said. "We're supposed to be here for people when they feel like coming and when it's convenient for them.

"I think it's our job to make access to the library as convenient and safe as possible. If we didn't look at this opportunity with the school district, we would be remiss."

Dr. Emmett Lippe, Novi Schools superintendent, thought the library's proposal was a good one.

"I think they did a nice job presenting their proposal, but whether the school board wants to participate in it is another matter," he said. "The board was trying to get the questions out there so that next time they discuss this issue, they would have that information on hand."

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.

Up for 13 awards, Heard works in Novi

continued from front page

Newton-John."

She and older sister Tamatha often laughed as little Danielle ran around, belting made-up songs.

Heard said her younger sister's tenacity shined.

"She didn't care if she squawked a note," she said. "I've really learned a lot from her."

After Heard's own brave debut, a musical tide followed. With a knack for guitar, she also danced at her mom's studio and dabbled with piano.

At age 16, Heard earned early entrance to Western Illinois University and was paid for shows, and, as a high school senior, she played boisterous Adelaide in the musical Guys and Dolls.

"That was the end of my shyness," she laughed. "I loved it."

'Sister to Sister'

When the family moved to Michigan, Heard headed to Oakland University.

She and her younger sister lived together for a few years.

"Danielle and I just grew really close," Heard said. "We were goofy and disgusting together. That was just us."

Heard briefly married after a stint on a cruise ship. It was while she lived in Tennessee that she got the news.

Seven months pregnant, Danielle had been in a fatal accident on M-59 in Howell. She was barely 19.

"I was shell-shocked," Heard said. But she soon took action. In Danielle's last two years, she'd written over 20 songs.

"It's like God just came down and touched her with this gift," Heard said. "I didn't want her music to be buried with her.

"It was an incredible therapy. It kind of kept her near me."

Scouring old, faint tapes and penned poetry, Heard's "Sister to Sister" CD was the result.

Recording in Canton and Ferndale, her work earned two Detroit Music Awards last year.

Her new single, "This Day," keeps her love of ballads, faith and Danielle alive.

"Meant to Be," her first full length disc, is due out this year. Her goal is to be a cross-over artist.

Until her big break, Heard said, she'll continue working as an ophthalmic technician — and with her band.

"Everyone that's come into my life musically has just been incredible," she said.

Kim Kovelle is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or via e-mail at kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net.

Extra funds should go toward millage and roads, says Lorenzo

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Now in her last term on council, this will be Laura Lorenzo's eighth review of the city's budget.

She said the first thing she did when she received the proposed 2005-06 budget was to see how it compared to the recent fiscal analysis prepared by the city's finance department and consultant Plante & Moran.

"We were off from the general fund revenue part of the fiscal analysis by $730,439. So, we have less than what was projected," she said.

For this fiscal year, 2004-05, the finance department estimates that the city will have spent more money than was taken in as revenue.

However, funds for the new fire department pumper truck approved for purchase at the April 4 council meeting, will come out of this year's budget, which adds $437,982 to the next fiscal year's budget.

But, the city still has $860,524 in expenditures over revenue.

"That's a concern," Lorenzo said.

"We have the money, because we have a higher fund balance than we had anticipated. But, we are dipping into the increased fund balance to balance the budget for 2005-2006," she said.

As a veteran on council, she believes given the city's financial restraints, in what she calls this decade of financial uncertainty, city leaders need to be better disciplined in how they spend.

"Maybe we really shouldn't be going over our revenues, unless it's some kind of emergency," she said. "I think we need a more defined policy."

If the city staff finds it has funds in excess of the 14 percent reserved in the rainy day fund, instead of just using it for discretionary spending, Lorenzo would like to either spend the money to make up for upcoming legislative limitations on the city's millage rate or on an expanded annual neighborhood road program.

Lorenzo explained that once the Headlee Amendment millage limitations kick in, the fiscal analysis showed that the first year the city would anticipate a .25 decrease in the annual millage, which equates to about $750,000.

This year, the city can pay for its expenditures over revenue because it has an excess in the fund balance.

Lorenzo is proposing to use any excess money to fund decreases in the annual millage.

"So, the taxpayers would actually see a decrease in their millage rate," Lorenzo said.

Lorenzo said council could raise the millage rate now, but after the city hits the Headlee limitations, city leaders will no longer have the ability to raise the millage rate without going to the voters.

"This is probably one of the last years the council could raise the millage rate without going to the taxpayers. I don't see this council doing that," she said.

But in the future, the millage rate will start to decrease, she said.

"We may have to go back to the taxpayers to maintain the current millage rate," she said.

The road bond funding passed by voters in 2000 ends this year. So, additional funding will be needed for road work in the city.

"We're not going to have that $1.5 million that we've been using each year," Lorenzo said.

She also wants to discuss whether City Manager Rick Helwig's salary should be a line item for the entire fiscal year since he says he is leaving in February 2006.

Finally, Lorenzo would like to see funding for conferences and seminars for city staff to remain the same.

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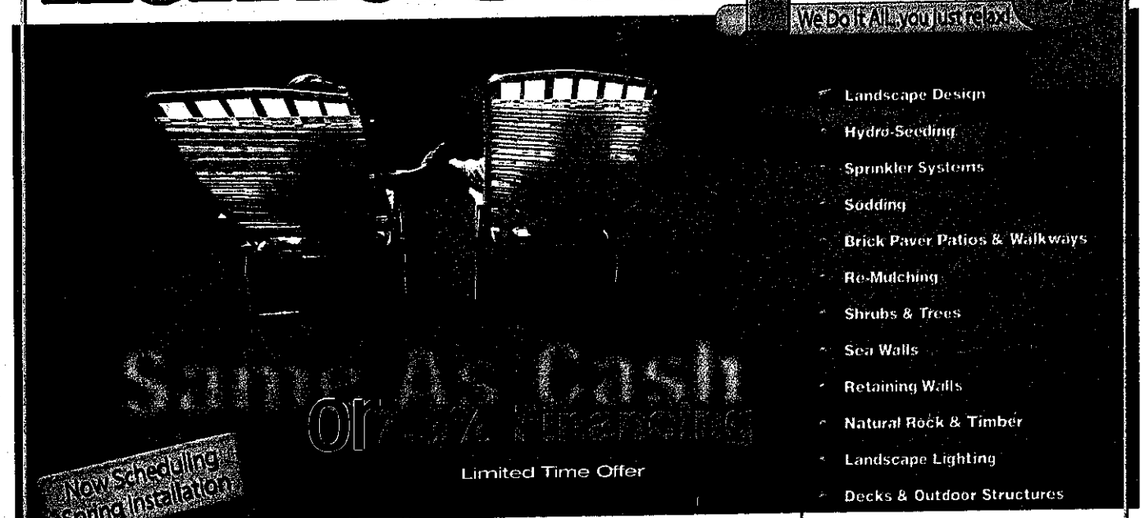

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RECOMMENDATIONS

The city manager's office recommends the following expenditures to the Novi Fire Department in its 2005-06 budget:

- Vehicle exhaust system $70,000
- Resurface driveway, Fire Station No. 1 ..... $65,000
- Paint Fire Stations Nos. 1, 2, 3 ..... $15,000
- Heating and cooling, Fire Station No. 1 ..... $25,000
- *Roof replacement — Fire Station No. 1* $18,000

Total cost of proposed improvements $193,000

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi firefighter Joe Aninos attaches a PlymoVent vehicle exhaust system to the tailpipe of a fire truck in the garage bay of Fire Station No. 4 last Monday. The exhaust system, which automatically detaches from the fire truck as it exits the garage on a run, removes the harmful fumes and soot of burning diesel. It's one of the many updates hoped for in the renovation of Novi's Fire Station No. 1 on Grand River Ave.

■ Three out of four stations outdated, says fire chief

continued from front page

protection officer hired using the $149,000 saved from the upcoming retirement of Chief Operating Officer Craig Klaver at the end of June. A police officer costs about $106,000 a year, and an FPO costs about $55,000 a year, Lorenzo said.

Lenaghan has also suggested changing Johnson's title to deputy fire chief and increasing his salary.

"He makes about $10,000 less than the deputy police chief," Lenaghan said.

Lenaghan said he would like consultants to learn what it would take to upgrade Novi's three fire stations. Eventually, the chief wants a conference room, dormitory, locker rooms and lavatories for both male and female fire fighters at the three older stations. (There are now six women firefighters in the department.)

"These buildings were never built for a 50-year operation. The day they opened, they were obsolete," Lenaghan said.

Fire department officials also want a device for more of their fire trucks that automatically changes a traffic signal from red to green. Other department needs include a new heating and cooling system, roof for Station No. 1 and sealing driveways at Stations No. 2 and 3.

Lenaghan met recently with Helwig on the requests.

"I think we made a pretty strong case, and the city manager said 'yes.' He's asked Klaver, myself and the assistant chief to start moving on this now," Lenaghan said.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.

Victim payment program has three-pronged approach

■ Courts, government, businesses work together

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Just because you have a debt to pay to society doesn't mean you can foot the bill.

But Oakland County now has a unique program in place to help those who can't pay.

Called RECOVER (Restitution Equals Compensation of Victims' Economic Rights), the program uses a three-pronged approach with the courts, government and businesses helping crime victims.

The partnership includes the 52-1 District Court, 52-3 District Court, 51st District Court, 50th District Court, 46th District Court, Oakland County Community Corrections and area businesses.

The partnership was modeled after the PAY UP program created by Judge Robert M. Evans of Florida's Ninth Circuit Court.

Each defendant convicted of a crime covered by the Crime Victim's Compensation Act now has 60 days to reimburse the victim. Payment can be made directly to the victim or to a RECOVER account.

A new nonprofit corporation is being created to oversee the account and to ensure that money is given to the injured party. Part of the money collected will be used to defray program costs and to enhance court services. The judge presiding over the case will ensure that payment is sent to the victim.

A defendant may also request a payment plan. The judge decides if the defendant qualifies for such a plan, based on lack of income. Payments will be made to the same RECOVER account, with funds then sent to the victim. Any defendant who doesn't pay in 60 days or who fails to keep up with payments will be ordered into a RECOVER work crew.

> **"I'd been trying to get this one person to pay $2,000 in restitution to a victim for 18 months. Finally, I said, 'You're paying or you're going into the RECOVER program in 60 days.' The bill was paid the next day."**
>
> *Judge Brian MacKenzie*
> *52-1 District Court*

Crews are assigned to sites managed by participating business. There, under the supervision of court staff or Oakland County Community Corrections workers, defendants perform manual labor at $10 an hour.

"Back when we originally launched the RECOVER program, it was going to just be a government program. Now, we have private corporations involved," said Judge Brian MacKenzie, 52-1 District Court in Novi.

Novi resident Dave Staudt

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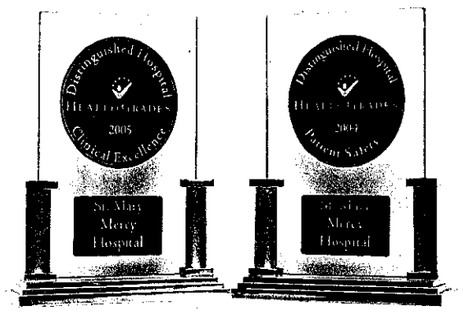

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ROAD REPORT

The following projects may cause traffic delays on Road Commission for Oakland County roads.

It is commission's goal to conduct road improvement projects in a way that interferes with traffic flow as little as possible. This list includes both commission projects and projects conducted by others, under permit, on roads under the jurisdiction of the commission.

This information is subject to change. Projects, project scope and timing can change from day to day, depending upon a number of factors, and traffic delays can develop in a matter of minutes due to weather conditions, emergency situations, etc.

Asterisks next to projects denote new projects or a change since last week.

ROAD: Intersection of Novi and 10 Mile roads
Project: Work has resumed on the project to widen this intersection. Work began last year but stopped for the winter. The project involves widening all four approaches to the intersection to five lanes and widening Novi Road to five lanes 1,000 feet north and south of the intersection. The eastern and southern approaches were completed laste year. During construction, the temporary right-turn lanes for southbound Novi and westbound 10 Mile Road that were in place for the winter have been removed.
Community: Novi
Completion Date: July 15

ROAD: Pontiac Trail, South Wixom Road to Beck Road
Project: This section of Pontiac Trail will be closed April 18-June 1 so the city of Wixom can reconstruct the road and railroad crossing. During the closure, the detour route will be South Wixom Road to West Road to Beck and vice versa.
Community: Wixom
Completion Date: June 1

ROAD: North Wixom Road, Pontiac Trail to West Maple Road
Project: This section of North Wixom Road will be closed April 18-June 1 so the city of Wixom can reconstruct the road and railroad crossing. During the closure, the detour route will be West Road to Beck Road to West Maple and vice versa.
Community: Wixom
Completion Date: June 1

ROAD: Pontiac Trail, east of Wixom Road to the Wixom Post Office (1/4 mile section)
Project: There are lane shifts underway, and the center left-turn lane for both east and westbound traffic is temporarily closed on this section of Pontiac Trail while Detroit Edison relocates electrical lines along the road on behalf of the city of Wixom.
Community: Wixom
Completion Date: Between April 18 and 25

ROAD: Martindale Road, Grand River Ave. to 2,000 feet south of Grand River
Project: Lyon Township is paving this section of gravel road. Beginning April 12, the road will be closed to through traffic. The detour route will be Grand River to Pontiac Trail and vice versa.
Community: Lyon Twp.
Completion Date: Sept. 15

***ROAD:** Grand River Ave. at Novi Road
Project: Beginning approximately April 11, RCOC's contractor will complete right of way restoration and sidewalk construction around this intersection. This is the last phase of the intersection widening project that was largely completed last year. There will be intermittent closures of the outside lanes of both roads.
Community: Novi
Completion Date: Mid-June

ROAD: White Lake Road, Harvey Lake/Milford to west of Highland Hills Dr.
Project: Paving a gravel section of White Lake Road. The road is closed to through traffic between Harvey Lake/Milford and Rose Center Road during the project. The detour route is Milford Road to Rose Center and vice versa.
Community: Highland Twp.
Completion Date: Aug. 15

FREEWAY UPDATES

I-96 ramp work to begin after Memorial Day

Although specific dates have been selected to repair and widen the ramp to Novi Road off of westbound I-96, construction will begin right after Memorial Day and be completed by July 4th weekend, according to Michigan Department of Transportation staff.

Clay Pearson, assistant city manager, said at a preconstruction meeting on March 23, MDOT staff and representatives from the contractor agreed that the earlier time frame would be used. MDOT officials were looking at starting the construction later in the summer, over the July 4th weekend.

The means the ramp will be closed for 25 days or less, depending on how the project goes.

Project coordinators decided that this earlier time frame was preferable to the later schedule, which would have closed the ramp over the July 4th weekend and during the Novi 50's Festival.

The contractor will receive $5,000 a day for each day under the assigned construction schedule, according to an MDOT spokesperson.

Beck Road exit to be closed until next fall

A Michigan Department of Transportation spokesman said that single and double lane closures will continue on eastbound I-96 from Wixom to Novi roads to let crews remove existing pavement markings and restripe the freeway to accommodate the traffic shift.

Traffic was backed up on eastbound I-96 as far west as Kensington Road as crews shifted traffic from 6:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 9. Crews are realigning Beck and replacing the Beck Road bridge over I-96.

The Beck Road exit off of eastbound I-96 will remain closed until construction is completed on the interchange on the south side of I-96 — probably through August or September, according to a Michigan Department of Transportation spokesman. Exiting traffic can use Wixom or Novi roads.

County lifts road weight limits

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) will lift weight restrictions for commercial trucks on its non-all-weather roads at 6 a.m., Monday, April 11. Imposed March 7, the restrictions will have been in place for 35 days.

Each spring, in accordance with state law, RCOC reduces the weight limits on these roads as temperatures begin to rise and the ground begins to thaw. As the road subsurface thaws, the non-all-weather roads' ability to carry weight is reduced, meaning that a weight that wouldn't affect a road under normal conditions, might now damage the road. These restrictions help to ensure that roads last as long as possible, with as few potholes as possible.

The restrictions do not affect passenger vehicles. Approximately 2,000 of RCOC's 2,700 miles of roads are non-all-weather.

Weight restrictions are enforced by weighmasters employed by the Road Commission, the state, local communities or the Sheriff's Department. Violations of the weight restrictions can result in a citation.

For questions regarding designation of a particular road, call (248) 858-4835. For information on the status of weight restrictions, call the Road Commission's weight restrictions hotline at (248) 858-4765 or visit the Permits and Environmental Concerns section of the RCOC Web site at www.rcocweb.org.

POLICE REPORT

Armed robbery at McDonald's

An armed robbery took place at 9 p.m. April 6 at the McDonald's restaurant on Twelve Mile Road by Twelve Oaks Mall.

Officers were dispatched to the restaurant when a patron in the drive-through made a 9-1-1 call stating that an employee told the patron that the store had just been robbed.

Dispatch received a hold-up alarm shortly after the call.

The employee told police that he was working one of the registers when a man ordered a Big Mac meal from the drive-through speaker and drove to the window. The man was wearing a clown wig and handed over a $20 bill to pay for the food.

The employee said as he turned to put the bill in the drawer, the suspect told him to "Put that with the rest in the bag." As the employee looked over, he saw the suspect pointing a dark blue or black handgun at him and was told, "Don't do anything stupid."

He then took all of the currency out of the drawer and placed it in the McDonald's bag.

When the employee handed the bag to the suspect, he was told, to turn his back and again to not do anything stupid. The suspect then drove away. The employee told police he couldn't see anything inside the vehicle but that it was a dark blue or black pickup truck with a ladder in the back.

The suspect stole about $620 in cash from the restaurant. Novi detectives are investigating the case.

Tools stolen at Catholic Central

Catholic Central High School on Wixom Road was the site of a burglary that occurred between 5:30 p.m. April 1 and 3 p.m. April 2.

The superintendent for the construction site of the new boys high school received a call on April 1 that the chain on the south gate had been cut. He then checked the on-site building and found nothing missing. At about 3 p.m. the next day, he found the locks on two gang boxes had been cut off. During the course of the day on April 4, it was discovered that two "Sawzalls" valued at $250 each, one cable saw valued at $250, one hammer drill valued at $500 and one battery drill valued at $150 had been taken from inside the building.

No suspects were found in the case.

Drug arrest at party store

A Novi man was arrested for marijuana possession and disorderly conduct at 6:04 p.m. April 7 at the Golden Oaks party store near Shore Brook Condominiums on Haggerty Road.

An officer was dispatched to the condominiums to investigate a suspicious person. Upon arriving at the scene, police found a man that matched the description of the called. The complainant told police that a man who appeared to be intoxicated was looking into cars and residences at the complex.

Police found the man standing outside the Golden Oaks party store on Haggerty Road less than a half mile north of the condominiums. When speaking with the man, police noticed that the man appeared to be intoxicated and that he smelled like burnt marijuana.

When asked for identification, the man because upset and demanded to know why police were searching him. Police told him he fit the description of a man looking through cars, which the man denied.

After performing a pat down on the suspect inside the store, police found a cigarette rolling machine and a bag of green substance that appeared to be marijuana.

Compiled by Pam Fleming

■ Courts, government, businesses work together

continued from page 4

helped establish the nonprofit organization that oversees the funds. Representatives from several victims groups, as well as city council member Kim Capello, will sit on the board of directors of this new organization.

"Their job will be to recruit businesses and then to pay out the money when the court orders it," MacKenzie said.

MacKenzie offered an example of someone who might need the RECOVER program. A person's car is totaled by a drunk driver, and they don't have collision coverage.

"What if you're a single mom with two kids, and your ability to get to work is suddenly compromised?" MacKenzie asked. "Before, all I could do is say, 'You owe this $1,000. Pay it.' But it was difficult to get collection."

MacKenzie said the program works.

"I'd been trying to get this one person to pay $2,000 in restitution to a victim for 18 months. Finally, I said, 'You're paying or you're going into the RECOVER program in 60 days.' The bill was paid the next day," he said.

The judge said it was a lot of work putting the program together because some questioned the ethical nature of courts recruiting businesses to contribute to such a plan. But businesses like the program, because they can use the donated labor as a charitable contribution.

For more information about the RECOVER program, contact MacKenzie at (248) 305-6066 or at mackenzieb@co.oakland.mi.us.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.

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Library Board president announces council bid

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Novi Public Library Board President Terry Margolis announced this week that she is running for the Novi City Council.

This is Margolis' first bid for a council seat. She has served as president of the library board for two years, with her term ending at the board's next meeting this month. Her term as a member of the board expires in March 2006.

A resident of Novi for 11 years, Margolis is associate director of the Professional Development Division for the Wayne State University School of Business in Detroit.

T. Margolis

"We coordinate and consult with businesses and organizations on the executive education, business training and consulting work of the School of Business. We also coordinate with other units at the university to provide this service through our office," she said.

She has served the university in this position for three years and was previously a consultant, facilitator and trainer for about 20 years with various companies. She also owned her own business, TKM Training.

While running her own company, Margolis earned an MBA at the University of Michigan, concentrating on organizational behavior and information technology. But, she yearned to be part of a group.

"I wanted to work with a larger team. When you're doing your own consulting, it's a little isolating. I get involved in directing much larger projects now," she said.

If elected to city council, Margolis said she can move the council in the same direction that mayors Richard Clark and Lou Csordas have — using a logical, thoughtful business approach to how the city is governed.

"I'm very familiar both with the business mindset and how boards and governance should happen," Margolis said.

So, how does she think she will have time to run a city council campaign when, as library board president, she is faced with helping direct a major fund-raising effort for a new city library?

"Number one, I think I'm very good at multi-tasking," she said.

She also believes serving the library board and city council work hand-in-hand.

"What I'd like to see us do more is really think creatively in a variety of ways as to how to fund the various things that we need. That means private partnerships, fundraising. I think those are things that the council can take a lead on — not just for the library but for all of the organizations in the city," she said.

Margolis said that for the past two years, she has provided the library board a base from which it can work. This includes completing a strategic plan, building plan and forming a fund-raising committee.

"I fully intend to be very involved in the fund-raising effort for the library, because that's what I really believe in," she said.

Margolis thinks taking care of the basic needs of the community — roads, police, fire, water, sewer — should come first. "Then you creatively look at those other things," she said.

She and husband, David, have two children — a daughter, Breanne, who graduates from Miami University in Ohio this year, and Jason, a junior at Novi High School.

In her spare time, Margolis enjoys spending time with family and is an active member of Kappa Delta sorority, which works to prevent child abuse. She has also been active on school committees and has been involved in Novi Theatres in set work and as a member of the chorus.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.

