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Thursday, August 11, 2005 www.novinews.com 50¢

Volume 50 Number 11 Novi, Michigan

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INSIDE

First foundation winners

Mark Smith of Lake Orion, left, and his brother, Ed Smith, of Waterford, owners of Gus O'Connor's Irish Pub in Novi, were on the winning scramble team in the first Novi Parks Foundation Golf Outing on Aug. 4 at Links of Novi. The team, which included Brent Keller of Grand Blanc and Bruk Weymouth of Great Falls, Mont., was 12 under par.

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OBITUARY

Curt Joseph Francis Olewnik, 54

— 11A

SPORTS

More All-Star moments

Novi's Kevin Cislo was selected by the Detroit Tigers to play in the Negro League Celebrations High School All-Star game.

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8-11-05

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Meadowbrook Bridge opens

■ Contractor wins $28,000 incentive

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

City manager Rick Helwig got some good news Monday.

Meadowbrook Bridge is now open for business, allowing area motorists to use Meadowbrook Road in this area.

The bridge on this major north-south connector was completed 10 days ahead of schedule, giving the contractor an incentive of $28,000 on the project.

The bridge replacement was supposed to be completed by Aug. 18, before the start of the 2005-2006 school year. Now motorists can finally drive down Meadowbrook Road between Nine Mile and 10 Mile roads.

"It's a straight shot now," Helwig said.

"We've still got the Meadowbrook Lake dredging project going on, and we have some neighborhood repaving work that will be going on. So, having that road open is very important to the residents."

The bridge will have a useful life of at least 50 years, according to Helwig.

The project included a construction contract awarded to the E. C. Korneffel Co. of Trenton for $290,283.53.

A separate contract for the box beams was awarded to Stress Con Industries, Inc., of Shelby Township for $88,328.

Engineering design and construction services were provided by Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber, Inc., of Grand Rapids for a total of $74,070.

Korneffel even broke the com-

continued on page 3

What the bridge cost

- $74,070 for design, engineering services
- $88,328 for box beams
- $290,283.53 for construction

Total cost: $452,681.53

Flooding fix is on the way

■ Developer submits Orchard Hills West work plan to state

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Jennifer Tewkesbury didn't like what she saw on a recent visit to the new Orchard Hills West Subdivision under construction in southeast Novi.

Tewkesbury, an environmental quality analyst, Water Bureau, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, saw sediment moving into streets, citizens yards and even the Middle Rouge River.

But, the developer, Claudio Rossi of Mirage Development in Novi, submitted a work plan the MDEQ received July 28 that will hopefully solve the problem.

After being alerted by a concerned resident of Orchard Hills about the drainage problems in Orchard Hills West, currently under development, Tewkesbury paid a visit to the site after the heavy rains a couple of weeks ago.

"We found that the developer had some controls on the site for the soil erosion and stormwater issues. But unfortunately, the controls they were using were not working, and it looked like they weren't working for a while," she said.

The MDEQ analyst pointed out to the developer what the issues were and the fact that Rossi was

continued on page 3

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

New season, new show

Novi High School student Billy Dircks, right, leads a line of tenor saxophones during the school's marching band camp in preparation for the group's upcoming 2005 season. See the full story on page 12.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Shirley Daugherty holds the portrait of her husband, Eugene, (taken when he was 16 and off to the Korean War) in the offices of Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, where the Daugherty family received Eugene's Purple Heart ribbon for wounds he suffered in the conflict.

Purple at last

■ Korean War veteran earns special honor after his death

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Shot behind enemy lines in Korea in 1950, Eugene Daugherty crawled for three days before reaching safety.

But the Walled Lake resident made it out alive.

Daugherty, who passed away of natural causes June 22 at age 75, received the Purple Heart Medal just a week after his death.

The family accepted the medal on his behalf at a special presentation Aug. 4 in 11th District Congressman Thaddeus McCotter's office in Livonia. McCotter and his staff helped the family obtain the medal awarded to injured soldiers.

"Eugene Daugherty was a courageous and patriotic man, whose actions under hostile fire while on a mission of vital importance are worthy of the honor, respect and recognition of his countrymen," McCotter said.

It was a bittersweet moment, however, for Daugherty's widow, Shirley; son, Gene Jr.,

continued on page 3

Her secret to staying young? Stay active after retirement

■ Gerry Stipp volunteers her time all over city of Novi

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

If you live in the city of Novi, you've probably seen her around town quite often with a smile on her face. She gets along with just about everyone she meets, and she never complains about having too much work to do.

That's because Gerry Stipp spends much of her waking hours volunteering for nearly everything Novi has to offer.

The former Novi city and village clerk, who is now retired, volunteers with Novi Youth Assistance; is a Novi Rotarian; helps with the American Red Cross Blood Drive; takes minutes and prepares agendas for the Michigan 50s Festival Board of Directors; is the secretary for an association of people who have retired from the city of Novi; is active at the First Baptist Church of Farmington; and works with the Novi Goodfellows, which at Christmastime, provides presents and groceries for needy families.

"If you retire and you don't do anything, I think you get old fast," Stipp said. "My job (as city clerk) certainly was good to me. I enjoyed those years. There were hard times, and good times, and I think it would be a great career for anyone — not just doing city clerk work, but other offices there as well."

Stipp's family moved to Novi when she was 2 years old. They lived here until the summer she turned 12, then moved to Wixom. She lived there until she got married in 1956, when she moved to Union Lake. After some time, she decided to come back home to Novi.

Stipp attended grade school at the Baptist school, which is still standing today at 13 Mile and Meadowbrook roads.

"They've changed it into a house now," she said. "I've lived in the area my whole life, and raising my family was a memorable experience."

Stipp attributes her ability to get along with everyone she meets to her success as city clerk.

"That was one of the secrets to my job — I liked the people, and they liked me," she said. "Back in the early days, you knew everyone in town."

In 1959, when she started working in the city, there were 6,390 residents in Novi. When taking minutes at a meeting, nobody ever had to give their names because she knew who they were.

"Of course, that changed," Stipp said.

One thing she is proud of is the

continued on page 3

YOUR NOVI Neighbors

Courtesy photo

Gerry Stipp spends much of her waking hours volunteering for nearly everything Novi has to offer.

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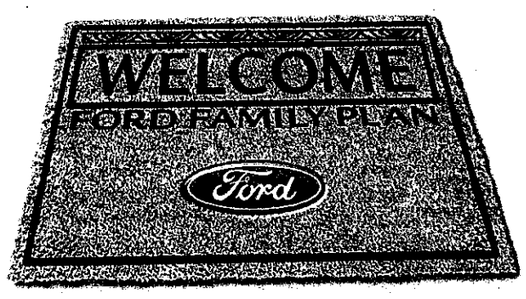

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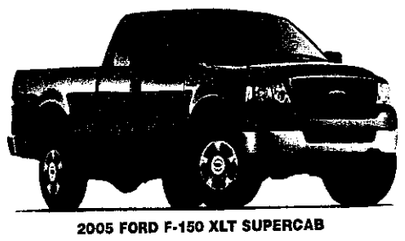

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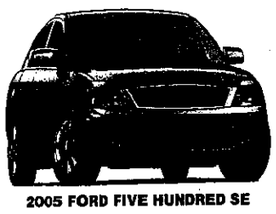

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Family members of the late Eugene Daugherty receive his Purple Heart ribbon in U.S. Representative Thaddeus McCotter's Livonia office last week. From left are Daugherty's widow, Shirley; his daughter, Cheryl Wilkinson; son Gene; and his spiritual advisor from Lighthouse Hospice, Rev. James Hawke. McCotter is at the far right. Daugherty fought in the Korean War with the 17th Airborne Division after enlisting at age 16. He was gravely wounded there and died only recently, knowing that McCotter's office was working on getting him the the medal.

■ Korean War veteran earns special honor after his death

continued from front page

of Waterford; and daughter, Cheryl Wilkinson, of Commerce Township. Another sibling, Clinton Gilstrap of Waterford, was unable to attend the presentation. They would have given anything if Daugherty could have seen the medal with his own eyes.

Born in 1930 in Pennington Gap, Va., Daugherty forged his mother's signature on his U.S. Army application so he could enlist at age 16.

The day of the attack, "His platoon was pinned down behind enemy lines, and he was the only survivor," Wilkinson said. "He played dead, and the Korean soldiers passed him by."

Shot in the head, back, elbow and legs, Daugherty was flown to Maryland, where he stayed at a base hospital for weeks.

Wilkinson, a nurse at Whitehall Healthcare Center of Novi, said she was talking to Rev. James Hawke one day when he asked, "What can I do for your dad?"

She asked if he could help the family obtain the Purple Heart for Daugherty. It was Hawke who contacted McCotter's office. The task of obtaining the medal was challenging since Daugherty's Army records were lost in a fire in Korea.

"So, when they pulled up his records, they found an honorable discharge but no injuries," Wilkinson said. But, when Army staff started digging deeper, they discovered Daugherty's earlier years of service.

Being awarded a Purple Heart was something Daugherty and his family had talked about.

"I had written a letter to the Army asking about it. He really did want it," Wilkinson said.

So, how does the family feel about the medal being awarded posthumously?

"There's not much you can say. The government is the government," Wilkinson said.

"But, I would have given anything for him to be able to actually receive it and hold it. This was the last thing we could do for him."

The medal has a special place of honor in the Daugherty home — on a mantle next to his coffin flag.

An avid fisherman who also loved the Atlanta Braves, Daugherty was a former supervisor at Edward C. Levy Co., a sand and gravel company in Wixom. His son, Gene Jr., a superintendent for B&V Construction in Wixom, said his dad's injuries occurred in the Chosin Reservoir in Korea.

"With the times being what they are, it's a huge honor for us to accept this medal on his behalf," Daugherty said.

"He had the courage and the will to go on, just like the men and women do now in Iraq. It sounds corny, but what a wonderful place we live in to have people like that around."

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.

■ Developer submits Orchard Hills West work plan to MDEQ

continued from front page

violating the Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Permit signed on July 30, 2004.

The violation occurred when the developer allowed sediment to move off the site and by discharge into the river.

"There was a direct discharge into the river," Tewkesbury said.

Even though Mirage has submitted a work plan, the developer must still take measures to stop any further runoff of sediment into the adjoining neighborhood and the river.

Tewkesbury noted that sediment is the No. 1 pollutant of waterways, because it changes the ecosystem, affecting both the habitat and water quality.

"The resident was right to call the MDEQ office," she said.

Mirage was aware that a problem existed, and the developer was trying to work with the city of Novi to come up with a solution.

"Because of the heavy rains we have had, I don't think they expected the sediment runoff to be that dramatic. The problem then escalated," Tewkesbury said.

Mirage is going to work with the city engineering staff to come up with further solutions on how to handle the amount of stormwater that's coming off the site, according to Tewkesbury.

One of the problems is the topography of the site. The western portion is at a higher elevation, with the eastern side being part of a floodplain.

"That's the side that has the drainage problems," Tewkesbury said.

No homes have been flooded, but yards have been partially flooded after the heavy rains. Remediation work does not need to be done on the Rouge River, as long as there are no more additional sediment problems.

MDEQ staff members will return to the Orchard Hills West site within the next week or two to check the progress of Mirage's work plan.

Rob Hayes, city engineer, said his staff is working with the developer on the project.

One of the major improvements that's going to mitigate the future flooding conditions is the ditch that runs along the west side of Meadowbrook Road, Hayes said.

This ditch runs between Chatham and the new Malott Drive. "Once they get that ditch completely constructed, then we expect a lot of that flow would make it's way to that ditch," Hayes said.

The construction of this ditch should prevent the flooding that occurred in the area on July 16.

■ Contractor wins incentive

continued from front page

pany's record for early project completion with this job, according to Helwig.

Striping was completed late morning on Aug. 8, with traffic flow starting around noon.

The Novi Police Department kept a steady presence in the neighborhoods surrounding the bridge to monitor the speed of motorists who cut through these residential areas.

"We really appreciate the neighborhood leadership helping to communicate what was happening during the construction," Helwig said.

City engineer Rob Hayes said the contractor beat the maximum number of days the firm could have earned to get incentives.

"We were giving them incentives for up to seven days, and they finished quite a few days ahead of schedule," Hayes said. They city paid the contractor $4,000 a day for seven days for a total incentive of $28,000.

He added that the only restriction is that the city is keeping trucks used in the Meadowbrook Lake dredging project off the bridge for seven days while it cures, which ends today. Meadowbrook Road still has a weight restriction, Hayes said.

■ Gerry Stipp volunteers her time all over city of Novi

continued from front page

fact that she has been able to keep her family very close over the years.

"All three of my daughters and their families come over for dinner on Sunday every week," Stipp said. "We usually have 17 to 20 people over for dinner on Sundays and sometimes more. My motto is, if you feed them, they will come."

When she's not so busy volunteering, Stipp enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren.

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.

About Gerry Stipp

- **Age:** Over 21
- **Occupation:** Retired. Was city clerk in Novi for 23 years and worked for the village and the city for 36 years.
- **Family:** Her husband is deceased. She has three daughters and eight grandchildren.
- **Hobbies:** She enjoys purchasing antiques.
- **Awards:** Was named city clerk of the year for Michigan and is a certified municipal clerk.
- **School:** Attended Walled Lake High School. (There was only one at the time). She's having her 50-year high school reunion this month.
- **College:** She took municipal clerk classes at Michigan State University.

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Ring road verdict has far-reaching effects

■ Case may help future projects in city of Novi

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Mayor Lou Csordas said a recent court decision in Novi's favor could affect municipalities' land acquisitions nationwide.

The decision involved private property near the northwest corner of Novi Road and Grand River Avenue, where the city proposed building a portion of a public ring road around the intersection in 1998.

Thomas Schultz, city attorney, said the city may not act on the Michigan Supreme Court's decision, which said the road could be public, by actually building the ring road.

But, but it's still an important case.

"It's an important opinion in terms of the city's ability to do road improvement projects and utility projects in the future," Schultz said.

Csordas said the case may even set a precedent for other cities in Michigan and across the country when courts must determine if private roads can have public use.

On July 20, the Michigan Supreme Court filed an opinion overturning an appellate court's decision in the Novi land condemnation case that started in 1998.

Seven years later, the need for such a ring road may no longer exist.

The city wanted to take private property around the northwest portion of intersection owned by the Adell family and construct a public road.

The first issue in the case was whether the requirement of "public use" was met under the law. The proposed road was supposed to be available for public use but was primarily used by a private entity that had contributed funds to the project.

The court ruled that the proposed ring road does qualify as a public use.

The second issue was whether the city abused its discretion in determining if there was a public necessity to condemn a road when the city did not consider alternatives.

The court said this was not an abuse of power and reversed the Court of Appeals' decision.

Wisne Corporation was one of the companies that would have been served by the ring road. The firm at one point even agreed to pay $200,000 toward the funding of this spur road, which was to be named A. E. Wisne Drive.

Access road was the issue

The Adell family didn't object to the ring road, according to Schultz. But, the city proposed closing access to the Wisne property off Grand River Avenue and building an access road off the ring road.

"That's what the Adell family was against, because they thought this constituted a private use of their property," Schultz said.

The question is what will the city do now that seven years has passed since the city first filed a complaint?

"Whether the city wants to build the road now is very much an open issue," Schultz said.

Csordas said the idea of a ring road around the intersection may no longer be feasible, especially since state matching funds for the project no longer exist. He added that this situation was not created by the current council and that he is glad the higher court ruled on behalf of the city.

The plan was to build a road that would cut through each of the four quadrants of the intersection. Crescent Boulevard, that runs through Novi Town Center and stops at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, plus Main and Market Streets were part of the original plan. On the southwest corner, the road would have used Flint Street, which fronts Grand River Avenue and Novi Road.

"I don't know whether it will ever happen now," Shultz said.

Options in the case may be presented at the Aug. 22 council meeting, according to Schultz.

"They'll have to decide what to do before the case makes its way back to Oakland County Circuit Court," Schultz said.

"If the city decides to go forward, it will have to pay for the property."

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.

"Whether the city wants to build the road now is very much an open issue."

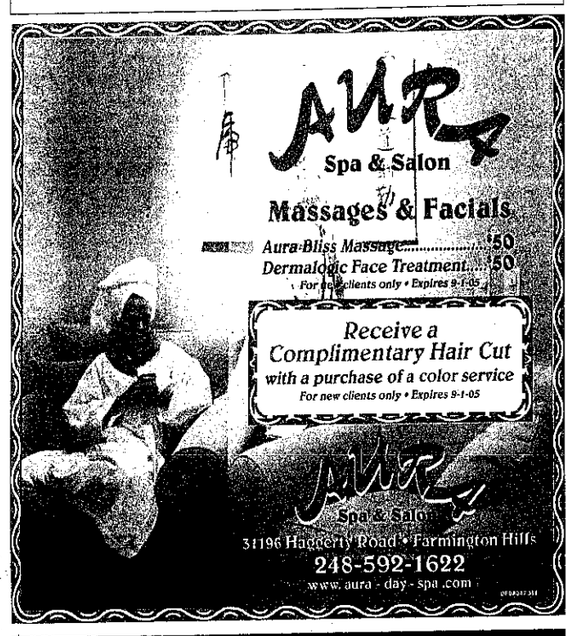
Thomas Schultz
City attorney

$12 million expected for local road improvements

Congressman Thaddeus McCotter (R - Livonia) on July 29 gave his full support in the passage of the conference report on House Resolution 3, known as the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU). The measure passed in the House by a 412-8 vote. Following the expected Senate approval and Presidential signature, TEA-LU will provide $12.78 million for road projects within the 11th District. The $12.78 million in funds secured by Congressman McCotter will be distributed to the following communities:

- South Lyon - $100,000 for improvements on Second Street between Warren and Haggadorn.
- Van Buren – $880,000 to widen Belleville Road between Tyler and Ecorse roads.
- Highland – $100,000 for improvements to Clyde Road, from Hickory Ridge to Strathcona.
- Wayne – $100,000 to reconstruct one quarter mile stretch of Laurenwood.
- Livonia – $800,000 to reconstruct Stark Road, between Plymouth Road and I-96.
- I-96/Beck and Wixom – $2,400,000 for design, ROW, and construction.
- Plymouth – $400,000 for improvements to Haggerty Road, from Plymouth to Schoolcraft roads.
- Commerce – $1,200,000 for improvements to Haggerty Road from 14 Mile to Richardson roads.
- Westland – $2,520,000 for improvements to Ann Arbor Trail, between Farmington and Merriman roads.
- White Lake – $400,000 to pave Cooley Lake Road, between Ripple Way and Havenwood roads.
- Garden City – $980,000 to reconstruct Maplewood Road, between Inkster and Merriman roads.
- Novi – $800,000 to reconstruct Grand River Ave., between Novi and Haggerty roads.
- Northville – $400,000 for improvements to Taft Road, from 8 mile Road north to city limits.
- Walled Lake – $100,000 to widen Maple Road, west of Decker to Welch.
- Canton – $1,600,000 to pave Cherry Hill Road, between Canton Center and Haggerty Road.

