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Novi News

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MPA 2004

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2005

YEAR IN REVIEW

The big stories of last year – our nation continued to battle in Iraq, hurricanes slammed the south and gasoline prices reached all-time highs – affected all of us in one way or another. But there were local stories that had more immediate implications for the Novi area. We offer our picks – in no particular order – of the top stories of 2005.

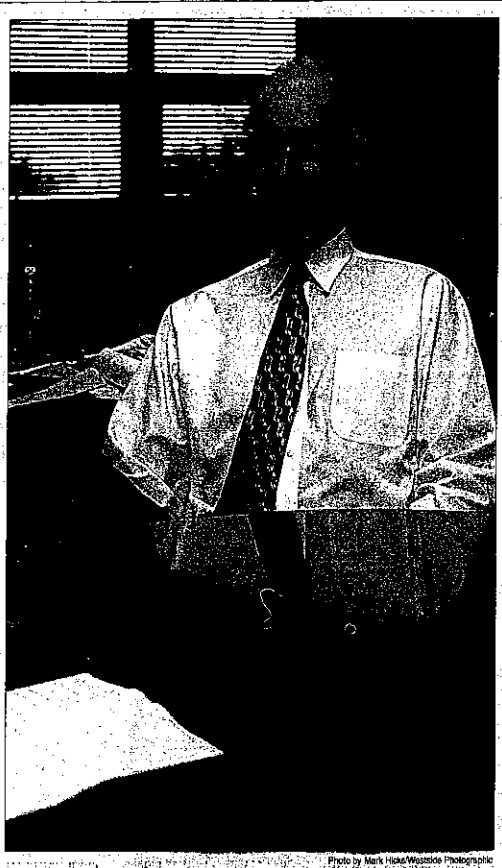

Photo by Mark Hicks/Westside Photographic

Doug Shaeffer was selected as Novi's chief of police in 1991, and he established a legacy of professionalism and community involvement before passing away in August.

■ Tragedy strikes Novi jeweler

■ CC moves from Redford Twp. to Novi

■ Revamped interchange helps to ease traffic woes

■ Nordstrom leads Twelve Oaks Mall expansion

■ Dion chosen to head Novi school district

■ Landry becomes city's new mayor

■ Major bridge replaced in southeast Novi

■ Lawsuit victory clears way for hospital

■ Novi's new showplace really Rocks

■ City mourns loss of chief

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The sudden, untimely death of Novi Chief of Police Doug Shaeffer at age 60 shocked and saddened the community in the summer of 2005.

Shaeffer had planned a working lunch on Aug. 15 to discuss the forfeiture funds that the city had recently acquired through the seizure of almost $5 million in drug-related money in March 2004.

But, the person he was supposed to have lunch with canceled at the last minute, so Shaeffer went home to eat.

His wife, Loretta, found him when she returned from work late that Monday afternoon. Shaeffer, who had a heart condition and had beaten throat cancer a few years ago, had suffered a heart attack.

Following his death, people talked about his professionalism; his intelligence and his positive attitude.

Former Police Chief Lee BeGole, who served as the first head of the department from 1954 until Shaeffer came to Novi in 1991, helped select Shaeffer for the job of deputy chief of police that year.

"We thought he had a natural ability to handle himself. We threw a lot of tough questions at him," BeGole said. "Not everyone can be successful with the officers, the public and the city council. He was able to get along with all three."

Shaeffer served the Oklahoma City Police Department for 23 years before moving to Novi. He worked on that police force from Nov. 1, 1969, through July 21, 1991. He was an officer from 1969-1974, a detective from May 21, 1974, and was promoted to sergeant on April 14, 1978.

He rose to the rank of lieutenant on April 9, 1982, and remained with Central Records until he was transferred to the Special Services Division as an assistant training director on May 1, 1985.

Shaeffer was transferred to the Investigations Bureau on April 15, 1988, and then to Planning and Research on Aug. 31, 1988. He stayed there until he was promoted to captain in July 1989 and retired from the Oklahoma City force two years later. Shaeffer received 10 commendations during his career in Oklahoma City.

As the department turned the corner on the 21st century, Chief of Police David Molloy said his predecessor introduced the force into a more technological era.

"We made several advancements that took us above and beyond,"

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Novi Theatres welcomes all Tuesday

■ Public invited to free event

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Theatres, a community theater group, invites the public to a free open house from 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Novi Civic Center.

The open house, titled "Backstage Night," is for people of all ages interested in the dramatic arts.

Refreshments, music, games, face painting and backstage tours are planned.

Visitors can experience costumes, scenery, makeup and props, learn about auditioning for upcoming performances, classes and other ways to get involved in community theater.

"We're offering something new to let folks know what is going on here at the theater — productions, classes, workshops and more," said Sheri Sansom, cultural arts coordinator for the city of Novi.

Sansom assumed the role of director of the Novi Theaters after former director Linda Wickert retired in October.

Wickert founded the Novi Theatres in 1991.

The Novi Theatres offers the community seven productions a year in addition to workshops and classes.

Something for everyone

- The Novi Theatres consists of five performance groups:
- The little people players (those in grades second-fifth)
- Children's Annex (those in grades first-eighth)
- Performance Plus (those in high school or college)
- Senior Variety Series (those age 55 and up)
- Annual Broadway Musical (all ages)

Call (248) 347-0400 or visit the organization's Web site at www.novitheatres.com.