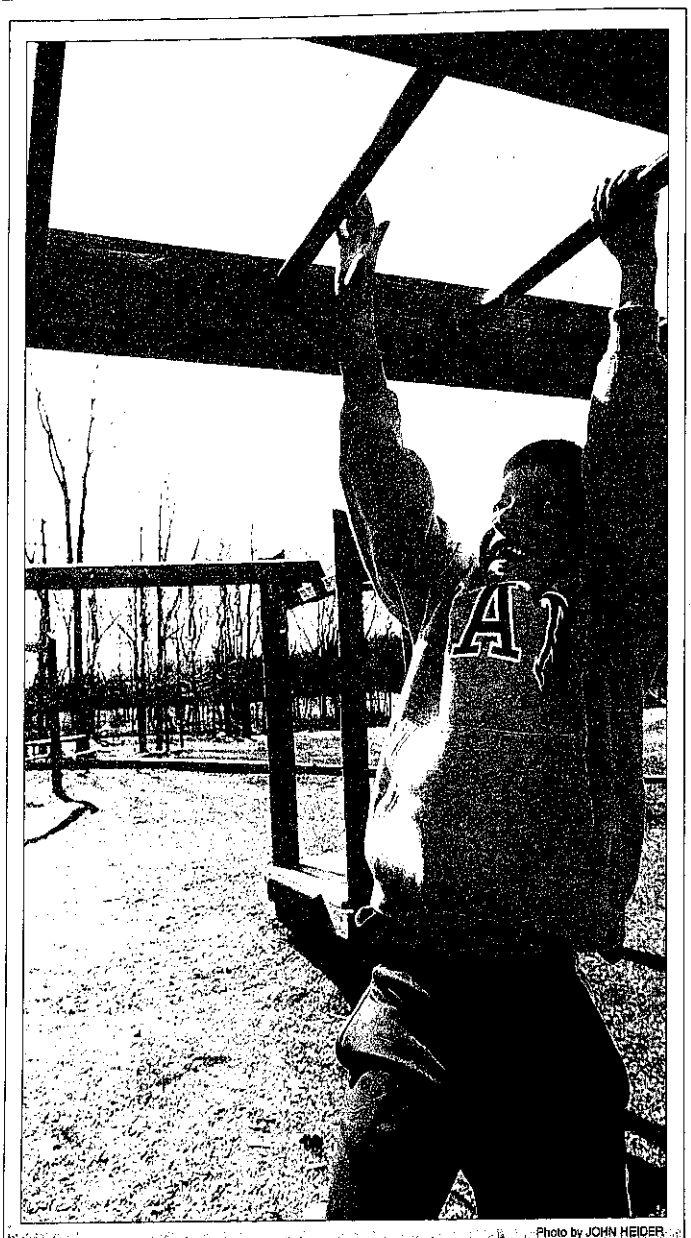

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Hangin' out

Andrew Schafer, 7, swings from some bars at the Tim Pope Memorial Playground at the Novi Community Park on Eight Mile recently. Schafer was enjoying some outdoors fun with his twin brother , Matthew, and his mom, Kathleen.

Spring Fest

Carnival to benefit Lions, Friends of the Library

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Spring has finally sprung, and that means its carnival time for the kids.

Fountain Walk, Novi's lifestyle mall at I-96 and Novi Road, introduces a new event this year — Spring Fest — a carnival which will take place from April 28-May 8.

A portion of the proceeds from the carnival will go toward the Novi Lions Club and the Friends of the Library.

The carnival will be run by Wade Shows, Inc., of Livonia, who offers rides and family-oriented games of skill.

"It's really fantastic what Linda Busse and Fountain Walk have done for the Lions, helping us out throughout the year. We were happy to be selected to be a recipient of some of the proceeds," said Jerry Coonce, Novi Lions Club. "Everybody should be as involved in the community as Fountain Walk is."

Busse, Fountain Walk marketing director, said this is a way for the shopping center's owners, Schostak Brothers & Company of Southfield, to give back to the community. She added that the Lions Club members and Friends of the Library have participated in several events at the center.

"These organizations are part of the Fountain Walk family now," Busse said. "We're happy those two organizations are going to be receiving a portion of the revenue from this event."

HOURS

The 2005 Fountain Walk Spring Fest carnival will take place on the following dates and times:

- Thursday, April 28, and Friday, April 29 — 4 p.m.-10 p.m.
- Saturday, April 30 — noon-11 p.m.
- Sunday, May 1 — noon-10 p.m.
- Monday, May 2-Thursday, May 5 — 4 p.m.-10 p.m.
- Friday, May 6 — 4 p.m.-11 p.m.
- Saturday, May 7 — noon-11 p.m.
- Sunday, May 8 — noon-10 p.m.

Busse said the event will be held rain or shine. "We hope for good weather so everybody can come out, have fun and enjoy the rides," she said.

The event will have a number of rides for both children and adults, games and typical carnival food like hot dogs and cotton candy.

"This is the first year we've had this carnival here, but this is certainly something we'd like to do every year," Busse said. A carnival will also be offered in conjunction with the Novi 50's Festival in July at Fountain Walk.

The Friends of the Library's mission is to make people more aware of the library and its programs, according to member Pat Brunett of Novi.

"Particularly at this time when the library is looking to expand, we're very happy to be selected by Fountain Walk as one of the beneficiaries of this carnival. We want to use this opportunity to make the public aware of the library's plans to expand," he said.

"We've worked with Fountain Walk for two or three years to bring family events to Novi. I think this contributed to their decision to select us, because we've built a relationship with them over the past years. We're really grateful that they selected us," Brunett said.

The shopping center staff selects one or more local charitable organizations to donate a portion of their revenues to each year.

"It's just another way to connect with the community," Busse said.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.

PARKS & REC

Mother/Son mad science

Marvels of Motion will take moms and sons on a journey through the world of Newton's three laws of motion from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Friday, April 15. This interactive event is all about the fundamentals of moving science. Audience participants will have a chance to take part in wacky experiments, while the Mad Scientist prepares to unveil their top secret "Motion Machine." Professional photos and snacks are included in the evening. Be sure to dress casual.

Price is $14 for non-residents and $12 for residents. This event is for ages 5-10. Tickets are required.

Arbor Day 2005

The annual Arbor Day celebration from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, April 30, at Community Sports Park is an opportunity for you to learn about nature, plant and mulch trees, receive information about tree care, give back to your community and celebrate being a Tree City USA award recipient. Snacks, beverages, equipment and gloves will be provided. There will also be raffle prizes.

For more information on any of these events, call (248) 347-0400.

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Presented by
Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.P., C.C.R.I.

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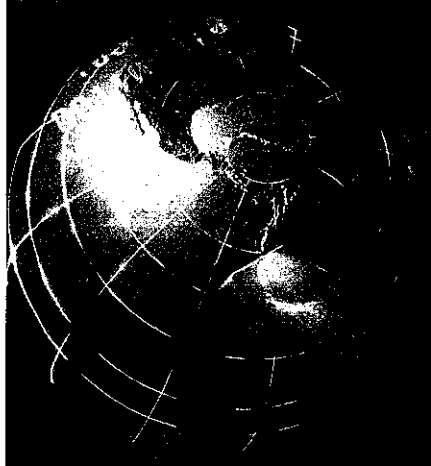

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Buying a home?

Consultant Moira Robinson, owner of Novi's Allied Home Mortgage, will conduct a homebuyers' seminar 6:30-8 p.m., tonight at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. Broker Sandy Smith of RE/MAX Classic also will be on hand for the free event. Call (800) 705-9420, ext. 3059, to register.

Resident provides Tsunami relief

By Tom Filipczak
SPECIAL WRITER

Kshama Jayasuriya boarded an airplane bound for Sri Lanka Jan. 27 carrying a roll of $100 bills and toting a hopeful but heavy heart.

The Northville Township resident traveled 24 hours to return to her former country, where a tsunami devastated the country last December.

Jayasuriya, who moved to Northville six months ago from New Jersey, felt compelled to act.

"We do have a good life here (in the United States)," Jayasuriya said. "I wanted to help."

In January, Jayasuriya spent much of her time in northern Sri Lanka, traveling to coastline towns and hoping to help orphaned children. She discovered many had been adopted by relatives.

Instead, Jayasuriya directed her efforts toward helping self-employed Sri Lankans whose livelihoods had been washed into the Indian Ocean.

Cash helped bridge the divide.

"A fisherman can buy a boat, a carpenter can buy tools," Jayasuriya said. "The exchange rate makes it easier to help."

A pharmacist in New Jersey, Jayasuriya said she was able to make her three-week trip at the end of January while waiting for her license to transfer to Michigan.

Jayasuriya found an 8-year-old girl suffering from Down syndrome who needed help.

"I will help her as long as I can," she said.

Jayasuriya knows handing out $100 bills won't save everyone. Still, she wishes it could.

"You do what you can," she said. "I can't help the whole nation."

Jayasuria's husband, Keerthi, is also from Sri Lanka. Though he wasn't able to accompany his wife on her January trip, he plans to go in May.

"He's going to build a school," she said.

Tom Filipczak is a University of Michigan-Dearborn intern. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 109 or at tfilipczak@ht.homecomm.net.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Northville Township resident Kshama Jayasuriya traveled to Sri Lanka where she took part in tsunami relief efforts and helped refugees in the southeastern part of the island in Moratuwa.

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DirectBuy, veterans join forces in unique program

■ People with disabilities receive special discounts

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

One of the biggest challenges people with disabilities must face is adapting their home for their needs.

Now, Michael Harris, deputy executive director of the Michigan Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America, headquartered in Novi, and Tony Musu, general manager of DirectBuy of Farmington Hills, have teamed to create a unique program for people with physical challenges in the area.

Paralyzed Veterans of American Awareness Day is April 14, so the two thought today would be a good time to kick off the program.

In this unique program, DirectBuy can improve the quality of life and save individuals and their families thousands of dollars by becoming a DirectBuy member.

M. Harris

As a member of DirectBuy, people with disabilities can purchase barrier-free shower and bathroom fixtures, custom-designed cabinets, hardwood flooring, health and athletic equipment, voice activation systems and more directly from manufacturers and suppliers.

"When someone is newly injured, the costs associated with accommodating their disability can be quite expensive. This is a way for them to get items at a reduced rate and at the same time help MPVA fulfill its mission of improving the quality of life for veterans with spinal cord injuries or disease," Harris said.

Not only can they purchase these items for those with disabilities at a lower cost than retail, but they can also have DirectBuy vendors professionally install the various items at a discount. These services might include expanding doorways, installing ramps and other features necessary for those who use a wheelchair.

Any person with disabilities who becomes a member of DirectBuy in Farmington Hills will receive a $300 donation in their name donated to the PVA.

In addition, any family who becomes a member of DirectBuy in Farmington Hills who mentions this article will have a donation made to the charitable organization in their name through the end of the year, Musu said.

"When I see what we do here at DirectBuy and how we can help those with disabilities, it seems like a natural fit. We have an untapped market we can explore. We can offer them the convenience of coming to one location to custom-fit their home for their special needs," Musu said.

Harris noted that MPVA members are working with DirectBuy staff to identify particular items that people with disabilities need to live independently.

"Hopefully, this will be seen as a win-win situation for DirectBuy and members of the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America," he said.

Activities during PVA Awareness Week, April 10-16, include taking gift bags to Veterans Administration medical center filled with items people with disabilities need as identified by the VA Medical Centers Service Department.

"Most people don't realize that veterans are responsible for the purchase of their personal care items. They need things like shampoo, shaving cream, combs and brushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, white men's socks, lip balm, deodorant, denture cream and cleaner, liquid soap, men's boxers and briefs, T-shirts and disposable razors," he said.

Anyone who would like to contribute such items can bring them to the MPVA office this week.

People interested in becoming a member and reviewing home improvements for those with disabilities can contact Musu or another DirectBuy representative at the Farmington Hills office at (248) 476-2980, Ext. 109.

At DirectBuy, members can purchase items from fixtures to furniture. The Farmington Hills showroom is open seven days a week, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; and noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.

OPEN HOUSE TODAY

The Michigan Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America will host an open house at 40550 Grand River Ave. from noon-4 p.m. today. The open house will give members of the community a chance to meet members of the organization, learn what they do and how citizens can help. The PVA's mission is to help veterans with spinal cord injuries or disease. Vendors will be on hand to display products for people with disabilities. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call (248) 476-9000.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Schultz named VP

Jeff Schultz of Novi recently was named vice president of communication for the Certified Restoration Drycleaning Network, based in Ann Arbor.

J. Schultz

As of March 2, Schultz is responsible for all internal and external communications for the international group of textile restoration specialists serving the insurance industry. Marketing, public relations, advertising and branding objectives, initiatives, strategy and policies all fall in his scope.

With 15 years' experience, Schultz previously served as vice president of Identity Marketing & Public Relations.

Apartments awarded in Novi

Winners of the Apartment Association of Michigan recently were awarded at Novi's Sheraton Hotel.

Hosted March 10, the industry excellence awards honored outstanding professionals in the region.

Novi's winner was Kathleen Beagan-Miller of Cort Furniture Rental, 42350 Grand River Ave. She was cited as associate of the year.

Novi architecture tops

Nottinghill Developments of Novi recently was honored for architecture by the Building Industry Association of Southeast Michigan.

The company was awarded for its attached condominiums priced over $260,000. Noted was "The Waterford," a $300,450 condo in Shelby Township.

The association's 16th annual Spring Parade of Homes showcase continues through April 17. For details, visit www.builders.org.

Luna moves, changes name

On March 1, Novi's Salon Luna moved to the Shops of Gateway Plaza and changed its name to Luna Studio.

Featuring custom millwork stations and 12-foot high windows, the salon, opened in 2001, offers Wi-Fi Hotspot amenities and online appointment scheduling.

Owned and directed by Joe Lorose and David DeWitt, the studio is run by hair cut designers, colorists and editorial artists.

Hikari sheers and Chi technology also are available.

Coming up, the salon will sponsor the American Breast Cancer Foundation with a "Cut for a Cure" event this July.

The salon's hours are 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday.

Luna Studio is located at 41460 Grand River Ave., Ste. A. Call (248) 692-LUNA or visit www.mylunastudio.com.

ITC plans meeting

International Transmission Company, based in Novi, is planning its second quarterly partners in business meeting for April 26.

Guest speaker will be Patrick Clarey, Technical Liaison to the Midwest Office of Markets, Tariffs and Rates, Central Division, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Topics will include capital projects, operations updates and regulatory and legislative news.

Spanning 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the event will be held at the Schoolcraft College VisTaTech Conference Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia.

Trinity CEO elected to board

Judith Pelham, formerly with Novi-based Trinity Health, was nominated recently to the board of directors at Hospira, Inc., an Illinois-based hospital product manufacturer.

Pelham served as president and CEO of Trinity since its creation in 2000 with the merger of the Holy Cross Health System and Mercy Health Services.

Trinity Health is located at 27870 Cabot Drive.

Simpson named president

Novi resident Robert Simpson, recently promoted president of Stage Robbins Inc./Automotive Business Unit.

With 22 years of leadership experience, Simpson will be responsible for all the company's global operations, including six national plants and one sited for China.

Simpson received his MBA from Western International in Phoenix, Ariz., in 1992. He holds an undergraduate degree in manufacturing engineering from Miami University.

New medication offered

Novi's Primary Laser Center & Spa announced it's now offering "Blu-U Lite" treatments for photo-rejuvenation and acne treatments.

Designed for patients with acne, rosacea and for photo rejuvenation, the therapy reportedly gets rid of sun spots, fine lines and wrinkles.

The Novi center is located at 41711 W. Ten Mile Road, call (248) 449-5135 for details.

Alcan has new plant

Alcan, Inc.'s plant in Novi will work closely with a recently-opened automotive bumper fabricating plant in Saguenay, Quebec, the company announced.

The goals are to better serve customers needs and promote industrial diversification regionally. Novi's plant will work closely with the new locale to build a new market for aluminum structural assemblies in North America, the company said.

Novi's Alcan Automotive is located at 46555 Magellan Drive.

Cold Stone hosts fund-raiser

Cold Stone Creamery, which has a Novi locale, announced it's hosting "The World's Largest Ice Cream Cake Social" from 5-8 p.m. today.

continued on page 10

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By: Mike Riley
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ABN AMRO

Business Briefs

continued from page 9

p.m. Monday, April 25.

Benefitting the Make A-Wish Foundation, a free slice of Make A-Wish cake will be given to patrons in return for a donation.

A 12-year-old "Junior Tastemaster" from Somerset, Mass. created the cake, including chocolate ice cream, cookie dough, chocolate shavings, yellow cake and fudge ganache.

Novi's Cold Stone Creamery is located at 44175 W. 12 Mile Road.

Rockwell announces credit

Wixom's Rockwell Medical Technologies, Inc. announced March 30 that it signed a $2.75 million credit loan with Standard Federal Bank.

The loan expires March 31, 2006 and is secured by Rockwell's accounts receivable inventory and other assets. The company said the loan will offer increased borrowing ability and better rates.

Rockwell is located at 30142 S. Wixom Road.

'Custom' forms alliance

Novi's Michigan Custom Machines recently announced it has formed a strategic alliance with Wes-Tech Automation Solutions of Buffalo Grove, Ill.

The partnership will provide original equipment managers with a range of factory automation and testing solutions.

A research and development focus will be technology for the fuel injector assembly market, from lab design to full production.

Michigan Custom Machines is located at 22750 Heslip Drive.

Taubman conference call

Taubman Centers, Inc. which operates Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall, announced it will host a conference call at 10 a.m. April 21.

First quarter earnings will be the focus. Stockholders can join in at (888) 857-6929, reservation code 4709330, or www.taubman.com, under "Investor Relations."

Replays are available until April 27 at (888) 203-1112.

Taubman is headquartered in Bloomfield Hills.

Automation Alley abroad

Automation Alley, the region's technology consortium, announced March 29 developments in international business and its export center.

A new Automation Alley International Business Center was launched to assist small- to mid-sized foreign companies and government entities bring business to the area. Free resources include administrative support, office/meeting space, computer access and phone/answering services. Meetings with government officials, economic development corporations, attorneys and more also are available.

The export center now will offer free research assistance to member companies with business schools at the University of Michigan, Wayne State University and Walsh College. Such work, including market analysis or cultural reports, will be limited to one per year.

Finally, the export center will host seminars May 24 and 26 looking at dropping in international university enrollment.

For more information, visit www.automationalley.com.

Auto production update

U.S. automakers were expected to make 255,736 vehicles this week, up 16.6 percent from last week, according to Ward's Automotive Reports. This year, output totals about 3.4 million units, down 1.9 percent from this time last year.

Economy slow all around

The area's economy is at its lowest level since September 2003, according to Comerica Bank's Detroit Area Business Activity Index.

February's ranking was 111, down four points from the month prior. It's also four points below the average reading for all of 2004.

It was similar for the state at large, which tallied 108 February points, one less than January. The index has remained around that number since last June.

A healthy national economy reportedly is clashing with fierce competition in area auto industry. Chief Economist Dana Johnson said the trend likely will continue in 2006, as structural adjustments are underway in the auto industry.

Cost cutting by furniture and drug companies also have been making impact, Comerica said.

Cox counters electric hikes

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox announced last week that his office is challenging more than $21 million in electric rate hikes for next year.

Another reported $100 million in forced rate payer subsidy might await 1.7 million consumers after recent action by the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Cox's office filed a March appeal in the Michigan Court of Appeals opposing two commission orders issued Jan. 25. The office also will testify against two proposed rate Consumers Energy increases slated for review later this year.

Stock confidence dips

National investor confidence in the stock market is at its lowest since January 2004, the National Association of Investors Corporation reported.

Though April confidence was only 7.8 percent, though, women were reported as likely as men to think it's a good time for new investors to get involved. In total, only 55 percent reported having a fair amount or great confidence in the market.

Surveying more than 1,100 investors, the Madison Heights-based group also found that 70 percent favored increasing income level subject to Social Security tax.

'Angels' get extension

The Caring for Children Angel Award program has extended its deadline to April 22.

Sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, the annual statewide program honors volunteers whose work benefits Michigan children.

Awards include a $5,000 contribution to the first-place winner's non-profit organization and $1,000 grants for each of five other volunteers' organizations.

A "Littlest Angel" age 8-17 also will be honored. To learn more, visit www.bcbsm.com/angel or call (800) 733-2583.

Compiled by Kim Kovelle

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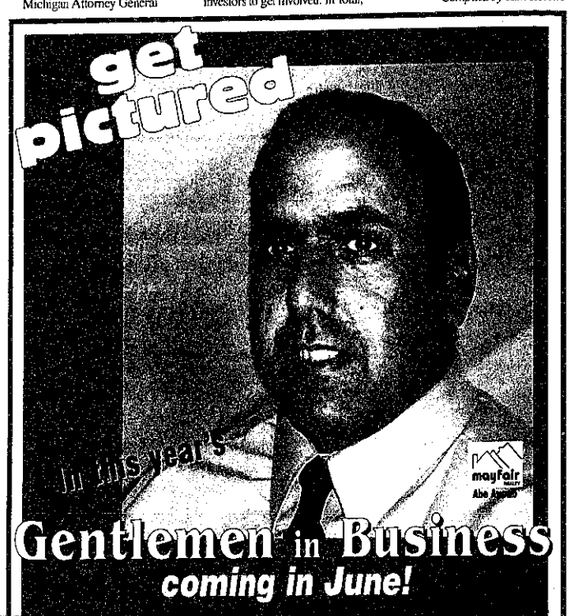

In this year's Gentlemen in Business coming in June!

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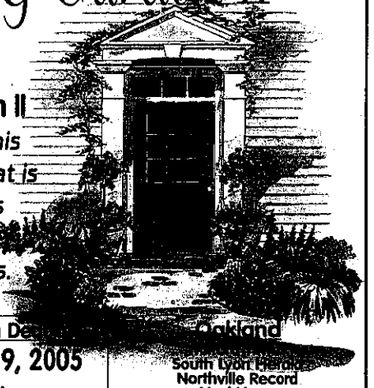
Home & Garden II



Home & Garden II
Everyone enjoys this special section that is filled with all sorts of gardening and improvement ideas.

Space Reservation Deadline:
Monday, May 9, 2005
Copy Deadline:
Tuesday, May 10, 2005
Publication Date:
Thursday, May 26, 2005

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Faith

Ramez Khuri, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net

• **Faith Community Presbyterian Church** invites you to worship this Sunday at the 9 and 10:30 a.m. services as our youth lead us in that worship. The young people will be leading us in all aspects of the service including a mediation by Dan Kaminski. The annual spring rummage sale will be open to the public today at 9 a.m. All proceeds will go directly to our mid-high and senior high youth in sponsorship of their mission trips. The Art of Ed King will be presented in full on Sunday, April 17. The Altar Guild is being revitalized by Jann Martin, Director of Family Ministry, and the first meeting will be Monday, April 18 at 7 p.m. A Women's Bible study will begin Wednesday, April 20 at 10 a.m. and repeat on Thursday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. Please call the church for more information. Our Senior High youth group will be traveling to Pittsburgh on Friday, April 22 to participate in the Pittsburgh Project, work will include cleaning and reconstruction of damaged homes.