"This critical infrastructure funding will help preserve and promote employment, and provide better roads in our communities," McCotter said. "I am greatly indebted to this district's municipal and community leaders for their invaluable help in securing these essential transportation improvements for our shared constituents."



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POLICE BRIEFS

Phone, checkbook missing

A 48-year-old man who lives on Bramblewood reported a theft from his vehicle that occurred between 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 5 and 7:30 a.m. on Aug. 8.

The resident said he arrived home from work at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 5, parked and locked his car, a 2002 silver Mazda, and went inside. When he got in his car to leave for work at 7:30 a.m. on Aug. 8, he found his cell phone and Standard Federal Bank checkbook missing. The cell phone was on a charger and visible from outside the car.

Police found no damage to the vehicle, and the man, who was away for the weekend, said it was possible that the car was accidentally unlocked over the weekend. He later called police to say that one of the stolen checks had been cashed at a Standard Federal branch in Detroit on Aug. 6.

The man did call the bank to inform the staff that his checkbook had been stolen.

Then, on Aug. 8, a suspect tried to cash another check at a different Standard Federal branch in Detroit.

This time, the check was turned away because the teller knew that the Novi man had called about the stolen checkbook. One bank employee at this branch got the license plate from the vehicle the suspect left in.

Another employee kept the I.D. the suspect presented at the teller's window.

Another laptop stolen

An employee at a business on Orchard Hill near Eight Mile and Haggerty roads reported that a laptop computer was stolen from his office between 5:01 p.m. Aug. 5 and 7:59 a.m. Aug. 8.

The caller said he saw the black, Toshiba laptop in his office when he left work on Aug. 5. When he returned on Aug. 8, the laptop was gone.

The front door of the suite was locked, but his office has no lock, and the door was open when he arrived.

The man also told police that he saw a door on the east side of the building that is always shut propped open with a rubber door stop.

The property manager told police that a laptop had also been stolen at Match Works on July 26.

Door readers on the business missing the black Toshiba laptop showed that an employee from Home Mortgage Michigan used the atrium south door at 9:26 p.m. on Aug. 7.

The laptop was valued at $1,500; the investigation continues.

Retail fraud at Kohl's

A 22-year-old Whitmore Lake woman and a 22-year-old New Hudson woman were arrested for retail fraud at 5:13 p.m. Aug. 8 in at Kohl's department store at West Oaks Mall.

The two women allegedly removed hangers and tags on the clothing in a fitting room before concealing them and leaving the store without paying for the items.

Stolen and recovered goods included a pink thong valued at $6; a blue thong valued at $6; a white T-shirt valued at $18, a silver toe ring valued at $3.60, a purple bra valued at $8, a leopard print panty valued at $7, a black thong valued at $5.50, a pink thong valued at $7, and a green panty valued at $9.

Jewelry, DVD player taken

Residents who live on Irvine near Fuller and Moorgate reported to police on Aug. 8 that jewelry and electronics valued at $35,500 had been stolen from their home between 8 a.m. July 1 and 6 p.m. July 4.

Missing were a 25-diamond, platinum-band tennis bracelet, a Sony DVD player and additional miscellaneous jewelry and coins.

The female resident told police that she kept the bracelet in a ceramic pot near the kitchen. The DVD player was stored in a bedroom closet upstairs.

The detective bureau is investigating the theft.

Compiled by Pam Fleming

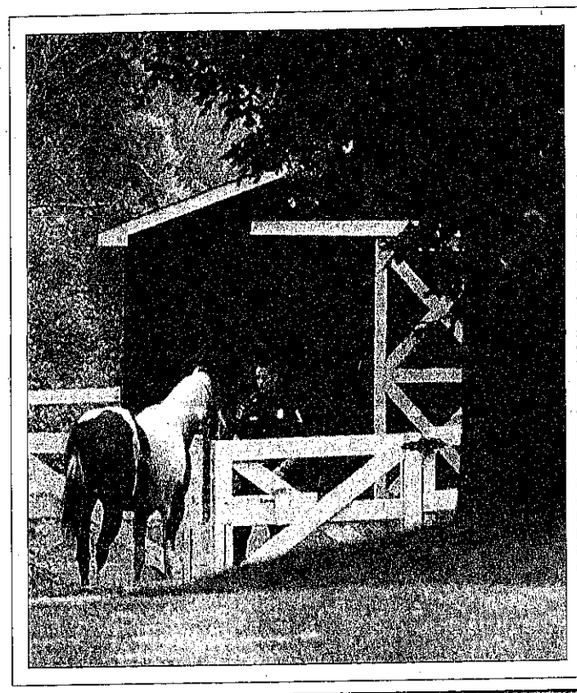

Photo by SAM EGGLESTON

A little country in the city

Ofc. Erick Tapia of the Novi Police Department led a runaway horse back home on Wixom Road on Aug. 4. Police were dispatched to 11 Mile and Wixom roads at 9:15 a.m. when a horse was seen running loose. Tapia spoke with two citizens who said the horse belonged at a house by Target. Tapia used a dog leash to walk the horse about a half mile, leaving a note at the house for the resident to phone him. The man returned his call later, saying the horse was not his but that it was being boarded at his home.

SPOTLIGHT ON:
ALLERGY & ASTHMA
Presented by
Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.P., C.C.R.I.

IT'S RAGWEED SEASON

August 15 marks the unofficial start of ragweed season each year. Ragweed, which grows easily and almost anywhere - especially in vacant lots and fields and along roads - plays a major role in fall allergies. One ragweed plant spawns one billion lightweight pollen grains that can travel up to 400 miles each season. Residents of the Northeast, South, and Midwest most commonly suffer ragweed-triggered allergic rhinitis (hay fever) when the plant boomts from mid-August through October. Symptoms include sneezing; congestion; and watery, itchy, swollen eyes. In severe cases, these symptoms interfere with daily activities. Hay fever symptoms account for 3.8 million missed work and school days each year, and 80% of patients also experience sleep problems.

Over-the-counter remedies, such as antihistamines, decongestants, and nose sprays are used widely to alleviate allergic reactions caused by ragweed. Those who are not relieved of their symptoms after using these medications should speak with an allergist. To schedule an appointment, call the ALLERGY AND ASTHMA CENTER OF MICHIGAN at (248) 473-6400. Our office is conveniently located at 24120 Meadowbrook Road, STE 201, Novi.

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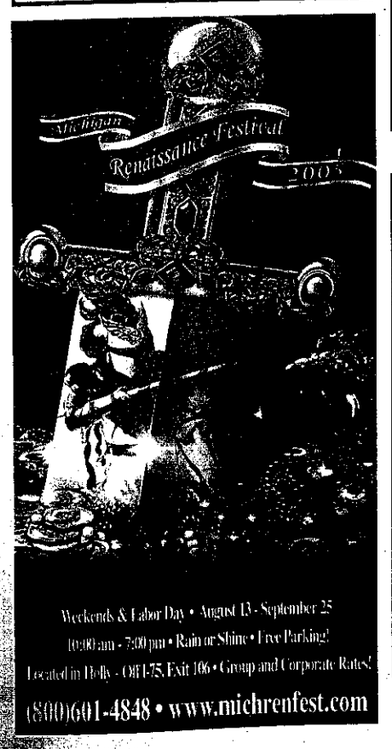

Inmate claims mail points to Mykolaitis as murderer

■ Judge may rule letter inadmissable

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Prison inmate Jeremy Gatz knew the mail he was about to open was from murder victim Cameron Sanders of Novi.

How did he know?

According to Gatz, who knew Sanders and Kevin Mykolaitis when the three were in prison together, Sanders always put a symbol shaped like a fork on the outside of any mail he sent. This symbol was his way of saying that the correspondence was actually from him.

The fork symbol was on the mail.

But what did the envelope from Sanders contain that Gatz opened on April 26, 2003?

The mail was a printout with Kevin Mykolaitis' booking photo from the Michigan Department of Corrections Offender Tracking Information System. Written on the printout with an arrow pointing to Mykolaitis' face was a message that if anything happened to Sanders, Mykolaitis would be the man to approach about his death.

Gatz said he met Sanders around 2002 or 2003 while they were fellow inmates. He developed a friendship with Sanders and had discussions with him about his plans for the future.

Jeremy Gatz

Gatz said Sanders talked to him about a life insurance scheme. He said Sanders was planning to fake his own death for the insurance money. He talked about the fact that there would need to be another person involved, but he never named the second person, who would be the beneficiary. The money was to be divided 50/50, according to Sanders.

He added that there was talk of other schemes, including talk about Sanders selling marijuana. Mykolaitis was supposed to be the one who got the drugs, and Gatz offered to front $50,000. But, they never took any steps to put the plan in action.

Gatz said he didn't know how long the mail from Sanders had been at his mother's home. He did not notify police immediately about the mail, but eventually informed Sgt. Victor Lauria of the Novi Police Department about the envelope.

The only problem is that the letter has since been lost. Mykolaitis' defense attorneys argued during his preliminary exam July 21-22 in 52-1 District Court in Novi that the letter could not be admitted as evidence because it doesn't exist.

Judge Brian MacKenzie instructed the defense to prepare a brief by Aug. 5 on why the letter should not be allowed as evidence. The prosecution can respond to the brief on Aug. 22. A hearing on the matter is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 24.

MacKenzie said if he decides the letter cannot be admitted as evidence that any mention of it will be stricken from the record.

Ford executive testifies

Christopher Atkinson, a supervisor for Ford Motor Co. truck engineering and a 20-year Ford employee, knows his Ford trucks.

The prosecution brought him to court as a witness after the Novi Police Department asked him in August 2003 to review the patrol car's video surveillance. The tape showed what police believe to be Mykolaitis' Super Duty F-250 pickup near Denny's Restaurant on the night of Cameron Sanders' murder.

The defense tried to discount Atkinson as a witness as he is an expert on product placement yet was being used for vehicle identification purposes.

Atkinson noted a few unique features on Mykolaitis' truck which were visible to him on the tape. These included the door drops at the top of the windows; the ride height; and the dome grille, which he said is more pronounced on Fords than on Chevrolet or Dodge trucks.

He could also identify a skid plate, which was new for the 2003 FX 4 x 4 package. "There were only 2,000 sold with this package," Atkinson said. "It looks like a Super Duty."

Damage to vehicle reported

The next witness for the prosecution was a Novi police officer who said he took an accident report from Mykolaitis in 2003. The murder suspect said the undercarriage of his truck was damaged when he slid on some ice and drove into a ditch on Napier Road.

***

Next week: State Farm Insurance agents discuss the key man policy taken out by Kevin Mykolaitis and Cameron Sanders; Novi police dispatched to area near Twelve Oaks Mall when man found lying in a field.

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.

MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE

Editor's note: This is a second in a series of articles in the case of Kevin Mykolaitis of Farmington Hills, charged with the first-degree, premeditated murder of Novi resident Cameron Sanders in April 2003. Mykolaitis faces life in prison if convicted.

The mail was a printout with Kevin Mykolaitis' booking photo from the Michigan Department of Corrections Offender Tracking Information System. Written on the printout with an arrow pointing to Mykolaitis' face was a message that if anything happened to Sanders, Mykolaitis would be the man to approach about his death.

NOTICE

PUBLIC SALE. Pursuant to state law, a public sale will be held on August 13, 2005 at 11:00AM at **COLONIAL MINI STORAGE**, 48200 West Road, Wixom, Michigan 48393. Contents will be sold by competitive bidding for **cash only** to the highest bidder and include miscellaneous household, furniture, tools and personal items including clothing. Units are as follows:

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BATMAN BEGINS (PG-13)
5:55, 9:40
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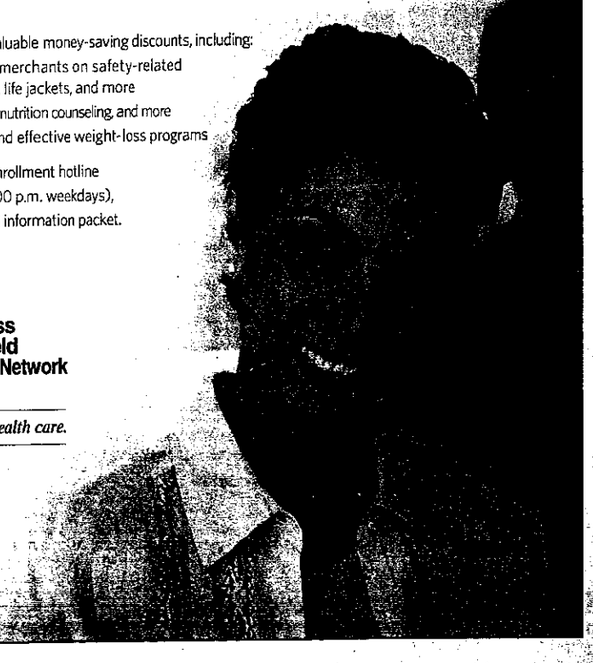

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COMMUNITY

Pam Fleming, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 pfleming@ht.homecomm.net

Line dancing's not just for country folks anymore

■ Lessons held at Civic Center and Ice Arena

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

When the notion of going line dancing was brought up to Jean Rowe about 11 years ago, she resisted.

But after being tricked into going, Rowe fell in love with it. Now, nobody can stop her from participating and teaching the art as well.

Rowe, a 29-year resident of Novi, has been holding line dancing lessons at the Novi Civic Center and the Novi Ice Arena since 1996. She describes it as a great avenue for stress relief, exercise and to meet new people with the same interests.

"It just sort of became a passion, and it's addicting," Rowe said. "It's a lot of fun. You can go to the bar and do it, but there are a lot of people who don't like the bar scene. It's a very safe environment for single people to go to."

In addition to instructing line dance, Rowe also runs a bookkeeping and resume business called Time Saver Incorporated. She handle's payroll, taxes and paying bills for small businesses and also creates and writes resumes.

Rowe said that once someone gets involved in line dancing, it usually starts to take on a life of its own. There are conventions and workshops; it's not just for country folks any more.

In fact, country music isn't the only kind that is played. Students dance to everything from opera, to Celine Dion, to Elvis Presley, to the Backstreet Boys. The choreographers involved are getting younger as well, so they choreograph dances to the music they listen like. There still is country music, but according to Rowe, it's probably 40 percent country and 60 percent everything else.

"Line dancing is huge in Europe, and it's really big in Japan, too," Rowe said. "In Novi there is a very large Japanese population, and I get a lot of Japanese students. They don't even need to understand English: they just watch my feet and do what I do."

Rowe runs a pay-as-you-go program. If someone misses a week, it's no big deal because they haven't lost any money. Usually one new dance is taught per night, and then a review is done of dances that students have been doing for the past few weeks.

"It's not intimidating at all," Rowe said. "You can come by yourself, or you can get a group of your relatives or friends and just have a good time."

Within the class, a group has been formed called "Just for Kicks Dancers," which goes out to different venues and performs for charity. They do a little teaching and allow audiences to participate.

The group recently performed at the Livonia Spree and earned money for the Angela Hospice. The dancers are also scheduled to be at the State Fair on Thursday, Aug. 18, performing on the family stage.

"This is our ninth season, and our group is drawn from our classes," Rowe said. "People come in and start dancing, and they like it so much that they want to do it more often. We do many shows. We do a lot of nursing homes, and we basically get the people involved."

Rowe said that anyone taking her line dancing lessons will be seeing a lot of her back because she will be dancing in front of them.

"I'm going to be describing the steps in sequences of eight and breaking it down," she said. "It's a lot of repetition. It's upbeat and uplifting. We encourage everybody to come out."

Those interested can contact Rowe at (248) 348-9116 or via e-mail at bettyboop@twmi.rr.com.

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.

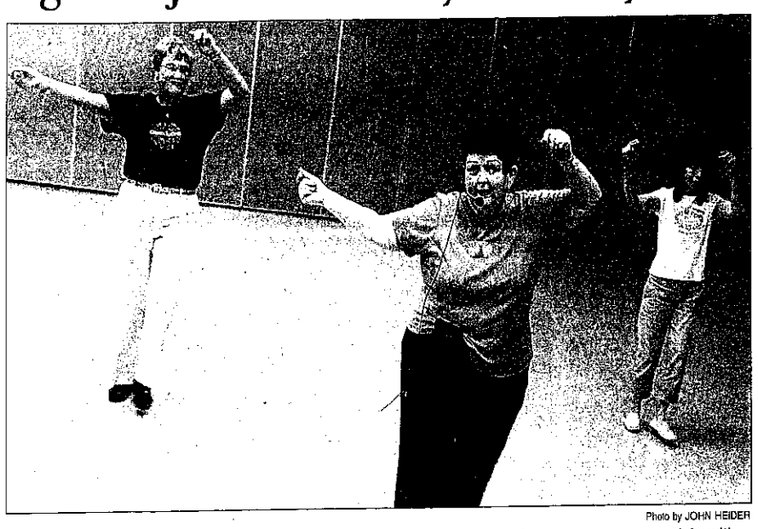

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Jean Rowe, center, a dance instructor with Steppin' Time, teaches a line dance class on a recent Friday night with students Brenda Thomason, left, and Masuko Matsuda. The class meets at the Novi Civic Center.