It's next production is "Guys and Dolls," which will play at 7:30 p.m. March 11, 12, 17 and 18 and at 2 p.m. March 13 and 19.

Set against New York City's highlights and low life in the 1940s, "Guys and Dolls" is a story of love, marriage and temperance.

Sansom said Novi Theatres actors and costumers are having a great time exploring the fashions of the 1940s for this upcoming production.

Bill Whikehart of Milford is even painting a 14-foot backdrop

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Larson built business from the ground up

Photo by JOHN HEIDELMUG/Novi News

Brian Larson, owner of Novi's Larson Jewelry Design, shows some necklaces to his daughter, and fellow gemologist, Angelina.

■ Jeweler appointed to Novi's Election Commission

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

You know you've hit it big when you're able to sell a $97,000 engagement ring.

That's exactly what Brian Larson did last June at Larson Jewelers, the business he co-owns with his wife, Nancy, at Main Street Novi.

But, Larson isn't just a store owner. He's a jeweler, a graduate gemologist and a builder. In fact, he literally built his store from the ground up with his bare hands.

"We hired an electrician and a plumber, but everything else I did myself," he said. "We saved a lot of money that way."

Larson didn't always have aspirations of becoming a jeweler, however. He originally wanted to be a state police officer, as he spent five years as an auxiliary officer in Dearborn Heights.

But when he started working for his wife's uncle at Kramer Jewelry in Oak Park, he found his real passion in life. He even discovered a natural talent for the art.

And, he's proud to say his wife and daughter, Angelina, have followed in his footsteps. All three have graduated from the Gemological Institute of America.

YOUR NOVI Neighbors

continued on page 3

New year, new baby

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Jason and Elizabeth Armstrong of Novi had a little more reason to celebrate the new year Sunday as Elizabeth gave birth to Madison Nicole Armstrong at 1:01 p.m. Born 10 weeks premature at Providence Hospital in Southfield, Madison weighed 3 pounds, 6 ounces.

"This is so exciting," said Cindy Armstrong, Jason's mother. "It started Christmas Day with a couple of problems, and (Elizabeth) went in and was going to stay until the baby was born, which could have been 10 weeks."

Madison

Elizabeth called Cindy New Year's Day very early in the morning and said she thought it could be the day – and it was.

"I'm just happy the baby is doing OK," said Cindy. "She's little and she has a couple of issues, but they're minor, and she's being very well taken care of."

Jason has lived in Novi most of his life, only moving to Arizona for a few years before returning to allow his 2-year-old daughter, Kaitlin, to have the same opportunities in the community he had as a child. He was a student in the Novi Community School District and wanted Kaitlin to be able to live in one place growing up, to attend the same schools he did and to have the same friends.

Now she has a baby sister to share it all with.

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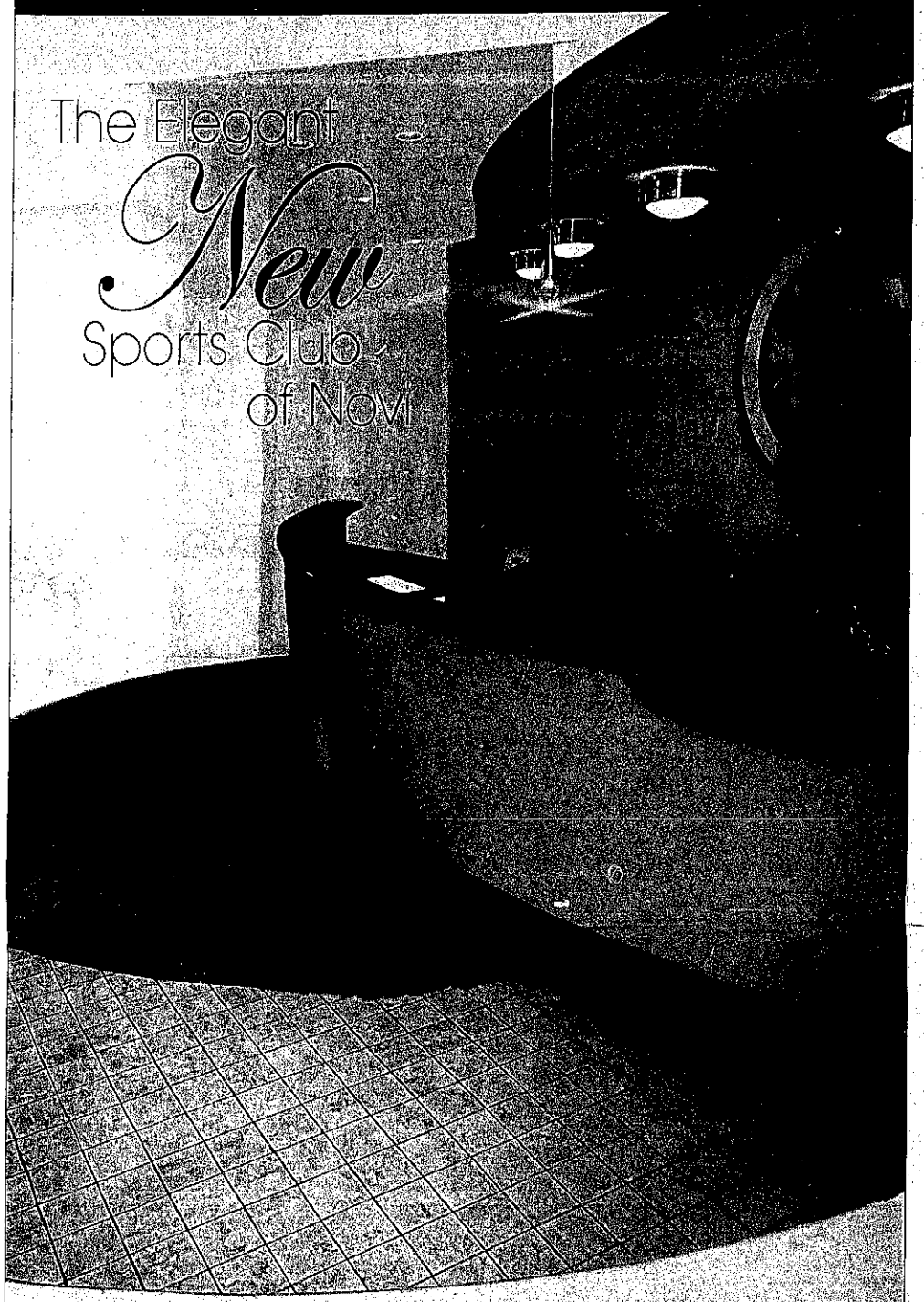