The church is located at 44400 W. Ten Mile Road in Novi. For more information, call (248) 349-2345. Visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org

• **The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross** offers a worship service every Wednesday from 12:10-12:50 p.m. Come and share your lunch hour with God at a worship service that includes scripture and Holy Communion. The church invites all to worship Sundays at 7:45 and 10 a.m. Nursery care is available at the 10 a.m. worship service. (The nursery is coordinated by a registered pediatric nurse.)

Adult Bible Study is on Sunday at 9 a.m. Worship Center for children ages 3-7, and Sunday School is at 10 a.m. Rev. Karen Henry is pastor and priest in charge and Rev. John W. Henry II is assistant priest.

Worship Service of Compline is held at 8:30 p.m. Rite 13 (ages 11-14) and J2A (ages 14 and up) groups meet at 5 p.m. for their program and dinner. 7 p.m. Youth Worship Service is held the second and fourth Sunday of every month; all are welcome.

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross has moved to 40700 W. Ten Mile Road (between Meadowbrook and Haggerty roads), Novi. Call (248) 427-1175 or visit www.churchoftheholycross.com

• **Meadowbrook Congregational Church** is holding a rummage sale Friday, April 15, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads. Call (248) 348-7757 for more information.

• **Oak Pointe Church** service times will be at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. every Sunday For more information, visit www.oakpointe.org or call (248) 912-0043.

• **St. James Catholic Church** is located at 46325 Ten Mile Road, Novi. Call (248) 347-7778.

• **First United Methodist Church of Northville** presents a community-wide healing service with prayers for healing of body, mind, relationship and spirit on the first Monday of each month at 4 p.m. The service is open to the Northville/Novi community and persons of all faiths. It is a service of hope.

The church is located at 777 W. Eight Mile Road (at Taft Road), Northville. Phone (248) 349-1144.

• **The Holy Family Church** offers a Spanish speaking mass once a month. All masses begin at 6:30 p.m. in the church: April 30, May 28, June 25, July 30, Aug. 27, Sept. 24, Oct. 29, Nov. 26.

The Church of the Holy Family is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Road; between Grand River and Ten Mile Road.

For more information, call (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org.

• **St. John Lutheran Church** is located at 23225 Gill Road in Farmington Hills. Call (248) 988-0604 or (248) 474-8521 for more information.

• **The Novi United Methodist Church** spring concert, featuring Ron Elrod, gospel pianist and singer, will be held on Sunday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m. There is no charge but a love offering will be taken.

Also, the Novi United Methodist Men will be sponsoring a yard sale on Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The church is located at 41671 W. Ten Mile Road. Sunday worship is at 9:45 a.m. with Rev. Jacqueline E. Holdsworth. Call (248) 349-2652 for more information.

• **The First Presbyterian Church of Northville** phone number is (248) 349-0911.

• **Church of the Holy Cross'** Outreach Committee presents its first annual Mother's Day Tea. Experience chic fashions presented by Smart Chicks, a Novi clothing consignment shop, while nibbling on fresh fruit and scrumptious desserts. Relax with a steaming cup of coffee, hot tea, or try a refreshing glass of ice cold punch.

Surround yourself with family, old friends and new friends. Share an afternoon of pampering with a neighbor. Come and smell the roses. We'll even capture the memory of your special moment, immortalized in a keepsake picture frame. Raffle tickets will be available. Purchase a chance to win one or all of the following items:

• A gift certificate for Smart Chicks Consignment
• A handmade music box
• A one of a kind necklace
• A floral arrangement.

The event is for mothrs, grandmothers, children and non-moms as well. It will be held on Saturday, May 7 from 1 – 3:30 p.m. at the Church of the Holy Cross, 40700 W. Ten Mile Road (between Meadowbrook & Haggerty roads).

Tickets are $12 a piece, but children 3 and under get in free. Tickets will also be available at the door for $13 a piece. Make checks payable to Church of the Holy Cross and note Mothers Day Tea on on the checks. Mail checks to Church of the Holy Cross no later than Monday, May 7.

Funds raised will support Church of the Holy Cross Outreach Missions, including Crossroads Soup Kitchen and Detroit Area Haiti Mission. Visit www.churchoftheholycross.com for more information.

• **Crosspointe Meadows Church** meets Sundays at Meadowbrook Elementary School. Services are at 9 and 10:30 a.m. Fresh brewed hot coffee is available from 10-10:30 a.m.

The church also has children's programs for all ages and a nursery available.

The church is located at 29200 Meadowbrook Road, just south of Thirteen Mile Road.

For more information, call (248) 427-2700 or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org.

Compiled by Ramez Khuri

101 THINGS to do in Summer

Space Reservation Deadline: April 25, 2005
Copy Deadline: April 26, 2005
Publication Date: May 26, 2005

Milford Times 248-685-1507
Northville Record Novi News 248-349-1700
South Lyon Herald 248-437-2011

Celebrate Cancer Survivorship!

Join the Relay For Life!

Your American Cancer Society is rallying the Novi, Northville, Commerce Township and Walled Lake communities to participate in the annual Relay For Life, the Society's signature event. The American Cancer Society Relay For Life, a team-based fundraising event, is a unique, empowering and fun way to make a difference in the fight against cancer.

Calling all cancer survivors!

If you or someone you know has battled cancer, please join your community and walk in the Cancer Survivor's Victory Lap! Hundreds of cancer survivors from throughout Novi, Northville Commerce Township and Walled Lake will join thousands of community members to celebrate their cancer survivorship. Cancer survivors will kick off the Relay For Life by taking a celebratory lap around the track together, Dinner will also be provided for

Come and join us at one of the following events!!

Novi - Northville Relay For Life
Ford Field
Saturday, May 14 - Sunday, May 15, 2005
10 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Walled Lake - Commerce Township Relay For Life
Walled Lake Middle School
Saturday, June 4 - Sunday, June 5, 2005
10 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Call 248.557.5353 for more information.

RELAY FOR LIFE

NOVI NEWS

Taorello's MARKETPLACE

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131 South Hyne Street • Brighton • (810) 227-5086

PEOPLE

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@ht.homecomm.net

ENGAGEMENTS

Jarvis & Silver

Kelly and Nori Jarvis of Northville, formerly of Novi, announce the engagement of their daughter, Cristi Jarvis to Jason Silver, son of Wayne Silver of Lovells, Mich. and Judy Weremy of Novi.

The bride-elect is a 1995 graduate of Novi High School. She earned her bachelor of science in nursing from Madonna University and is employed at Botsford General Hospital.

The groom-elect is also a 1995 graduate of Novi High School. He is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University and is employed at Interior Trim Diversified.

An Oct. 2005 wedding is planned.

Phelps & Jettie

Barbara and Daniel Phelps of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter, Kelley-Marie Phelps to Scott Jettie, son of Dr. Ronald and Carol Jettie, of Brighton.

The bride-elect is a 2001 graduate of Novi High School and is attending the University of Michigan, College of Engineering.

The groom-elect is a 2000 graduate of Novi High School and is attending Eastern Michigan University.

A July 2005 wedding is planned.

BIRTH

Ella Lockwood Page

Brooke and Steve Page of Linden, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Ella Lockwood Page. She was born on Feb. 10, 2005 at Genesys Regional Medical Center, Grand Blanc. She weighed 8 pounds, 13 ounces and was 21 and one half inches long. Ella joins big brother, Ryan, 6.

Proud grandparents are Steve and Jeanine Page of Novi and Pat and Ron Lockwood of Fenton. Proud great-grandparents are John and Patricia Page of Calif.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Walled Lake sixth grader Jennifer Fog has been named the first prize winner in the sixth grade category of the Michigan Dental Association statewide coloring contest. The contest was held in honor of National Children's Dental Health Month in Feb. Over 4,090 entries were received.

Fog will receive a $100 U.S. Savings Bond and dental health posters, stickers, balloons, toothbrushes and coloring books. Fog's entry will be on display at MDA's Annual Session in Grand Rapids in May and on MDA's Web site at www.smilemichigan.com.

This was the 12th annual statewide coloring contest sponsored by the Michigan Dental Association and the Michigan Dental Foundation. The contest was open to children in grades kindergarten through six.

IN THE SERVICE

Brian A. McFarland has been promoted to the rank of private first class in the U.S. Army Reserve.

McFarland, a military policeman, is the son of Richard J. and Nancy S. McFarland of Weyhill Drive, Wixom, Mich.

He is a 2002 graduate of Walled Lake Western High School.

MDA
Muscular Dystrophy Association
Jerry Lewis, National Chairman
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USFA recommends knowing escape plans and planning escapes around capabilities.
Know at least two exits from every room.
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United States Fire Administration
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2005 Attorney Guide
Thursday, June 9, 2005

A supplement to the
Livingston County Daily Press & Argus
South Lyon Herald
Northville Record
Milford Times
Novi News

This comprehensive guide will be delivered to over 45,000 homes in Livingston County and West Oakland counties. The Attorney Guide will also be available at many municipal government offices and at each newspaper location, as well as listed online at hometownlife.com for no additional charge.

THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES WILL BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE ATTORNEY GUIDE

- Bankruptcy
- Civil Law
- Corporate & Securities
- Criminal Law
- Family Law
- General Practice
- Judgment Collection
- Malpractice
- Trial Lawyer
- Wills, Trusts & Estates
- Marital, Family Law & Adoption
- Patents · Trademarks · Copyrights
- Immigration · International Transactions
- Immigration & Naturalization
- Personal Injury · Employment · Labor
- Personal Injury · Wrongful Death
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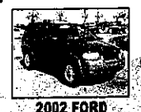

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HERE'S TO THE CLASS OF 2005

ATTENTION Parents, Grandparents, Friends!
Share your pride and joy with the entire city! It seems like only yesterday you were sending them off to kindergarten...Now, they're off to embrace the future! Be sure to include your favorite graduate's childhood or graduation picture in this special tribute to...
The Class of 2005!

Spotlight Your Grad
In this photo tribute to the Class of 2005. Place your graduate's photo along with fellow classmates in the special keepsake edition of the Livingston County Press & Argus on Sunday, June 26th and the Novi News, Northville Record, Milford Times, The Times & South Lyon Herald on Thursday, June 23rd. Deadline is June 6 for all papers. Limited space available. Don't wait to show how proud you are.

Spotlight Your Grad!

CLIP & MAIL
Mail picture along with payment of $25 check or credit card to: HomeTown Newspapers/Class of 2005, Green Sheet Classified, P.O. Box 230P, Howell, MI 48844, Attn: Leslie
If you have any questions please call Leslie @ 517-548-7392.
School: ____
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Your Name & Number: ____
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SENIORS

Kim Kovelle, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net

Waltonwood offers seniors help, home

■ Assisted living and memory care now open

By Kim Kovelle
STAFF WRITER

Barbara Bloch couldn't have been more surprised.

Three days after moving to Novi's new Waltonwood Assisted Living, the 74-year-old accountant got a job and met her heartthrob.

"I really felt free," said Bloch. She gets paid to help with activities — and she saw a Barry Manilow impersonator perform.

"I had tears," she said. "Ever since, every day, different things happen here.

"It definitely is a home."

Opened Jan. 27, Singh Management's addition to its independent living center has been helping Bloch and nearly 25 other seniors.

Memory care, experienced caregivers, open spaces and plenty of tools for autonomy are part of the formula.

As a licensed home for the age, high quality care is a trademark, administrator Rampi Hijazin said.

"This whole community is their home, not just their apartments," she said. "We're very particular about who we hire."

Around-the-clock help is available to seniors who may one day fill up to 94 apartments.

Brightly lit rooms offer supportive high-low beds, emergency pull cords, handrails and more.

Caregivers provide services from bathing aid to opening the blinds in the morning.

"It's that level of detail," said Jean Brace, director of senior housing. "It's really care plan driven. You have dignity and respect."

A longtime developer in Novi, Singh first delved into the senior housing business in Rochester Hills during the late 1980s.

With five Waltonwoods now in the area, development vice president Michael Kahm said the concept has caught on.

"Novi is a great location regionally for the western suburbs," he said. "There's a lot of thought that goes into all this. It's a team effort."

Blending with the first wing, opened in 2000, the new building has just as many amenities.

Seniors keep busy at a beauty salon, general store and television room.

Computer classes are on the way, and a game area offers pool, dominos and cards, from bridge to poker.

Recreational therapy director Jennifer Daboul keeps schedules packed with exercise, bingo, bowling, ice cream and more.

"(I try) to keep them motivated and busy so that the day goes by faster," Daboul said.

EXTRA SENIOR CARE

- **What:** Singh's Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks senior retirement community recently added an assisted living and memory care building
- **Where:** 27495 Huron Circle, just behind Twelve Oaks mall
- **Contact:** (248) 735-1030; www.waltonwood.com

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Waltonwood assisted memory care residents Bob Foley, Chris Misangyl and Barbara Bloch gather around a piano in their foyer on a recent Thursday morning.

The memory care wing is carefully crafted, Brace said.

In the Garden View Room are tactile stimulators including large seashells and bright balloons. A calming fish tank is also nearby.

Outdoor plantings like mint aid senses, and colored plates and bowls draw more attention to food.

"It all goes back to doing the most simplest things you can do," Brace said. "We want to have the building full of life. Everything's very functional."

Bus excursions, laundry stations, mailboxes, a kitchen, enclosed outdoor patios and a wheel chair-accessible movie theater also help independence.

Outside each room, memory boxes add personality — and direction for seniors strolling large, eight-foot-wide halls.

A meditation room and physical therapy exercise equipment are in the works.

Monthly rent ranges, Brace said, but a sample cost of $4,100 provides 24-hour care, three daily meals and more for $5.60 an hour.

"You can't get that in your own home," she said. "Residents never feel on top of each other. There's so much common area to use that it feels like a home."

Bloch, who may stay at Waltonwood for a year, couldn't agree more.

"The freedom I have here is unreal," she said. "I have not been this happy since when I was first married."

Kim Kovelle is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or via e-mail at kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net.

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Friday 4/22

8:45 a.m. ..... Panera Bread
9 a.m. ..... Stretch and Strength
10 a.m. ..... Body Recall
noon ..... Lunch/Clogging
12:30 p.m. ..... Bingo
12:30 p.m. ..... Duplicate Bridge

Monday 4/25

9 a.m. ..... Stretch and Strength
10 a.m. ..... Body Recall
10 a.m.-noon ..... Computer Class
noon ..... Lunch and 12:30 p.m. Pinochle*
6:30 p.m. ..... Clogging*

Tuesday 4/26

9 a.m. ..... Panera Bread
9 a.m. ..... Line dance
10 a.m. ..... Asian Pacific
noon ..... Lunch
12:30 p.m. ... Bingo held in Activities room
1-3 p.m. ..... Dance

Wednesday 4/27

9 a.m. ..... Stretch and Strength
9 a.m.-1 p.m. ..... Massage
10 a.m. ..... Body Recall
10-11:30 a.m. ... Computer Class: "Greeting Cards"
10:30 a.m. ..... Quilting
11 a.m. ..... Blood pressure
11 a.m. ... Taking Off Pounds Sensibly class
noon ..... Lunch
12:30 p.m. ..... Clogging*
1 p.m. ..... "Your Last Wishes" prearranging funerals

Thursday 4/28

9 a.m. ..... Line dance*
noon ..... Lunch
12:15 ..... Bridge*
1-2 p.m. ..... Line dance

Activities designated with an "" will be held at the Novi Civic Center. The Senior Center is located at 25075 Meadowbrook.*

CITY OF NOVI FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 05-010

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Singh Homes LLC is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of a temporary construction and sales trailer for the Willowbrook Subdivision at 41336 Clermont Avenue. This permit is to be issued from April 22, 2005 to April 22, 2006.

A public hearing meeting to consider this request will be held at 10:00 am on Friday, April 22, 2005. The meeting is at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Written and signed approvals or objections will be accepted into the file if received prior to the scheduled meeting. Please address all communications to Gail Backus at the City of Novi Building Department 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

GAIL BACKUS
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0415

(4-14-05 NN 205130)

CITY OF NOVI CONNEMARA/GALWAY WATERMAIN EXTENSION SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 173

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Date: MAY 9, 2005
Time: 7:00 p.m.
In the Council Chambers at the Novi City Hall
45175 West Ten Mile Road
Novi, Michigan

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Novi City Council is considering the public improvement described below, to be financed by the establishment of a special assessment district. Subject to receiving comments and objections at public hearing, the Council has determined to proceed with the improvement. On May 9, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Novi City Hall, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan, the City Council shall meet for the purpose of hearing comments and objections from interested persons regarding the proposed special assessment district known as **Connemara/Galway Drive Water Main Extension**, Special Assessment District No.173, including comments and objections to the proposed project and to the proposed special assessment district consisting of the properties anticipated to be specially benefited by, and assessed for, the improvement.

The proposed improvement ("The Project") is:

The construction of approximately 850 feet of 8" WATER MAIN and related facilities and improvements in Section 34 which will provide a direct benefit to 9 parcels in Connemara Hills Subdivision along a portion of Connemara and Galway Drives.

The estimated cost for the Project is $123,480.00.

A copy of the Petition, and the plans and cost estimate for the proposed Project are on file at the City Clerk's Offices, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan, for public examination during normal business hours.

Accompanying this Notice is a card for you to complete and return to the City Clerk's office, indicating whether you as a property owner within the proposed special assessment district support or disapprove of the proposed public improvement and special assessment district.

Appearance and protest at the hearing is required in order to appeal the matters to be considered at the hearing to the State Tax Tribunal. An owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter at or before the hearing and his or her personal appearance in such case shall not be required.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS,
CITY CLERK
CITY OF NOVI

(4-14-05 NN 205535)

CITY OF NOVI FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 05-011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Michigan CAT is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of a tent at 24800 Novi Road for a parts sales event to be held on April 28, 2005.

A public hearing meeting to consider this request will be held at 10:30 am on Friday, April 22, 2005. The meeting is at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Written and signed approvals or objections will be accepted into the file if received prior to the scheduled meeting. Please address all communications to Gail Backus at the City of Novi Building Department 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

GAIL BACKUS
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0415

(4-14-05 NN 205131)

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 05-007

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Brinker Restaurant Corporation of On the Border Mexican Cafe is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of a tent for Cinco de Mayo (Mexican Independence Day) for Thursday, May 5, 2005 at 21091 Haggerty Road. On the Border Mexican Café is located in the High Point Shopping Center on Haggerty Road north of Eight Mile Road.

A public hearing meeting to consider this request will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, April 22, 2005. The meeting is at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Written and signed approvals or objections will be accepted into the file if received prior to the scheduled meeting. Please address all communications to Gail Backus at the City of Novi Building Department 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

GAIL U. BACKUS
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0415

(4-14-05 NN 205128)

CHURCH DIRECTORY

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN MISSOURI SYNOD
High & Elm Streets, Northville
T. Lubeck, Pastor
Church 349-3140 School 349-3146
Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.
Contemporary Service at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place..." Luke 2:15
35300 W. 8 Mile Farmington Hills, MI (248) 478-6620
(2 mi. E of Haggerty N. side of 8 Mile)
Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 & 10:45 AM
Sunday School (All Ages) 9:30 AM

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
On Haggerty Rd. North of 8 Mile Rd.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Celebration 10:50 a.m.
(248) 348-1700
Dr. Ron Blake, Pastor

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200 E. Main St. at Hutton • (248) 349-0911
Worship & Church School - 9:30 am & 11 am
Childcare Available at All Services
Youth Logos Prog.-Wed. 4:15 Gr. 1-5; 6:00 M.S/Sr.Hi
Singles Place Ministry - Thurs. 7:30pm
Rev. W. Kent Cline, Senior Pastor
Rev. James P. Russell, Associate Pastor

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
21355 Meadowbrook R. Novi at 8 1/2 Mile
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Sunday School & Nursery 10 a.m.
248-348-7757
Minister: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt
Minister of Music: Patrick Kuhl

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
770 Thayer, Northville
WEEKEND LITURGIES Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9 AM, 11 AM, 12:30 PM
Church 349-2621, School 349-3610
Religious Education 349-2569
Rev. Terrence Kenney, Pastor

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL (Anglican)
10 Mile between Meadowbrook & Haggerty
Phone 248-427-1175
Sun. 7:45 & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist
Sunday School & Nursery 10 am
Rev. Karen Henry, Pastor
www.churchoftheholycross.com

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
9 Mile & Meadowbrook
Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 8:45am
Worship 10:00am
Thomas E. Schroeder, Pastor - 349-0565

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
44400 W. 10 Mile, Novi. 248-349-2345
1/2 mile west of Novi Rd.
Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor
Worship & Church School 9:00 & 10:30 am Sunday

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
349-1144*
8 Mile & Taft Roads
Worship Services 8:00am, 9:15am & 11am
Rev. John Hoe
Rev. Lisa Cook

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

OAK POINTE CHURCH
At Novi High School
Taft and 10 Mile
Sunday 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
Casual, contemporary live band
(248) 912-0043

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375
Masses: Sat. 5 pm; Sun. 7:30 a.m.
8:45 am, 10:30 am, 12:15 pm
Holy Day: 9 am, 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm
Fr. John G. Buddie, Pastor
Fr. Paul Ballien, Associate Pastor
Parish Office: 349-8847

HARVEST FELLOWSHIP
49329 Pontiac Trail
Wixom
248-926-8332
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

To advertise your church please call (248) 349-1700

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
23225 Gill Rd.
Between Grand River & Freedom
248-474-0584
9:15 Traditional, 11:15 Contemporary
Sunday School 10:30
Daniel Cave, Pastor
Sean Sunger, Intern

WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Dr. James H. McGuire Senior Pastor
40000 Six Mile Road · Northville, MI 48167-9400
Traditional Services 8:00, 10:15, 11:30 a.m.
Contemporary Service 9:05 a.m.
Sunday School & Nursery Provided
Sunday Evening Service 7:00 p.m.
Service Broadcast WNIC 560AM 11:00 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN MISSOURI SYNOD
High & Elm Streets, Northville
T. Lubeck, Pastor
Church 349-3140 School 349-3146
Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.
Contemporary Service at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.