Take a lesson

- Line dancing lessons for Novi residents cost $5 per session and $6 for non-Novi residents.
- The beginner class runs from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday and Friday.
- An intermediate class runs from 7:30-9 p.m. Monday and Friday
- An open dance is held on Mondays from 9-9:30 p.m. and Friday nights from 9-10 p.m.
- All Monday night sessions are held at Novi Ice Arena and Friday nights are at the Novi Civic Center.

BRIEFS

Garden walk slated

The Gardeners of Northville/Novi are still looking for Novi gardeners to participate in the club's first-ever garden walk slated for the summer of 2006.

The group would like to have at least five gardens included in the walk. If you think that you would like to share the beauty of your yard with others in the community, contact Doris Brownell at (248) 348-2426.

Pine Ridge celebrates

Pine Ridge Center, located on Novi Road north of 10 Mile Road, will be holding a grand reopening celebration August 15-21. The orange barrels are gone, and the merchants are celebrating with a customer appreciation special event.

There will be games for children, sidewalk sales and special offers for adults and kids. Special events will be held Saturday, Aug. 20.

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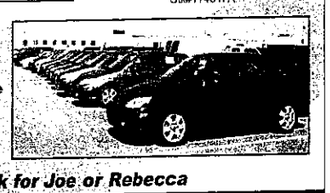

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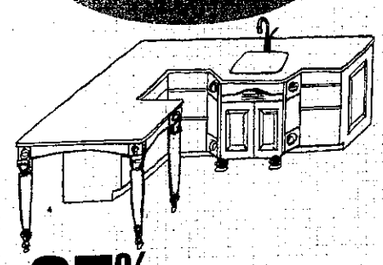

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Parks Foundation Golf Outing nets $20,000

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Dave Staudt is a happy camper.

Or make that a happy golfer after he learned that the first-ever Novi Parks Foundation Golf Outing Aug. 4 brought in more than $20,000.

The event took place at Links of Novi, and included an 18-hole scramble, lunch at the turn, a steak dinner, awards and a silent auction.

Staudt serves as vice president of the foundation, with Charles Staab as its president and chairman. Other board members include Robert Churella Sr.; Kathy Cosentino who serves as secretary; and Sue Engebretson who is the treasurer.

"We have exceeded our goal of $20,000," Staudt said.

The mission of the new foundation is to raise private contributions and create innovative partnerships to facilitate improvements to the city of Novi's Parks, Recreation & Forestry services.

"In a 21st century city, quality parks and recreation services are essential to a community's quality of life," Churella said.

Singh Development donated $15,000 to the outing, with the event itself bringing in more than $5,000, according to Staudt.

Singh will begin building Legacy Parc, a subdivision with 439 homes, on the property in the near future.

"I'm pleased. We didn't have to touch one penny of Singh's money to pay for the outing," Staudt said.

The event attracted 142 golfers or 34 foursomes.

"We're already planning on another outing next year," Staudt said. "But, based on what we're hearing, the Links of Novi won't be a viable venue for this. So, we'll find another nearby course. We want to stay as close to home as possible."

Staudt thanks Singh Development, the Links of Novi staff, his fellow foundation board members and others, including Brian Burke of Novi, who helped organize and publicize the outing, and all those who played in the outing.

"The proceeds from this outing gives us a base now to plan the future of the foundation with some capital and start doing things. The next big thing is naming rights. We need to get prepared for that," he said.

Staudt noted that at the last meeting, the board added some new names, including Pam Superfisky, local community volunteer; Mark Merlanti, attorney and current president of the Festival of Trees; Bruce Lys, a sales executive for a local insurance company; Kelly Adams, a financial planner in Novi; Linda Blair of International Transmission Co. in Novi; and Brian Cartwright, who works for FDI Group, a local insurance agency.

For more information, contact the Novi Parks Foundation at (888) 288-1199 or visit www.noviparks.org.

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.

Courtesy photo

Fountain Walk "Goes to the Dogs"

Girl Scouts from all over Metro Detroit experienced "Puppy Love" at Fountain Walk Mall on July 26. This all-day event was sponsored by Family of Pets, located in Fountain Walk, and coordinated by Girl Scout program leader Mary Johnston. Brownie and Girl Scout attendees made their own stuffed animals, played with puppies in the store, played games, made crafts and earned badges. Dr. Ronald Mehler of Novi Veterinary Clinic spoke with the girls about pet care, and John and Debbie Stottele, owners of Family of Pets, presented "Doggone Safe" with the assistance of Cadet Girl Scouts.

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Mark Smith of Lake Orion, left, and his brother, Ed Smith, of Waterford, owners of Gus O'Connor's Irish Pub in Novi, were on the winning scramble team in the first Novi Parks Foundation Golf Outing on Aug. 4 at Links of Novi. The team, which included Brent Keller of Grand Blanc and Bruk Weymouth of Great Falls, Mont., was 12 under par.

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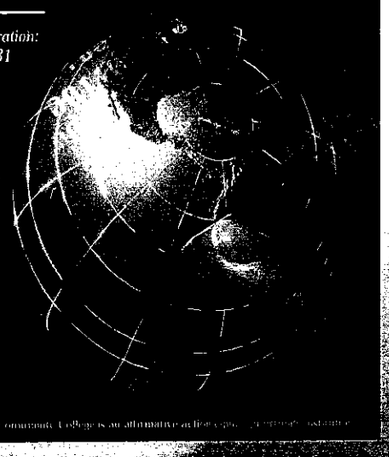

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BUSINESS

Pam Fleming, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 pfleming@ht.homecomm.net

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Chris Beaudoin, manager of Novi's McNish's Sporting Goods, leads customer Kristi Hardy, 13, through some softball glove options at the Grand River Avenue shop.

Suiting up and starting fresh

■ Relocating helps sports business grow

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Sports fanatics in Novi have geared up for the rebirth of an old company made new.

McNish's Sporting Goods and Trophies, after 18 years in business, finally has some new digs. The store relocated and opened May 1 at the southeast corner of Grand River Avenue and Taft Road.

Looking for an upgrade and fresh start, McNish's owner, Chris Beaudoin, was excited to finally be in a bigger and better location.

"It's like a pair of shoes," said the 42-year-old from Berkley. "You've worn them so much that eventually you'll have to buy a new pair."

McNish's was opened July 9, 1976, by William McNish and his brother. Beaudoin said now they are just trying to reevaluate and find who they are and where the store is going in the future.

The goal of McNish's is to be a one-stop shop.

"A store that encompasses everything," Beaudoin said. "We want to stay close to the cutting edge of sports and carry what people want.

"We do work for the little leagues and the big leagues."

Brian McClain, 50, of Livonia, has been a longtime customer of McNish's and now works at the store.

"It's great here," McClain said. "Appearance is everything, and this store is much better than the other one."

McClain is a college volleyball coach and really enjoys surrounding himself with sports.

"The new store offers much more. Things are easier to find – they're not stacked on top of each other," he said.

McNish's carries everything from varsity jackets and trophies to socks and school uniforms.

"All quality products," Beaudoin said. "And now we have room to bring more items out into the showroom."

The main goal for the team at McNish's was to stay in the Novi area.

"Novi is part of our identity," he said. "We have a really loyal clientele base, and people know who we are."

Beaudoin said they still have people going to their old location, but he said they figure it out and are excited about the new location.

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McNish's is known for being able to get many different products that Beaudoin said most commercial stores can't or won't get for customers.

"I had a guy call me from Philadelphia who wanted fire resistant baseball caps," he said. "We're not just known locally."

There are no plans to build another store, but Beaudoin said they haven't ruled out the idea.

"We wouldn't open more stores unless it made sense," he said. "We have to do what is right today. Who knows what is right tomorrow?

"This wasn't just a move to move, but rather a move to grow."

Tracy Mishler can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or at tmishler@ht.homecomm.net.

DDA funds needed to progress

■ Redevelopment costly, says Walled Lake city manager

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Walled Lake City Manager Jerry Walker says unlike Novi, this neighboring community to the north is still in the "tear down, build up" stage.

Novi still has open space to build on.

"But, we're still in the redevelopment stage, the refurbishing mode," Walker said.

This type of development takes more time and more cash, according to Walker.

"It's much easier just to come onto a site and build on open space than it is demolish. We have very few open acres left in the city," he said.

Walker said with any new development that comes into Walled Lake now, developers will be looking at refurbishing or replacing existing structures.

Walled Lake was established in 1954, with its Downtown Development Authority formed in 1990.

With the new five-year, revenue-sharing agreement just signed this month between the DDA and the city, more money will be diverted to the city.

The way the agreement is structured now, at the end of that five years, the city would capture all the tax revenues in the DDA district, according to Walker.

"That's really consistent with the way the DDA plan is structured at this time," he said.

Walker said the DDA plan needs to be revised if it is going to continue.

"Over the next five years, if the plan is revised then, of course, those budgetary amounts can be adjusted."

DDAs aren't supposed to exist forever. "In fact, it's a statutory requirement that they have a beginning and end date," Walker said.

At the end of the five-year agreement with the city, Walled Lake's DDA will be 20 years old. The reason DDAs were put into effect to begin with was to enhance cities or business districts within those cities, make them more profitable and help them improve their ability to attract new business.

This, in turn, increases revenues to the city.

"Actually, our DDA has been very successful in doing that. They have completed nearly every aspect of their plan," Walker.

At the end of the five-year agreement with the city, Walled Lake's DDA will be 20 years old. The reason DDAs were put into effect to begin with was to enhance cities or business districts within those cities, make them more profitable and help them improve their ability to attract new business.

"They're at the stage now where the plan needs to be revised or when their financial obligations are taken care of in 2010 they would cease to exist unless their plan is amended."

Walker isn't sure how the $321,000-plus a year that the city will start obtaining from the DDA will be used.

Some of it will be used to fund city services — such as fire and police protection, water, sewers, roadwork. And, since the Walled Lake DDA encompasses such a large area of the city, most of those services will be expended in that district.

Is Walled Lake in financial straits?

"I think we're having the same challenges that all cities are having, when you talk about state shared revenues that are cut," Walker said.

Knowing that the DDAs were meant to increase revenues in the city, "It was just time for a larger sharing to occur."

Walker said Walled Lake's DDA actually has a sizable fund balance, some of which has come from the sale of previously purchased land. Legatto Point, a new residential project, is being built on land sold by the DDA.

Walker said the extra money from the DDA will go into the city's general fund, with city council determining how it's to be spent later.

Meanwhile, the fate of the DDA in five years remains undecided.

But whether it be a DDA, or some other organization like an Economic Development Corporation, "There is definitely still a need for some sort of organization to further business recruitment and retention," Walker 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.

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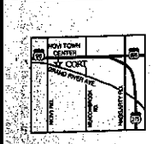

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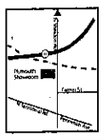

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Development merge

One of the fastest growing land development consulting firms in the nation, Atwell-Hicks has merged with Seiber, Keast & Associates, a civil engineering firm in Novi.

The Novi-based company provides civil engineering design and consulting services to private developers; both companies plan on further growth.

The merger will make the Novi location Atwell-Hicks' eighth office in the country and fifth in the state.

Outside decor

Yard decorators can finally find a place to shop. After much anticipation, Yard Art in Novi has become licensed as of June 30 and is ready to sell yard art and wall art signs for the University of Michigan.

Owner Susan Walsh is anxious to begin selling her signs. Designs are currently being finalized and sent into production. The company is working on updating its Web site with new Michigan products and plan for it to be up and running in a week. Walsh is expanding her collegiate collections and trying to get a license with Michigan State and Ohio State Universities.

For more information on Yard Art, call (866) 735-1986 or visit www.yardartsigns.com.

Jobs on the way

Governor Jennifer Granholm announced $300 million in federal funds will be awarded to the 25 Michigan Works! Service Centers across the state. The money will be used to advance the skills of Michigan workers through the Incumbent Worker Program.

The program will help create jobs and will help Michigan workers advance within their companies and keep their workforce updated and maintained.

The program will also help fill vacancies that may be from promotions of employees through this program, with participants from other funded programs. Currently there are 405,259 allocations within Oakland County Michigan Works! Workforce Development Division.

Summer camps for kids

This summer, kids won't have to travel far from home to get their summer camp experience. They can stop by their local Borders Books and Music store through the week of Aug. 29 to attend "Borders Summer Camps."

The free camps, sponsored by Klutz, Nickelodeon, Kidz Bop music, and Alex crafts, will allow children to discover their inner artist or musician with a variety of activities including dancing, arts and crafts, drawing and reading.

Borders will also host a Chicken Socks Hatching party to celebrate the arrival of Chicken Socks, a new line of activity book for kids 4 and up from Klutz.

The Novi Borders is located in the West Oaks shopping center.

The camps will occur on Wednesdays. Times will vary by store.

Economy rebounds

The Michigan Business Activity Index, compiled by Comerica Bank, rose 5 points to 107 in June, putting it in the middle of the range over which it has been moving in 2005. So far this year, the index has averaged about 3 percent less than in 2004.

Redemption of subordinated notes

Novi-based Learning Care Group, Inc. announced Aug. 2 that it had elected to initiate an optional redemption of all of the company's 15 percent subordinated notes due 2008. The aggregate principal amount of the notes outstanding is $3.5 million.

Redemption of the notes will occur on Sept. 1. Funds for this repayment will be provided under the company's credit agreement with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., which has been increased by $5 million to $22.5 million.

New vice president at Tower

Tower Automotive, Inc. announced the appointment of David M. DiRita as senior vice president and general counsel, a newly created position for the company, reporting to Kathleen Ligocki, president and CEO of the company.

Based at the corporate headquarters in Novi, DiRita will also be in charge of coordinating relationships with external counsel and implementing processes and systems within the legal department to create efficiencies.

Most recently, DiRita served as deputy general counsel for Visteon Corp., which he joined in 2000. Prior to joining Visteon, he worked at Johnson Controls, Inc. as group general counsel for North and South America. Earlier, DiRita practiced corporate law for Dickinson-Wright in Detroit.

He received a bachelor's degree in business and a juris doctorate from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Changes at Walgreens

Walgreens Co. announced it will move all products containing *pseudoephedrine, including liquids* and gels, behind the pharmacy counter by the end of October. The policy will apply to all stores nationwide. This move expands its April decision to remove single ingredient products from store shelves.

Pseudoephedrine is found in Advil, Robitussin, Sudafed and Tylenol allergy and sinus medicine as well as other types.

For more than three years, Walgreens has voluntarily placed limits exceeding those imposed by most state laws on purchases of pseudoephedrine and other over-the-counter medications.

The Novi Walgreens is located on the southeast corner of Novi Road and 10 Mile Road.

Abilities Expo coming

The Abilities Expo/Metro Detroit will take place at the Novi Expo Center from Friday, Aug. 26 to Sunday, Aug. 28.

This show is dedicated to educating and improving the lives of people with disabilities, senior citizens, their families and caregivers, as well as healthcare and education professionals.

Chad Crittenden, form the CBS reality TV show "Survivor Vanuatu," will talk about his experiences on "Survivor" and being an amputee during the keynote speech on Aug. 27, and he will also sign autographs.

Walsh College tuition increases

At its summer Board of Trustees meeting, Walsh College received approval to hold its tuition to the lowest known percentage increase in the state.

President Keith A. Pretty was pleased to announce the 2.5 percent increase to employees and faculty this week.

Graduate tuition will increase a modest 5.1 percent and the registration fee remains at $115 for all students.

Walsh College enrolled 4,419 business students in 2003-04 with campuses in Troy, Novi and at the Macomb Community College University Center.

Taubman Centers second quarter results

Taubman Centers, Inc. announced last week its financial results for the second quarter 2005. Net income (loss) allocable to common shareholders per diluted share (EPS) was $(0.09) for the quarter ended June 30, 2005, versus $(0.08) for the quarter ended June 30, 2004.

EPS for the six months ended June 30, 2005 was $(0.04) per diluted common share, versus $0.00 per diluted common share for the first six months of 2004.

For the quarter ended June 30, 2005, Funds from Operations (FFO) per diluted share was $0.49, up 6.5 percent from $0.46 per share for the quarter ended June 30, 2004. For the six months that ended June 30, 2005 FFO per diluted share was $1.05, up 6.1 percent from $0.99 for the first six months of 2004.

Automation Alley gets grant

The Automation Alley Technology Center, in collaboration with United Solar Ovonic in Auburn Hills, received a $550,000 grant from the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) for the installation of a building-integrated solar power electric system with integrated energy management and battery backup systems.

The energy-efficient system will be installed in Automations Alley's 11,000-square-foot headquarters in Troy, and expected to be fully operational by June 2006.

The Automation Alley Technology Center grant is part of $6 million being distributed by the MPSC to promote energy efficiency throughout Southeast Michigan. The projects are estimated to generate up to 22,000 kW/hrs per year of clean solar electricity providing numerous benefits such as: increased energy self-reliance and independence; stabilized long-term energy prices; and reduced fossil fuel and natural gas price vulnerability.

Sweepstakes winner to tour with Clarkston

Students shopping at Meijer stores for their back-to-school needs may want to add luggage to their list, as the retailer announced a sweepstakes promotion with Kelly Clarkson that includes a grand prize of spending one week on tour with the popular recording artist.

The grand-prize winner will join Clarkson for one week during her 2006 U.S. tour, as well as receive a $500 shopping spree, $500 in spending money and concert tickets.

The "Meijer Back-to-School with Kelly Contest" began July 24, with an entry deadline set for Sept. 3. Students 18 years and younger can enter at any of the 171 Meijer stores throughout the Midwest. For full details on how to enter, visit www.meijer.com.

Meijers is located at 20401 Haggerty Road in Northville and 49900 Grand River in Wixom.

Comerica lawsuits settled

Comerica Incorporated announced July 7 that the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan preliminarily approved the settlement of two shareholder class action lawsuits that were filed against Comerica in October 2002.

Comerica agreed to the settlement without admitting any liability, and is settling the cases to avoid the risk and cost of litigation. If the settlement receives final judicial approval, Comerica will pay a total of $21 million in full settlement of such lawsuits.

The payment will not affect 2005 earnings and will largely be funded by insurance proceeds, with the remainder coming from previously established reserves.

The court directed that a final hearing on the settlement be held on October 24, 2005.

Car production increases

Vehicle production this week in the U.S., Canada and Mexico is expected to hit an estimated 265,725 units, up 104.4 percent from the 130,006 cars and trucks built last week, according to WardsAuto.com.