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"There is an awful lot going on down here that I never realized. I was never politically active but have become so in the last couple years ..."

Brian Larson
Owner, Larson Jewelry, on downtown Novi

Jeweler appointed to Novi's Election Commission

continued from front

Larson credits his experience at Kramer Jewelry for what he has been able to do with his own business. He worked there 21 years until he relocated to Novi. "I absolutely love this stuff," Larson said. "I eat, sleep and breath it. I wouldn't have it any other way."

Running a jewelry store is no different than running any other business," said Larson. He emphasizes taking care of the customer first and treating them the way he would want to be treated.

"Jewelry has this mystique about it," Larson said. "People think they know about it, they think they know prices, but really, they know just enough to be dangerous to themselves."

The Larsons educate their customers first and foremost and do their best to make them comfortable. They have no sales goals, and they don't work on commission.

"We've built our business by taking each sale as it comes," Larson said. "The best thing for us is when people bring friends in. They tell them we're someone they can trust, and then their friends bring others in. That's how we do business."

Larson enjoys taking that extra step with his customers by taking an hour or two to explain if they've been cheated while buying jewelry elsewhere.

"Sometimes people end up getting ripped off, and I try to set them straight by explaining what to look for the next time," Larson said. "I'll explain to someone everything they need to know, because when you open your own business it's very important you know the answers to questions when people come in. If you don't have that information, it's hard to explain things the right way."

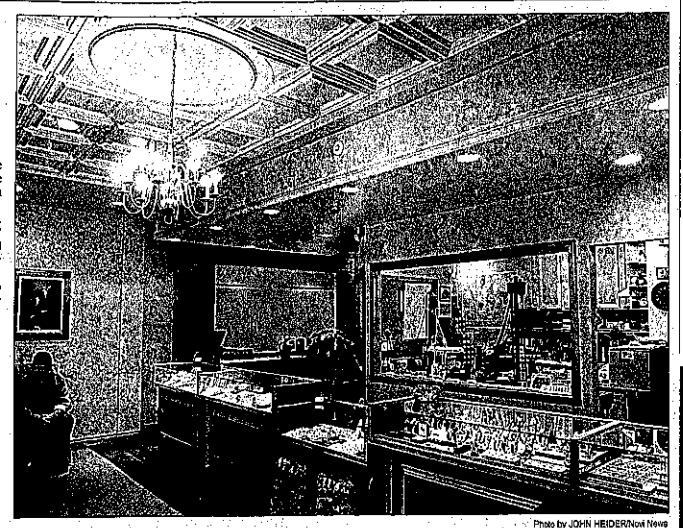

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

In addition to running his Larson Jewelry Design shop on Novi's Main Street, Brian Larson also used his design and construction efforts on its interior.

Brian Larson

Age: 46

Occupation: Gemologist and co-owner of Larson Jewelers in Novi with his wife

Family: wife, Nancy; daughter, Angelina, who's a third generation gemologist graduate from the Gemological Institute of America; son, Bradley; son, Daniel

Hobbies and/or interests: construction and fishing

Advice: "Definitely check out the Gemological Institute of America before you get into this business," Larson said. "There are courses you can take to see if you have an interest and a liking for this work."

Awards: Larson Jewelers was picked as jewelry store of the year by Novi News readers in 2002.

Schools: He graduated from Annapolis High School in Dearborn Heights, has an associate's degree in criminal justice from Henry Ford Community College and is a gemologist graduate from the Gemological Institute of America.

Years in business: almost 28

Grew up in: Dearborn Heights

Election Commission member

The Larsons have lived in Novi for 23 years now, and his business has been a great success. It was only recently that he realized it was time to start giving back and doing something for the city. That's why he recently applied and was subsequently appointed to Novi's Election Committee.

"There is an awful lot going on down here that I never realized," Larson said. "I was never politically active but have become so in the last couple years, so I contacted city hall, they faxed me an application, I filled it out and sent it in."

After being interviewed by the Novi City Council, Larson received a letter stating his appointment last week.

"I just want to get a basic feeling for how city government works," he said. "We have 19 more years on our lease, and we're not going anywhere. I'm very interested in seeing this downtown finished at some point."

Ranee 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@gannett.com.

Novi Theatres welcomes all Tuesday

continued from front

that represents New York City in the 1940s.

Piano party planned

Sansom added that one of the highlights of Tuesday's open house is a 1940s-style piano party.