For Information regarding rates call The Northville Record or Novi News (248) 349-1700

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Joel R. Saper, MD, FACP, FAAN
International Authority, Author, & Researcher
Director, Michigan Head-Pain & Neurological Institute in Ann Arbor
National Chairman, Pain Care Coalition

Topics
- Why people have headaches & what to do about them
- New treatment strategies
- Headaches in children
- Hormones & headaches
- Genetics of headaches

Wednesday, April 20, 2005
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8:00 - 9:00 p.m. — Q & A session with Dr. Saper

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SPRING SALAD SENSATIONS
Grilled chicken breast sliced over greens with rice noodles, sweet peppers, carrots, red onions and Thai peanut vinaigrette. $7.50
Fresh greens with a grilled portobella mushroom, kalamata olives, sundried tomatoes, bell peppers, balsamic vinaigrette and gorgonzola. $8.50
Chargrilled hanger steak sliced over mixed greens with tomatoes, sweet peppers, red wine vinaigrette and haystack onions. $8.50
Teriyaki-glazed chicken over mixed greens with mandarin oranges, candied walnuts, shaved coconut and cherry vinaigrette. $7.95
Diced breast of chicken, chopped tomatoes, crumbled blue cheese and diced bacon over chopped romaine with choice of dressing. $8.50
Atlantic filet over fresh greens with tomatoes, chargrilled red onions, kalamata olives and dijon mustard vinaigrette. $7.95

Novi News

Richard Perlberg
PUBLISHER
Grace Perry
ASST. PUBLISHER
Cal Stone
EDITOR

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

WHERE WE STAND

Chamber & 50's Fest: Support both worthy groups

They are two completely separate organizations, but they share a common goal – the betterment of the Novi community.

You may have gotten knocks on your door recently from representatives of the Michigan 50's Festival and the Novi Chamber of Commerce, each soliciting sponsorships for their annual events. We encourage you to support both if your checkbook allows.

The 50's Fest is now in its 18th year. It was the brainchild of Connie Malik, who at that time was the chamber's executive director, and Ed Kriewall, then the city manager.

Over the years, the Festival has gone through many personnel changes, several different venues and even presented non-50's acts for a brief period. One thing has remained constant, however: The non-profit organization has supported local groups like the Rotarians, Goodfellows, Newcomers, Lions and Lionesses, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the Chamber, etc. — either through direct donations or in exchange for volunteer help – while providing great family entertainment and bringing visitors into Novi.

Last year, the Festival returned to its 50's roots to much success at Fountain Walk (an estimated 5,000 people were on hand for headliner Peter Noone). This year's event is slated for July 13-16, and you can help out by calling (248) 349-1950.

But before you slick back that ducktail or dust off the poodle skirt, you better brush up on your poker skills because the Chamber is hosting the "Novi Hold 'Em Casino Night" at Lucky's in Fountain Walk on May 14.

Over the years, the Chamber has also supported a wide variety of organizations through funds raised at its annual auction event. This year, however, the Chamber must use those funds to relocate its offices from the current Novi Expo Center.

Hundreds and hundreds of businesses have benefitted from membership in the Chamber through networking opportunities, discounted products and services, insurance plans, referrals and special events like Threads of Power and the annual Tycoon Tee Off Golf Outing.

The Chamber also has an active voice in representing the business community. Two fine examples are its efforts with the state in getting the Beck Road/I-96 interchange work back on track and helping to resolve issues with the county road commission on Novi Road/Ten Mile Road construction.

Casino Night is a winning bet. Call the Chamber at (248) 349-3743 to attend and/or sponsor.

And thanks to two great organizations for making Novi a better place.

Teachers had better be scared about Senate Bills 55 and 56

Over $28,000.

That was the bill for cancer surgery I underwent at University of Michigan Hospital last fall.

How much of that did I have to pay? Zero.

Why?

Because my wife is a school teacher and she has great insurance – MESSA.

Cal Stone

That may soon change, however.

State Sen. Shirley Johnson (R-Royal Oak) is leading a charge in Lansing – Senate Bills 55 and 56 – that would prohibit public schools' or community colleges' employees from collectively bargaining health insurance.

The idea is to create a new state health insurance fund with six political appointees controlling benefit levels.

That's got me, and probably every Michigan school teacher and their spouse, worried.

Negotiation of teachers' salaries, benefits and working conditions have always occurred locally. Some place a higher value on salary while others want stronger health coverage.

Legislators in this state can't even work with each other to solve Michigan's budget crisis, yet they (i.e., Republicans) want to take over teachers' insurance needs?

I've asked Lu Battaglieri, president of the Michigan Education Association, and Speaker of the House Craig DeRoche (R-Novi) to each give their views on this matter. Don't miss next week's edition.

• As a Rotarian, I'm excited to hear what Doug Shaeffer, Novi's chief of police, will have to say at our group's April 28 luncheon. If you're not a member but would like to attend, it's only $10. Give me a call.

By the way, Tuesday was the 50th anniversary of the Salk polio vaccine, and Rotarians have led the charge to eliminate that disease from the world.

Cal Stone is the editor of the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 or at cstone@ht.homecomm.net.

OPINION

novinews.com

LETTERS

School election critical

On May 3rd, voters in the Novi Community School District will make a critical decision about the direction of Novi Schools. Two of seven Board of Education members will be elected to serve for the next four years. The current State funding issues, a new superintendent, upcoming contract negotiations, and growth within the district make this a critical time to have a Board of Education that can maintain Novi's excellent standards in education within more stringent fiscal guidelines.

Novi schools are a centerpiece for our community and need to remain a source of pride. There are difficult financial choices ahead and the community must make their priorities known. In turn, the Board of Education needs good listeners who can make sound, sensible decisions that reflect the will of Novi's residents. Novi children deserve the best! The best education and the best representation on the Board.

This is a time for all of us in Novi to do our part for our schools. I urge everyone in our community to get informed on the issues and the candidates; then, get out to vote on May 3! Voting this year (and beyond) will be at the City voting precincts not at the previous school voting precincts. This means that for school elections you vote where you previously have for the city/state/national elections.

As a candidate for the Novi School Board, I'm eager to hear what issues community members feel are important and to share my perspective on our schools. Please visit www.Lisa-Ann4NoviSchool.org to contact me and to learn more.

Lisa-Ann L. Smith
Novi

Building safe habits

During the week of May 8-14, building departments across America and around the world will celebrate Building Safety Week. Building Safety Week raises public awareness of building safety and promotes the use, enforcement and understanding of building safety and fire prevention codes to protect lives and property. "Making Homes, Schools and Workplaces Safer Together" is the theme of Building Safety Week 2005.

Building and fire code enforcement is the job of professionals who work right here in the City of Novi. Inspectors, plan reviewers and others in our department work to ensure that the structures you and your families live, work and play in are safe. We are active members of the International Code Council, an association that develops building safety and fire prevention codes that are used in more than 15,000 jurisdictions across the nation. Building Safety Week, first observed in 1980, is sponsored by the International Code Council Foundation, an organization dedicated to changing the devastating effects of natural disasters and other building tragedies at home and around the world.

Our department is using Building Safety Week to educate the community. It is an opportunity to increase public awareness of the role building safety and fire prevention officials, local and state building departments and federal agencies play on the front line of defense to protect lives and property. They are the "silent defenders" who are seldom seen but work daily to ensure safety in the built environment. Please visit the Building Department for brochures on: benefits of building permits, how building codes help you, careers in code enforcement, disaster preparedness tips, flood cleanup, and mold prevention and remediation. There are also coloring books, pencils, and stickers for the kids to learn about building safety!

The role of the City of Novi Building Department is to support projects that improve building safety at home and in the community. The department takes steps to ensure that the places where people in our community live, work, play and learn are safe by reviewing building plans, issuing building permits and inspecting buildings during and after construction.

In 2004 the City of Novi Building Department issued 353 permits for new construction of single-family homes and 518 permits for commercial activity. There were a total of 76 more new homes that were constructed this year over this time last year. There were 27,446 "call in" inspections performed for building, plumbing, heating, and electrical.

The City of Novi Building Department now provides all residential forms, some non-residential forms and hand-outs on the City website at www.ci.novi.mi.us or at the Civic Center, which is located at 45175 West Ten Mile Road. You may also contact the department at (248) 347-0415.

Donald Saven
Building Official

Career Day kudos

On Wednesday, March 23, the Novi Middle School held their 15th Annual Career Day. We would just like to thank the people in the community who so generously gave of their time, that day, to come out and speak to the Middle School Students.

Thank You to:

Bob Boyd/Urban Wildlife Specialist/Critter Control; Jim Bretes/Business Owner/Crossroads Pottery; Denise Brockman/Speech & Language Therapist/Northville PS; Rich Cormier/General Manager/Oakland Flight Services; Dr. Sindy & Dr. Robert Goodman/Orthodontists/Own Practice; Dr. Brian Kewak/Special Agent/FBI; Brian Larson/Jeweler-Store Owner/Larson Jewelers; Lou Bigliardi/Novi Police Officer/Novi Police Department; Rob Murphy/Director of Mktg/Sales/Plymouth Whalers; Marjorie Nanian/Attorney/Law practice-home; Debbie Nutile/Dir or Group Exercise/Aerobics/Sports Club of Novi; Lynn Paul/Novi City Council; Steve Printz/Parks, Rec and Forestry/Novi Parks and Rec; Tim Prokop/Firefighter/Dearborn Fire Department; Dave Ray/Special Agent/FBI; Nancy Schubring/Engineer/IEE; Kurt Schuster/USAF Reserves/JetBlue Airways; Jeff West/Hairstylist-Owner/Head West Salon; Joyce Zerkich/Information Technology/FoMoCo; Michael Zerkich/Writer/Day Trader/Self-Employed.

All of you and the many parent volunteers helped to make the Novi Middle School Career Day another huge success!

The Middle School Career Day Committee
Bernice Van Buhler, Cathy Schramm, Julia Schnaidt, Jill Bednarek, Tricia Dooley, Martha Palmer, Michelle Sankovic, Mary Schlaff, Sue Lover, Bill Schoff

Downtown's a dream

The proposed development detailed in Thursdays Novi News is certainly interesting. The title of the article "Developing Novi's downtown" is really misleading. The current "development" in place at Novi Road and Grand River is a mish-mash of restaurants and office space, and little else. Retail business development has been a failure. "For Lease" signs are everywhere. So what's the plan now? Let's build more concrete and mortar buildings and see if businesses will relocate there. Let's further congest that corner under the auspices that it's going to be the proverbial "downtown" that Novi continues to dream of.

It's never going to be a downtown. It's never going to attract small businesses.

The area is crippled with poor parking, no curbside appeal, and laden with late night bars. Royal Oak it will never be. Northville it will never be. A downtown it will never be. Can we agree on one thing? It's not a main street, it's not a thoroughfare. It's undeveloped land that will cost the city of Novi monies maintaining long after the developers who don't live here, make their money, build the buildings, and retire to Palm Beach richer for the exercise.

Has anyone considered that Novi is a little flush with retail space right now? Has anyone considered that growth doesn't have to be in brick and mortar? Why does every available piece of dirt have to be build on?

Novi let developers rule this city for the last 15 years. They build houses, larger and larger houses, and increase the tax base through property taxes, yet our taxes go up. They build and walk away. They weren't told that as a condition of building here, that they provide "park" land with each block of houses they build here, (can you say Royal Oak)? The strain on the city to play catch up with commensurate police, fire, water, sewer, administrative, and clerical personnel just to support (and over support), the increased population, is a negative spiral.

I fear a wasteland of unused buildings, and a ghost town atmosphere at worst. If the current development is filled only with issuing new liquor licenses, thus allowing "new" bars into that area, what does that say about retail/commercial success to date?

It must be fashionable for city council to allow the developers to give them "bragging rites" to give the allusion of a slick city that is on the cutting edge for everything fashionable and new. The roads cannot allow much more congestion, and the only way it can is to hope that this new "proposed" Main Street development will follow in its little brothers footsteps and be the ghost town it now is.

Fred McMann
Novi

Not sold on DDA

The last paragraph of your March 31, 2005 editorial regarding the City Council's review of parks and recreation naming rights policies, read "This is a sound proposal that has the potential to bring some needed revenue to the city in a time of financial uncertainty."

That statement appears to be inconsistent with your April 7, 2005 editorial regarding Triangle Development's Main Street vision, which requires a commitment from the City Council to establish a Downtown Development Authority which would capture taxes for a specific area, instead of the city-wide use of those extra tax dollars. It would also mean that the elected City Council would choose to give away the control of those extra tax dollars to a non-elected "Authority" that would have zero accountability to the taxpayers at large.

You say that "This should not cause worry. DDA's have been around for 30 years, and they are the perfect tool for boosting a project of this magnitude."

Did you ever consider that perhaps those communities which have DDA's and are now struggling financially to provide essential city services to their citizens as a result of the Headlee millage limitations, Proposal A limitations, state shared revenue reductions and soaring employee health care and pension costs, are now sorely missing the use and control of those extra tax dollars?

Growth is supposed to help — not harm the city's financial future.

Laura J. Lorenzo
Novi City Council

Open government

The inspiration for this letter is an article by Jack Lessenberry. He was addressing the experiences of Helen Thomas, who was White House bureau chief for UPI for many years. She now covers the White House in a different way; writing two syndicated columns a week. I have saved the article because I feel the message contained in it is of vital importance to all of us.

Last month Helen Thomas was at Wayne State University and in talking to the students she made some important points. One of these was, "Democracy dies behind closed doors". It is important for this nation to have full disclosure on matters that affect its citizens. She also said that our current President seems less willing to accept questioning than others she has covered. And she added that when there are no watchdogs, asking the hard questions, the people are the losers.

She feels that conservatives and liberals should be able to agree that when a government does business in secret, that government is to be feared.

This letter is to urge all of our legislators to conduct the people's business in a way that allows us a full view of what is going on so that as informed citizens we can help guide our government. After all, politicians are in our employ. We pay their salaries. We are the ones who stand to benefit or be hurt by the decisions they make.

Doreen Lawton
Novi

Share your opinions: We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be **400 words or less.** We may edit for clarity, space and content. Generally, no more than one letter per month by the same author will be published. Letters must be received by noon Tuesday to be printed in the Thursday edition. **Mail:** Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167 **E-mail:** cstone@ht.homecomm.net **Fax to:** (248) 349-9832

Change: Often necessary, but sometimes it's tough to take

Change is inevitable. It could be necessary, sudden, unexpected, good or bad. One thing's for sure, however, it is definitely a part of life that everyone must deal with at some point or another.

Ramez Khuri

Not much change is going on within the Novi Community School District at the moment, but come July, that will change tremendously. No pun intended.

First of all, starting at the top, Dr. Emmett Lippe, who has been superintendent of the district since 1992, will retire following the current school year. Also, Mary Goedert, who has been the principal of Village Oaks Elementary School for the past three years, will be leaving to become a principal in the Bay City School District.

Both of these people have impacted the district very much, not only with their professional work ethic, but with their kindness and all around good nature. Their departures not only spark change for the district, but change in their own lives as well.

In Goedert's case, she will be moving to the Bay City area to rejoin her husband who runs a bank there. She will be leaving behind a school and a district where she has made a lot of friends and has made many good things happen at Village Oaks.

Lippe's accomplishments alone are far too great to mention in this column. The district will definitely have to make some adjustments after he goes, and in fact it already has hired a new superintendent in Peter Dion, from the Grosse Ile School District. A man with great qualifications who will most likely fit in very nicely in Novi.

Now, I haven't been a journalist too long, but I do have past experience in covering school districts. In the two years plus that I worked at my previous job, where I covered two different school districts, I didn't once step foot in either superintendent's office. My meetings with the two men were often brief, usually at school board meetings, or on the phone, where they stuck to the facts, then dismissed me as soon as the interview was over.

Not Dr. Lippe. On my first day working for the Novi News, my editor, Cal Stone, took me over to visit with the man. I was blown away when the first thing he did was ask us into his office. He not only gave me some great story ideas and names of people to talk to, but he also took the time to get to know me. He asked me questions about everything from my personal life, to my family, to my professional life. It was as if HE was the reporter asking ME questions. That was quite a pleasant shocker.

I could tell right away that Dr. Lippe was going to be somebody I would enjoy working with and he never proved me wrong.

Goedert was the same way when I met her. Talk about a happy person! Professionally, there aren't too many people who are better to work with. She's very accessible, she will always call or e-mail you back and she's always pleasant about it, no matter what the topic you would like to discuss with her is.

Needless to say, I will miss working with these two fine people. They have definitely made my job a lot easier as I approach my third year on the job.

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.

OTHER OPINIONS

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@ht.homecomm.net

Hendrix is medicine for Detroit

For folks who don't live there, Detroit and its manifold problems often seem another world, tortured by layers of mismanagement, racism, poverty and political corruption.

"I just wish it would go away" is a comment I must have heard *100 times* — and we've all heard even worse.

But like it or not, Detroit does matter to us all — and like it or not, it is not going away. It is and will remain Michigan's largest city, with a long and distinguished history going back to 1701. Less than a century ago, it led the birth of the manufacturing revolution that brought unprecedented prosperity to Michigan and its workers.

Phil Power

Yet its present condition — described by a columnist some years ago as "America's first third world city" — brings shame on our state and hurts our national image. Which is why the August primary election for Mayor of Detroit really matters. There will be three major candidates: The incumbent, Kwame Kilpatrick; City Council member Sharon McPhail; and Freman Hendrix, who was deputy under former Mayor Dennis Archer.

Kilpatrick, who at 31 was the city's youngest-ever mayor when he took office, has been acting … well … his age. Or not quite his age. Many observers consider him immature and impulsive, not ready for the big time.

There have been many gaffes over his three-plus years in office — key staffers improperly pulling rank, a fancy car leased for his family, investigations suppressed and widespread rumors of night life funny business. So many, in fact, that his re-election is no longer a sure thing.

Devastatingly, a poll released last week by EPIC/MRA found that *more than half of Detroiters* think Kilpatrick has accomplished nothing since being elected, and only one in five voters want to see him re-elected. His job approval rating is 62 percent unfavorable, while 61 percent of respondents think the city is "on the wrong track." In a trial heat, Kilpatrick fared poorly, running behind Hendrix and even with McPhail.

Sharon McPhail is no stranger to the voters. She's run for many offices, including mayor, since 1993, and was finally elected to Detroit City Council in 2001. Unfortunately, this is a council that for years has ranked right up there as among the silliest and least constructive legislative bodies in our state. A friend of mine, a long-time knowledgeable observer of Detroit politics, describes McPhail as "mercurial, brilliant, but erratic, with one set of standards for herself and another for everyone else.

"She tried to be Ecorse city attorney and a Detroit councilman at the same time and fought to keep both jobs, though every court and the state attorney general told her she was nuts to think that wasn't a conflict of interest."

Two years ago, she was roundly ridiculed for charging that Kilpatrick had somehow rigged her electric back massager on a chair in her council office to give her a nasty shock. (No evidence was ever discovered that anyone had sabotaged her chair.) This year, she has cleverly gotten Benny Napoleon, the popular former police chief, to appear to run with her under the promise that she will appoint him deputy mayor.

Then there is Freman Hendrix, who met with a group of HomeTown Newspapers editors a couple of weeks ago for a conversation about the city and the region's future. He is a tall, relatively slim man with a high forehead, salt-and-pepper moustache and large hands, which he folds together when not gesturing. During our conversation (in which he, unlike so many politicians, spoke in complete sentences) he sat on the edge of his chair, legs bent under him, giving the impression of somebody ready to spring.

Hendrix served for eight years as deputy mayor and chief of staff, running the city's day-to-day operations and a workforce of 17,000. On his watch the city ran a balanced budget and cut taxes for the first time in years. He was also chairman of the reform city board of education.

Later, he spent several years as chief of operations for Strategic Staffing Solutions, a Detroit-based information technology company. I knew Hendrix while he was in the Archer administration and came to think highly of his managerial skills, maturity and commonsense vision for the city.

"The image of Detroit affects the entire region," Hendrix told the editors, "but Detroit right now is a fragile place. A good mayor can make a big difference, but Mayor Kilpatrick's learning curve has just been too steep."

Hendrix was blunt about the city's financial situation. "Bankruptcy is imminent unless we get our act together. Now that isn't entirely bad, because the specter of bankruptcy can drive collective bargaining with the municipal unions, who could find themselves faced with a choice between no union contract (via a judge's ruling) or a 50 percent cut in payroll. In any event, we need to reduce the number of departments from 44 to 30, but we also need to get another 800 or so police officers out on the streets."

Yet can Hendrix win, especially given his relatively low name ID and Kilpatrick's campaign war chest, now bulging with contributions from firms doing business with the city? "Name ID helps," responded Hendrix, "but only if it's positive. It takes $2 million to win. My goal is to have raised $1 million by June. And if you get through the primary, you can raise a ton. Dennis Archer raised $500,000 the day after he won his primary."

Originally, I thought Hendrix's campaign was a long shot. But I now think it just might succeed, if only because both Kilpatrick or McPhail have a demonstrated capacity to self-destruct.

Of course, it's a long way till the August primary, but the recent poll was surprising and encouraging for Hendrix ... and for anybody who hopes for a better future for Detroit.

Full disclosure: Philip Power is a supporter of and a contributor to Hendrix's mayoral campaign. He is also the former chairman of Hometown Communications Network. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column either at (734) 953-2047 or at ppower@homecomm.net.

Drunk driving death becomes family's prison

Dianne Hahn's final words were simple: "I'll be all right."

Then she died along Old US-23 in Brighton, just north of the Spencer Road exit, outside the van she'd been driving northbound only moments before.

At about 1:45 a.m. Dec. 30, police said, a pickup truck swerved around an upcoming curve. It struck Hahn's van head-on.

Hahn died. The friend she was transporting was critically injured; to this day, she can't walk on her own.

Prosecutors believe the man driving the truck was drunk.

Four months later, Livingston County Prosecutor David Morse said the suspect remains free, pending arraignment later this month. He said the male suspect will be charged with drunk driving, causing a death, a felony carrying a maximum 15-year prison sentence.

"That doesn't sound like a maximum to me, if you take someone's life," Don Hahn said, Dianne's brother.

Morse agreed.

"Personally, I think we are kind of light on the penalty," he said. "At least when it comes to drunk driving causing death."

David Aguilar

Maybe that should change. Dianne Hahn is dead. Her surviving friend can no longer walk on her own and Hahn's two sons, step-brothers by law but brothers by devotion, can no longer turn to their mother for counsel.

The boys have been separated since the accident. Kyler, 9, lives with his father. Brandon, 17, now lives in Novi and attends Novi High School.

Don, 30, and his wife, Robin, 28, had only one response following the accident: Brandon will live with us.

The couple already have three kids of their own. The oldest is 5. Next year they'll send Brandon to college.

Meanwhile, Dianne's mother, Pat Hahn, rummages through a car transformed into a box of spill-over files. Everywhere she turns there is a legal form, a letter of condolence, yet another reminder.

The pain is choking her.

Pat Hahn is waiting for a mother's worst nightmare to end. She's waiting for her daughter to finally come home, the 35-year-old single mother of two sons who spent daylight hours working and nighttime hours as a full-time student earning her way onto the national dean's list.