The downtime for last week is due to General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co. having their traditional summer shutdowns.

In the U.S., automakers are expected to produce 200,355 vehicles this week, up 117.4 percent from the 92,148 cars and trucks built last week. To date, calendar 2005 U.S. vehicle output totals an estimated 6,690,571 units, down 0.5 percent compared to the 6,726,134 vehicles built in like-2004.

Compiled by Tracy Mishler and Angela Harris

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Do you have a new hire at your business? Are you gearing up for your grand opening? Is Your business heading in an exciting new direction, celebrating an anniversary or moving? If so, we want to know. Send your business briefs to:

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PEOPLE

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WEDDING

Mr. And Mrs. Matthew Chamberlain

Shannon Ringvelski and Matthew Chamberlain were married May 21, 2005, at Harvard Memorial Church in Cambridge, Mass. Immediately following the ceremony, the wedding party and guests were led by a bagpiper as they took a spring walk to the Inn at Harvard where an afternoon reception was held.

The bride is the daughter of Dennis and Carol Ringvelski of Novi. Shannon is a graduate of Mercy High School in Farmington Hills and a 2004 graduate of Harvard University. For the past year she was employed at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass. The groom is the son of Scott and Kathy Chamberlain of Beaufort, S.C. Matthew received his B.A. at Ohio State University and a master's degree from Auburn University. He is an actuary who had been employed in Boston, but has taken new employment with Unitrin Direct in Vista, Calif.

The bride's matron of honor was Priscilla Meredith of Westerville, Ohio, and the maid of honor was Margo Hoppin of New York, N.Y. Serving as best man was Macgyver Liaw of Westerville, Ohio, and the groomsman was Mark Ringvelski of Novi. Elizabeth Arnold of Novi and Eliza Alexander of Cambridge, Mass. assisted the bride as flower girls.

The couple honeymooned for three weeks in various parts of Italy, and returned home for a June 25 reception in Michigan. Shannon and Matt will make their home in the San Diego area.

ENGAGEMENT

Brege and Pender

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Brege of Rogers City announce the engagement of their daughter Rachel Louise Brege to Brandon Neil Pender son of Mr. and Mrs. Randall Pender of Novi, formerly of Northville.

The bride-elect is a 1997 graduate of Rogers City High School and a 2001 graduate of Lake Superior State University. She is currently employed by Consumer's Energy in Jackson.

The groom-elect is a 1997 graduate of Novi High School and 2001 graduate of Lake Superior State University. He is a lieutenant in the United States Army and is currently stationed at Fort Benning.

A September wedding is planned.

IN THE SERVICE

Navy Airman **Travis Q. McMurray**, son of Tim McMurray of Walled Lake, recently returned from deployment while assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, homeported in Norfolk, Va.

McMurray and more than 7,600 of his shipmates of the Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and the Global War on Terrorism.

Carl Vinson and Carrier Air Wing 9 launched more than 6,500 sorties, totaling more than 20, 000 flight hours in support of OIF and maritime security operations. McMurray's unit made port visits in Manama, Bahrain, Dubai, and United Arab Emirates. They also conducted 13 community relations projects, helping to build schools, shelters and churches.

Carriers like the Carl Vinson are deployed throughout the world to maintain U.S. presence and provide rapid response in times of crisis. They serve as a highly visible deterrent to would-be aggressors, and are equipped with the most versatile and powerful weapons and aircraft available.

McMurray is a 2001 graduate of Milford High School of Milford and joined the Navy in March 2002.

OBITUARY

CURT JOSEPH FRANCIS OLEWNIK

Age 54, formerly of Northville, 7/30/2005. Donations may be made to Curt's children. Sympathy messages www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

OBITUARY POLICY

The first seven lines of an obituary are published free of charge. After that, there is a fee of $3 a line. Pictures may be published for $25.

•Deadline for obituaries is Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for publication in Thursday's newspaper.

For more information, call 888-999-1288, or contact your funeral home.

•Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

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EDUCATION

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

A prism of colors

■ Novi High's band gearing up for season with new show

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

In 16 years of teaching marching band, Mark Hourigan has never been involved in a project like this.

The director of bands for Novi High School is gearing up for competitions this season with a show that he hopes will blow everything prior, right out of the water.

High school students showed up for band camp last week to begin rehearsing for the complicated show, titled "Prism."

"This is one of the most exciting shows, if not the most exciting show, that I've been involved with," Hourigan said.

There are two parts to it: music and visual.

Hourigan explained that when the show was first designed, he actually started with the visual concept, which is opposite the way he usually does it, by picking music first and then developing visual ideas around it.

"This year we started with a color concept, and as we talked, the whole thing snowballed from one idea to another idea," Hourigan said.

The band, which is split into four different parts, will be dressed in four different colors: red, yellow, blue and purple. There will be four props on the field, each one in the shape of a prism. Each one of those sides will consist of a different color, and those props will move and rotate as the show progresses.

During the show, different colors will be featured musically. The students who are wearing yellow, for example, may have a musical and visual feature while yellow is featured on the props.

"This really all revolves around color," Hourigan said. "I chose music to play from Cirque Du Soleil, which is a French Canadian Circus. It's a very unique style of music. It kind of has a rock and roll/jazz influence to it. The visual concept really drives the show."

At the end of the show, the sashes come off, all the colors come off the students, and the final turn of the prop is silver on one side. All the students are dressed in silver as well.

Evan Blanchard, a junior, Jennifer White, a senior, and Bryan Hong, a sophomore, are all drum majors for the show. They are in charge of making sure their classmates are all on the same page for timing and tone during competitions.

"The ultimate goal, and the most realistic goal, is to perform the show as completely, as cleanly and with as much energy as we can," Blanchard said. "I think it's more important to have a great show that the audience loves and that you feel is clean, rather than what the judges say."

Blanchard said that this year's marching band has the potential to, once again, make it to state final competitions, but that's not what he's concerned with at this point.

"We worry about and try to improve our own show," he said.

White agreed. She said that she gets personal satisfaction in knowing that she feels good when performing and that she and her classmates performed to the best of their abilities during competitions.

"It doesn't matter what the score is. It doesn't matter what the judges say," said White. "As long as you perform at your best and as long as you can put a smile on somebody's face, then you know that you have reached a goal that you wanted to reach from the beginning of the season.

For Hong, joining the marching band last year gave him a sense of self-motivation. That's why he returned this year after making the state finals.

"If you work really hard at something, in this case our show, in the end you will be rewarded through the competition scores or personal satisfaction," he said.

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.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

In the hot, muggy air of early August the 2005 Novi High School marching band goes through some practice steps on the school's eastern field.

Marching band competition schedule

All dates fall on Saturdays. Times are to be announced. Call (248) 449-1500 for more information.

- **Sept. 10** at Novi High School.
- **Sept. 24** at South Lyon High School
- **Oct. 1** at Chippewa Valley High School
- **Oct. 8** at Westland John Glen High School
- **Oct. 22** at Plymouth High School
- **Oct. 29** Huron Valley Invitational sponsored by Milford and Lakeland Bands at Lakeland High School
- **Nov. 5** at State Championships at Pontiac Silverdome

All these dates are in addition to the band's performances at football games.

ON CAMPUS

Melissa Clark, a 2001 graduate of Novi High School, graduated from Syracuse University in May with honors with a dual major in political science and public relations.

The following students were selected to receive a Board of Control Scholarship from Michigan Tech for the upcoming school year: Rebecca K. Klanak, psychology, Walled Lake; David J. Walters, mechanical engineering, and Justin C. Ayers, computer engineering, Wixom. Board of Control Scholarships are awarded based on academic excellence and are valued from $1,000 up to full tuition.

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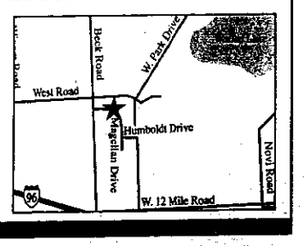

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Super presents priorities

■ High employee relations is one of Dion's goals

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Peter Dion has a goal of learning every employee's name in the Novi Community School District.

The new superintendent even went as far as to tell Dan Tooman, the district's transportation director, that by the end of the year, he will know each bus driver's first and last names.

"He looked at me and said, 'I'm going to remember you said that,'" Dion said. "I said 'Good, I want you to hold me to it.' It's a little more difficult to learn their names because they're not around all the time."

P. Dion

But Dion is determined to treat employees the way he would like to be treated — to listen and to understand what they have to say. He firmly believes that is one of the most important aspects of running a successful organization.

"Helping every employee, and I'm talking about every employee, have a feeling of self-worth is a big priority," Dion said. "They should come to work and feel important in what they do, whether it's a teacher, a secretary, a para-professional, a playground aide, a bus driver or administrator. Good employee relations directly affect student achievement and the quality of our school district."

Though employee relations are high on his list, Dion – a man who always strives for excellence in his personal life – also believes that maintaining the quality of the district and student achievement are just as high.

Dion said he is ready to start his first school year on the job with the mentality that the most important job in the district is the classroom teacher.

"Without a doubt," Dion said, "that's what we're here for —to teach and learn. I'm here to help the classroom teachers be the best they can be. We definitely have one of the premiere school districts in the state and to continue that quality is number one."

Another top priority for Dion is to concentrate on how to administer the district. He is impressed with the programs and what he called, "excellent opportunities for kids."

"How do you administer all that through your staff?" he asked. "That's my third challenge —to assimilate into that system and to help continue to make it work positively. It has worked in the past, and I'm here to continue it."

Dion believes that all his goals go hand-in-hand. One thing he does not want to do, however, is to leave any sort of imprint on the district.

"It's not about me," he said. "I don't want to leave a legacy. That's not what I'm about. I never have been. I'm here to help our school district continue their drive for excellence. I'm no different than anyone else."

What are some indicators Dion will use to chart progress in the district? Contract settlements for one. He said that's going to be a challenge, however, because of the way schools are funded with state cutbacks and the current economy.

Another indicator is obviously tudent achievement and test scores. He does want to make it clear, though, that the MEAP test isn't the only assessment tool.

"There are other assessments that we will use in the district to assess how students are learning," Dion said. "I've been very impressed with what I've seen with our administrators in using the assessments and learning. It's going to be an important piece."

Dion is excited about having the opportunity to meet new people, moving to a new area, and seeing and learning how education works in a bigger, high-achieving, fast-growing district like Novi.

Prior to coming to Novi, Dion served as an elementary principal in the Pine River Area School District, the Allegan Public School District and the Forest Hills Public School District for a combined 18 years. He was also superintendent of Birch Run Area Schools and Grosse Ile Township Schools for four years.

"I'm in a position where I can see a child from preschool and kindergarten through 12th grade," Dion said. "I enjoy my job, and I'm really appreciative of the Novi community for hiring me."

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.

Courtesy photo

Novi High School Band Car Wash

Many Novi High School band camp members pitched in to clean some cars recently to raise money for their program.

Courtesy photo

Band boosters golf outing

The Novi High School Band Boosters Golf Outing went off without a hitch recently. Pictured here are: Mark Hourigan, Pat Hourigan, Lee Bonner and Chet Taraskiewicz.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Novi Community School District is requesting bids for a **Radio Broadcasting & Production Facilities**. Requirements are detailed in a request for bid (RFB) document that is available from the District's technology consultant: Innovate - 37558 Hills Tech Drive, Farmington Hills, MI 48331 via email at mdavis@innovateitcg.com.

Sealed proposals for all work described in the RFB will be received at the above location no later than **2:00 p.m. local time on August 30, 2005.**

Absolutely no bids will be accepted after this deadline.

(8-11/18-05 NN 232155)

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please take notice that per Section 380.1272 of the School Code, as amended in December 1993, Novi Community School District will conduct a public hearing to seek input on the feasibility and need of implementing a breakfast program. This public hearing will be held on August 18, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at the Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan 48374-2423.

(8-11-05 NN 231493)

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Allstate Billiards and Patio is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of a tent for a tent sale of merchandise in the parking lot at 26159 Novi Road from September 21 to September 25, 2005.

A public hearing meeting to consider this request will be held at 11:30 am on Thursday, August 18, 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 U. 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

(8-11-05 NN 230299)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ENACTMENT ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18.652

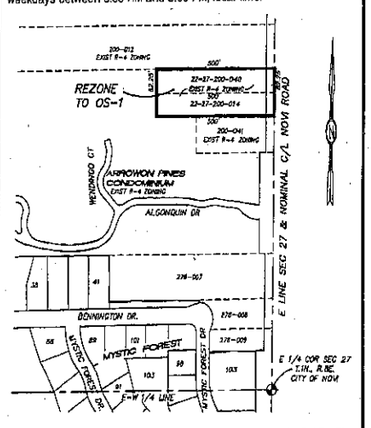
THE CITY OF NOVI ORDAINS:

Part I. That Ordinance No. 97-18, known as the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Novi is hereby amended as indicated on ZONING MAP NO. 18.652, attached hereto and made a part of this Ordinance.

Part II. CONFLICTING PROVISIONS REPEALED. Any Ordinance or parts of any Ordinance in conflict with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Part III. WHEN EFFECTIVE. The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety and is hereby ordered to take effect fifteen (15) days after final enactment. The effective date of this Ordinance is August 9, 2005.

MADE AND PASSED by the City Council of the City of Novi, Michigan this 25th day of July, 2005. Copies of the Ordinance Amendment may be purchased or inspected at the Office of the City Clerk, Novi, Michigan, weekdays between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, local time.



To rezone a part of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 27, T.1N, R.8E., City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, being parcels 22-27-200-014 & -040 more particularly described as follows:

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(8-11-05 NN 232037)

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Novi News

Grace Perez Perry
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Cal Stone
EDITOR

Richard Periberg
GENERAL MANAGER

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

Sobriety Court: Success is sobering

Saving a life is hard work.

Thanks to the Sobriety Court program held at 52-1 District Court in Novi, several lives, including a few from Novi, have been rescued from the abyss better known as substance abuse.

More than 1,200 drunk driving cases pass through the 52-1 courtrooms each year; 36 percent are repeat offenders.

What should that tell us? At the very least, it should tell us that for a significant number conventional punishment isn't working.

For some, the real problem — substance abuse — is neither being addressed, nor solved. Court time, fines and community service are for some simply not enough of a deterrent from making the same mistake twice.

And when more than a third of the offenders are revisiting the courtroom for the same reason — miraculously without having killed or harmed themselves or someone else — we should all get a clue.

Sobriety Court, begun as a pilot program at the hands of 52-1 Judge Brian MacKenzie and adopted by his fellow judges, Dennis Powers and Robert Bondy, is a solid example of making a difference.

The program requires selected repeat offenders to comply with stringent policies: screening, supervision and counseling.

For many, it's an olive branch they dare not refuse, because their alternative is jail. The program strives to accomplish big things — turnaround wayward lives and make a societal difference.

Those who make Sobriety Court work — judges, probation officers, police officers, dedicated participants — deserve a hearty thanks.

Because without a program designed to address serious problem and root them out from beneath life's comfortable couch cushions, no lasting solution will ever be found.

Currently, Sobriety Court's recidivism rate is 2 percent. The goal is zero. That will require hard work.

Then again, when has saving a life required anything less?

Football fund-raiser: Support team while eating well

Don't be alarmed when there's a knock on the door Aug. 20. It's just the Novi Wildcats football players offering restaurant discount cards as a fund-raiser.

The sales will go on from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and the cost of the cards is $10.

It's money well spent and for a good cause, helping the athletic boosters and high school save money while helping those who buy the cards get discounts at such popular Novi restaurants as Gus O'Connor's, Shiro, Ny's Thai Cafe, Novi Pizza Company, Maisano's, Steve and Rocky's, The Bamboo Club, Godaiko, Gatsby's, Athenian Coney Island, Applebee's, Border Cantina and Red, Hot and Blue.

It's $10 that will go a long way in discounts and hopefully help the Novi Wildcats go a long way during their 2005 season.

LETTERS

Bush disregards First Amendment

Once again the Bush administration manipulates words to disguise an ideology which is leading the U. S. toward a theocracy. Bush advocates teaching this "theory" with the theory of evolution in public school science classes. The president is endorsing efforts by Christian conservatives to give creationism / intelligent design equal standing.

The National Academy of Sciences and the American Association for Advancement of Science are opposed to teaching religion in these classes. According to a conservative columnist, "The problem with intelligent-design theory is not that it is false but that it is not falsifiable: Not being susceptible to contradicting evidence, it is not a testable hypothesis. Hence it is not a scientific but a creedal tenet – a matter of faith, unsuited to a public school's science curriculum."

Americans must be aware of this effort and other to destroy the wall between separation of church and state. In Odessa, Texas and in other public schools across the country, Bible study courses are being taught which promote a fundamentalist Christian view and violates religious freedom. The Texas Freedom Network, which includes clergy of several faiths, said the course offered by the Greensboro, N.C.-based National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools is full of errors and dubious research.

The First Amendment to the Constitution states: "Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," yet the executive branch through its policies continues to disregard these words.

Hannah Provence Donigan
Commerce

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

Oil demand will continue to pump up price of gas

The last time I filled up, I paid $2.49 a gallon for regular gas.

Sound familiar?

We better get used to it. The price for a barrel of crude oil on the futures exchange is hovering around $60, a record. To put that in perspective, it was a mere $22 only three years ago.

Who knows what the price of gas will be this time next year? I wouldn't be surprised if it were closer to $3.50 than $2.50. But regardless, one thing is clear: The price of oil is not likely to come down in the foreseeable future.

The reason why is no mystery — though it may not be what you think. Economics 101 teaches that prices reflect the intersection of supply and demand. If you consider only the surging economies of China and India, you have a pretty good idea of what's happening to demand. China, for example, has become the world's second largest importer of oil (after ... guess who?), and now accounts for 40 percent of the demand for petroleum on this planet.

Phil Power

And U.S. demand for oil continues to increase, of course.

As to supply, it's fragile. We all know about how unstable Saudi Arabia and Iraq are and how much the terrorists would like to destabilize oil production throughout the Middle East.

The climate is uneasy in Nigeria, and Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez is talking loudly about cutting the U.S. off the export list.