"In that era, especially in Hollywood, it was fashionable for people to gather 'round a piano to play and sing hit tunes," Sansom said.

"Visitors to our open house can enjoy such a sing-along in the Novi Civic Center atrium."

The Novi Civic Center is located at 45175 W. 10 Mile Road just east of Taft Road.

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

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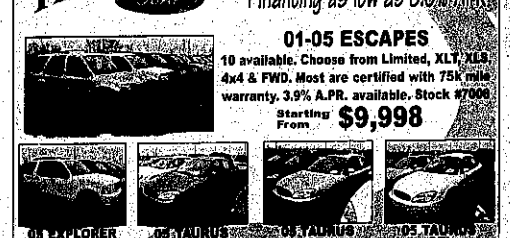

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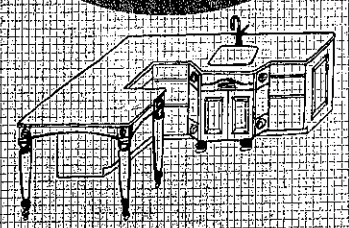

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COMMUNITY

Pam Fleming, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 pfleming@gannett.com

Fish on!!

■ Novi paint maker knows his fishing

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Kim Stricker can speak volumes when it comes to smallmouth bass.

Next week, the professional angler will be one of the featured speakers at the Ultimate Fishing Show Jan. 12-15 at Rock Financial Showplace in Novi.

An expert in smallmouth bass fishing, Stricker will present three lectures and launch his new DVD, "Smallmouth Neighborhood: Follow the Forage," at the show.

The DVD, produced with the assistance of his son, Danny, and wife, Sara, will be available at the show.

The father-son team shot the underwater video, with Sara Stricker filming some of the above-water footage.

Some scenes from this first DVD in a series was recently aired on ESPN's "The Loud Mouth Bass Show."

"The amount of response I've gotten is phenomenal, because nobody's really doing this," Stricker said.

A resident of Howell, Stricker owns Stricker Paint, a paint manufacturing business on Novi Road between 10 Mile Road and Grand River Avenue.

The family business has been at this location since 1957.

Danny serves as plant manager, and Sara works in the office.

The Strickers' daughter, Katie, who recently moved to Florida, is also an avid fisherman, although Stricker said Danny really prefers the diving and underwater video work.

Presented by Ranger Boats, Stricker's presentations at the Novi show will include tips on where and how to fish smallmouth bass as well as some environmental information.

How the fishing legend began

A pro on the Bassmaster and FLW tour, Stricker was a winner in the 1994 Bassmaster Michigan Top 100, Bassmaster Classic and FLW Championship Qualifier.

He has competed in close to 200 National Bass Tournaments and has earned a reputation as an acknowledged expert on the smallmouth bass.

Few pros have attained the intimate knowledge of the habits and habitats of smallmouth bass.

Stricker claims any bass angler in the country will say, "the best bass I've found are the ones that are brown," he said.

He said the appeal of the smallmouth bass is the fight

"They don't give up. They just keep going," he said. "They jump; they go crazy."

Stricker grew up on Wolverine Lake and has fished since he was 7 years old.

"I've been fishing since I was a kid, and all my fondest childhood memories are of fishing with my dad," he said.

His late father, Fred, passed away five years ago.

Stricker joined a fishing club, the Michigan Bassmasters, not long after he and Sara were married, and he started fishing competitively.

In 1982 and 1983, he was on the club's state team and then got his feet wet in a pro tournament.

He now uses fishing as a marketing tool for his family paint business.

"If a buyer golfs, that's one thing. But if he fishes, I'm in," Stricker said.

He was even featured on the cover of Crain's Detroit Business for his success in combining business with pleasure.

Even the Striker Paint logo is a rainbow fish.

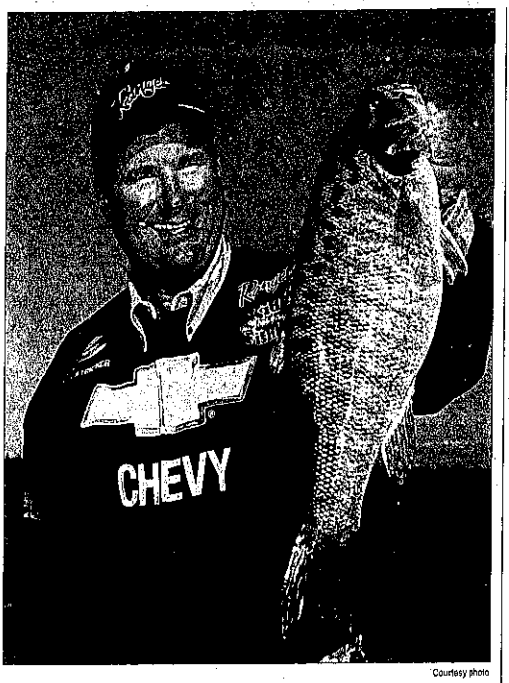
Stricker started acquiring sponsorships and is affiliated with Ranger Boats and Chevrolet.

He has even launched a new lure, the Strick-9 Shiner, that is available through www.schubertslures.com.

But his new DVD is his pride and joy.

"You don't have to be a fisherman to enjoy my video," Stricker said. "My wife can attest to that. She doesn't fish, but the music and watching the fish is relaxing."

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or pfleming@gannett.com.