It's not going to happen. That's not the way this story ends. Her daughter is dead.

She rubbed her eyes with the base of her hand, a mother bear pawing at a chronically mascara-smudged life, clogged by tears welled up in some tough-to-reach corner. She rubbed Brandon's back. And smiled.

Brandon said he's had a recurring dream. His mother is talking to him about school; asking how things are going. Then he realizes she is asking about Novi High School. In his head he knows it's a dream, but in his heart it's a summer day. He doesn't want to wake up. Her face is bright. She is alive.

"My mom was one of the cool ones," Brandon said, an all-A student. "Hopefully, this is the worst experience I'll ever have to go through."

That night

Dianne Hahn dropped Brandon off at her brother's house in Novi four months ago so she could go out with friends, something her chaotic schedule had not allowed for months.

She said a quick hello; 20 minutes later, she left. She left behind a suit for Kyler.

Later that week he put it on. And wore it to his mother's funeral.

Photo by DAVID AGUILAR

The Hahn Family: (back) Brandon, Pat and Don; (front) Aiden, 5, Gabriella, 6months, Robin and Jax, 3.

"We're just trying to hold it together," Pat said.

Family emotions are splintered: anger, sadness, resentment, pain, frustration. Pat said it's like taking a feather pillow to the rooftop and opening it up on a windy day.

Dianne Hahn's legacy is a simple message, maybe two: Don't drink and drive; call a cab. And tell loved ones how you feel while you still have the chance.

They are messages we should all take to heart.

"It's opened up all our eyes to see how important it is to spend time with family," Don said.

Pat Hahn spent Monday night trying to get Dianne's tax return filed on time. Her daughter had no life insurance, no assets. She had two sons and one dream: work hard and be happy.

No gravestone marks her passing. There's no money. A Farmington Hills business is holding a fund-raiser Friday and will donate proceeds to the family. The Hahns are enormously grateful.

But the spring breeze scrapes across Pat Hahn's heart. She rubs her eyes again. A mother's voice buckles. Her knees give out. She surrenders.

"We're still not sure how we're going to get through this," she said. "God help us."

David Aguilar is the Northville Record editor. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 102 or at daguilar@ht.homecomm.net.

HAHN BENEFIT

Mid American Studio in Farmington Hills will host a "Ladies Night Out" fund-raiser Friday, April 15 on behalf of Brandon and Kyler Hahn. The $10 event ($15 at the door) will feature fitness activities, spa treatments, appetizers and beverages.

For more information, call (248) 477-5248. To make a family donation, call (248) 626-2334.

LET'S TALK Jewelry WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN GEMOLOGIST

THINGS ARE GETTING ROUGH

Of course, there will always be a place for refined jewelry with well-cut precious gemstones, but another trend is emerging that is decidedly more casual. We are talking about big, brightly colored, and uniquely designed rough stones. These unfaceted gemstones, which may include gemstones ranging from amethysts to aquamarines and rubies, create chunky pieces that are drawing more than their share of attention. The good news in all this is that consumers get the biggest gemstones for their bucks. Desirability is largely intuitive, based on such factors as density of color and the evenness with which the color is dispersed. Thus, to a large degree, the better a rough colored gemstone looks the the eye, the better it is.

Purchasing gemstones and jewelry, may warrant the help of a professional. WEINSTEIN JEWELERS OF NOVI provides our area with a very high level of skill and creativity. With 3 generations of experience, we assure every customer courteous, personalized service and, of course, a world-class selection of stones. Call and ask about our Free Diamond and Gemstone Seminars. Here at WEINSTEIN JEWELERS OF NOVI, at 41990 Grand River Ave. (248-347-0303), we will be happy to assist you in the selection of fine gift pieces. We are licensed by the City of Novi to offer loans on jewelry. We are open Tues., Weds. & Sat. 10am-5pm; Thurs. & Fri. 10am-7pm. We are "The name you know, the name you trust." Come in and view a diamond with us and receive a free 10x jewelers loope.

PS: Large pieces of jewelry are making a comeback.

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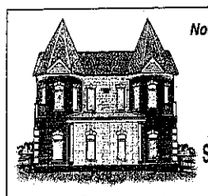

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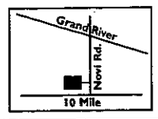

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HEALTH

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@ht.homecomm.net

Battling cancer with a legion of fairies

■ Artist's work on display at Providence cancer center gallery

By Kim Kovelle
STAFF WRITER

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Cancer survivor and artist Pamela Campau looks at her colored pencil and ink work entitled "Happy Hearts Make Light Work." Campau's exhibition, "Chemo-Fairies," is on display the Assarian Cancer Center at Novi's Providence Hospital.

When the steroids first flushed her veins three summers ago, Pamela Campau said the chemotherapy preparation hurt.

"I actually panicked the first time," the Pinckney artist said. "I grabbed my sketchbook to distract myself. I spent the next four hours just focused on drawing."

Once the early battle against ovarian cancer was over, Campau, 49, had created her first "Chemo Fairy," a segmented sprite clutching green weeds.

"I was thinking in terms of (my) body being a garden," explained Campau, who called her work Saving My Own Life: Field Day. "I needed to weed the garden out."

Continuing the trend in all eight treatments, her fairies embody a journey to survival at the Novi Providence Center for the Healing Arts.

Set in a small gallery, her work is part of the center's aim of adding art to the recovery process, program coordinator Lori Taylor said.

"It's... a little bit of the roller-coaster of emotions," Taylor said. "You can't walk through the gallery and not be kind of taken through some kind of a story. It's personal."

Campau's tale began in 2002, when fibroid cysts caused back pain and abdominal swelling. Her doctor recommended a hysterectomy surgery.

"I knew something was going on," she said. "I looked like I was about five months pregnant."

With no family history of ovarian cancer, Campau was stunned at stage three diagnosis.

"Everything changed," she said. "It was like they had the wrong bed. I couldn't believe they were talking to me. I didn't feel ill."

Though surprised, Campau said she was determined to get better.

For the first chemotherapy session at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, she took a coffee mug, needlepoint, photo of husband Jeff, sketchbook and colored pencils.

Fairies flew from Campau's fingers from that July until her final treatment in February 2003.

"For me, they were an absolute lifesaver," she said. "They just sort of happened."

Often attached to IVs and regulators, pixies mirrored the intense process. One perched on a glass of grape juice — packed with vital antioxidants. Another climbed a pumpkin as she wondered, "Where did the summer go?"

At her fourth treatment, Campau said, "I could actually taste the chemicals." A tired sprite sat with head in hand near a plastic flower.

She lost her hair — long and wavy brown — after 15 days. Her fairies did, too.

"I just wore scarves and caps," said Campau. "I really didn't mind that much."

Always, a family member or friend was by her side as she sat drawing in the recliner chair.

Despite a positive outlook, spirits sank when doctors found cancer had spread to her peritoneum, the smooth abdominal lining, requiring two more treatments. Fairies paled.

"I couldn't believe it. I was so tired," she said. "The fairies start to have hearts in them. I was really basically just living on love."

By the time the process was over, Campau had a menagerie of fairies. There was also a jacket she made with Jody, one of her six siblings, and a photo of her "WithArt" hair.

"I thought it was important," said Campau of her hairless portrait. "It was real. I didn't want there to be eight months of no photographs."

Those works and more adorn the Novi gallery until April 29. At her father's suggestion, Campau also kept a journal after each treatment. Those writings — and fairies — now fill a book.

Since then, Campau has been cancer-free. As she did during her ordeal, she keeps active working for her vocal teacher and at Jazzercise class.

Artistry is alive, too, from collage work to acrylic paintings. But as Campau continues to get check-ups at the hospital over at least five years, Chemo Fairies will hibernate.

"To continue to draw them — it's emotional for me," Campau said.

Kim Kovelle is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or via e-mail at kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net.

CHEMO FAIRIES

- **Who:** Pamela Campau, Pinckney artist and ovarian/peritoneal cancer survivor
- **What:** She drew a number of "Chemo Fairies" illustrations while undergoing chemotherapy; those, along with other works, now are on display
- **Where:** Providence Center for the Healing Arts Assarian Cancer Center gallery, 47601 Grand River Ave.
- **When:** 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., weekdays through April 29
- **Call:** (248) 465-5455

FIT FOR LIFE

Anyone can figure out when spring has sprung here in Michigan without even peeking outdoors, smelling the flowers or checking the calendar. You only need to turn on the TV or radio and hear all the magic weight loss choices advertised.

Everything from magic pills, diets to avoid nasty carbs, or super juices all guaranteed to shed those pounds in minutes. Having the honor of being the third fattest state in the United States, we are a prime market for weight loss.

Hearing the basic truths and science of weight management will tempt anyone to jump on board with a quick weight loss idea. Who really wants to hear about those terribly unpopular calories and the basic law of thermodynamics? The quick fix with little or no effort is much more popular, but knowing the truth will guide you in developing your plan for the swimsuit season.

C. Klebba

Here goes…the law of thermodynamics 'simplified' states…when calories in equal calories burned, body weight is maintained. If calories in are less than calories burned it equals weight loss and ... if calories in are greater than calories burned it equals weight gain. This law is as certain as gravity and is at the root of any long term, healthy weight loss.

A 5-foot-10-inch, 200-pound, 45-year-old average man with little activity needs about 2200-2300 calories to maintain that current weight. A 5-5, 125 pound, 40-year-old women needs about 1500-1600 calories per day to maintain her current weight. (You can easily get your maintenance estimate on www.apexfitness.com).

To put this into perspective let's take a look at a few of the top foods and their calorie content.

Large, chocolate chip cookie dough Blizzard ice cream treat — 1,320 calories.

Three slices of deep dish pizza — 1,050 calories.

Big Mac combo with fries and a Coke — 1,120 calories.

Three piece extra crispy KFC — 1,020 calories .

Double Whopper with cheese —1,060 calories.

Contemplate this for a moment, a blizzard is just about the total calories for a 125 pound women for 24 hours to maintain her weight! You can quickly see how easy it is to run those calories up. If you take one pointer from this column to help you lose weight it is to gain an understanding of how many calories you are taking in per day. It is an eye-opener for most and in general we all underestimate this little fact.

Compound this with what it takes to burn off one of the popular foods in our example, which means that a 200 pound male walking outdoors at a moderate two mph needs to walk about 4.5 hours to burn off those three pieces of pizza! You can really get a feel for the power of the law of thermodynamics.

So the next time you evaluate a plan for your weight management, remember the law of thermodynamics.

Chris Klebba is the owner and operator of the Water Wheel Health Club in Northville. He is also a certified fitness trainer and public speaker. For more information, call (248) 449-7634 or check the Web at www.wtrwheel.com.

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Ramez Khuri, school reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net

Parents want more full-day K

■ Financial and space limitations are preventing it

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Its been almost two school years since the Novi Community School District established a full day kindergarten program at each of its K-4 elementary schools, but it looks as though the issue is a hot topic among parents once again.

Four parents addressed the board of education during a "comments from the audience" portion of the board meeting on April 7, expressing their disappointment with the way the random lottery program works for those interested in putting their children in full day kindergarten.

Currently, a random lottery selects 25 students at each school except Deerfield to be put into full-day kindergarten. Deerfield Elementary, on the other hand, is the only one in the district with four full-day kindergarten programs already.

"They're turning away roughly 70 percent of the students who want full-time kindergarten," Sahera Housey said, a mother of two. "What's ironic is, everyone readily admits that full-time kindergarten is the way to go because kids are better off educationally. But we only have one full day class in each school that offers kindergarten at 25 students each. My daughter will go to Parkview, where 25 kids will go to a full-day kindergarten and everyone else gets a half day."

Housey went on to say that money is not an issue to her because she would be willing to pay for her daughter's second half of kindergarten each day. Another option would be to send her daughter to a day care kindergarten program for half the day and to Parkview the other half, but Housey doesn't like that idea.

"I don't want her in two different schools for each half day," she said. "I want the continuity of one school and I'm willing to pay for it. Not only pay for my daughter, but I'm willing to help offset the cost."

Bob Anderson's daughter was selected in the random lottery for full-day kindergarten. But he also feels strongly that many are being treated unfairly.

"To turn away the majority of the people who would like to have full time kindergarten, that's what I have an issue with," he said. "When it comes down to the luck of the draw and we're all paying the same taxes, to me that's unfair."

Anderson said he has many issues with the way the random lottery is handled, but in particular is, what happens to families who move here and just miss the lottery?

The way Dr. Emmett Lippe sees it, Novi Schools superintendent, is that there are two major dilemmas that go along with this issue.

He explained that first of all, according to the state department of education, a school district can not charge parents for the second half of a full-day kindergarten because it is simply not permissible by law.

Secondly, Novi schools have a limitation on some of their facilities in terms of additional kindergarten classrooms right now.

"The state budget continues to be a problem because money is very tight right now," Lippe said. "It's just not a time that we can afford to expand the full-day kindergarten and even if we could, we would have to take a close look at the classrooms we have available to see if we can hold the classes in them."

Housey brought up the fact that a millage was passed last year and money generated from it might be used to fund full-day kindergarten.

"When we had the presentations last year for the millage, we put on a chart what programs would be in jeopardy if we didn't get that money," Lippe said. "That money went to pay for those programs that otherwise might have been lost. We don't know how much longer this tough financial situation will last, so the board is trying to be prudent and not add any additional programs."

However, Housey and other parents have concerns.

"There has to be a better way than the lottery system to this, especially with 70 percent of the students being turned away," Housey said. "There has to be some way for them to find the money."

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.

Headed to greener pastures?

■ Goedert departing Village Oaks after current school year

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Its been three years since Mary Goedert first graced the hallways of Village Oaks Elementary School, and many felt it was a match made in heaven, as she became principal.

But, as the saying goes, all good things must eventually come to an end.

Goedert will be leaving Village Oaks when the current school year ends in June to become principal at Auburn Elementary School in the Bay City School District. It's a decision that she didn't want to make, but had to.

"Selfishly, I am very sad because I love my job here," Goedert said with a tear in her eye. "I have repeatedly said to anybody who's ever been in another school district or in another school that Village Oaks Elementary School is probably the best place to be for children, for parents, for staff and really for me too."

> **"She's willing to stick her neck out for what is right for kids ..."**
> *Jane Fungfeld*
> *Village Oaks literary specialist*

The reason for her decision is a personal one. Her husband, Rick, was approached with a business proposal to develop a new bank in the Midland area almost two years ago. The job entailed being in charge of selling the bank's stock, federal regulations, developing policies and actually starting up the bank. Being a banker by trade, he accepted the position with his wife's blessing.

Rick Goedert started living in an apartment in Saginaw in the fall of 2003, while Mary lived near Novi in the couple's house. In the meantime, her mother, who also lives in the Saginaw area, fell and broke her hip in late August.

"I've been making a lot of trips back and forth and feeling very guilty about not being there to help her," Goedert said. "That really solidified the whole move for me. I can't deal with another year of all the driving. It's very stressful."

As for her husband, she knew he wasn't happy with his career situation before he took the job in Midland, so she told him to go for it, and they would figure out what happens later.

"I love my husband and that's why I'm doing this," Goedert said. "I told him that when we had to make a decision, we would do that, but this is hard for me. I've been crying for almost two years now."

When Goedert arrived at Village Oaks, her original plan was to stay six to 10 years. It has only been three, but in that short time, she has made some friends for life.

Jane Funfgeld is a literacy specialist at Village Oaks. She has worked with Goedert all three years.

"She's willing to stick her neck out for what is right for kids and that's what I'll miss the most, along with her sense of humor and friendship," Funfgeld said. "It's a tremendous loss to our district, but (Bay City) is so lucky to be getting her. She is at the top of her game with curriculum, leadership strategy, understanding of the workings of a principal and national, state and local district assessment. At the same time, she has a sense of humor and she's friendly with her staff. Those are great things and you can never replace Mary, but we hope that we can find someone as perfect as she is."

Sue Ruddy, the school's media specialist, has also worked with Goedert for three years. When Goedert first arrived at the school, the media center was in the process of going through a major renovation.

"She didn't skip a beat," Ruddy recalled. "Mary got right involved and we met several times over the summer because she's very detail oriented. She wanted to make sure that everything that was supposed to be done was done right. We really have learned a lot from having Mary here and I think she has helped us to move forward and hopefully that will continue because we're looking for a lot of the same attributes in the next person."

To Goedert, there is one aspect of Village Oaks she will never forget.

"It isn't about my office, it's not about the school and it's not about the colors or anything else," she said. "It's about the people. It's about the friends that I've made and things that I've learned. My problems at this school are minimal because everybody pitches in and does their job. I credit (former Village Oaks Principal Dave Brown) for that. I just came in and took over for him. He built a darn good school here. He hired good people and was a great leader."

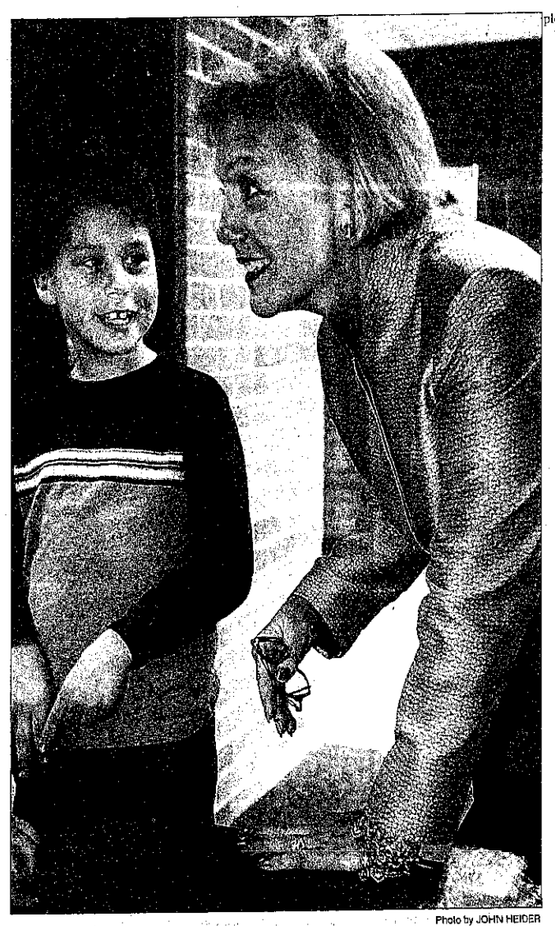

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Village Oaks' Principal Mary Goedert will be leaving the school district at the end of the year. Here she talks to student Nicholas Chiles during a school bake sale.

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.

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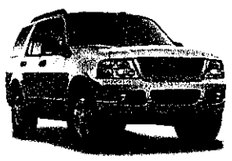
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High schoolers shine at Chemistry Olympiad

Two students place in top 12

By Courtney Ratkowiak
SPECIAL WRITER

Novi High School senior Adam Bednarek and junior Alice Qi placed among the top 12 students in the Detroit Local Section of the United States National Chemistry Olympiad on March 17. The two earned National Exam Nominee honors and qualified for the National Chemistry Olympiad exam on April 14. The local exam was taken by 50,000 students nationwide, with 1,000 qualifying for the national exam.

Senior Becky Reichel and sophomore Asra Shaik earned Alternate Nominee Honors, as USNCO rules permit only 10 students per school to compete in the local exam and two students to compete in the national exam.

Students in Jim Hanson and Rand Helmkamp's Advanced Placement Chemistry classes took a qualifying Chemistry Olympiad test to determine which 10 Novi students would participate in the Detroit Local Section exam. To prepare for the qualifier, students took practice Olympiad tests while also continuing to cover the regular AP curriculum.

Bednarek, Qi, Reichel, and Shaik continue Novi High School's strong Olympiad tradition. Novi students have earned National Exam Nominee and/or Alternate Nominee honors for 16 of Novi's 19 years of participation. This year marks the ninth straight year that Novi has qualified two students for the national exam.

"We've been pretty successful, and (the success) is a tribute to strong students with high academic caliber," Hanson said. "(The students) are in the top twelve in the whole Detroit metropolitan area, and we're competing with all the Cranbrooks, the Country Days, the private schools."

Qi knew what to expect while taking the local exam, as this is her second year qualifying for the national exam. Although Qi completed the AP Chemistry course as a sophomore, she decided to participate in the Olympiad again as a junior. Qi joined just six other Novi students who have qualified for the national Olympiad exam two years in a row.

"I was a lot more nervous this year than last year...I have to say I'm pleasantly surprised," Qi said about her experience. "I started studying the Monday of the week before (the test), but it wasn't easy because I didn't remember that much...(it) was a lot of studying, a lot of hard work."

Bednarek took a different approach, preparing for the exam by studying practice tests for about two months.

"Going into it, I knew it would be difficult...I had taken a lot of tests and I knew what to expect," Bednarek said. "It was a little easier than expected, but...I was quite surprised to find out I made the finals."

The next step for Bednarek and Qi is the National Chemistry Olympiad exam, held at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. It consists of three parts: A multiple-choice section similar to the local exam, an essay section, and a laboratory portion where the students must create a procedure and conduct a given experiment.

The top 20 students from the national exam are invited to the USNCO Study Camp, held at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. After two weeks, four of these students are selected to represent the United States in an international chemistry competition. The Detroit Local Section has fared well, qualifying at least one student for the Study Camp every year for the past twenty years. Novi High School students have qualified for the Study Camp five times since 1986.

"It's fun to be participating in it," Hanson said.

Bednarek agreed.

"Even though it was a several hour test, it was still pretty fun, pretty cool. It was very exciting," he said.

Courtney Ratkowiak is a junior at Novi High School.

Comic book creator shares his own story

Local author Mark Crilley visited Orchard Hills Elementary School on April 5 and presented an assembly on how to come up with ideas for writing stories.

He explained to the kids how he came up with a story about a heroine named "Akiko" and some of the other characters that share her adventures in the "Akiko" series of books.

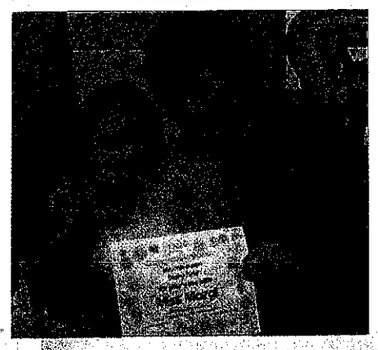
He drew two of his characters and showed how his illustrations fit the characters' roles and personalities in his stories.

Crilley started writing the "Akiko" comic books as a way to teach English to students while living in Japan and Taiwan. In the year 2000, his first book about the intergalactic heroine - "Akiko on the Planet Smoo" was published. He has just released a new book "Akiko: The Training Master."

He also is the illustrator of his books and drew several of his characters for the kids including "Gax". He gave the kids specific ideas and steps on how they, too, can come up with their own unique characters and become authors.