We're pretty much out of oil in the continental U.S. (drilling in the wildlife refuge north of the Brooks Range in Alaska won't amount to much) while extracting oil inexpensively from the oil sands in Alberta is some years and some new technology away.

So what happens next summer if the price of gas at the pump gets to something like $3.50 a gallon? General Motors and Ford are in deep trouble. The high profit parts of their product lines are gas-guzzling SUVs, and if the price of gas goes that high it's likely demand for them will fall off, big time.

And sadly, the Japanese manufacturers are well ahead of ours in making smaller, high mileage cars and in hybrids.

Now for the good news: Fortunately, there is something that can be done. It's called a sensible, non-oil-based energy policy. Unfortunately, it's something about which the Bush Administration, with its close ties to the oil industry, has done essentially nothing.

So it's interesting that Tim Leuliette, head of Metaldyne Corp., a Plymouth-based auto parts supplier, is calling for a serious national effort to convert 80 percent of U.S. vehicles to hydrogen fuel by 2020. He wants to finance the effort through a 10 cent per gallon tax on gas beginning in 2008, rising by 10 cents each year through 2012, raising $180 billion.

Leuliette is one of the smartest folks in the auto industry around here, and he's not afraid to make his point in blunt terms.

In a speech he gave in January to the Automotive News World Congress, he called President Bush's $1.2 billion Hydrogen Fuel Initiative "a token gesture."

"The conversion to hydrogen offers all of us a golden opportunity to assess who is with us and who is not. The solution will not come from Washington ... but enabling legislation and the money will. This is more important than sending a man to Mars, and it's more important than subsidizing tobacco farmers ... than subsidizing weapons ... (and) than the $15 billion Big Dig in Boston," Leuliette said.

Metaldyne's leader then went on to compare the urgency of the need to solve our energy dependence on foreign oil to the Manhattan Project that produced, at great cost, the atomic bomb before our enemies could get it, exactly 60 years ago.

Tough stuff. And very, very good stuff. Leuliette next wants to pull together key leaders from the auto, energy and finance industries this September to hammer out a coherent policy and put pressure on Washington.

That won't be easy. The auto industry is going through very tough times just now, and most are concentrated on short-term survival. And neither the Congress nor the White House seems to be very interested in attending to the long-term interests of the country.

I should know, because a few years ago with a friend, Paul Dimond, I tried to do much the same thing ... without success. We figured it was time to do something to mark the fact that our own John Dingell was celebrating a milestone anniversary as a member of Congress. We figured a big-time research effort to accelerate the conversation of automobile power trains to hydrogen was important, and we proposed a joint government and auto industry laboratory be set up at the University of Michigan to get on with it.

Although he made clear he didn't want his name on it, Dingell was helpful, and the U-M was interested. We had several meetings with representatives of the Big Three.

But, frankly, it was like wading through molasses. The auto companies, while never saying explicitly they didn't like the idea, made it clear they had other priorities — like short-term survival.

So we finally gave up.

Leuliette's got a rough ride ahead of him. Obviously, there are intrinsic problems with making hydrogen into the main fuel source for cars: How to generate the hydrogen in the first place? How to distribute and store it? How to use it safely and efficiently in a car?

But these are engineering and technical questions for which answers presumably can be found. Issues that require political will and risk-taking, both in the auto industry and in Washington, are often far more serious problems.

Maybe if gas gets to $3.50 a gallon, our nation's leaders will hear the people squawking and actually do something. Maybe. But meanwhile, I'll be rooting for Tim Leuliette, and I hope you will be, too.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@licnet.com.

It's the everyday people we want

I'd seen Anthony Lolli walking around town, but I never knew who he was, at least not until last week when one of our reporters, Ramez Khuri, interviewed him.

The story kicked off a new feature for this newspaper. Your Novi Neighbors.

The concept is simple – present the stories of everyday people.

Cal Stone

Yes, we all know about the mayor, the school superintendent and the chamber president because they appear in these pages regularly.

But what about the woman who greets customers as they walk into the local Meijer store? Or the bus driver who waves to parents every morning as he picks up their children?

There's an old saying – everybody has a story to tell, and it's true. Take a look at the story on our front page this week about the Korean War veteran who finally received the Purple Heart. That's an incredible story!

At the bottom of that page is our second installment of the weekly Your Novi Neighbors feature, Gerry Stipp. I've seen her at countless Rotary and Michigan 50's Festival meetings, but I never really knew anything about Gerry either. Not until Ramez told her story.

I envy him because he gets the privilege of telling you about your neighbors, the people who are the fabric of this community. It just takes the time to listen, and people will open up.

For example, I just went on a weeklong fishing trip in Canada with my dad. I knew some of his sports background, but he rarely talked about it. So we're shooting the breeze, reeling in walleyes, and he says, "I used to pitch batting practice to Stan Musial when I played with the St. Louis Browns."

Hello! Stan the Man! I knew I should have brought a tape recorder because tale after tale came pouring out after that.

Who's a "neighbor" you know who we should write about? Let me know so we can share their stories with everyone. Remember, everyone has a story to tell.

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

Move it on over: Catholic Central set to open its new Novi digs this Monday

Make room, Novi High – a brand new educational facility is set to open right down the street this coming Monday.

Located at 27225 Wixom Road, in Novi, the new Catholic Central High School brings a rich tradition of excellence in academics and sports to Novi.

In order to familiarize its new facility to its students and families, Catholic Central held a "low-key" open house on Aug. 7.

Ramez Khuri

Dan Collins, a 1984 graduate of Catholic Central who is now director of admissions and public relations, said that the day was intended for incoming and returning students and their families to get a chance to finally have a walk-through right before school starts.

"There has been so much anticipation over this building and because of the timing and construction, our own students, except for a few who have been here working over the summer, haven't had a chance to see the place," Collins said. "We didn't want a bunch of guys walking in the first day and being so starry-eyed that we couldn't get anything done during orientation."

Collins went on to explain that Catholic Central High School has a storied history and a very passionate alumni base. In fact, the alumni is responsible for providing funds to build the campus.

"Short of the land donated by Frank and Coleen Pellerito, a local business man, everything else was paid for by our alumni," Collins said. "The building is living proof of their passion for the school."

This year's enrollment at Catholic Central is most likely going to be between 900 and 920 students —less than half of Novi High School's. Other than size, however, there are many differences and similarities between the two schools.

Obviously, Catholic Central is a religious school and an all-boys facility, while Novi High is public and co-ed. But the differences don't just end there.

Collins was very complimentary when speaking of Novi High School.

"Our competition in this community is second to none from a school standpoint," he said. "Novi High School is a dramatically bigger high school, and it's very good academically compared to some other schools. It's not like we're coming in as a school, that is an exceptional academic school, to replace something or be an option instead of Novi High School."

The big difference, according to Collins, is the history. He also said that students who attend CC go through a faith formation over the course of the four years. There's a major focus on not only preparing students academically for college, but also preparing them from a spiritual and a character standpoint – how to be the right kind of young men, to be disciplined, to be willing to make sacrifices and to work hard.

That's not so say Novi High doesn't teach character. In fact, covering the Novi Community School District for about three years now, I can honestly say that every school in the district, from elementary on up, does that very well.

I believe that competition is good in this sense. Novi should be proud to have two academically excellent schools in its backyard. Now it's up to the citizens to decide which to enroll in.

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.

You can find the Novi News online at www.novinews.com

CALENDAR

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

EVENTS

Lakes Area Alano Club Fund-raiser

DATE: Aug. 6-7
TIME: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
LOCATION: 53510 Grand River, #12, New Hudson
DETAILS: Drop donations off before sale or $10 to rent table. Items include clothes, bikes and toys. Fund-raiser to raise money for Alano Club building.
CONTACT: (248) 807-6121

Novi Theaters Productions

LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0400
Summer Camp; Kids on Broadway
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 12 and Saturday, Aug. 13; 2 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 14
Senior Variety Series; Kicks on Route 66
TIME/DATE: noon, Thursdays, Sept. 8, 15; Fridays, Sept. 9, 16; and 2 p.m., Sundays, Sept. 11, 18

Lindsey Hunter at Better Health

DATE: Saturday, Aug. 13
TIME: 3-4 p.m.
LOCATION: Better Health, 42875 Grand River in Novi
DETAILS: Fan-favorite and long-time Detroit Piston star Lindsey Hunter will sign free autographs.
CONTACT: (248) 344-0040 or visit www.thebetterhealthstores.com.

Wildcats Football Fund-raiser

DATE: Saturday, Aug. 20
TIME: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi neighborhoods
DETAILS: The 2005 Novi Wildcats High School Football Teams are offering a Restaurant Discount card. The Teams will be selling cards for $10 each. Cards may be used for discounts on food through the end of the year at the following local Novi Restaurants: Border Cantina, Gus O'Connor's, Shiro, Red, Hot and Blue, Ny's Thai Café, Novi Pizza Company, Maisano's, Steve and Rocky's, The Bamboo Club, Goddaiko, Gatsby's, Athenian Coney Island and Applebee's.

Novi High School Band Boosters Road Rally

DATE: Saturday Aug. 20
TIME: 5:30 p.m. check-in, 6 start
LOCATION: Novi High School, 10 Mile Road parking lot.
DETAILS: $10 a person. (Food can be purchased at final destination)
CONTACT: Lori Heinowski (248) 347-0169 or Cathy Gee (248) 344-1344

Lakes Area Alano Club Pig Roast

DATE: Saturday, Aug. 27
TIME: noon-1 a.m.
LOCATION: 1485 Oakley Park Road, Commerce Township, Ralph C. Richardson Comunity Center, across from Walled Lake Central High School
DETAILS: This is a fund-raiser for Alano Club building and includes bike show and prizes, dunk tank, moon walk, petting farm, various speakers and 9 p.m., dancing with a DJ.
CONTACT: (248) 366-0785 or (248) 807-6121

Animal Care Fair

DATE: Saturday, Aug. 27 and Sunday, Aug. 28
TIME: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
LOCATION: Southfield Municipal Complex, 26000 Evergreen Road
DETAILS: Michigan Humane Society's 14th annual fair, including adoptable animals, pet products, and animal team demonstrations. Admission and parking are free.
CONTACT: www.michiganhumane.org

Walk for Diabetes

DATE: September 24 and 25
LOCATION: September 24, Belle Isle and Stony Creek Metropark; September 25, Kensington and Lake Erie metroparks
DETAILS: America's Walk is an event of the American Diabetes Association. Funds raised are used toward diabetes research, advocacy, programs and events.
CONTACT: (888) DIABETES or visit www.diabetes.org

SCHOOL/ GOVERNMENT

Wixom City Council

DATE: Tuesdays, Aug. 9, 23; Sept. 13, 27; Oct. 11, 25; Nov. 9, 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: Mondays, Aug. 22; Sept. 12 and 26; Oct. 10 and 24; Nov. 14 and 28; Dec. 5 and 19
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 344-0470

Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursdays, Aug. 18, Sept. 8 and 22
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Educational Services building, 25345 Taft Road
CONTACT: (248) 449-1200.

BUSINESS

Chamber Chat

DATE: Tuesday, Aug. 16
TIME: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
LOCATION: Held at the Lakes Area Chamber office at 305 N. Pontiac Trail, Ste B, Walled Lake
DETAILS: An opportunity to enjoy lunch and networking while sharing thoughts, ideas, successes and even failures. Space is limited to the first 20 registrations. Reservations are necessary; $10 per person, includes lunch. Sponsored by: Comerica Bank - Commerce Twp.
CONTACT: Please call the Lakes ARea Chamber office at 248-624-2826.

Small Business Association Seminar

DATE: Tuesday, Aug. 23
TIME: 9 a.m.-noon
LOCATION: Michigan Small Business Technology Development Center, 301 W. Michigan Ave., Suite 101, Ypsilanti
DETAILS: This seminar will include learning what is required from a lender, including how a lender analyzes a loan request and is free of charge.
CONTACT: Melinda Beattie, 734-547-9170

Oakland County Business Workshops

LOCATION: Oakland County complex, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac
CONTACT: (248) 858-0883
How to Write a Business Plan
DATE: Thursday, Aug. 11
TIME: 9 a.m.-noon
DETAILS: For small business owners who are developing a plan to serve as their road map to success
Small Business Loan Workshop
DATE: Thursday, Aug. 18
TIME: 8:45 a.m.-noon
DETAILS: Finance options for small business owners.

Oakland County Business Women's Conference

DATE: Tuesday, Aug. 16
TIME: 1-4:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Royal Park Hotel, Rochester
DETAILS: Designed to provide women in business with tools to increase profitability and make key decisions and will feature keynote speaker Mary Kramer, of Crain's Detroit Business.
CONTACT: www.co.oakland.mi.us/peds/calendar

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Events

LOCATION: 305 N. Pontiac Trail, Suite B, Walled Lake
CONTACT: (248) 624-2826
Chamber Chat
DATE: Tuesday, Aug. 16
TIME: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
LOCATION: Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, 305 N. Pontiac Trail, Suite B, Walled Lake
Evening Connection
DATE: Thursday, Aug. 18
TIME: 5:30-7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Masserman Photography, 8585 PGA Drive, Suite 102, Walled Lake

Business Referrals

DATE: every Wednesday
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 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

CLASSES

Learning about Iatrans

DATE: Saturday, Aug. 13, 2005
TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Lyon Oaks Nature Center, 52221 Pontiac Trail
DETAILS: Coyotes, Canis latrans, are survivors and a wildlife success story. Learn more about this adaptable member of the dog family. Cost is $1 per person.
CONTACT: Pre-register by calling (248) 437-7345. Cost: $1/person.

Build Your Own Home

DATE: Tuesday and Thursday, Sept. 6, 8, 13 and 15
TIME: 6-10 p.m.
LOCATION: Department of Parks & Recreation, 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom.
DETAILS: City of Wixom Parks & Recreation in cooperation with Oakland Builders Institute will offer a 16-hour seminar, How To Build Your Own Home. Designed for those who want to contract their own home construction as well as those who want to work with a builder, the course details each stage of construction as well as your rights and responsibilities. The course covers home financing, the building process, builder's terms and contracts as well as building codes, insurance requirements and much more. Many handouts and guidance from an instructor who is also a builder. The seminar costs $190 plus $30 for two textbooks to teacher. Preregistration with payment is required no later than Friday, Sept. 2.
CONTACT: Please call (248) 624-2850 to register.

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. 10 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: 1-2:30 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. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, closed during the summer.
DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

Help Match the Walker Million Online!

DETAILS: You now can make a donation online to help the library match the $1 million Walker challenge grant. Just go to the Web site (http://novi.lib.mi.us), and select the "Make a Donation" button on the homepage.

Movie Day @ NPL

DATE: Wednesday, Aug. 17
TIME: 1 p.m.
DETAILS: Take a break for a G-rated movie. Bring your own pillow or blanket, and we'll supply the snacks. For kids in kindergarten and up; no registration.

Library Board Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, Aug. 24
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Activities Room, Novi City Hall
DETAILS: Community members are welcome to attend. Note: This meeting was rescheduled from its original date of Aug. 17, 2005. Due to a previously scheduled Planning Commission meeting in City Council Chambers (the Board's customary meeting site) that will be broadcast live on cable, the August Library Board meeting will not be televised.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Friendship Circle

DATE: meetings second Thursday of each month
TIME: 1 p.m.
LOCATION: St. James Catholic Church, 46325 10 Mile Road, between Taft and Beck roads.
DETAILS: Social group for all widows and widowers.
CONTACT: Norbert Monson, (248) 851-6730, Florence Voight, (248) 477-3032 or Joy Iovaldi, (248) 348-9138, joyiovaldi@earthlink.net

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@sbcglobal.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

continued on page 16

Play & Stay for only $109 U.S.*
Enjoy a midweek getaway (Sun-Thurs) in our four-diamond hotel for $109 U.S.*. This great room rate includes FREE Valet Parking and is available until September 30, 2005.
For reservations call 1-800-991-8888, reply code: STAY.
Know Your Limit, Play Within It! 1-888-200-3505 Ontario Problem Gambling HelpLine. *Room rates may vary based on exchange rate. Per night, plus taxes, double occupancy. Anytime rooms only. Additional person $25 Can. Cancel by 6 p.m. on arrival date or full rate will be charged. Must be 18 years of age. Subject to availability and blackout dates. Not valid with other promotions. Caesars Windsor reserves the right to cancel or change these promotions without prior notice. www.caesarswindsor.com
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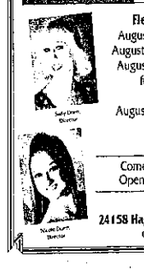
Flex Point PAC Registration Dates Are:
August 8th...Dance Company Registration...1-7pm
August 9th...Returning Students Registration...1-7pm
August 10th & 11th...Open House and Registration for NEW and Returning Students...1-7pm
"2 Inspire U" Dance Workshop:
August 22nd-25th and August 29th-September 1st*
*Required for Company Members
Classes begin September 12th
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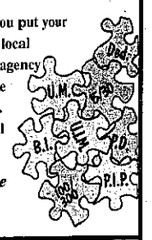

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Fox Run's Center for Continuous Learning features
Osvaldo "Ozzie" Rivera
Director of Multicultural Affairs
Madonna University
Presenting a multimedia review on the History of African Hispanic Music
On Monday, August 15, 2005
10:30 a.m.
FOX RUN
41100 Fox Run Road
(off 41000 13 Mile Road)
Novi, Michigan 48377
1-800-843-1433
Cost: $5.00 (check made payable to Fox Run), a light luncheon is included. Pre-registration required by Thursday 8/11/05. Please include your telephone number with payment.
FRV 5171337
Erickson Retirement Communities

CALENDAR

continued from page 15

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, 25075 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.

Adoption Playgroup

DATE: first and third Fridays of the month
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church (on Meadowbrook Road between 10 Mile Road and Grand River Avenue)
DETAILS: A nonprofit, non-denominational 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

HEALTH

Oakland County Health Division Classes

DATES: Aug. 16
TIME: 10:30 a.m.-noon
LOCATION: Huron-Valley Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce
DETAILS: Breast-feeding support series.
CONTACT: (248) 858-4003 to register or for more information

Providence Medical Center/Heart Institute Classes

LOCATION: Providence Park, Novi, 47601 Grand River Ave.
CONTACT: (888) 444-7325, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Yoga Classes
DATES/TIMES: Mondays, 1:30-2:30 p.m.; Fridays, noon-1:30 p.m.
DETAILS: The cost is $10/walk-ins or 10 class card for $80. If you are interested in battling fatigue, calming your nerves or reducing stress, this is the class for you.