Courtesy photo

Kim Stricker, owner of Stricker Paint in Novi, is an expert in smallmouth bass fishing. He will present three lectures at the Ultimate Fishing Show next week at Rock Financial Showplace.

Where to watch, buy new DVD

Professional fisherman and Novi business owner Kim Stricker will present three video seminars at the Ultimate Fishing Show Jan. 12-15 at the Rock Financial Showplace.

Stricker will show and discuss his new DVD, "Smallmouth Neighborhood: Follow the Forage," at:

- 6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 12, on Stage A
- 4 p.m., Friday, Jan. 13, on Stage A;
- 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14, on Stage A; and at
- 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14, on Stage A.

The first in his DVD series, "Smallmouth Neighborhood," which cost $19.95 each, will be available at the show or at www.kimstrickerproductions.com.

"They don't give up. They just keep going. They jump; they go crazy."

Kim Stricker
Smallmouth bass expert, on brown bass

Walled Lake man busy creating music in the snow

■ Two CDs out, two more coming from Tom Ferguson

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Tom Ferguson's musical career started when he was in junior high school.

That was when his piano teacher, who was a high school student at the time, taught Ferguson how to teach music to himself. And he's been playing ever since.

Today, Ferguson, a Walled Lake resident, has two CDs for sale and is working on putting out two more.

"I've always been fascinated with every kind of music there is," he said. "I'm not fond of opera or a lot of classical music, but I grew up listening to full orchestra scores, along with rock, blues, jazz, and folk music. It's a pretty wide cross section of stuff that I come from."

When he was in high school, Ferguson started playing guitar. He taught himself how, without ever taking one lesson. Since then, he's played on and off in bands in Michigan and for a while in California.

Ferguson's first CD is called "Footprints in the Snow," and his second, which he just received from the printer earlier this month, is titled "Christmas InSight."

He doesn't sing on any of the tracks. In fact, all the music heard on the CDs comes from a Vangoevering Synthesizer.

"It doesn't sound like it's all done on it, because the CDs have many different instrument sounds on them," he said. "But all the sounds do come out of it."

Ferguson credits his CD production to Mary Rashid, vocal music director for Walled Lake Central High School.

"She turned me loose in there and had faith in me to do this," Ferguson said.

Ferguson originally went to Rashid, who's a good friend of his, asking about a computer program that would write sheet music. She told him she had a program at the school he could use, and they had synthesizers called Vangoeverings, which were invented by Mr. Moog, from Moog synthesizers, and Mr. Vangoevering, who invented the technology for the compact disc.

"You can play six different tracks into this synthesizer and punch a couple buttons and convert it, and it will print it out as sheet music," Ferguson said. "It's really impressive."

Last year Ferguson's brother-in-law said that a friend of his sent out a music CD every Christmas as a gift. Ferguson thought it was a neat idea, and decided to make "Footprints in the Snow."

"I vastly underated the amount of time it was going to take to produce the thing," he said. "My time in the studio was accurate, but as far as getting everything right, I radically underestimated it and finally got it out in July instead of Christmas."

The wait was worth it, however, as Ferguson was extremely happy with the outcome. In fact, he decided to hit Central's music lab once again to produce "Christmas InSight."

"My son, who goes to Walled Lake Central, took the pictures for the cover," Ferguson said. "For this one, I wrote one piece on it and the rest are more or less traditional songs, not necessarily done the traditional way. I tried to get to the essence of what the songs were."

Ferguson is currently working on two more CDs, that are almost complete. The first is a jazz CD that he's hoping to be out in the spring, and the second is an opera CD about the Salem Witch Trials. There is no specific date on either release yet.

"The equipment at Central's music lab is unbelievable, and for them to have that kind of resource there is a beautiful thing," Ferguson said. "I remember we were lucky having piano in school."

In addition, Ferguson is working on another song for Walled Lake Central's winter concert this year. He will probably be involved with their spring concert as well.

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@gannett.com.

To purchase Ferguson's CDs, visit www.cdhaby.com, which is an independent artist CD vendor on the Internet. "Footprints in the Snow" is already on it, and "Christmas InSight" will be on it soon.

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Ann Arbor – A new free report has recently been released that reveals how breakthrough medical technology is offering new hope for sciatica sufferers. Discover how research has proven non-surgical decompression 86% successful in treating debilitating back pain. Find out how NASA's accidental discovery led to the most promising treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" Call 1-800-862-6185 for the toll-free recorded message. Supplies are limited - call now. If phone lines are busy, visit: www.free-discreport4u.com

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CITY OF NOVI
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 11, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **WEST MARKET FUEL STATION, SITE PLAN NUMBER 05-46A. FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN AND SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 17, AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE AND BECK ROAD, IN THE B-2, COMMUNITY BUSINESS DISTRICT.** The subject property is 1.2 acres and the applicant is proposing to construct a 4,441 sq. ft. gasoline fuel station, convenience store with a fast food restaurant.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 11, 2006.