Courtesy photo

Mark Crilley explains to students at Orchard Hills how he went about creating his intergalactic heroine Akiko (the life-size image of the cartoon girl is to his right) and all her different adventures in the "Akiko" series of books.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Your prize? Miss Margi!

Maggie Schulhoff, a first grader at Parkview Elementary School, won a classroom visit by Miss Margi of the Novi Public Library at the Parkview Fun Fair. Schulhoff put her ticket in the raffle and was excited to win the visit for Lyn Fischer's whole class. Miss Margi visited the class and read a variety of books last week. Here, Schulhoff poses with Miss Margi and the certificate she won at the raffle.

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She uses literacy to reach students

■ Results show much growth

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Each and every day, students in Bridget Zahradnik's first grade class at Parkview Elementary School know they're going to be engaged in something fun. What they may not know because of their young ages, however, is whatever they do, it's going to be educational as well.

Zahradnik, along with her first grade teaching partner of Kerry Kowalczyk, use the concept of literacy to get through to their students. In fact, the two put together a literacy night for kindergarten through second grade students and their parents back on September 30 of last year. It turned out to be such a success that the two run a literacy workshop every day in the classroom.

"We take data quite a bit on just student growth and we have data from when we didn't do this as compared to now," Zahradnik said. "The growth that we see is enormous. The kids have the opportunity to explore literacy instead of it being said to them. They're learning, they're hands on with it and are exposed to several different variations, so they have an opportunity to see things in a lot of different situations and apply them."

For the program, Zahradnik and Kowalczyk share kids so that they can maximize teacher to student ratio and meet the needs of students much more frequently.

Students work independently, exploring literacy through hands on activities, which gives the teachers an opportunity to work with small groups in guided reading. That way, the two can hit the specific skills that those particular kids need while the rest of the students are still engaged in literacy and are not just sitting at their seats doing busy work.

"That's a real important point to us, that the students are engaged whether they're sitting with us or not," Zahradnik said. "They're also independent workers and learners because they are taking charge of their own learning at that time and we're not walking around looking over their shoulders telling them what to do."

You have to like your job

It takes quite a person to handle 20 some first graders, but Zahradnik is just right for the job.

She explained the progress that the students make is tremendous, even more so than other grades.

"We get to see a very large transition because when they first come in, most of them are non-readers, non-writers, non-shoe tiers and when they leave, they just make such an enormous transition that it's just so rewarding," she said. "I love watching the growth that they make over the course of the year and then essentially where they end up. I enjoy the day-to-day different scenarios that happen in a first grade classroom that keep me laughing every single day. I laugh every single day in my job."

Kaylee Thompson is a student in Zahradnik's class. She said Zahradnik is her favorite teacher because, "She explains things that she wants to talk about to make us understand it and she makes it so you want to learn more," she said.

Growing up, Zahradnik always wanted to be a marine biologist, until she discovered her other passion: Teaching. She wanted to work with children and thought it would be a good career that suited her, but she wasn't sure about that until she stepped foot into a first grade classroom as a student teacher for the first time. She said that marine biology wouldn't be fulfilling enough for her because she wanted a job where she could give something back to the community.

"I remember knowing right then that I wanted to be a teacher because I was having a very rough day prior to getting to the school and when I got there I had completely forgotten everything that was going on outside of the classroom," she said. "You forget about all your problems while you're with the kids and I just knew that it was very fulfilling for me."

That was Zahradnik's sophomore year in college and she has devoted herself to teaching ever since. When she finally became a teacher, however, something happened in her classroom that she will never forget.

She explained that earlier in the school year, her kids did a play, where the word aphids came up, which are insects that live on leaves. Later on that spring, while the class was studying plants, a little girl in the class spoke up when she discovered an aphid on a leaf.

"That just made such an impression because of the connection she was able to make," Zahradnik said. "I will always remember that moment because I was a first year teacher and I was kind of unsure of myself. I kept asking myself if the kids were learning. That was something that showed what little sponges their brains are and how much they really do pick up. It was a defining moment for me."

A colleague's thoughts

Scott Hill, a fourth grade teacher at Parkview, senses Zahradnik's passion for the job. He has worked with her in a variety of capacities and on various committees in the past.

"She's a leader and her expectations are really high and the kids tend to meet those expectations," he said. "She creates a belief within the kids that they will succeed and she's a very forward-thinking educator."

While in high school, Zahradnik's favorite teacher taught advanced placement English. She had a big impact on her because she enjoys writing so much and that teacher showed her how to become a good writer.

"I just really remember her class very well and the things I learned," Zahradnik said. "I always said that if I published a book, I would dedicate it to her."

Zahradnik believes that the hardest part of her job is when mandates are handed down by state and federal governments that she doesn't necessarily agree with, but must follow in the classroom. She would like to see more teachers being asked their opinions and expertise when it comes to making laws that impact children because, "We are the ones who are here doing it every day," she said.

When her students move on to the second grade, Zahradnik hopes they remember her as a teacher who challenged them and prepared them, but more so, who gave them that extra attention at what they needed most. She finds out what each child is interested in or is good at and tries to develop whatever it is and build on their strengths.

"I have had students come back a couple years down the road and tell me that they do remember that," she said. "It doesn't happen all the time, but you take what you can get."

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@hi.homecomm.net.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Parkview Elementary School teacher Bridget Zahradnik laughs along with her students as they read "Hiccups for Elephant" on a recent Monday morning.

BRIDGET ZAHRADNIK

- **School:** Parkview Elementary School
- **Grade:** first
- **Years teaching:** Currently in her eighth year. She has taught in California, Louisiana and Detroit, where she taught first grade bilingual)
- **Years in Novi Community School District:** Currently in her fifth year. Her first year in Novi was spent teaching K-4 Spanish.
- **High School:** Eisenhower High School in the Utica Community School District
- **College:** Michigan State University
- **Spouse:** Mark
- **Interests:** She has a new home, so decorating is one her hobbies, she enjoys leisurely reading, her husband and her do outdoor activities, like biking, hiking, camping, going on vacations lot of school reading and writing.
- **Where she grew up:** Shelby Township

Feature Teacher

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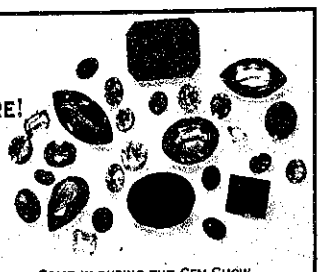

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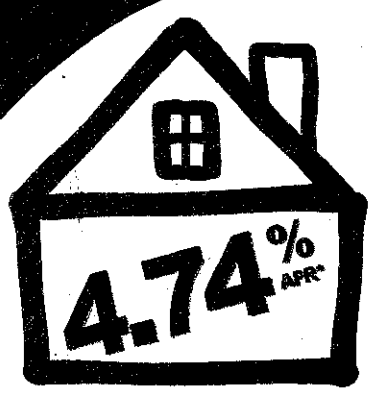

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Kohler generators powered by GM provide value and peace of mind

With five children and a rural home in Michigan's "tornado alley," Tom Deagostino needs to be plugged in, despite what ill winds blow his way. And they blow a lot. "One year, a tree fell onto the house. Another year we lost power in an ice storm for five days – we lived like pioneers."

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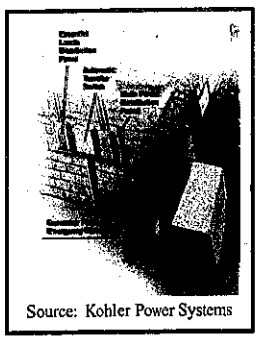

Source: Kohler Power Systems

A commercial-grade Kohler residential generator automatically restores power in seconds, even if you're not there. It features digital power and provides worry-free, turnkey protection for even the most finicky electronics. In fact, hospitals rely on Kohler standby generators powered by GM to keep life-saving equipment running during outages.

Unlike portable generators that must be plugged in, started and refueled, standby generators are automatically fueled by liquid propane (LP) or natural gas and are installed permanently outside new or existing homes. During an outage, an automatic transfer switch restores electricity within seconds, then shuts down the generator when the grid is back up.

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Reliability was important to Deagostino, an engineer, who was frustrated with the quality of his parents' standby generator. When it was his turn to buy a unit and replace his parents' system, he opted for the winning combination of Kohler and GM.

Now he awaits the upcoming storm season with confidence instead of dread.

"I have a permanent solution for backup power," he said. "I guess you could say I feel very empowered."

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Close call

The Northville Mustangs and the Novi Wildcats squared off in several sports last week. In the big event, a rematch of last year's soccer district final, the two teams ended with a split, adding fuel to the fire that it could come down to one of them for a big run again.

— Page 2B

Swing batter, batter!

The Novi Wildcats were on the wrong end of a loss against the Northville Mustangs in both games of a double header last weekend. The squad, coached by Rick Green, couldn't seem to get out from under the barrage of hits put out by the Northville squad.

— Page 4B

SPORTS

Regional Marketplace

How many times have you imagined a dream home? You may already be living there, says Jim Seghi of Jim Seghi Renovations. He sees it continuously in his business - customers are often amazed to see the transformation that can be made from their existing home. I

— Page 6B

Novi, KVC ready to switch

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Northville and Novi High School athletics departments are prepared for any situation come this fall.

The schools, with athletics directors Bryan Masi and Curt Ellis in charge, respectively, have come up with contingency plans in case the Michigan High School Athletic Association makes the switch in seasons this fall.

The switch, which was ordered by a federal court, will find girls basketball moving from fall to winter, volleyball moving from winter to fall, boys golf going from fall to spring and girls golf vice versa. Girls and boys tennis will also switch, with the former going to spring and the latter to fall.

"What we've chosen to do, as a league, is come up with alternative schedules for both scenarios," said Ellis. "We've put together league schedules based on if the seasons switch and if they don't and we're currently beginning to do the same with non-league schedules. We're prepared either way."

Both the Kensington Valley Conference, the league Novi participates in, and Northville's Western Lakes Activities Association have currently made plans to have boys basketball played at one school while girls play at the other. The plan resolves the most difficult part of the planning to date.

"We're going to have triple headers at each school," said Masi. "If we didn't and went with four games during the week like had been discussed, we'd never have the facilities for people to practice."

Despite having the biggest problem secured, Ellis said there are others that still have to be dealt with. The most pressing is a golf course for the boys to play on next spring. Less important but still in the back of his mind are incoming freshmen.

"It needs to be conveyed to them that they need to be prepared for both scenarios," Ellis said. "Starting in August or staring in November are completely different things for those who want to be a part of volleyball or girls basketball."

Ellis said the easiest way to stay informed is to read the newspapers and to keep tabs on the schools' Web sites. It will be there that parents can find out when tryouts are and get updates to the ongoing gender equity lawsuit.

Northville's Web site is www.northville.k12.mi.us and Novi's is www.novi.k12.mi.us.

Masi echoed Ellis' concerns and added that incoming freshman and experienced athletes alike should be well prepared for either situation.

"They need to be aware of when they're expected to be present when their seasons begin," he said.

If the switch happens, volleyball and boys tennis tryouts will begin Aug. 15 and girls golf tryouts will be Aug. 11.

"It's a big change for all the schools," Ellis said. "Everyone has to be prepared, even the athletic departments."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

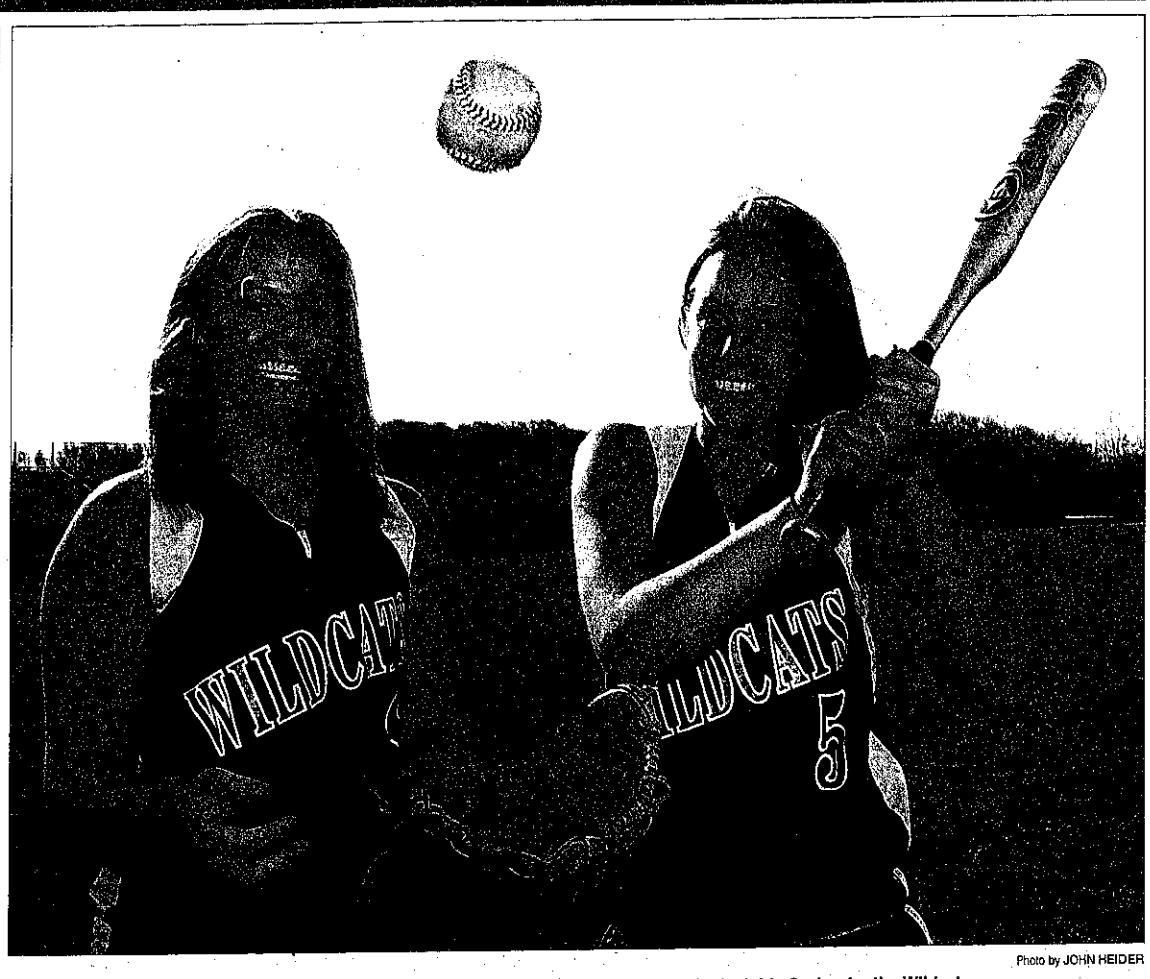

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi softball players and sisters Andrea, left, and Stephanie Jirasek are ready to take the field this Spring for the Wildcats.

JIRASEK PARK

Novi softball sisters ready to turn Bicentennial into

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Jirasek sisters have big plans for softball this season.

Andrea, who is a senior, and Stephanie, a sophomore, don't care that they are lacking a true home field. No matter where they roam, they'll make it home.

"We just want to play softball," said Stephanie. "I think we have a whole lot of potential this year and I'm excited about what we can do. Right now we just need to gel a little more and when we do I think we're going to be just fine."

Andrea agreed, saying the team is so diverse at this point that it just takes getting to know each other a little better before everything falls into place. The softball team boasts five seniors, three juniors and five sophomores. Andrea, along with fellow senior Alyssa Wagner, are the captains.

Experience, said Andrea, is no problem when it comes to the underclassmen.

"I'm not sure experience is even an issue," she said. "They know how to play softball, they know how to hit and they know how to win. I just think we have to know each other as a team more and then we'll be where we want to be."

Andrea, who is planning on attending Saginaw Valley State University in the fall and hopes to play softball there, said she is going to enjoy her senior season.

The key, she said, is to play her best and promote that mindset to everyone else on the field as well.

"I just want everyone to play their best," she said. "Senior or not, we have to play our best if we want to win."

Stephanie said she hopes her team can muster that kind of enthusiasm too but added that she can feel the excitement in the air already.

"I think everyone is ready," she said. "We've got a good coach and good players. We've got what we need to win, that's for sure."

When it comes to siblings, few get along as well as the Jirasek girls. Softball is a family event and the girls have grown close together because of it.

"They love being around each other," said their mother, Ruth Ann. "They are very close and they play so well together."

Andrea, who made the varsity team her sophomore season, plays shortstop while Stephanie plays third base this year. To add to the family draw of the sport, the girls' older sister, Alie, played softball in high school too and their younger sister, Elizabeth, plays the game too as a seventh grader.

"When we go on vacation we even bring our gloves and a ball," Andrea said. "We just love playing softball."

It's a love that started when the girls were younger and the family lived in California. There, said Ruth Ann, the game is at a completely different level.

"It's not like it is here," she said. "It's so competitive. There's nothing like California fastpitch. It's like a whole different world."

Despite being friendly with one another, there is still a slight spark of the type of attitude most siblings have with one another.

When asked who the better player was, Stephanie immediately answered.

"I am, of course," she said, adding a laugh.

Andrea, however, had a more diplomatic answer.

"I think we're pretty much the same," she said. "When it comes to batting and fielding, I think we're pretty much equal."

No matter who proves to be better than the other, both Jirasek sisters are driving toward the same goal — success.

"I just want this to be the best season it can be," Andrea said. "If we can do that, I'll be happy."

And if Andrea is happy, then the rest of the softball team will probably be happy too.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or by e-mail at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

By the numbers

4-0	5-3	8	4-4	104	11-17	74-63
Northville baseball's record after taking two wins from the Novi Wildcats.	Score in Novi's tennis victory over the Northville Mustangs last week.	RBIs Northville's Charlie Thomas collected against Novi in a double header.	Score of the Northville and Novi soccer game last week.	Straight games Woodberry Forest football has played against rival Episcopal.	Record Northville's Clint Alexander leaves with after three years as football coach.	Northville girls track score over rival Novi in dual-meet action last week.

Baseline action dominates schedules

It was a week of intense action between the Northville Mustangs and the Novi Wildcats.

Leading the way was the rematch of last year's district final between the Mustangs soccer squad and the Novi Wildcats.

Last Friday the Northville Mustangs and Novi Wildcats played in the rematch of last year's district finals. However, neither team got the better of the other as the it ended in a tie game 4-4. Northville's Lauren Hill had a spectacular night earning a hat trick and Danielle Toney scoring the first goal of the game.

The Mustangs scored first when Danielle Toney stole the ball from a defender and chipped in the right corner of the net at 34:23. Three minutes later, Hill scored her first goal at 31:59 off a break away pass from Lindsay Blair. This gave Northville a 2-0 lead early in the first half.

However Novi came screaming back with a goal of their own scoring at 14:37 on a goal by Kristi Timar off a corner kick by senior Sarah Schmitt. Another six minutes later Novi tied the score 2-2 with a goal at 8:16 off the foot of Kelly Hebert on a free kick. The ball came from the 25-yard line to Emily Esbrook, who tipped the ball into the goal for the score. Second later, Kellie Walker added another tally for Novi for a 3-2 lead.

At 6:49 Hill, assisted by Blair for the second time in a row, scored her second goal, which tied the game back up 3-3. This ended the quick exchange of goals and the half.

Hill wasted little time scoring her third goal of the night early in the second half at 33:07. Alaina Wolozyn helped out Hill with the final goal of her hat trick. Northville held Novi off for a good ten minutes but they couldn't stop the tenacious offense of the Novi as they scored at 23:02 when Novi sophomore standout Stephanie Crawford, who positioned herself in front of the Novi goal and headed it in for the score and to tie the game.

Novi and Northville are both 1-0-1 on the year.

Northville edges Wildcats

It wasn't as close on the track as it was on the soccer pitch when the Wildcats boys track and field team dominated Northville, 105-32.

The boys squads faced off at Northville last Thursday and found the Wildcats jumping to the lead with six different athletes taking first and second in the 800 meter run, the 1600 meter run, the two-mile run and in the 4-by-100 relay.

Novi's Jarrell Woods took first in the 100-meter dash while Brad Coles took first in the 400-meter dash. Chris Alberty showcased his talents in the 110 high hurdles with a first place finish and Andrew Lee, also of Novi, took first in the 300 hurdles.

Novi's Ryan Pritchard, who competed at states last season, took first in both the discus and the shot put while Eric Zhao took first in the high jump and Chris Machisak was first in the pole vault.

The Northville Mustangs did a fair job of showcasing some talent as well. Alan Shanoski won the high jump while Mike Cornelius was first in the 200 meter dash and second in the 100 meter dash and the long jump. Matt Simich, a senior, was second in the discus.

Both the 800-meter and 1600-meter relay teams won for Northville.

Baseline rumble

The Northville Mustangs and the Novi Wildcats faced off in a double header baseball game last Saturday and the Mustangs proved better, winning both games convincingly.

In the first game, the Mustangs jumped out to a 11-1 lead to seal the game after four innings before earning an 8-2 win in the second game of the day.

In the first game, Steve Besk earned the win and Novi's Billy Morrison took the loss. Besk allowed two hits and four strikeouts.

Charlie Thomas was the leading hitter, getting two with three RBIs on the day. Besk, Brett Spencer and Rick Birdsall each had two hits for Northville.

Ryan Regan led Novi with three hits.

In the second game, Bryce Jenney and Tim Parent combined for 12 strikeouts while Thomas once again led offensively. He had two hits and five RBIs . Tyler Laing had an RBI and Besk had an RBI base hit.

The Northville Mustangs baseball team, led by coach John Kostrzewa, started their season on the right foot with two wins over the South Lyon Lions in non-conference play.

The Mustangs edged the Lions in the first game of the day, 8-7, with the second game coming up short after four innings with Northville in the lead, 4-0.

"Offensively, we did a nice job in the first game, putting the ball in play and seeing a lot of pitches," Kostrzewa said. "We did, however, have several baserunning mistakes, but those things will happen this early in the year."

Kostrzewa said though his team hit well, they didn't work the other end of the field as well as he would have liked.

"Defensively we were not very good," he said. "Our pitchers were behind all game and we made several throwing errors. But, I think the excitement of the first game probably lent to that. We have an entire new infield from last year and those things will happen."

The second game was much improved, finding Northville (2-0 overall) giving up just one hit through the four innings played. Bryce Jenney, a sophomore hurler, went three innings with five strikeouts and Tim parent, a junior, threw the final inning with two strikeouts.

"Our pitching was terrific," said Kostrzewa. "Bryce and Tim were ahead almost on every batter.

"It was a good start overall."

Girls track splits

You win some, you lose some. Just ask the Northville and Novi girls track and field teams.

The two teams faced off last Thursday in dual meet action with Northville earning a 74-63 victory. Two days later, at the Novi Relays, it was the Wildcats edging their cross-town rivals out for the win.