Providence Center for the Healing Arts-Boost Camp Day

DATE: Friday, September 9
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 valuable tools, information and a new perspective on healthier living through wholeness. Open to the public. The cost is $50 per person, which includes lunch and materials. Registration is required.
CONTACT: (248)465-5455

ONGOING

Cool Car Cruise

DATE: every Wednesday through October
TIME: 5 p.m., rain or shine
LOCATION: Motor City Steel, 2111 Haggerty Road, Commerce Township.
DETAILS: All cool cars welcome regardless of year, '50s, '60s, '70s, and '80s music by TJ the DJ, lots of free giveaways including 50/50 and free T-shirts to the first 75 car owners.
CONTACT: (248) 668-1144

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.
CONTACT: Melissa Cohn, (248) 473-2840

GOLF OUTINGS

Novi Chamber of Commerce Tycoon Tee-Off

DATE: Thursday, Aug. 11
TIME: 8:30 a.m. check-in; 9:30 a.m. shotgun start
LOCATION: Moose Ridge (11801 Doane Rd., South Lyon)
DETAILS: Scramble format and rules; lunch at the turn; contest holes; games and prizes; 18 holes; and dinner immediately following.
CONTACT: (248) 349-3743

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.

Computer Sale

DATE: Aug. 12-14
TIME: Friday, noon-8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
DETAILS: Cost is $8; parking, $5
CONTACT: (612) 788-1901 or visit www.supercomputersale.com

Grand Opening Rock Financial Showplace

DATE: Friday, Aug. 26 (by invitation only), and Saturday, Aug. 27 (open to the public)
TIME/S: Aug. 26: 3 p.m. ribbon cutting; 4:30 p.m., facility christening; 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m., "The Show of Shows"; 6:30 p.m., Dinner Gala; 8 p.m., program; 9 p.m., headliner entertainment. Aug. 27: 10 a.m., Showplace open to the public free of charge; 7 p.m., opening act entertainment; 8 p.m., headliner entertainment; 9:45 p.m., fireworks.
DETAILS: Sponsorships are available at a variety of levels. Some sponsorship packages include dinner tickets for the Aug. 26 invitation-only gala.
CONTACT: Anne Sloney, (248) 348-5600, Ext. 210

Abilities Expo

DATE: Aug. 26-28
TIME: Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
DETAILS: Free with coupon, available on Web site. Dedicated to educating and improving the lives of people with disabilities, senior citizens, their families and caregivers, as well as healthcare and educational professionals. Discover new products and services.
CONTACT: (800) 736-7170 or visit www.abilitiesexpo.com

Photo by Linda Wickert

Kids on Broadway

Novi Theaters Productions first-ever five-week performance camp, starring 82 kids, features songs, dances and scenes from a variety of Broadway shows – "Hairspray," "Annie," "The Sound of Music," "The Wizard of Oz" and more. Performances are Aug. 12 at 7:30 p.m. and Aug. 13 and 14 at 2 p.m. Reserved seating tickets are $17. Shows are at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. Call (248) 347-0400 for more information.

KIDS CONCERT SERIES

Most of the Novi Parks and Recreation Department's Kid's Concert Series will take place every Thursday night at 7 p.m. throughout the summer, starting tonight at Lakeshore Park. However, the last concert of the series, on Aug. 18, will be held at Providence Park starting at 5:30 p.m.

• **Aug. 11: Pippin Puppets** — These puppets have performed all over southeast Michigan including the Michigan Renaissance Festival. This new show will have the audience taking part.

• **Aug. 18: Chautauqua Express and the Novi Concert** Band — The entire audience will have their feet tapping. This show promises to be entertaining and interactive. Everyone from toddlers to grandparents will enjoy this evening.

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.

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Registration begins August 15 for 6-Week Fall Session!
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Plan it • Customize it • Enjoy it
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Space Reservation Deadline: Monday, Aug 15th, 2005
Copy Deadline: Tuesday, Aug 16th, 2005
Publication Date: Thursday, Sept 15th, 2005
Oakland: Milford Times, South Lyon Herald, Northville Record, Novi News
Livingston: Livingston County Daily Press & Argus
Contact your sales representative to reserve your space!
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FAITH

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

• **Meadowbrook Congregational Church** invites everyone to attend a Sunday worship service at 10 a.m.
The church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight Mile and Nine Mile roads. Call (248) 348-7757.

• **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 10 a.m. worship service. (The nursery is coordinated by a registered pediatric nurse.)
Adult Bible Study is Sundays at 9 a.m. Worship Center for children ages 3-7, and Sunday School is at 10 a.m.
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. Youth Worship Service is held at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Sunday of every month; all are welcome.
Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross is located at 40700 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi. Call (248) 427-1175 or visit www.churchoftheholycross.com.

• **Faith Community Presbyterian Church** invites you to worship at 10 a.m. Sunday school and nursery care is offered each Sunday.
The Empty Nesters, our adult fellowship group, will be enjoying each other's company at Kensington Metropark for a boat cruise and dinner.
The church houses the Novi Emergency Food Program, a food bank that has been serving the hungry of Novi, New Hudson, and Wixom for over 25 years.
AA meetings are held each Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m.
Dr. Henderson is leading a class on world religions at 7 p.m. on Tuesday nights. The cost is $5 to cover materials.
The ongoing women's Bible study is 10 a.m. on Wednesdays and 7 p.m. on Thursdays.
The church is located at 44400 W. 10 Mile Road in Novi. Call (248) 349-2345.

• **The Holy Family Church** is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Road, between Grand River Avenue and 10 Mile Road. Call (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org.

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

• **St. James Catholic Church** is located at 46325 10 Mile Road, Novi. Call (248) 347-7778.

• **First United Methodist Church of Northville** worship hour schedules are as follows: 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Sunday. The church is located at 777 W. Eight Mile Road (at Taft Road), Northville. Phone (248) 349-1144.

• **St. John Lutheran Church** is located at 23225 Gill Road in Farmington Hills. Summer services are at 9:15 and 11 a.m. (except for Sept. 4, which is 9:15 a.m. only). Nursery is provided. Call (248) 474-0584 for more information.

• **Church of the Holy Cross** is located at 40700 W. 10 Mile Road (between Meadowbrook and Haggerty roads). 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 13 Mile Road. For more information, call (248) 427-2700 or www.crosspointemeadows.org.

• **The Novi United Methodist Church** is located at 41671 W. 10 Mile Road. Sunday worship is at 9:45 a.m. with Rev. Jacqueline E. Holdsworth. Call (248) 349-2652 for more information.

Compiled by Ramez Khuri

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- Ny's Thai Cafe: Dinner for two $20 value
- GiGi & Co: $120 value John Sahag gift set/ hair cut and style (3) 1 color and hair color.
- Curves : 2 Month memberships (3)
- Novi Pizza Company: $75 value party size lasagna with salad tray (feeds 15-18)
- China Cafe: Red Wings Manny Legace autographed hockey stick and puck/China Cafe Gift card.
- Palms Tanning and Spa: One Free Hour Massage (Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2005)
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SENIORS

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

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Fox Run Senior Center's Andrea Peragine, right, laughs with resident Charlotte Seitz as she prepares flowers for the dining room's tables. Peragine, Fox Run's Community Resources Manager, is one of the many employees who rated the Novi business a top place to work, earning it kudos from Crain's Detroit Business.

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Friday 8/12

8:45 a.m. ..... Panera Bread
9 a.m. ..... Stretch and Strength
10-11 a.m. ..... Jack Main, Medicare
10 a.m. ..... Body Recall
noon ..... Lunch/clogging*
12:30 p.m. ..... Bingo
12:30 p.m. ..... Duplicate Bridge*
2-2:30 p.m. ..... Massage/Healing Touch

Monday 8/15

8:45 a.m. ..... Men's Golf
9 a.m. ..... Stretch and Strength
10 a.m. ..... Body Recall
noon ..... Lunch
12:30 p.m. ..... Pinochle*
2-2:30 p.m. ..... Massage/Healing Touch
2-3:30 p.m. ..... Tea-$1 at door, Harpist Katherine Oppermann
6:30 p.m. ..... Clogging*

Tuesday 8/16

9 a.m. ..... Panera Bread
9 a.m. ..... Line Dance
10 a.m. ..... Asian Pacific
10:30 a.m. ..... Bookmobile
11 a.m. MPRO Presentation on Medicare Rights and Staying Healthy
noon ..... Lunch
12:30 p.m. ..... Bingo
2-2:30 p.m. ..... Massage/Healing Touch

Wednesday 8/17

9 a.m. ..... Stretch and Strength
9 a.m. ..... Women's Golf
10 a.m. ..... Body Recall
11 a.m. ..... Blood pressure
11 a.m. ..... Taking Off Pounds Sensibly class
noon ..... Lunch
12:30 p.m. ..... Clogging*
2 p.m. ..... Ice Cream Social-bring your grandchildren
2-2:30 p.m. ..... Massage/Healing Touch
2-4 p.m. ..... Estate Planning by Appointment
Castles,Chariots and Sinners Trip

Thursday 8/18

9 a.m. ..... Line dance*
9 a.m. ..... Mixed Golf
9:30 a.m. ..... Travel Meeting
noon ..... Lunch
12:15 ..... Bridge*
1-2 p.m. ..... Line dance cancelled
1 p.m. ..... Clogging Demonstration
2-2:30 p.m. ..... Massage/Healing Touch
7 p.m. ..... Novi Concert Band at Providence Park
Put In Bay Trip

**Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Phone (248) 347-0414.*

Fun and laughs on the job

■ Working at senior center is cool to do

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Jan Pickell could have lost her husband if it wasn't for the emergency medical team at Fox Run, Novi's upscale retirement community.

Pickell, 73, believes if she were still living in her Beverly Hills home, her best friend would no longer be with her.

For such heartfelt reasons, Pickell is grateful to be a Fox Run resident and happy that her family has become 10 times bigger.

"We are one big happy family here," Pickell said. "Not just with our neighbors, but with the employees."

Employees at Fox Run sure aren't complaining. In fact, Fox Run was just named "Cool Places to Work" in a competition created by Crain's Detroit Business, the Grand Rapids Journal, the American Society of Employers and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

Mike McCormick, executive director for Fox Run, stands true to the philosophy that Fox Run can't be a great place to live if it isn't a great place to work.

"We want this place to be fun and invigorating, for both residents and employees," McCormick said. "If our employees enjoy working here, then that opens our residents up to also have fun and enjoy being here."

Fox Run opened in 2003 by its parent company, Erickson Retirement Communities of Baltimore, Md. Erickson not only makes sure its residents are taken care of, but also its employees.

"One day we came in and all hourly employees were given $400 bonus checks," said Kathie Shaffer, public relations manager for Fox Run.

Fox Run also has a staff appreciation fund each year financed by the residents. Employees are not allowed to accept tips, but Shaffer said in order to make up for this, residents decided to create a fund that gave a little extra money to employees at Christmastime.

Also funded by Fox Run residents is a scholarship program for junior and senior students in Novi that work in the retirement community. Students who have worked 500 hours for two consecutive years can receive a $4,000 scholarship to the school of their choice.

"The residents are a key element in making this a cool place to work at," Shaffer said.

McCormick said he tells new employees to "bring themselves to work."

"We don't want to just know what you can do, but who you are," McCormick said. "The relationships between the residents and staff are very cool.

"Fox Run isn't just your typical work environment – We laugh and look for good times."

Tracy Mishler can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 107 or at tmishler@hi.homecomm.net.

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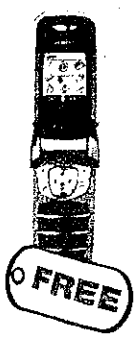

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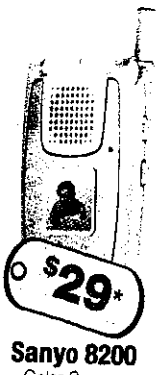

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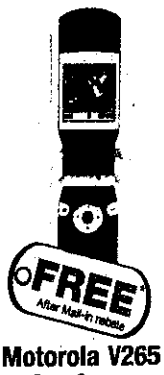

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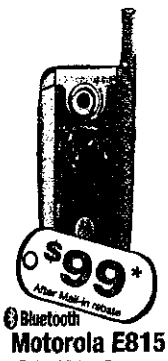

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Sweating the day away

The beauty about August is it's one of the hottest months of the year. It's also when football season starts. The Novi Wildcats were running drills and sweating buckets Monday during the first day of practice.

— Page 3B

Tasty!

What's better than a good meal? Few things. Check out our suggestions and recipes in this week's "In the Kitchen" for some great ideas on how to make your life just that much better tasting!

— Page 5B

SPORTS

Regional Marketplace

Located in the Sports Club of Novi, the Metropolitan DanCentre offers a complete range of dance classes in jazz, tap, hip-hop and lyrical for students of all ages ranging from two through adult and beginning to advanced levels.

— Page 6B

Wildcats still find ways to have fun

As he tipped the green Gatorade cup to his lips, John Favorite couldn't help but smile.

The Novi senior, who will most likely be starting both ways this season, grinned as linebacker John Brown mentioned there was no better was to be seen in the newspaper during football than drinking a cup of water.

But being in the newspaper was the last thing on Favorite's — and the rest of the Novi Wildcats' — mind. There was work to be done and in the morning they did the work through physical drills then a break with some mental conditioning and then back to the heat of the August afternoon and more drills.

Sam Eggleston

"I could really use you right now," assistant coach Jeff Burnside joked as he walked by with his crew of offensive and defensive linemen.

Somehow, through the thick of practice and the sweltering heat, joking was an underlying stress reliever. Head coach Tab Kellepourey started down the field and barked at his offensive coordinator and long-time friend, John Osborne.

"Why don't you bring your offense over here so we can run some drills together?"

"This is some serious stuff," Osborne quipped back. "We don't need your 'amateur hour' messing things up for us."

The mood was light, but serious. It was one that was, unfortunately, not repeated much throughout the football fields across the state on the first-day of practice. Where most teams were being pushed to the point of exhaustion and puking, the Novi Wildcats were working hard but finding the right mix of breaks and potential first-string and second-string players taking turns at the drills.

Some players were already showing the leadership skills that will be necessary to help the Wildcats to a sixth-straight playoff appearance under the guidance of Kellepourey. Dan Sprys, Favorite and Brandon Carnegie were playing high intensity football despite the lack of pads and a true game-style scenario.

Other players weren't faring so well. Osborne let one player know the importance of summer workouts and turned around to give helpful instruction to another. Kellepourey growled at a few of his defensive players but helped another with his "play-calling homework." Even Burnside managed to snarl a little at a player who took off his helmet before joking.

"Why is your helmet off?" he asked. "Do you see my hat off?"

Everyone stood silently, looking at the returning All-Star assistant coach.

"I just thought I'd ask," he said, smiling.

Then, he got them back to work.

The Novi Wildcats football program has been built on the backs of hard-working players who have come and gone. This year's team knows they have to find a way to build on that success and add their own brick to the structure that is Novi football.

"They're a good group of kids," said coach Kevin Etue of his freshman football team. "It should be a fun season."

And fun, the Wildcats showed even in their first practice of the year, is what it's all about.

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

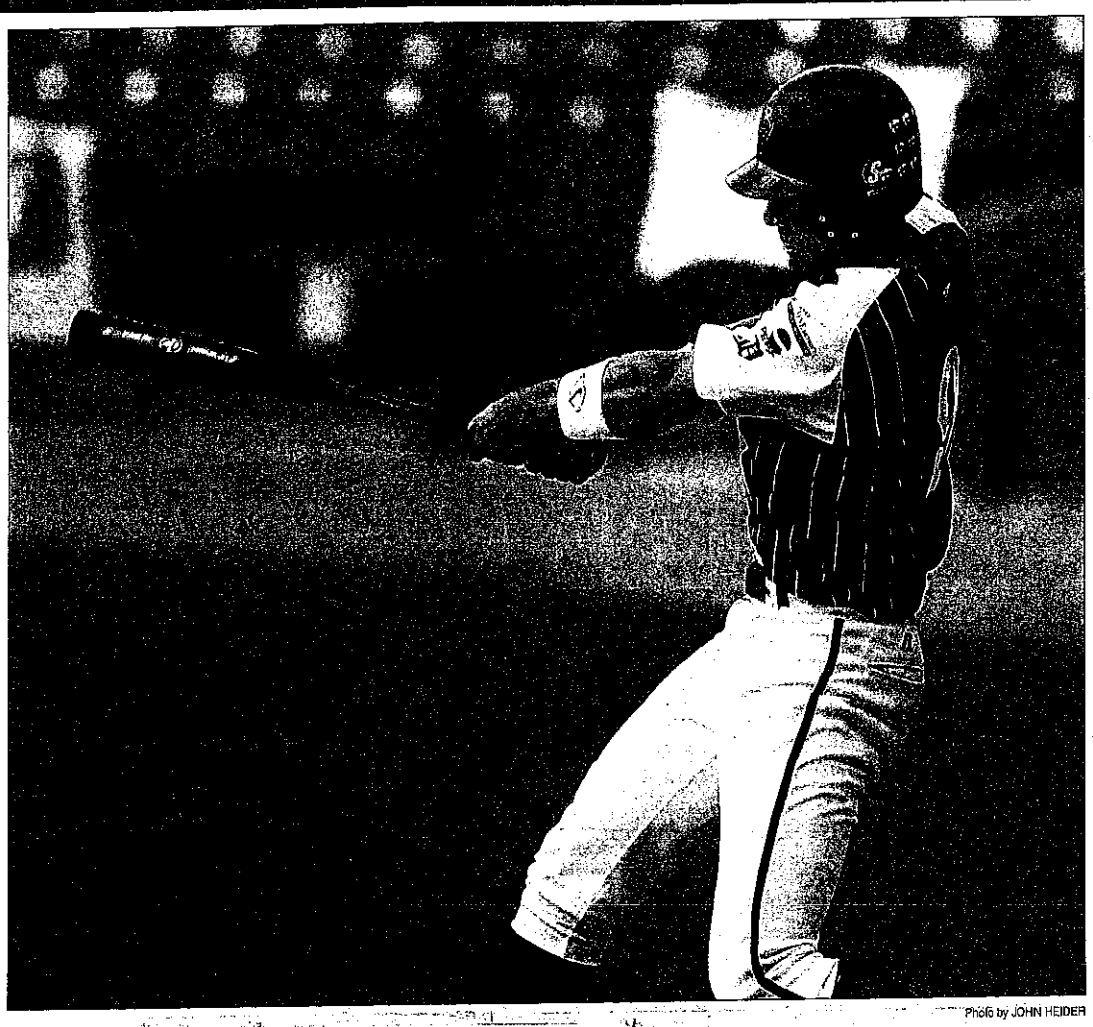


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi's Kevin Cislo gets a base hit on this at bat during last Friday's all star game in Detroit.