(1-5-06 NN 290894)

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
WAYNE WROBEL, SECRETARY

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place." ~Luke 2:15
9600 N. Wixom Rd., Livonia (248) 478-9200
(2 mi. E. of Haggerty, N. side of 8 Mile)
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Sky's the Place Ministry - Thurs. 7:30pm
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Rev. James Filkoski, Associate Pastor

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

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770 Thayer, Northville
WEEKEND LITURGIES Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9 AM, 11 AM, 12:30 PM
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Religious Education 349-2569
Rev. Terrence Kelrick, Pastor

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Sunday School & Nursery 10 am
Rev. Karen Henry, Pastor
www.churchoftheholycross.com

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
9 Mile & Meadowbrook
Wisconsin Evv. Lutheran Synod
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Worship 10:00am
Thomas E. Schroeder, Pastor - 349-0565

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1/2 mile west of Novi Rd.
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Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor

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8 Mile & Taft Roads
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Rev. John Hice
Rev. Dee Cook
www.fumcnorthville.org

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Novi, MI 48374
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Reverend George Chantley, Pastor
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Masses: Sat. 5 pm; Sun 7:30 am, 9:15 am, 11:30 am, 12:15 pm
Holy Days: 9 am, 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm
Fr. Kerry G. Boddis, Pastor
Fr. Robert Shortel, Associate Pastor
Parish Office: 348-3687

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

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA
23255 Gill Rd., Farmington Hills
Between Grand River & Freedom
248-474-0664
Saturday Worship 6:30
Sunday Worship
8:30 & 11:00 Traditional, 9:50 Contemporary
Sunday School 9:45

WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Dr. James H. Mellema Senior Pastor
41555 W. Ten Mile Road - Novi, MI 48375
Traditional Worship 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Contemporary Service 11:45 a.m.
Sunday School & Nursery Provided
Adult Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.
Service Broadcast 1PM WOMC - FM 104.3

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31840 W. Seven Mile Rd., Livonia
Friday Night Services 8:00 p.m.
Saturday Services 9:00 a.m.

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sept-May

LANSING CONNECTION

Reviewing 2005

Looking back on 2005, it was an eventful year in the Legislature. From telecommunications reform to improving education, the Senate worked hard on behalf of Michigan residents. Here are some of the more important pieces of legislation that we approved.

Michigan Telecommunications Act Revision: Public Act 235 reformed the Michigan Telecommunications Act, maintaining the Michigan Public Service Commission's role in protecting the rights of consumers and providing for continued regulation of no-frills basic phone service.

Education Funding and Scholarships: Recognizing the importance of education in strengthening Michigan's economy, the Legislature increased funding for K-12 education, by $175 per student. In addition, the Legislature protected the Merit Scholarship and preserved the Michigan Tuition Grant Program.

Enhancing Student Safety: I was proud to sponsor Public Act 139, part of the Student Safety Initiative, which establishes the necessary sentencing guidelines. This multi-bill package prohibits sex offenders from residing, loitering or working within 1,000 feet of a school. It also revokes teaching certifications for convicted sex offenders and requires background checks for all school and day-care center employees. Anyone convicted of a listed offense is prohibited from being employed in a school or day-care center.

The package also establishes additional penalties for sex offenders who fail to update their entry on the online registry.

Health Insurance Flexibility: This bill amends the insurance code to allow HMOs some of the same flexibility in structuring benefit plans that other types of insurers enjoy. This will provide employers with more options in offering health insurance to their employees. The bill also allows HMOs to offer healthy lifestyle program incentives.

In addition, the Senate approved legislation giving school districts more flexibility and options for employee health care plans. Many school districts face rising employee health care costs, keeping education dollars from reaching the classroom where they are needed.

Tax Cuts for Michigan Manufacturers: This package will provide half a billion dollars in tax relief for Michigan's core businesses – the manufacturing sector that has been struggling in the state's weakened economy. It will reduce taxes for Michigan's manufacturers by more than $500 million over four years beginning Jan. 1, 2006. While this is step one in a needed total tax restructuring, we are hopeful that jobs can be saved in the auto industry.

The year 2005 was very good to our community. We've seen the opening of the Beck Road interchange, the Rock Financial Showplace and the groundbreaking for a full-scale hospital at Providence Park.

As always, your comments are welcome and appreciated. You may reach me by e-mail at: senacassis@senate.michigan.gov, or toll free at 1-888-38-NANCY.

***

State Senator Nancy Cassis, a Novi Republican, represents the 15th Senate District, which includes the townships of Commerce, Highland, Holly, Lyon, Milford, Novi, Rose, West Bloomfield and White Lake; as well as the Villages of Holly, Milford and Wolverine Lake; and the cities of Novi, Northville (the portion in Oakland County), Orchard Lake, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wixom.

ADVERTISEMENT

Protect Yourself From Becoming A Victim Of Identity Theft This Holiday Season

Novi, Mich., January 5 2006 – While many shoppers were hitting the malls and Web sites for holiday gifts this season, criminals were also searching for a one-of-a-kind item—your identity.

Consumers should take special care to protect their identities from thieves, says Allstate Agent Louis Kirby. The increased spending during the holiday season provides more opportunities for criminals to steal your identity. The hustle and bustle of the holidays creates the perfect environment for thieves bent on stealing your credit cards or other financial information," says Kirby. "It's easy to become less guarded about personal information such as credit cards, personal checks, drivers licenses and social security numbers.

Identity thieves take personal information and use it to impersonate a victim, stealing from bank accounts, establishing phony insurance policies, opening unauthorized credit cards or obtaining unauthorized bank loans.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, over 27 million Americans have been the victim of identity theft in the last five years, costing consumers over $5 billion in out-of-pocket expenses.

Victims of identity theft are often left with lower credit scores and spend months or even years getting credit records corrected. They frequently have difficulty getting credit, obtaining loans and even getting hired. According to the Identity Theft Resource Center, most identity theft victims end up spending 600 hours on restoring their identity. With so much increased spending, consumers should carefully monitor their credit card bills and bank balances to make sure that they actually made all of the purchases, says Kirby. In fact, the FTC reports that 52 percent of all identity theft victims discovered that their identity was stolen by monitoring their accounts.