On Thursday, Northville earned first-place finishes from the 3200-meter relay team of Kate McClymont, Lindsay Hagan, Bryn Smetana and Ashley Flohr as well as from McClymont in the mile.

Emily Kreichelt took first in the 100 and 200 meter dashes while Liz Watza was first in the shotput and Smetana was first in the 400 meter dash. The Mustangs also won the 1600-meter relay.

For Novi, Jennifer Rudolph won the discus and Margeaux Reizian took first in the pole vault. Taking first in the high jump was Christina Lis. Emily Reid won the 100 high hurdles for Novi while the team of Paige Janer, Kate Henry, Reizian and Allie Sisson won the 4-by-200 relay. The 4-by-100 relay was won by Paige Janner, Reid, Kate henry and Marcia Hamlin. Sisson won the 300 hurdles while Erin Haynes won the 800 meter run and Katie Shannon won the two mile.

Photo by BARBARA HERBST

Northville's Simone Toney works against Novi's Emily Esbrook.

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Wildcats gear up for showdown

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Much like the title of the high school football opening day event says, Aug. 27 is going to be a big day for Northville and Novi.

The two schools will participate in the inaugural Big Day Prep Showdown, scheduled to be held at Eastern Michigan University's Rynearson Stadium. Northville will kick the day off at noon against Saline while Novi is the night cap at 7:30 p.m. against Chelsea.

"I talked to the returning kids around the time of our banquet and asked them if they'd be interested even though they'd be giving up a home game their senior year," said Novi head coach Tab Kellepourey. "They were in favor of it."

Many of the current Northville and Novi players haven't even stepped foot onto a field with the capabilities of the Division I college stadium.

"They have brand-new field turf, a way to shoot plays up on the screen and they estimate quite a few fans," Kellepourey said. "It's a pretty exciting environment."

Northville's Clint Alexander agreed, saying it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many of the kids.

"We saw it as an opportunity," he said. "This is something that most of these kids will never get to do again. After high school, most of them won't be playing football anymore. This gives them the chance to experience a college-level situation and a playoff-like scenario."

The Detroit Metro Sports Commission, the organization in charge of the event, said there are quite a few fans expected to be at the event since it's opening day, on a Saturday and featuring eight top-flight teams from Southeast Michigan.

"The DMSC is excited to host this exciting high school sporting event," said executive director Dave Beachnau in a prepared statement. "We expect that the Big Day Prep Showdown will attract 20,000 fans for a full day of the thrilling and emotion of high school football as eight teams begin their quest for a state championship."

Besides Northville and Novi's games, Allen Park will play Trenton at 2:30 p.m. and Lake Orion will take on Troy at 5 p.m.

Tickets are available at all of the participating schools with advance prices at $9 for adults, $7 for students and free to children under age six. Tickets on the day of the event are $10 at the gate.

"This is going to be a special day," said Kellepourey. "It's promoting the game of football and doing a very good job of it."

BIG DAY 1 INAUGURAL PREP SHOWDOWN

"This is something that most of these kids will never get to do again. After high school, most of them won't be playing football anymore. This gives them the chance to experience a college-level situation and a playoff-like scenario"

Clint Alexander
Northville football coach

Both Kellepourey and Alexander agreed the only downside, beyond allowing great film to be shot by their opponents and giving up a home game, is getting the fans involved.

"If the students are aware that this is happening than it won't be a problem," said Alexander. "They need to know that it's going on because this is a big day for them too. We want them there and we want them cheering us on. That's what will make this game the most special for all the teams there."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Movies? Popcorn? Charity? A great combination and for a great cause

Watch 24 hours of first-run movies at Emagine Theater in Novi with all-you-can-eat popcorn and pop and a breakfast, lunch and supper to go with it? How could that be any better?

Oh yeah, it's for a good cause too.

The Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan and Emagine Theaters have combined forces for the second year to present "Hollywood Nights," a fund-raising event to benefit the foundation.

"The money actually goes directly to serve families facing leukemia and lymphoma," said Jim Blackledge of the Children's Leukemia Foundation. "We're here to provide information, financial assistance and support to family that need it."

There are plenty of families that need it too. Currently, the foundation serves over 3,200 families across Michigan.

Sam Eggleston

When a family finds out that a child has leukemia or a related disorder, it can turn their world upside down.

"It really blind sides them," said Blackledge. "A kid might not be feeling well and then they go into the doctor and then their life changes. These people need support and we're there to help them through it."

Movie lovers want to help them help people. That's why last year's Hollywood Nights fund-raising event had 134 participants bringing in over $23,000 in pledges.

"This is a great event," said Ruth Daniels of Emagine. "It's a well-oiled machine that runs smoothly and we're proud to be a part of it."

Both Blackledge and Daniels said they expect there to be bigger numbers in terms of funds raised and participants this year. Why not? It's all you can eat popcorn and pop? Great movies? One of the best theaters in the state?

"Emagine is such a generous group of people," said Blackledge. "They've been great partners. The let us use their theaters, provide popcorn and pop and that all comes out of their own pockets. This definitely wouldn't be possible without them."

It's not too late to join either. Though the deadline is April 29 to bring in the pledges, all participants have to do is raise $94.70. It's well worth the time spent collecting the donations and it's one heck of a time too.

Worried that you can't sit through 24-straight hours of movies? Not too many people can.

"It's pretty funny," Blackledge said. "People come in with pillows and blankets and they bunker down for the night to catch a nap if they need to. Even in the theaters when the movies are on there are people resting against pillows and even sleeping in the wee hours of the morning."

Don't miss out. For more information, check out brochures available at Emagine Theater or go to www.leukemiamichigan.org.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Kevin Higgins now coach of Citadel

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

By June, Kevin and Katherine Higgins will have watched two of their children play sports and graduate from Northville High School.

But their third child won't don the orange and black.

Kevin, who arrived in Northville after accepting a quarterback coaching job with the Detroit Lions, has now accepted a head coaching position at the Citadel.

The Higgins family is moving on.

"I really wanted to get back into college again," Higgins said of the new coaching opportunity. "I wanted to be a head football coach against and, at that time, the Citadel was one of the few opportunities."

Higgins didn't hesitate. The move places the family in North Carolina where they are only four and a half hours away from their son, Tim, who attends the University of Florida.

Meaghan, a high school senior, will graduate this June from Northville and is currently considering college opportunities in the south.

Only Katie Rose, who is in seventh grade, won't attend Northville High School.

The years the Higgins have been in Northville have been well spent, said Kevin.

"We are so thankful for the opportunities at Northville High School and in the community," he said. "We were so happy to be able to get Meaghan through four years at one school. The relationships she made there were just special."

Both Tim and Meaghan made plenty of impact while at Northville High School. Tim was an All-Area Player of the Year with the football team and went on to earn a spot on the University of Florida's roster. Meaghan was a member of the varsity basketball team.

The family move not only presents the Higgins family with another opportunity, but it will actually bring their family closer together.

"Tim will be able to come home on long weekends or during breaks and my wife will actually be able to get down to some Florida games," Higgins said. "It will be nice to get a little more family time in."

Higgins replaced John Zernhelt as the Citadel's head coach and will be looking to implement the spread option — an offense both Florida and Utah have been known to run.

The school expressed their optimism in Higgins' abilities.

"Kevin Higgins is the right coach at the right time for Citadel football," said Citadel president Major General John Grinalds, United States Marine Corps (retired). "He understands The Citadel's interest in having a team that will make alumni proud —not only for the way they play in Johnson Hagood Stadium but also for the way the players conduct themselves as cadet-student-athletes."

Last season the Bulldogs started out with an 0-3 record and finished 3-7. Higgins said he hopes to continue to build the reputation of the Citadel..

"I want our players to be passionate," he said. "Passionate about the military, passionate about academics, but when they are done with drills and studying, I want them to be passionate about football."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

New sport netball coming to area

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Four years ago when Sarah Weyburne moved to Northville from the United Kingdom, it wasn't her country she was missing the most — it was her favorite sport.

The netball enthusiast decided to do something about it. She, along with her friend Dalia Warner of Shelby Township, decided to start their own team.

"We've been traveling over to Windsor to play for the Windsor team because it's the nearest one there is," Weyburne said. "That's why we've decided to start a local team, so we can play a bit nearer to home."

The game, which can best be described as women's basketball without dribbling, is popular in Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. It originated following the invention of basketball in the United States and features seven players per team on the court at one time. The court is divided into three sections and only certain players can be in the separate sections.

The ball is passed from player to player. Once a netballer gets the pass, they can only pivot on their planted foot or pass the ball. They have three seconds to get rid of it or it is turned over to the opposing team.

"It's very common (in the United Kingdom)," said Weyburne. "They've got leagues, tournaments and girls start playing it when they're pretty young."

Starting inexperienced players fairly young is a tradition Weyburne said she'd like to keep. She's currently looking for players from 15 years old and up to join the team. She said there are women well into their 60s who play in Windsor.

"Of course, you have to be at a certain level of fitness," said Weyburne. "Beginners are really welcome. Right now, we've got about 11 girls interested in playing."

Netball is a non-contact sport and the hardest thing to learn about the game, said Weyburne, is the footwork. Beyond that she said she believes any girl interested in athletics would enjoy the game.

She's hoping to draw plenty of inexperienced players as well as those who used to play but don't have an outlet anymore.

"It should be a big draw to those who used to play when they were younger but have since come here where the game isn't played," Weyburne said. "This will give them an opportunity to play netball again."

Weyburne and Warner are expected to meet with Northville Parks and Recreation to talk about possibly hosting the games through them. If that doesn't work, Weyburne said the team will still be formed and gyms will be rented in order to play.

Weyburne suggested interested girls contact her for more information at (248) 344-2828.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

SPORTS SHORTS

Travel softball tryouts

The Northville 12U travel softball team will hold tryouts Saturday, April 16 at noon at Hillside Field. The squad is currently looking for two or three girls, agest 11-13 as of Jan. 1, 2005 to fill out the travel team roster.

For more information, please contact Dave Jerome at (248) 348-4433 or Tom Close at (248) 467-7740.

Northville coaching postitions open

The Northville High School athletics department recently announced several openings with athletics teams.

The Mustangs are looking for an assistant swimming coach for the girls swimming and diving team as well as an assistant gymnastics coach who has spotting experience in all of the events. Northville still has open assistant coaching positions with the Northville football teams.

For more information or to apply, please contact Bryan Masi at (248) 344-8414.

Spring leagues

Northville Parks and Recreation is offering several leagues this spring. Call the Parks and Rec. department at (248) 449-9947 if interested.

Adult Women's Softball League

Starts Tuesday, May 3 — Entry fee $460/team with 11 games played.

Adult Coed Softball League

Starts Sunday, May 1 — Entry fee $460/team with 11 games played.

Adult Coed Kickball League

Starts Friday, May 20 — Entry fee $210/team.

Adult Coed Golf League

Starts Monday, April 25 — Entry fee $468 for 18 weeks. League will be played at Brae Burn Golf Course. Tee time starts 5:22 p.m.

Girls netball players wanted

Want to be a part of a new and exciting game hitting the area? Then netball is the sport for you. Imported from the United Kingdom, netball is a very popular sport that is starting to creep into the United States.

Girls ages 15 and over are welcome to participate in the league. For more information, contact Sarah Weyburne at (248) 344-2828.

Take your summer to the ice with Suburban

Suburban Hockey Schools, Michigan's leader in providing a progressive approach to ice hockey instruction for all ages and ability levels, kicks off its summer class schedule on July 11 with programs at the Onyx-Rochester Ice Arena and Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills.

Summer programs continue throughout July and August at Kensington Valley Ice House in Brighton, Suburban Ice-East Lansing, Novi Ice Arena, St. Clair Shores Civic Arena, Suburban Ice-Macomb, Birmingham Ice Arena and the Dearborn Ice Skating Center.

In addition to age-specific programs for mini mites (ages 5-6), mites (ages 6-8, squirts (ages 9-10) and pee wee/bantams (ages 11-14), men (ages 18 and up), girls 12U/14U (ages 8-12), girls 14U/16U/High School (ages 13-18) and women (ages 18 and up), Suburban Hockey Schools will once again hold specialized programs for forwards, defensemen and goaltenders as well as a power skating class.

Suburban-trained instructors, including those with professional and college coaching and playing experience, will lead these programs. Classes are open to players of all ability levels. All classes have limited enrollment, with a six student-to-one instructor ratio (four student-to-one instructor ratio in the goaltending program.)

Classes will fill fast. Call (248) 478-1600, or visit www.suburbanhockey.com for more information or to register. Multiple class, family and team discounts as well as mite and goalie combos are available.

Novi Ice Arena to hold spring hockey leagues

The Novi Ice Arena will hold spring adult hockey leagues for adult teams, including 18 and over "D" on Sunday nights, 18 and over "C" on Wednesday and Friday nights, 18 and over "B" on Tuesday nights and 30 and over "C" on Thursday nights. League features include excellent game times, no checking, focus on fun and even competition, and trained scorekeepers.

Friday and Sunday divisions will play a 7-game schedule (plus playoffs) and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday divisions will play an eight-game schedule (plus playoffs), with one game per week beginning in late April. Games will consist of three 15-minute running time periods.

For information on adult hockey leagues at Novi Ice Arena, call (248) 347-1010 or visit www.novicearena.com.

WRIF Summer Hockey Challenge presented by Labatt returns in June

Registration is underway for the Adult Summer Hockey Challenge presented by WRIF 101 FM and Labatt Blue. Games will be played on Fridays and Saturdays from June 3-25 at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills, Novi Ice Arena, and the Onyx-Rochester Ice Arena.

The tournament will feature four divisions — Blue (men's 21 and older upper), Blue Light (men's 21 and older lower), Nordic (men's 30 and older open) and Select (coed 21 and older open with a minimum of five women rostered). Teams will play a minimum of three games that consist of three 14-minute run-time periods (the last two minutes of the third period will be stop time). Teams are welcome to sign up twice to play more games.

All participants will receive great prizes, including MVP gifts courtesy of Bauer. In addition, there will post-game parties at bars near each location.

Space is limited, so call Suburban Training Center at (248) 888-1400 or visit www.wrif.com.

Players wanted

Adult flag and touch football players wanted for a team being formed. Schedule includes a Silver Dome Tournament in May and games from Sept.-Oct., Monday and Wednesday. Royal Oak League. Call (248) 391-6950.

Ten Star Basketball Camp

Final applications are now being evaluated for the Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. The camp is by invitation only. Boys and Girls, ages 10-19 are eligible to apply. Past participants include: Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill and Antawn Jamison. Players from 50 states and 17 foreign countries attended the 2004 camp. College basketball scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American Team. Camp locations include: Ypsilanti, Prescott, Ariz., Belmont, Calif., Thousand Oaks, Calif., Sterling, Colo., Bridgeport, Conn., Babson Park, Fla., Atlanta, Ga., Carlinville, Ill., Macomb, Ill., Greencastle, Ind., Atchison, Kan., Baltimore, Md., Hickory, N.C., Schenectady, N.Y., Bluffton, Ohio, Doylestown, Pa., Lebanon, Tenn., Commerce, Texas, Blacksburg, Va., Lyndonville, Vt., and Beloit, Wis. For a free brochure, call (704) 373-0873.

Learn to Check with Suburban Hockey

Suburban Hockey Schools will conduct the highly popular Learn to Check clinics at several locations prior to the spring hockey season, including Lakeland Arena in Waterford (March 21), Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills (March 22-23), Onyx-Rochester Ice Arena (March 23), St. Clair Shores Arena (March 24), Redford Arena (March 28), Birmingham Arena (March 29), Kensington Valley Ice House in Brighton (March 30), Ice Box Sports Center in Brownstown (April 2), Novi Ice Arena (April 4) and Suburban Ice-East Lansing (April 7).

The program is geared toward squirt players moving up to the pee wee level, as well as pee wee and bantam players who need instruction on the techniques of checking. Areas of emphasis in the two-hour instructional session include proper checking technique, how to receive a check, how to avoid a check, stick checking, back checking, angling and body positioning.

This is an extremely popular program and there is limited enrollment. For more information on the checking clinics, contact (248) 478-1600 or visit www.suburbanhockey.com.

Coaching positions open

The Walled Lake Consolidated School District is currently looking for a head girls track and field coach at Walled Lake Western High School. The district is also looking for a head boys varsity soccer coach for Walled Lake Northern.

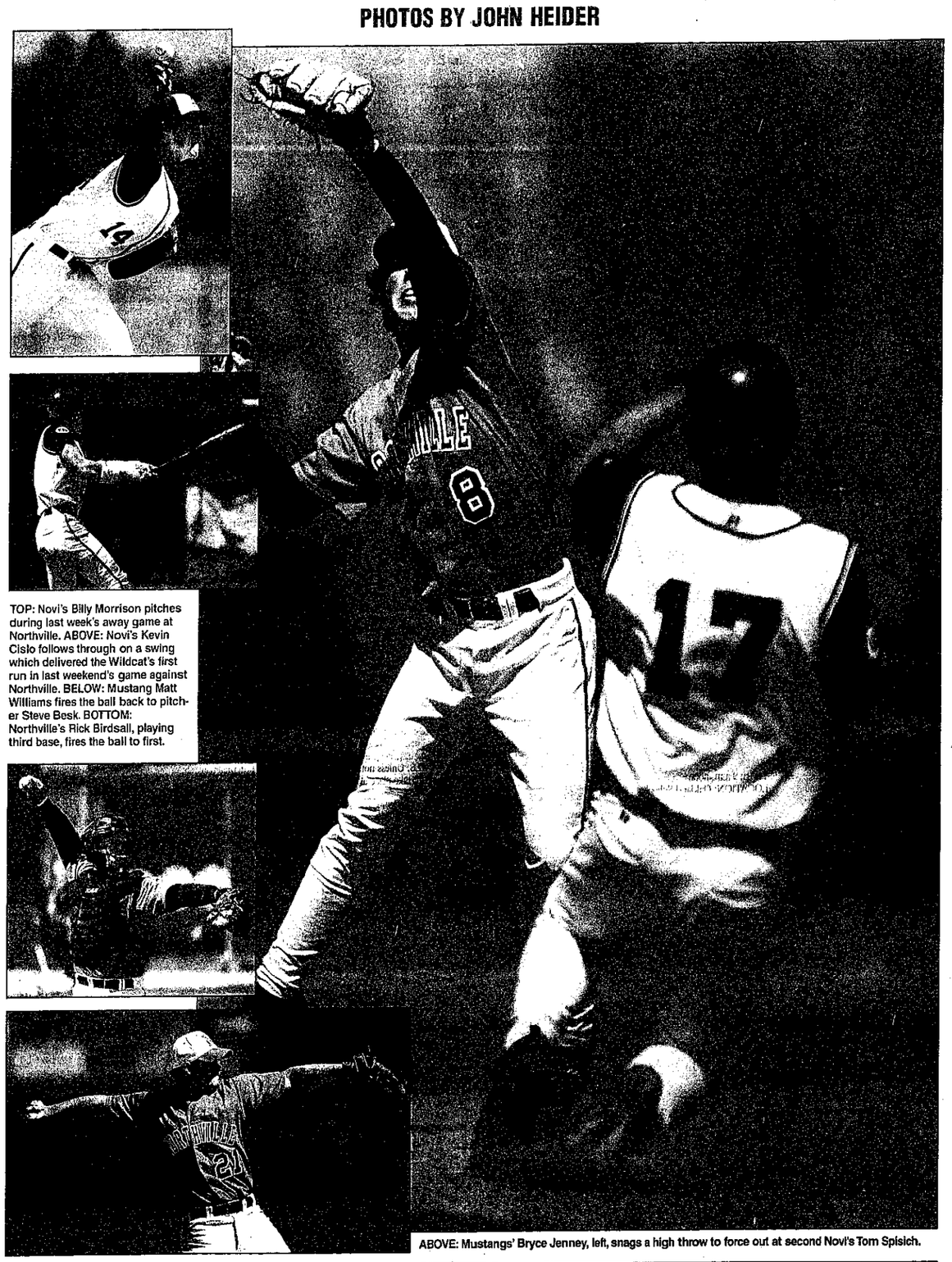
The school district also announced a head coaching vacancy for the Walled Lake Central football team. Those interested in the position should have a coaching resume and letter of intent for review.

Inquiries should be directed to David Yarbrough, Athletics Director for the school district. For more information, call the athletics office at (248) 956-2074.

You're outta here!

Wildcats fall to Northville in doubleheader, 11-1 and 8-2

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER



TOP: Novi's Billy Morrison pitches during last week's away game at Northville. ABOVE: Novi's Kevin Cislo follows through on a swing which delivered the Wildcat's first run in last weekend's game against Northville. BELOW: Mustang Matt Williams fires the ball back to pitcher Steve Besk. BOTTOM: Northville's Rick Birdsall, playing third base, fires the ball to first.

ABOVE: Mustangs' Bryce Jenney, left, snags a high throw to force out at second Novi's Tom Spisich.

LEFT: Mustangs senior Steve Besk fires a fast ball against Novi. RIGHT: Besk takes a cut during last Saturday's home game against the Wildcats.

CALENDAR

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@ht.homecomm.net

EVENTS

Authors Book Signing

DATE: Thursday, April 14
TIMES: noon, Joyce Meyer, author of Approval Addiction; 7 p.m., Matthew Woodring Stover, author of Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith
LOCATION: 43075 Crescent Boulevard, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 347-0780

Meadowbrook Church Rummage Sale

DATES: Friday, April 15; Saturday, April 16
TIMES: Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Congregational Church, 21355 Meadowbrook Road (between Eight and Nine Mile road)
DETAILS: For more information, call (248) 348-7757

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples Moms Fall Sale

DATE: Saturday, April 16
TIME: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
LOCATION: South Lyon First Presbyterian Church, 205 E. Lake Street.
DETAILS: Come shop for used children's clothing, toys, maternity clothing, strollers, car seats, books & accessories. $1 admission. Strollers Welcome. CONTACT: Sharon at (248)924-2338

Democrats of West Oakland County

DATE: Tuesday, April 19
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Souvlaki Coney Island, Novi Road at 14 Mile Road, Novi.
DETAILS: Sean Carlson, Purchasing Director for the State of Michigan, will speak on "Bringing Fiscal Responsibility to Michigan — Saving Your Tax Dollars". Social hour and dinner (optional) will precede the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Admission is free and the public is invited.
CONTACT: (248) 624-7228.