Cislo cherishes All-Star moments

■ Novi standout plays final high school game before preparing for U-M baseball

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Novi graduate Kevin Cislo took a seat on the bench and watched as his replacement made six quick errors.

It was the Negro League Celebrations High School All-Star game and Cislo had been selected by the Detroit Tigers to play. He took third base — a far cry from his normal position at shortstop — and then remained idle as every ball was hit away from him.

"That's just my luck," said Cislo. "Then they take me out and the kid who replaced me had six or seven hits to him and made an error on every single on of them.

"I didn't even get a ball."

But Cislo had a ball. He said the All-Star game, much like the two he had already played in, was a lot of fun.

The players were some of the best in the state, sans names like Zach Putnam and Matt Williams who joined their Michigan Braves team for a World Series tournament in Arizona. Cislo said he didn't mind.

"I got to meet some new people who hadn't played in the last All-Star game," he said. "It was pretty fun."

Swing for the fences

The All-Star game found Cislo taking one practice with his team, the Nationals, and then watched a homerun hitting contest that included some of his peers.

The game was a good one with the Nationals taking an early 5-0 lead before dropping the game to the Americans, 7-5.

"We were leading and then they replaced all of the starters," he said. "After that, the American team just dominated us."

Cislo went 2-for-3 in the contest and said, overall, he was happy with his performance.

"It was a lot like any other game," he said. "You're just out there playing around with some other kids. Everyone was pretty talented. It was a lot of fun being a part of another All-Star game."

The Tigers also gave each player tickets to their contest the following night against the Cleveland Indians.

A true all-star

Novi graduate Kevin Cislo has always been the definition of an all-star player.

Be it football or baseball, he has stood out above the rest his senior year.

Cislo was named to the All-Area team for football and was selected to the football All-Star contest.

In baseball he was All-State first team, All-State Dream Team, All-Area Player of the Year and went to three All-Star games.

The big time

The biggest thrill for Cislo was playing at Comerica Park again.

The home of the Tigers is the smoothest, most well maintained field Cislo has ever played on.

"Playing on a field like that is just amazing," he said. "It's a great experience. You don't get to do that every day when you play summer ball."

Yet Cislo knows he won't be playing on the shabbiest field when he takes to the diamond for the University of Michigan Wolverines come spring. The All-Area, All-State and Dream Team selection earned a scholarship with the maize and blue. He hopes to make an impact as quickly as he can but knows there's still plenty of work to be done if he hopes to excel at that level.

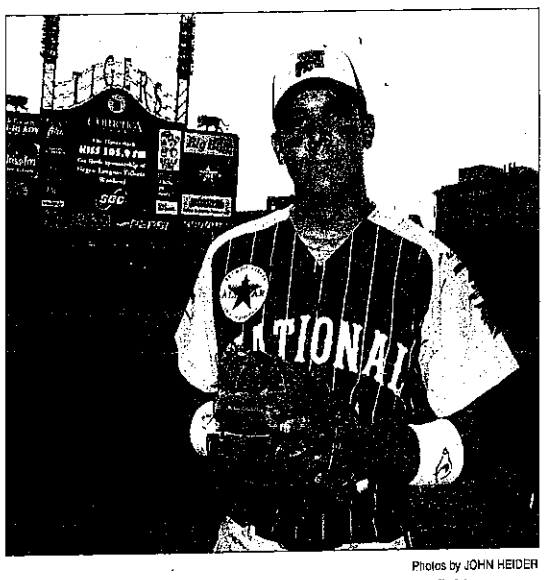
That's the future. Cislo is more focused on the now. The standout shortstop was in Pennsylvania for a World Series tournament with his team, the Michigan Rams. Unfortunately, he wasn't able to get any playing in due to rain.

"We'll get to it," he said.

He added that this summer — the Rams, three All-Star games and a nod to the All-Star football game — has been one of the best for him.

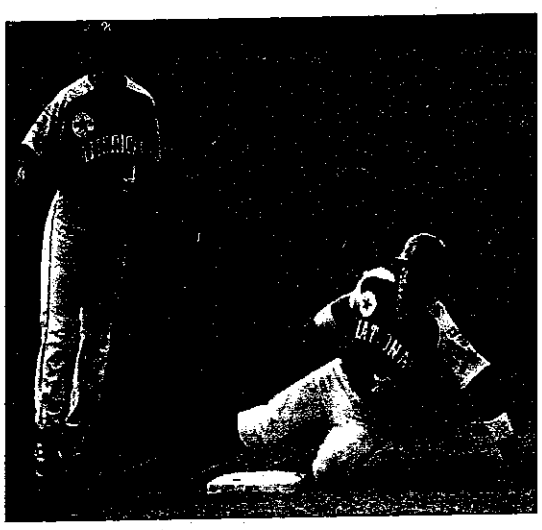
"You can't ask for a much better way to spend your summer," he said. "Playing baseball and having a great time."

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



Photos by JOHN HEIDER

ABOVE: Novi Wildcat alumni Kevin Cislo stands in the infield at Comerica Park in Detroit. BELOW: Cislo is forced out at second base.



Sports Shorts

Two players needed

The Michigan Wolves U14 travel baseball team will be holding tryouts the last weekend in August. Needed are two solid players. The Michigan Wolves U13 team finished 43-6 for the 2005 season winning several tournaments, including a fifth place overall out of 40 teams in the AAYBA World Series in St. Louis. For more information, visit www.miwolves.com or call Tim at (734) 645-9033.

Baseball tryouts

The U18 Michigan Indians baseball club will be holding player evaluations Aug. 19-20 at Hillside Field on Eight Mile Road, just west of Center Street in Northville. The evaluations will take place 5:30-7:30 p.m. the first day and from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. the second.

Players are drawn from across the state and coaches ask for advance tryout notice from interested players.

For more information, please contact Carl Patterson at (248) 349-4973 or via e-mail at carveballcp@comcast.net.

Cross country

The Novi Wildcats will begin boys cross country tryouts Aug. 15 at Novi High School. Runners will meet in the visitor's locker room below the school's weight room.

Interested athletes should be in 9-12 grades, have a proof of a physical and come ready to run. The only prerequisite is a desire to train hard and to be a part of Novi's winning tradition.

For more information, please contact Robert Smith at (248) 437-4922.

Adult hockey leagues

The Novi Ice Arena will hold summer adult hockey leagues for adult teams, including 18 & Over "D" on Sunday nights, 18 & Over "C" on Wednesday nights, 18 & Over "B" on Tuesday nights and 30 & Over "C" on Thursday nights. League features include excellent game times, no checking, focus on fun and even competition, and trained scorekeepers.

The Sunday division will play a five-game schedule (plus playoffs) and Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday divisions will play a six-game schedule (plus playoffs), with one game per week beginning in early July. 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.

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.

Fall Baseball League

DATE: Saturdays-Sundays, starting August 15

LOCATION: Total Baseball, 30990 Wixom Road, Wixom

DETAILS: For age divisions, 7/8, 9/10, 11/12, 13/14 and high school. 12 games per season plus playoffs; umpires, fields, and game balls provided. The cost is $230 for individuals and $1450 per team.

CONTACT: Total Baseball, (248) 668-0166 or visit www.total-baseball.com

Hitting Camp

DATE: August 8-10

TIME: 9 a.m.-noon

LOCATION: Total Baseball, 30990 Wixom Road, Wixom

DETAILS: For ages, 7-17 years old. Will include proper baseball swing, improving players bat speed and batting averages. The cost is $120 per player, $10 discount for second child.

CONTACT: Total Baseball, (248) 668-0166 or visit www.total-baseball.com

Summer Hockey Programs

DATE: ongoing through August

LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, Novi Road, between 9 and 10 Mile roads

DETAILS: Classes for boys, ages 5-6, 6-8, 9-10, 11-14, and girls, ages 8-12, 13-18 and adults, 18 and up.

CONTACT: (248) 478-1600 or visit www.suburbanhockey.com

Prep showdown tickets

The Novi Wildcats and the Northville Mustangs will each kick off their season in the inagural Big Day Prep Showdown, which will be played at Eastern Michigan University Aug. 27.

The Mustangs will play at noon against Saline while the Wildcats will take on the Chelsea Bulldogs in their opening contest under the lights at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available at the athletics directors' offices in their respective schools.

Submitted photo

Great job, 'Dogs!

The Novi Bulldogs completed their first season, 10-1-1, in 2004 and finished 9-1, despite drafting 10 new players this year, and tied for first place in the regular season in 2005. They were runner-up in the Tri-City Championship — which included teams from Novi, South Lyon and Northville — held last weekend and finished 12-3. The team's three returning players, Aaron Croad, John Gregoire and Jacob Meadors, finished a combined 19-2-1 for their two years in the PONY division. Pictured are: Front row (from left to right): Kevin Carrell, Mike Shea, Alex Minghine, Geoff Giese, George Mugerian, Jimmy Gurney, Alex Karas; Second row: Coach Frank Gregoire, Ryo Setoyama, Will Mikkelsen, John Gregoire, Jacob Meadors, Aaron Croad, Brandon Pence, Manager Terry Croad; Not Shown: Coach Lynn Giese.

New man in charge

South Lyon resident Roger Jackson recently agreed to serve for the next year as the interim Athletic Director at Concordia University after Karl Kling resigned earlier this summer.

Kling hired Jackson, a longtime educator with over three decades of experience in public schools, last summer to serve as Athletic Operations manager as well as being an assistant coach on the school's baseball team; Kling remains the head coach of the baseball team.

Additionally, Kling, a resident of Howell, will move into the Sports Information director position, a role that will rely heavily upon his years of experience in journalism.

Kling spent three years as editor of the Milford Times. In 2002, his final year, the publication was selected by the Michigan Press Association as its Newspaper of the Year for Class C weeklies. Kling won numerous awards for writing, design and overall excellence in his half-decade career as a journalist.

"The university is growing enormously," Kling said. "The athletic director needed to focus solely on that position, and the baseball coach needs to focus on that side."

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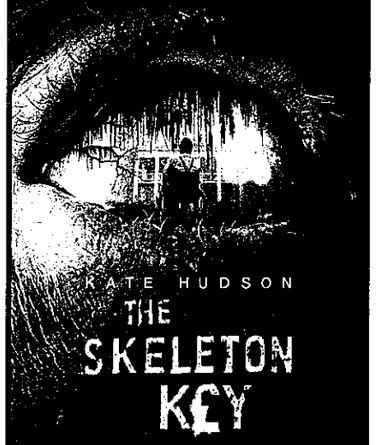

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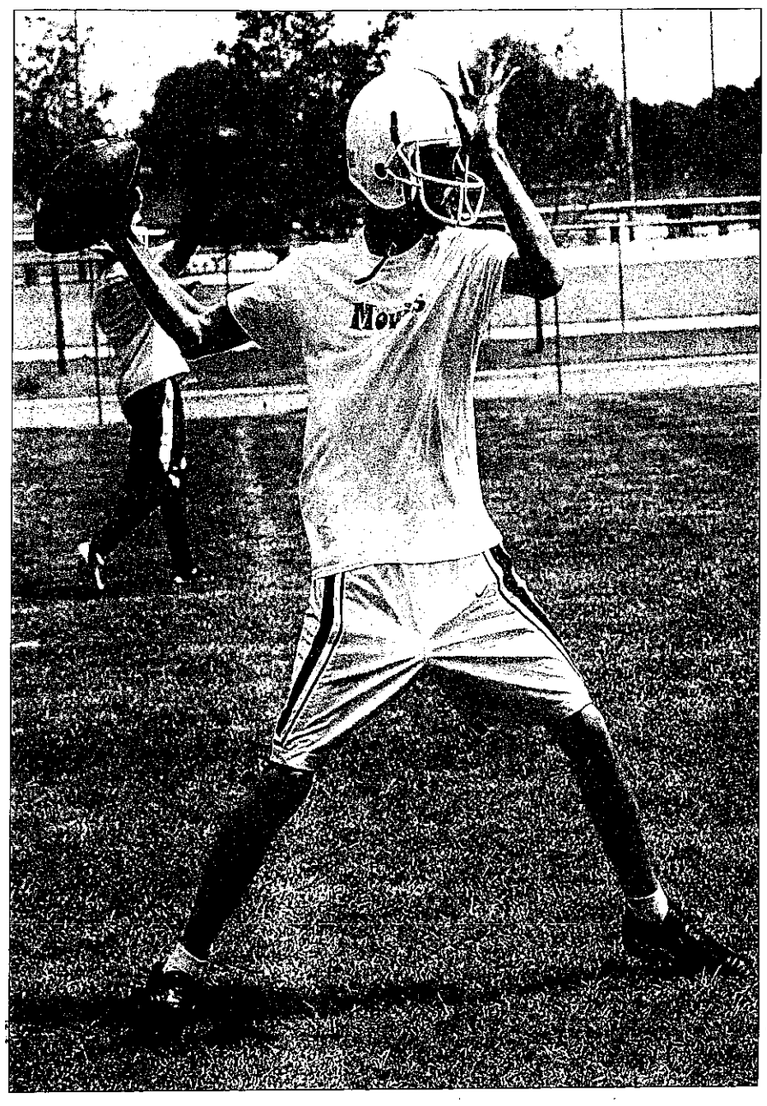
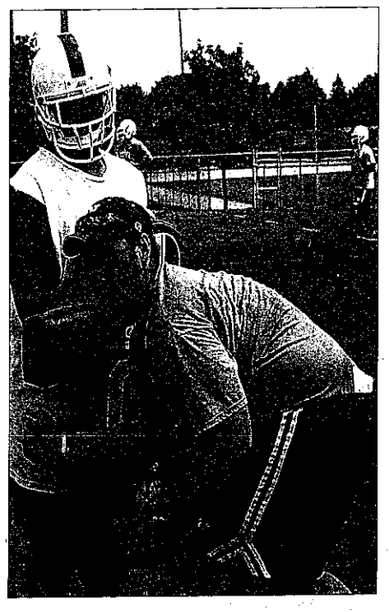
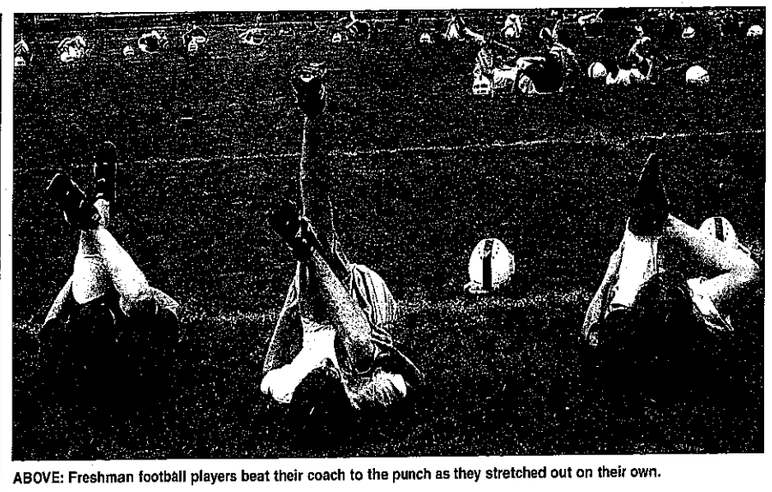


LEFT: Steve Hart throws the football in practice Monday.

ABOVE: John Favorite joins other Wildcats in a quick water break.

BELOW: Coach Jeff Burnside goes over the imporance of a "wrong arm" move.





ABOVE: Freshman football players beat their coach to the punch as they stretched out on their own.

BELOW RIGHT: Dan Sprys works against a block in practice.

Photos by SAM EGGLESTON

ABOVE: A Novi Wildcats football player sprints during practice.

RIGHT: Football players take notes.

BELOW: Jeff Burnside works on a lineman drill with his players.

NOVI
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18 & Over D - Sundays
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30 & Over C - Thursdays

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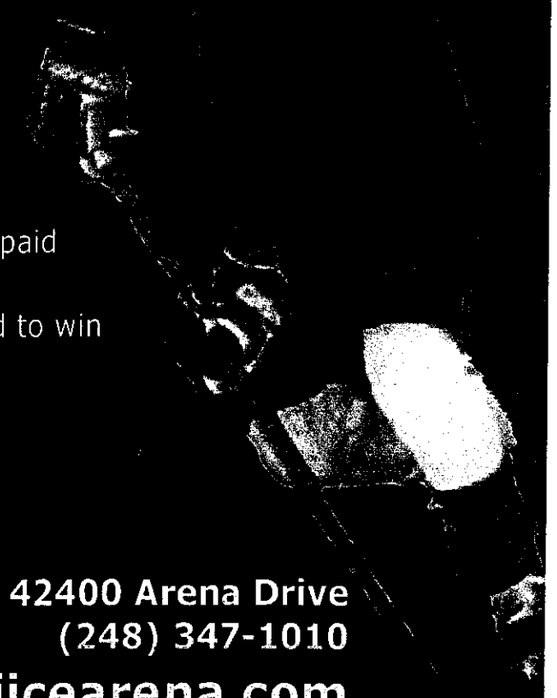

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FOOD

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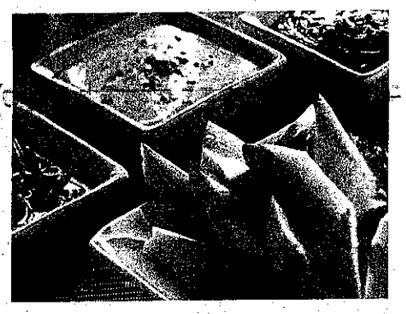
Alaska Surimi Seafood Thai Salad

Imitation Is the Sincerest Form of FLATTERY



FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

When savvy shoppers find designer style at a great price, that's a bargain. When good cooks find an imitation ingredient with all the flavor and texture of the original, that's dinner!