To protect your hard earned money this holiday season, Kirby suggests you:

•Keep the amount of personal information in your purse or wallet to the bare minimum. Avoid carrying additional credit cards, or your social security card or passport unless absolutely necessary.

•When making purchases, guard your credit card. Shield your hand when using ATM machines or making long distance phone calls with phone cards. Don't fall prey to 'shoulder surfers' who may be nearby.

•Always take credit card or ATM receipts. Don't throw them into public trash containers, leave them on the counter or put them in your shopping bag where they can easily fall out or get stolen.

•If you plan to do your shopping online, make sure that you are buying from a reputable retailer with a secure network.

•Don't rely on your credit card company or bank to alert you of suspicious activity. Carefully monitor your bank and credit card statements to make sure all transactions are accurate.

•Tear or shred any documents that have personal information such as credit card numbers, bank statements, charge receipts or credit card applications.

Theft of personal possessions is generally covered by homeowners and renters insurance policies, however, you may also want to consider obtaining identity theft insurance. The policy provides reimbursement to crime victims for the cost of restoring their identity and repairing credit reports. Some companies now include coverage for identity theft as part of their homeowners insurance policy. Others sell it as either a stand-alone policy or as an endorsement to a homeowners or renters insurance policy. Identity theft insurance generally covers expenses such as phone bills, lost wages, notary and certified mailing. Simple preventative measures can keep identity thieves at bay. Knowing your rights and the steps you can take to restore your good name and credit is valuable piece of mind this season," says Kirby.

For more information on this and other safety topics, contact Allstate Agent Louis Kirby, located at 49357 Pontiac Trail, Suite 103 in Wixom. Louis can be reached at 248-669-0755.

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wholesale clearance

STARTS TODAY – THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

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60% off Children's outerwear. Choose from styles for infants, girls' sizes 2-16 and boys' sizes 2-20. Orig. 30.00-125.00, **sale 12.00-50.00.** IN CHILDREN'S.

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EXTRA 50% OFF ENTIRE STOCK

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*10% off Shoes, Ladies' Suits and Dresses and Jane Seymour Furniture.

*EXCLUDES SUPER DESIGNER, DESIGNER/STORE, WHOLESALE VALUE ITEMS, LEVI'S, LEVI'S ACTIVE, PRAIRIE CLOTH, LIBERTY OF LONDON, COLUMBIA SPORTSWEAR, COSMETIC ACCESSORIES, COSMETICS, ELECTRONICS, FRAGRANCES, GIFTS, GIFT CARDS, GREAT FEETS AND BOOKSELLER COLLECTIONS IN FINE JEWELRY, SPECIAL ORDERS AND WATCHES IN FINE JEWELRY, SERVICE CONTRACTS IN FINE JEWELRY, MERCHANDISE, BRIDAL PRICED ITEMS, INTIMATE APPAREL, ESSENTIAL GIFT, PRIZMAR LEATHER GOODS, LACOSTE AND JAMESON SWEATWEAR, THE MERCHANT COLL, CHRONICLE, CHARLOTTE'S LITTLE, MOVIE CLASSICS, MOVIES & SPORTS STORE, CHARLOTTE'S ROMANCE, MOVIES, MOVIES, MOVIES, MOVIES, MOVIES, MOVIES, LARGE CHILDREN'S FAIR, KIDDIE SHOES, SHOES, SANDALS, BOOTS, SLIPPERS, SNEAKERS, SNOWBOARDS, SKIS, SKI BOOTS, SNOWSHOES, SKI MERCHANDISE, SKI SUITS, SKI PANTS, SKI JACKETS, SKI SWEATERS, SKI HATS, SKI GLOVES, SKI MITTENS, SKI SCARVES, SKI UNDERWEAR, SKI SOCKS, SKI BOOTS, SKI BINDINGS, SKI POLES, SKI PACKS, SKI BAGS, SKI GOGGLES, SKI HELMETS, SKI MASK

When it comes to women's health, it's personal.

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Jacqueline Belen, D.O.
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Adam Cooper, M.D.
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Richard Herman, D.O.
Livonia, Dearborn Heights

Judith Josfin-Page, D.O.
Farmington Hills

Roger Kushner, D.O.
Livonia

Jerry Markowitz, D.O.
Redford

At what age should I have my first visit with a gynecologist?

For a healthy girl, between the ages of 13 and 15.

We'll talk about breast and pelvic exams, answer questions about development, puberty and peer pressure. We'll also give information about health and sexuality.

Are you a mother considering a visit for your daughter? Think through of the intent of the visit. Is it a menstrual problem? Does your daughter need a resource for information?

A young lady's first visit with a gynecologist should be in a comfortable, relaxed and calm environment.

What's a healthy weight?

While many young women focus on a number, we are more interested in your lifestyle. Establishing healthy patterns now helps lifelong vitality and reproductive health.

Eat from all food groups, emphasizing fruits and vegetables. Exercise regularly. Be kind to your body.

What are symptoms of postpartum depression?

Many women go through hormonal changes during pregnancy and after delivery. Hormones produce chemical changes in the brain that may lead to depression.

Initially, a new mom may feel the "baby blues." These occur within about three days after delivery and go away within about ten days.