Car Maintenance Inspections

DATE: Saturday, April 23
TIME: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Auto Parts, 43131 Grand River Ave.
DETAILS: This is a free inspection to promote national car care month. Dan's Auto Repair, Tommy's Tires, Novi Police and Fire Departments are also participating.
CONTACT: (248) 349-2800

Novi Fourth Graders Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, April 26
TIME: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Bonaventure Skating Center, Farmington Hills
DETAILS: This event is intended for the fourth graders in Novi to meet kids from the other schools and potentially some of the staff from Novi Meadows. There will be games and prizes as well as socializing and making new friends before they start fifth grade.
CONTACT: Karen Kotcher, (248) 449-5079

Maybury Wild Flower Walk

DATE: Wednesday, April 27
TIME: 11 a.m.-noon
LOCATION: Maybury State Park, Eight Mile Road entrance (west of Beck Road)
DETAILS: No charge, other than park admission. Sponsored by Friends of Maybury State Park and led by naturalist Selena Browne.
CONTACT: George McCarthy, (248) 347-0899 or Jerry Mittman, (248) 348-2396

Casino Bus Trip to benefit Breast Cancer 3-Day

DATE: Sunday, May 1
TIME: 2-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Casino Windsor
DETAILS: Leave from Eddie Edgar Arena/Ford Field in Livonia, south of Plymouth Road and East of Merriman Road. Arrive by 2 p.m. Will return at about 9 p.m. A $20 donation includes $15 in coin and two-way transportation, including all tolls to Casino Windsor.
All passengers must have both of the following:
• Birth certificate or passport
• Photo ID
Donations will help two Novi residents raise money to walk 60 miles in three days, July 15-17, in support of the Breast Cancer 3-Day and National Philanthropic Trust. Donations will help fund research to find a cure for breast cancer as patient-related programs. Contributions will be greatly appreciated.
CONTACT: For additional information, call Kim, (248) 444-2882 or Audrey, (248) 426-6549.

Novi Choralaires Spring Concert

DATE: Saturday, May 7
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi High School, Fuerst Auditorium, 10 Mile and Taft roads.
DETAILS: Cost is $10 for adults and $8 for seniors and children. Purchase tickets at Novi Civic Center or at the Novi Senior Center at Meadowbrook Commons.
CONTACT: www.novi-choralaires.org

Church of the Holy Cross Mothers' Day Tea and Fashion Show

DATE: Saturday, May 7
TIME: 1:00-3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Church of the Holy Cross, 40700 W. 10 Mile Road (one half mile east of Meadowbrook)
DETAILS: Tickets are available at Holy Cross, 9 a.m.-noon, Tuesday – Friday.
CONTACT: (248) 427-1175

Chamber of Commerce Casino Night Fundraiser

DATE: Saturday, May 14
TIME: 6-10 p.m.
LOCATION: Lucky's in Fountain Walk
DETAILS: This is the only fundraiser that supports the Novi Chamber of Commerce.
CONTACT: For more information, contact the chamber at (248)349-3743

2nd Annual Antique/Classic Car Show

DATE: Sunday, May 15
TIME: noon
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Elementary School (29200 Meadowbrook Road, just south of Thirteen Mile Road)
DETAILS: Crosspointe Meadows Church partners with the Ford and Mercury Restorer's Club to bring an afternoon that would delight any car enthusiast young or old. Come and bring the entire family to view some of these award-winning cars. Free Hot dogs and pop.
CONTACT: Crosspointe Meadows Church of Novi offices (248) 427-2700, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Oakland Schools Flower Sales

DATES: Saturday; May 7, 14 and 21 and Sunday; May 15 and 22
TIME: 9 a.m.-noon
LOCATION: Oakland School Technical Campus Southwest, 1000 Beck Road, Wixom
DETAILS: Annual flower sale, pre-orders taken through April 29. Open house, 3-7 p.m., Thursday, May 19, including new swan fountain and waterfall display.
CONTACT: (248) 668-5673

Young Life Golf Outing

DATE: Thursday, May 19
LOCATION: Links of Novi, 50395 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi.
DETAILS: For more information, call Paul Ankerl, (248) 349-8425 or Mike Neville, (248) 449-8234.

SCHOOL/ GOVERNMENT

Wixom City Council

DATE: Tuesdays, April 26; May 10, 24; June 14, 28; July 12, 26; Aug. 9, 23; Sept. 13, 27; Oct. 11, 25; Nov. 9, Tuesdays, 22; Dec. 13 and 20
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wixom City Hall, 49045 Pontiac Trail
CONTACT: (248) 624-4557

Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Monday, April 18
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Novi Planning Commission Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, April 27
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Novi Woods Shopping Extravaganza

Date: Friday, April 15
Time: 4:30-8:30 p.m.
Location: Novi Woods Elementary school 25195 Taft Road, Novi
Details: Come enjoy an evening of shopping and socializing. We have 22 vendors displaying everything from unique home accesories,faux painting,womens clothing, jewlery and much much more.
Contact: Dawn Kamal (248) 449-6551

BUSINESS

Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services Business Workshops

DATE/TIME: Thursday, April 14; 9 a.m.-noon
DETAILS: How to Write a Business Plan — for small business owners who are developing a plan to success.
LOCATION FOR ALL WORKSHOPS: Oakland County complex, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac.
COST: The fee is $40 per workshop, which includes all materials.
CONTACT: For more information, call (248) 858-0783.

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Evening Connection

DATE: Thursday, April 14
TIME: 5-7 p.m.
LOCATION: Foot Solutions,6263 Haggerty Road,West Bloomfield
DETAILS: Bring your business cards and prepare to network.
CONTACT: (248) 624-2826

New Member Reception

DATE: Thursday, April 21
TIME: 8:30-10 a.m.
LOCATION: Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce office, 305 N. Pontiac Trail, Suite B, Walled Lake
DETAILS: Learn how your investment in the chamber can help you promote your business.
CONTACT: (248) 624-2826

Ambassador Committee Meeting

DATE: Thursday, April 28
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
LOCATION: 305 N. Pontiac Trail, Suite B, Walled Lake
DETAILS: If you are interested in serving on the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Committee, feel free to attend.
CONTACT: (248) 624-2826

Spotlight Lunch, La Luna Grill

DATE: Wednesday, May 4
LOCATION: 1050 Benstein Road, Walled Lake
DETAILS: Free soft drinks with meal purchase, mingle with other Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce members
CONTACT: (248) 624-2826

Business Referrals

DATE: every Wednesday
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road
TIME: 7-8:30 a.m.
DETAILS: Meeting of local professionals and business looking to increase word-of-mouth referral business. Various classifications open and eager to bring you qualified business leads.
CONTACT: (734) 462-6460

Chamber General Membership Luncheon

DATE: Tuesday, April 19
TIME: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Fox Run Village, 41000 Thirteen Mile Road, Novi
DETAILS: Guest speaker Tim McCormick was drafted to the NBA in 1984 and is currently a commentator for ESPN. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., lunch served at noon; cost $20.
CONTACT: Novi Chamber of Commerce, (248) 349-3743

CLASSES

Home Buyer Seminar

DATE: Thursday, April 14
TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W.10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Learn about finding and financing a home, free class.
CONTACT: 1-(800)-705-9420, ext. 3051

Boost Camp Day

DATE: Friday, May 6
TIME: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Providence Center for the Healing Arts, 47601 Grand River Ave.
DETAILS: A day of enrichment and personal exploration designed to provide valuable tools, information and a new perspective on healthier living through wholeness that can be beneficial to the participants. Open to the public.
The cost is $50 per person, including lunch and materials. Registration in required.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

Providence Center for the Healing Arts' "Tuesdays at Assarian"

DATE: Every Tuesday night
TIME: 5-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi.
DETAILS: Variety of activities for the adult community to come and enjoy a unique mix of classes sponsored by the Providence Center for the Healing Arts. Some activities may include a supplies fee (no more than $10).
CONTACT: (248) 465-5483

Line Dancing Classes

DATE: every Monday
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Arena Drive (activity room, main floor)
DETAILS: No partner needed for lessons in this pay-as-you-go program. Cost is $5 for Novi residents and for those ages 55 and up; $6 for non-residents.
CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

Line Dancing Classes

DATE: every Friday
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road (activity room, main floor)
DETAILS: No partner needed for lessons in this pay-as-you-go program. Cost is $5 for Novi residents and for those ages 55 and up; $6 for non-residents (fees are for the entire evening).
CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

Providence Center for the Healing Arts — Artist in Residence

ONGOING: Thursdays
TIME: 1:00-2:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Creative Arts Studio, Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Ave.
DETAILS: Artist May Teevans instructs. Class will include drawing, pastels, watercolor, and mixed media. There is a $5 materials fee. Drop-in or register.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library Hours

LOCATION: 45245 W. Ten Mile Road
HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m., Sunday
DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

Help Match the Walker Million

DETAILS: With A Million Books going up on the walls, there are more books than usual these days at the library. By purchasing one of the paper signs in the shape of a book for $1, you can help the library match the $1 million Walker challenge grant. The book signs may be purchased at any service desk in the library.

Story Times

DETAILS: Spring Story Times are now underway. Brochures listing the days and times of each drop-in Story Time session are available in the library.

Pageturners

DATE: Saturday, April 16
TIME: 11-11:45 a.m.
DETAILS: We will discuss No More Dead Dogs by Gordon Korman, have snacks, and play a game. For fifth and sixth grades. No registration required.

Antiques Appraisal

DATE: Saturday, April 16
TIME: 1-4 p.m.
DETAILS: Virginia Fournier, a certified, independent appraiser for over 35 years, will be at the library to estimate the value of your antiques. Appraisals are $3 apiece; each attendee may bring up to three items. Ms. Fournier does not appraise books, paintings, jewelry or stamps. No advance registration; sponsored by the Friends of the Novi Public Library.

Starlight Story Time

DATE: Tuesday, April 19
TIME: 7-7:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Preschoolers and their families are invited to enjoy bedtime stories. No registration required.

Using the New Online Catalog

DATE: Thursday, April 21
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: Learn how to search our new online catalog and place holds on items. We'll also discuss the My Account feature in the catalog, which enables you to see what you have checked out, renew items, cancel holds, and view fines. Call the library to register.

Teens Read and More

DATE: Saturday, April 23
TIME: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Read To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, and then watch the movie with us. We'll have a short discussion following the movie.

Library Board Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, April 20
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: City Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: Community members are welcome to attend. Meetings are also broadcast live on cable channel 13.

Buying and Selling on eBay

DATE: Thursday, April 28
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: Richard Truxall takes you through the ins and outs of saving money using eBay, including evaluating the person or company that you're buying from and offering some ideas on bidding strategies. We'll also discuss the basics needed to get you started selling your own items through eBay. Call the library to register.

Ancestry Plus

DATE: Thursday, April 28
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: Learn how to navigate this huge genealogy database, and investigate its powerful search features. Youll learn how to find family trees, indexes, and marriage and death records, as well as how to view actual census records. This is a hands-on class, so a solid understanding of Internet searching is necessary. Call the library to register.

SUPPORT GROUPS

MOMS Club of Novi

DATE: meetings first Thursday of each month
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: The Moms Offering Moms Support (MOMS) is a non-profit support group, for mothers who choose to stay at home with their children, work out of their homes, or work part-time.
CONTACT: dinatallman@sbc.global.net

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples

DATES: second Thursday of each month
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Witch's Hat Depot, 300 Dorothy St., South Lyon.
DETAILS: This group provides information, support and social activities for mothers of multiple birth children and their families. Mothers of multiples living in and around the Kensington Valley school conference are all welcome.
CONTACT: For more information, call Jackie, (248) 437-5496.

Women's Prayer Support

DATE: every Saturday
TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Pontiac Trail, Wixom (parking behind the church).
DETAILS: Come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer as you face life's problems, issues and frustrations. Drop in for five minutes or longer.
CONTACT: Nancy and Susan, (248) 926-8332 or harvestfellowship@comcast.net

Breast Cancer Support Group

DATES: second and fourth Tuesdays of the month
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C on the ground floor of the hospital.
TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: No registration
CONTACT: (248) 937-5017

Oakland County Health Division Expectant Parent Classes

DATE: ongoing series.
LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple Road, Walled Lake.
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
DETAILS: Classes taught by public health nurses. Topics include childbirth preparation, labor and delivery, care of the newborn baby, breast-feeding, bottle-feeding, information about keeping children safe and caring for them when they are ill. Cost is $25.
CONTACT: (248) 858-4003 or (888) 350-0900, ext. 84003

Adoption Playgroup

DATE: first and third Fridays of the month
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church (on Meadowbrook Road between Ten Mile Road and Grand River Avenue)
DETAILS: A nonprofit, nondenominational group that brings adoptive families together. Twice-a-month meetings provide opportunity to play and talk
CONTACT: Michelle Pergeau (248) 887-4955 or Sandra Noonan (248) 960-3257

Novi Toastmasters

DATE: first and third Tuesdays of the month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room
TIME: 7-8:45 p.m.
DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.
CONTACT: Colleen, (248) 685-9226

New Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) chapter

DATES: Wednesday mornings
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons Activities Room, 29075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi
TIME: 11 a.m. weigh-in; 11:30 a.m. meeting
DETAILS: $20 per annual membership includes handbook; $1 per meeting. New members welcome.

HEALTH

Oakland Physical Therapy classes

DATES: April 6, fit for golf; and May 11, the latest advances in exercise for low back pain.
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Providence Park Medical Center, 47601 Grand River Ave., Suite B124.
CONTACT: RSVP by calling (248) 380-3550.

Boost Camp Day

DATE: Friday, April 8
TIME: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Providence Medical Building, 47601 Grand River Ave.
DETAILS: A day of enrichment and personal exploration designed to provide tools, information and new perspective on healthier living through wholeness. Open to the public; $50 per person (includes lunch and materials; registration required).
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

Oakland County Health Division Flu Shots

DATE: ongoing until supplies depleted
LOCATION: Pontiac Office, 1200 N. Telegraph Road (north of Elizabeth Lake Road) in the Oakland County complex, building 36E.
HOURS: Monday, noon-8 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
DETAILS: Flu shots are available only to high-risk priority groups. Cost is $7. Medicare and Medicaid insurance can be billed to cover the cost. Bring photo identification, proof of Oakland residency is required.
CONTACT: Flu vaccine hotline, (800) 434-3358

ONGOING

SWOCC Studio Tours

LOCATION: 33300 Nine Mile Road, Farmington.
DETAILS: Come in for an up-close look at the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission Studios, your local community television studio. SWOCC offers tours to many organizations, such as Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and service clubs. Groups have an opportunity to make a short promo for the public access channel, INFO TV-12.
CONTACT: Melissa Cohn, (248) 473-2840

EXPO CENTER

The Novi Expo Center is located at 43700 Expo Center Drive (southwest corner of I-96 and Novi Road). Call (248) 348-5600 for more information.

Sugarloaf Art Fair

DATES: April 15-17
TIMES: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday
DETAILS: 11th annual art fair includes fine art and contemporary crafts, demonstrations, food and entertainment. Admission is $7; free for children 12 and under. Parking free courtesy of Sugarloaf.
CONTACT: (800) 210-9900

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Send your calendar items to Cal Stone, editor, Novi News, 104 W. Main Street, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-9832; or e-mail to cstone@ht.homecomm.net.

New legislation will do away with generous bankruptcy laws

Consumers looking for a fast way out of debt may soon have to cross bankruptcy off their list of options. Legislation that's currently before the U.S. House will make it more difficult to completely liquidate personal debt under the Chapter 7 bankruptcy code.

The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005, if signed by President Bush, won't prevent most consumers from putting their finances back in order. Rather, the legislation is intended to prevent those who use bankruptcy as a personal financial planning tool from repeatedly abusing the system. The legislation will force consumers who can repay some of their debt or who can exercise repayment plan and credit counseling options to file under Chapter 13, which reorganizes debt instead of eliminating it. Under Chapter 13 filers are responsible for paying back at least some portion of their debt.

In Michigan, according to the Detroit News, more than 63,700 people sought protection from creditors in 2004. Nationally, more than 1.5 million people filed for bankruptcy between Oct. 1, 2003 and Sept. 30, 2004, according to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

Bankruptcy is a legitimate way for many who truly need an extraordinary means to address their indebtedness. However, because bankruptcy comes with negative consequences, consumers contemplating filing should consider all of their options before deciding to file. In addition to losing personal property and paying legal fees, consumers also pay higher interest rates on loans, credit cards and mortgages as a result of filing for bankruptcy.

The National Endowment for Financial Education, a non-profit organization that provides financial education to members of the public, recommends taking into account the following alternatives before filing for bankruptcy.

Establish a payment plan with creditors. At the first sign of trouble call your creditors and discuss your situation. More often than not they'll work with customers to establish a payment plan. Your creditors potentially have a lot at stake in the deal— businesses lose more than $40 billion annually to bankruptcies. If you can't agree on a payment plan that allows you to repay your debt in a reasonable amount of time, contact a credit counseling agency such as GreenPath Debt Solutions. They can work with creditors on your behalf.

Sell your assets. Take a household inventory to determine what you might be able to sell. Antiques, collectibles and jewelry could provide you with the necessary cash to pay off your debts. While the idea of selling your things isn't pleasant, it could save you the heartache of having to rebuild your credit following bankruptcy.

Refinance your home. If you plan to stay in your home for the foreseeable future and you qualify for a good interest rate, you might consider refinancing your mortgage. By doing this you could lower your monthly payment or cash out some of the equity in your home. Beware of closing fees and other costs associated with a refinance.

Borrow from or cash out your retirement fund. In most circumstances, you should not borrow from their 401(k), but if you're seriously considering filing, it might be a viable alternative. You'll need to do some research first to determine whether your plan allows borrowing, how much you're allowed to borrow and the impact it's going to have on your overall retirement plan. Weigh this information against the negative consequences of bankruptcy and then make your decision.

Consider credit counseling. Credit counseling agencies offer debt counseling, money management education and debt management for consumers in financial trouble. Before selecting an agency make sure it's accredited with the National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCU) or the Association of Independent Consumer Credit Counseling Agencies (AICCCA).

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL), a statewide trade association representing Michigan credit unions. Send your financial questions to "Your Money Matters" c/o the Michigan Credit Union League, P.O. Box 8054, Plymouth, MI 48170-8054, or stop by our Web site (www.mcul.org).

ADVERTORIAL

Jim Seghi says remodeling doesn't always mean bigger when it comes to transforming your home.

Jim Seghi Renovations

By Annette Jaworski
SPECIAL WRITER

How many times have you imagined a dream home? You may already be living there, says Jim Seghi of Jim Seghi Renovations. He sees it continuously in his business - customers are often amazed to see the transformation that can be made from their existing home.

Better doesn't have to mean bigger

Remodeling doesn't always mean bigger, he pointed out. Renovations can make an existing home more livable, convenient or simply more attractive. Customers are often pleased at how a minor renovation can enhance homeowner satisfaction. Even simple projects can make great improvements in livability - many at a reasonable cost. For example, granite and solid surfaces are an elegant upgrade for kitchens and bathrooms.

Then, there are those projects that just plain need some extra thought and care, and it's here where Seghi shines.

"I like the challenge - projects where you have to sit down, think about it and figure out the details," he said. "The idea is to pay attention to get the most use out of existing space, and the most value."

This is where customers benefit from his years of experience. He'll present all considerations to the customer, so they can make an intelligent decision. Ultimately his goal is customer satisfaction. Laura Luke of Milford says that he carefully brainstormed to create the best design for several projects in her home.

"He treats each job as unique. It's not a cookie cutter approach. He spends a lot of time designing and planning making sure the project runs smoothly," said Luke.

Michael Johnson of Farmington Hills admired his ingenuity, as he suggested ideas that saved money or were just a more creative way of doing something.

Is it money well spent?

Seghi understands that renovations are a significant expense. That's why delivering value is a top priority for the New Hudson contractor.

"Being value oriented is a key focus for us. It's not what you spend, it's what you get," said Seghi.

From an investment standpoint, Seghi believes renovating instead of building often makes good sense. For starters, consider the cost of moving, real estate commissions, mortgage fees and leaving a neighborhood you like. If you love your home and neighborhood, remodeling - not moving may be the answer. Tax savings are another consideration. Buying a new home, even with the same dollar value often means higher property taxes. Since tax increases involve a yearly limit or cap, staying in an existing home and remodeling can yield significant tax benefits. For example, this could be $800 in taxes on a home valued at $230,000.

SMALL WAYS TO ADD BIG IMPACT

Kitchen – Some of the best ways to add value to your home are to install solid surface counter tops, such as granite in the kitchen. Jim's personal preference includes tile backsplashes and floors using natural stones, tumbled marble, limestone and slate for beauty and durability.

"It's a little on the pricey side. But it's a wow! job," said Seghi.

Bathrooms – consider slate or tiles on floors on walls. Think low maintenance surfaces that won't show dirt quickly.

Master Bedrooms – Adding closets and organizations system even without a walk-in closet can add an upscale look, not to mention organization to make your life easier. Two sinks in the master bath help morning routines run more smoothly.

Basement – plumbing for the commode, sink and shower can add livability to your lower level or eliminate battles for the bathroom in the morning.

Don't forget unique areas for lighting such as cove fixtures and dimmer switches add function and beauty. Thick crown moulding can create and elegant finished look to a room.

Laundry Room Facelift – Don't dread doing laundry; make it a room you're happy to enter.

"Put away the plastic tub and install a kitchen fixture and nice cabinetry. Put in something that's useful but attractive," suggests Seghi.

Seghi says when comparing prices, consider more than the bottom line. Think of quality of work and added value to your home. Keeping an eye on market value when you calculate costs is important.

"Even if you're not selling your decision should be value oriented." Renovations, well done, can pay off in the future as well as day-to-day enjoyment.

Building trust through reliability and accessibility

Dealing directly with the customer is also important to Seghi, who believes in one on one communication. It's important that the customer feel comfortable through the process.

"I run, design and sell the job. There's no better person to run your job than someone who is hands-on and on the job."

Don Seconder of Milford explains, "Not only does he do the job, afterwards you've got a friend...He offers a fair price and no hassle."

Michael Johnson has lived through numerous remodeling projects and admits he "doesn't have patience for someone that's not professional."

His project involved the entire home from ceiling to floor including electrical, plumbing and custom stonework. Seghi came recommended from his suppliers when he purchased travertine flooring and ended up completing the job.

"There's got to be an element of trust when you're working with someone," said Johnson. He trusted the crew to respect his home and the family dog as well as locking up.

Laura Luke was impressed with the professional attitude of the workers.

"They were a great crew - great to work with. They were skilled, courteous, prompt and hardworking. If they say they'll be here at eight a.m., they'll be here," said Luke.

Tools of the trade

Through the years Seghi has developed numerous professional trade and supply contacts.

"All my years in business have opened some doors. I have professional people I can go to. I have the right sense of who to go to for something if there's a question," he added.

That includes specialties for plumbing, cabinetry, almost anything that has to do with remodeling making those products and services available to his customers.

Jim Seghi has been a part of the South Lyon community for 18 years and in business for 16 years. Contact him at (248) 437-2454 or check out his website at jimseghirenovations.com.