Surimi is an imitation crabmeat made from Alaska pollock, a member of the cod family harvested from the cold, clear waters of the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska. This high-protein, low-fat seafood mimics the taste and texture of real, hard-shelled crab, but at a fraction of the cost.

So, go ahead. Be lavish! Make more, more, more of your favorite hot "crab" dip. Arrange a generous mound of surimi on a platter, surrounded by dipping sauces, for a sophisticated appetizer. Fold surimi into gourmet sandwich and wrap fillings. Add it to chilled seafood salads or warm, creamy pasta sauces. You'll find lots of ways to use delicious and nutritious surimi. Your secret is safe with us!

For more recipes and information, visit www.alaskaseafood.org.

Alaska Surimi Seafood Thai Salad

Prep Time: 15 minutes
Servings: 4

- 1/4 cup seasoned rice vinegar
- 2 teaspoons Asian fish sauce
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 3 small bell peppers (red, green, orange and/or yellow), seeded and finely diced
- 1/2 jalapeño pepper, seeded and minced
- 1/2 seedless cucumber, chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 12 ounces Alaska Surimi Seafood (Imitation Crab)
- 12 slices (about 2 whole) papaya, honeydew or mango, skin removed

Blend vinegar, fish sauce and sugar in bowl. Add peppers, jalapeño, cucumber, cilantro and Alaska Surimi Seafood. Stir gently to distribute dressing.

To serve, place 3 fruit slices on serving plate and top with about 1-1/2 cups salad.

Nutrients per serving: 186 calories, 1.5g total fat, .3g saturated fat, 7% calories from fat, 17mg cholesterol, 12g protein, 33g carbohydrate, 4g fiber, 1252mg sodium, 61mg calcium, .6g omega-3 fatty acids

Southwestern Surimi Wrap

Prep Time: 12 minutes
Servings: 4

- 2 medium avocados OR 2 cups prepared guacamole
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
- 1 tablespoon minced onion
- 1 tablespoon chipotle chile puree*
- 2 tablespoons low-fat mayonnaise

Southwestern Surimi Wrap

- 1 pound Alaska Surimi Seafood (Imitation Crab)
- 2 teaspoons mesquite or Mexican seasoning
- 4 (10- to 12-inch) flour tortillas, warmed
- 4 large iceberg or romaine lettuce leaves, torn or shredded

Mash avocados. Stir in lime juice, onion, chile puree and mayonnaise; set aside. Sprinkle seasoning over Alaska Surimi Seafood; stir to coat.

To serve, layer about 1/2 cup each avocado spread (almost to edge), surimi and lettuce on one side of each tortilla. Roll up envelope-style and cut in half.

*Canned chipotle chiles in adobo sauce, pureed.

Nutrients per serving: 547 calories, 24g total fat, 4g saturated fat, 40% calories from fat, 25mg cholesterol, 22g protein, 62g carbohydrate, 8g fiber, 1665mg sodium, 58mg calcium, .9g omega-3 fatty acids

Alaska Surimi Seafood With Dipping Sauce Trio

Prep Time: 20 minutes
Servings: 4 to 6

- 12 to 16 ounces Alaska Surimi Seafood (Imitation Crab)

Arrange Alaska Surimi Seafood on serving platter; serve with Asian, Southwest and Americana sauces (see recipes).

Asian

- 1/3 cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon rice vinegar
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1/2 teaspoon minced garlic
- 2 green onions, sliced

Blend all ingredients; cover until serving.

Southwest

- 1/2 cup low-fat mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup low-fat sour cream or plain yogurt
- 1 tablespoon capers
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
- 1 jalapeño pepper, seeded and minced
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon dried dill weed
- 1/2 teaspoon oregano

Blend all ingredients; cover and refrigerate until serving.

Americana

- 1/2 cup catsup
- 1 tablespoon creamy horseradish
- 1 teaspoon packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon minced onion
- 1/2 teaspoon fresh lemon juice

Blend all ingredients; cover until serving.

Nutrients per serving (with Surimi Seafood):
Asian Sauce: 128 calories, 4g total fat, 1g saturated fat, 27% calories from fat, 16mg cholesterol, 11g protein, 13g carbohydrate, .2g fiber, 1766mg sodium, 18mg calcium, .5g omega-3 fatty acids
Southwest Sauce: 187 calories, 11g total fat, 3g saturated fat, 53% calories from fat, 30mg cholesterol, 10g protein, 12g carbohydrate, .4g fiber, 918mg sodium, 35mg calcium, .5g omega-3 fatty acids
Americana Sauce: 116 calories, 2g total fat, .6g saturated fat, 13% calories from fat, 17mg cholesterol, 10g protein, 16g carbohydrate, .3g fiber, 954mg sodium, 19mg calcium, .5g omega-3 fatty acids

MONEY MATTERS

Pell Grant eligibility changes make free money rare

As if the financial and academic demands of college weren't tough already, students who receive federal financial aid may have to work more, borrow more, or tap into alternative sources of financial aid to cover the rising costs of higher education. That's because the Department of Education is changing the federal formula used to determine eligibility for the Pell Grant – the nation's largest federal gift-aid program. With new eligibility requirements in place, some one million needy college students could see a reduction in their Pell Grant awards, while an additional 90,000 students could lose their eligibility altogether.

About five million students receive Pell Grants each year in amounts ranging from $400 to $4,050, with the largest awards going to students whose families have an annual household income of less than $15,000. The Pell Grant eligibility formula takes into account a family's income, size and tax burden, among other things. Previously, the tax table used to calculate the amount of state tax a family pays was based on tax data collected in 1988. The revised formula will use a new tax table, one that includes more recent data. This change will likely put many families in a lower tax bracket -- theoretically increasing the amount they can contribute to their child's education, and thus reducing the amount of free money the student can receive from the federal government.

Costs continue to rise

According to the College Board, a non-profit association of more than 4,500 institutions of higher learning, annual tuition and fees at four-year private universities rose 10.5 percent last year to $20,082, while annual costs at four-year public institutions went up 6 percent to $5,132. Considering that the average student graduates from college with about $17,000 in debt, the onus is on students and their parents to carefully research all of their college funding options. A good place to start is with your child's high school guidance counselor and financial aid advisors at local universities. In the meantime, here are some ideas to keep in mind:

• **Look for scholarships from sources other than your student's school.** Consider churches, civic organizations and your employer. Many credit unions also offer scholarships to their members and their children. Try your local library for other scholarship sources. To conduct a virtual search, visit www.collegeboard.com. Beware of Internet scholarship search companies that tout a "we guarantee a scholarship, or your money back" policy or charge you a fee for a scholarship. They're probably frauds.

• **If your student's financial aid award package isn't what you think it should be, consider other schools.** Your student's financial aid package will be much more attractive from a school that wants him. If his high school grades aren't up to par, he may want to attend a community college for a year, study and make good grades. Volunteer work and community service are also scholarship-worthy accomplishments.

• **Attend a local community college and then transfer to a four-year institution.** Tuition and fees at a community college cost about half as much as they do at a state four-year school, and thousands less than tuition for a private institution. Two-year colleges often have what are called articulation agreements with four-year schools. An articulation agreement spells out which community college credits a four-year college will count toward a baccalaureate degree. It also specifies what kind of grades a student must achieve to be accepted at the four-year college.

• **If your student is interested in an agricultural or industrial course of study, look into programs at land grant institutions—colleges and universities that have been designated by the state to offer these courses of study.** The cost will likely be cheaper than similar programs offered at other schools. Michigan State University is a land grant institution.

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 visit www.mcul.org.

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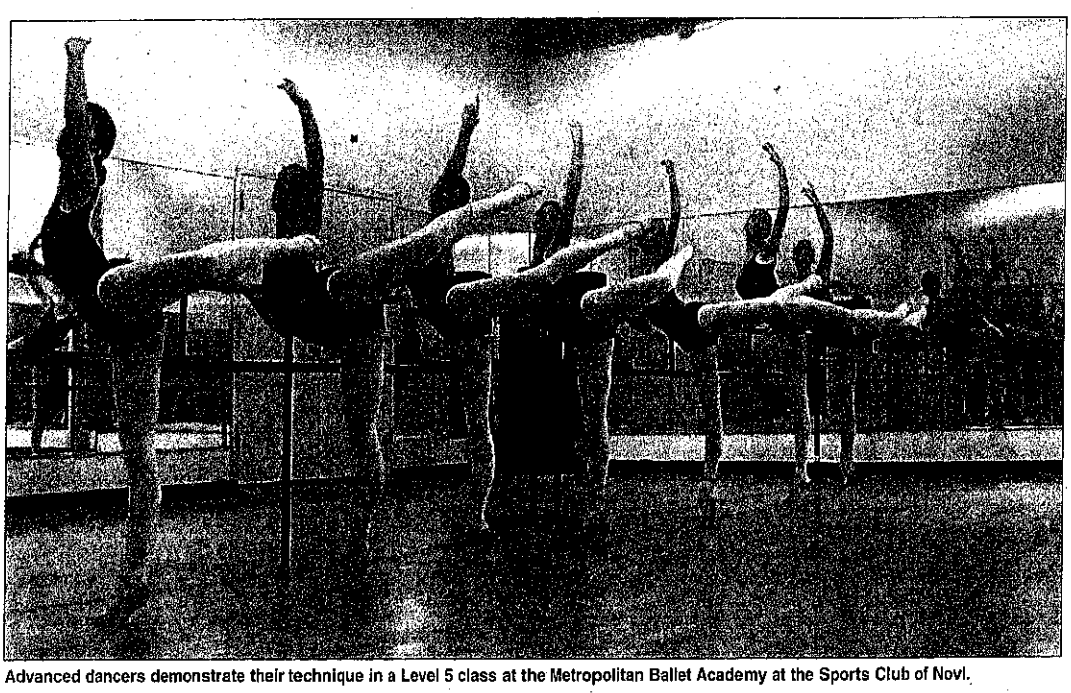


Advanced dancers demonstrate their technique in a Level 5 class at the Metropolitan Ballet Academy at the Sports Club of Novi.

Metropolitan DanCentre

■ Impressive dance, ballet academy find success locally

A unique approach to dance can be found at the Metropolitan DanCentre and Metropolitan Ballet Academy and Theatre. Located in the Sports Club of Novi, the Metropolitan DanCentre offers a complete range of dance classes in jazz, tap, hip-hop and lyrical for students of all ages ranging from two through adult and beginning to advanced levels.

The Metropolitan Ballet and Theatre offers students the highest quality ballet education in the metro Detroit area. Classes are taught in the Russian Vaganova technique at all levels from age 5 through pre-professional.

"We want people to know that high-quality dance programs exist at The Sports Club," said Lisa Bottesi, director of the Metropolitan DanCentre. "When people hear 'sports club,' they don't think of dance, but being located in this facility has its advantages."

While some family members are taking dance classes, some can be involved in other activities at the Sports Club of Novi including gymnastics, swimming, martial arts, tennis or a workout in the fitness center. Dance students also are able to incorporate the club's gymnastics training, Pilates instruction, and swimming facilities into the dance curriculum – all benefits that other dance studios cannot offer.

Students do not need to be members of the Sports Club to participate in the dance programs offered by the Metropolitan DanCentre and Ballet Academy, but receive a discount on tuition if they are members.

"The quality of our dance programs and caliber of instructors are the best in the area," said Michelle Streicher, administrative director of the Metropolitan Ballet Academy and Theatre. "Having a premier ballet training academy and a full-service dance studio under one roof makes us unique."

The Metropolitan DanCentre offers a full complement of classes, including a pre-school program that incorporates songs, rhythm exercises and dance that are available in mornings, afternoons and evenings. All students, beginner through advanced, can find fun and challenging classes within their age group. Special classes are offered for boys and adults.

"We pride ourselves on creating a caring environment where all students receive the same high level of individual attention, and correct technique whether they are recreational or competitive dancers," said Lisa.

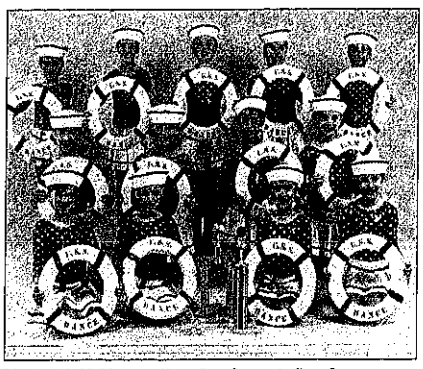
Professional instructors, who love to teach the art of dance, provide quality dance instruction in a positive, inspiring and fun atmosphere. The dance studio has seven professionals on staff with many years of experience in dance education.

"Classes are designed to allow students to gain confidence and build self-esteem while learning technical dance skills," Lisa said. "Our classes are structured with a progressive syllabus that encourages all children to excel. We pride ourselves on having age appropriate choreography, music and costumes for all our dancers."

In addition to a full recreational dance program, the DanCentre has five companies. These dancers attend dance competitions, have additional performance opportunities, and attend an intensive dance workshop each year.

"We bring in highly acclaimed master dance teachers and choreographers from New York and L.A. to teach an intensive two-day workshop for our students with one-on-one attention and feedback for individual students," Lisa said. "We believe this provides our dancers with a unique experience."

The recital dance program runs from September through May and culminates with a spectacular recital in May to showcase the talented dancers.



The 2004-05 Metropolitan DanCentre's Pre-Company students display several of the awards they received in competition.

The DanCentre also offers non-recital programs throughout the entire year. These sessions allow dancers to experience classes without the commitment of a year-end recital. Specialty programs and camps, such as hip-hop and pom-pom camps, are run during the summer and holiday breaks.

The Metropolitan Ballet Academy (MBA) offers students the highest quality ballet education in the area for beginners through pre-professional dancers. MBA's training program comprised of eight levels is a progressive and systematic study of the Vaganova Technique with yearly examinations, demonstrations and level graduations for ages eight to 18. Open teen classes are available to students who are just beginning to study ballet.

The classes and programs are open dancers of all ages and levels. Boys are welcome and encouraged to enroll. Ballet teaches discipline, posture, self-esteem, body conditioning and life lessons for students of all ages, according to Michelle.

The faculty is led by the husband and wife team of Victoria Stocki-Kim, executive director, and Jay Kim, artistic director, both of whom recently retired from professional careers in ballet. Victoria is originally from West Bloomfield and returned to Michigan with her husband, Jay, to head the Metropolitan Ballet Academy and Theatre.

Both attended the Kirov Academy, were soloists with the Universal Ballet Company of Seoul, Korea, and also were soloists and principals with several companies including the Dayton Ballet Theatre and Tulsa Ballet Theatre. The Kims co-owned and directed the Art Ballet Center in Seoul.

The Metropolitan Ballet Theatre (MBT) is a pre-professional ballet company, which is open by audition to intermediate and advanced students of the ballet academy. It provides dancers with a more intensive program of study and performance opportunities throughout the year.

The Ballet Theatre company presents at least one full-length ballet each season, such as the Nutcracker at Christmas and either a mixed piece or another full-length ballet in the spring. The Nutcracker will be performed this year on Dec. 17 at Novi High School.

DETAILS

Metropolitan DanCentre
■ Competitive Company Auditions Aug. 23
■ Ballet Academy & Theatre Auditions & Placement Aug. 27
■ at Sports Club of Novi 42500 Arena Drive, Novi
■ (248) 735-8850 ext. 3112
■ Open House: Aug. 31 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"We are happy to announce that, once again, the MBT has coordinated with Novi Community Schools to donate a portion of all ticket proceeds to Novi Youth Assistance," Michelle said.

MBT members are also given instruction in and assistance with professional and school placement, auditions, and competitions. After the first year of the program, two local students from the Metropolitan Ballet Theatre attended the Universal Ballet Academy this summer in Washington, D.C., one of the top ballet training facilities in the country.

Other MBT dancers were accepted into summer programs with the Joffrey Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet "The Rock" School, Ballet Magnificat and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.

"These achievements speak about the quality of our programs," Michelle said.

Enrollment for fall classes is now taking place for the Metropolitan DanCentre. Auditions and level placement for MBA are scheduled for Aug. 27. Master classes, including a special master tap class will be taught by Suzette D'Andrea, Dance Olympus faculty member, and will be offered at an open house Aug. 31.

(Photos provided by Metropolitan DanCentre and Metropolitan Ballet Academy)

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Jazz Lyrical HIP HOP POINTE Ballet

Metropolitan Ballet Academy and Theatre

- Classical ballet in the Vaganova method Ages 5 - Pre-Professional and Adult Classes
- World-class instructors
- Company membership for pre-professional dancers in MBT
- MBT season includes a full-length "Nutcracker" in December, a Spring Production, coaching/ preparation for summer ballet program auditions and Vaganova examinations

Auditions and Level Placement, August 27, 2005
Ages 8-11 - 1:00 pm • Ages 12 and up - 3:00 pm
Proper attire for all dancers (male and female) is required.
www.metropolitanballetacademyandtheatre.org

Metropolitan DanCentre

- Quality dance instruction in a positive, inspiring, and fun environment
- Professional instructors who love to teach the art of dance
- Beginner - Advanced Levels
- Pre-School to Adult
- Morning, Afternoon, and Evening Classes
- Multiple Class Discounts & No Registration Fee
- Five competition companies
- Recital and Non-recital programs offered

Auditions for Competition Companies August 23, 2005
Ages 8-13 - 6:00 pm • Ages 14 and up - 7:00 pm

OPEN HOUSE • August 31, 2005 • 5:00-8:00 pm • Master Classes, Dancewear Sale and Registration

For information or to register call: 248-735-8850 ext. 3112