Postpartum depression is different from "baby blues." It can last from two weeks after birth to up to one year. Symptoms include:

- losing interest or pleasure in life
- losing appetite
- having less energy and motivation to do things
- having a hard time falling asleep or staying asleep
- sleeping more than usual
- excessive crying or tearfulness
- feeling worthless, hopeless or overly guilty
- feeling restless, irritable or anxious
- experiencing unexplained weight gain or loss
- having thoughts about hurting yourself or your baby.

During your post-delivery checkup, we will talk about your physical and emotional health.

When do I need a mammogram?

When you visit, we discuss family history and identify factors that may affect your health. This discussion helps us determine an appropriate time for your baseline mammogram, between 35 and 40 years of age.

At 40 years, plan an annual mammogram screening.

Close relative with breast cancer? Your first mammogram may be at an even younger age.

What are the symptoms of menopause?

It's a women's natural aging process; monthly menstruation ends. Hormonal changes leading up to menopause happen over several years, normally between the ages of 42 and 56.

The clearest sign of the start of menopause are irregular periods and when blood flow becomes lighter or heavier.

Additional signs may include the following: weight gain, hot flashes, insomnia, night sweats, vaginal dryness, joint pain, fatigue, short-term memory problems, bowel upset, dry eyes, itchy skin, mood swings and urinary tract infections.

After menopause, do I still need an annual exam?

Yes, including a breast exam, a check of your ovaries through a pelvic exam, a screen for cervical cancer through a Pap smear and a discussion about diet, nutrition and your emotional health.

Get a Pap smear about every three years after menopause. Low-risk women in their late sixties or early seventies may usually stop having Pap smears.

What can I expect after menopause?

Emotionally, you'll probably experience new levels of satisfaction in your life. Women report having more fun in their everyday lives and enjoy their independence. Perhaps new freedom with less responsibility, retirement, travel or leisure activities encourages this period of great exploration.

Physically, you will probably feel much better as menopause symptoms and stress subside. As your body becomes accustomed to new hormone levels, you will begin to feel more comfortable in your body.

When will I need a pelvic exam?

Within three years of becoming sexually active. If not sexually active, plan your first visit between 18 and 21 years of age.

I want to talk with my daughter about growing up, but don't know what to say.

We will gladly talk with you about age-appropriate information for your daughter. From you, she'll learn about sensitive topics such as development and contraception.

When should I take prenatal vitamins?

As you begin to plan a family, talk with us about the many ways you can prepare your body for pregnancy, including prenatal vitamins. Taken before pregnancy, these help at the earliest stages of development, providing three very important nutrients - iron, folic acid and calcium.

Folic acid helps prevent birth defects very early in pregnancy. More iron meets the demands of pregnancy. Calcium helps build strong bones and teeth for your baby.

Do I need to take calcium to avoid osteoporosis?

Life can be hectic in your twenties, thirties and forties with friends, family and work commitments. These years cover your reproductive and premenopausal stages. Calcium maintains bone stability and strength when bone mass normally decreases.

Eat two to three serving of dairy foods per day. If this is not in your diet, take a supplement to achieve about 1,000 mg of calcium per day.

Bones need exercise, just like muscles, to gain strength. Weight-bearing exercise, such as walking, dancing or lifting weights, help build strong bones.

Do I need Pap smears after a hysterectomy?

It depends on your hysterectomy.

With a total hysterectomy, removing both cervix and uterus, you probably do not need an annual Pap smear. If only the uterus was removed, you do need the annual test. If cervical cancer was involved, you need a Pap smear.

After any hysterectomy, we continue annual pelvic exams.

Vance Powell, Jr., D.O.
Farmington Hills

Harvey Roth, D.O.
Livonia, Dearborn Heights

Cara Lynn Speler, D.O.
Farmington Hills

Adrienne Stanley, D.O.
Livonia, Dearborn Heights

Linda Tucker, D.O.
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Deirdre Wickham, D.O.
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John Sellers, D.O.
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Film school comes to Sheraton Novi

■ Class designed for novices, pros

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Whether you're a consummate professional or novice in the film industry, the learning really never ends.

This month, professionals and amateurs are invited to a two-day crash course in independent filmmaking in Novi.

StreetLamp Productions of Michigan has teamed with Dov Simens, voted "America's #1 Film Instructor" by the National Association of Film Schools, to bring his 2-Day Film School to Novi.

D. Simens

Simens is founder of the Hollywood Film Institute.

Classes will take place from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 21 and Jan. 22, at the Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel on Haggerty Road just north of Eight Mile Road.

The 2-Day Film School is designed for professional filmmakers, independent and guerilla filmmakers, screenwriters, producers and directors.

Past graduates include the director Quentin Tarantino; Detroit-born actor, comic and producer, Sinbad; director/writer Guy Richie; actor Will Smith of "Men in Black"; and actress Valerie Bertinelli of the former TV show "One Day a Time."

Former students invite teacher

Thad Johnson of Clarkston, who owns StreetLamp Productions Ltd. with his wife, Pamela, said that they recently attended Simens' film class at the San Francisco Film Arts Foundation.

"We were so impressed with the class that we hired him to come to Detroit before we left to come back to Michigan," Johnson said.

"The class provided an A to Z presentation on how to make a feature film in terms that everybody can understand."

Johnson noted that local film enthusiasts who plan to attend the class have quite a treat in store.

"We were excited that Dov accepted our offer, as he travels around the world presenting this class," he said. "We feel that with the advancements in digital technology, Dov gives us the tools to take our hobby into a business."

Mark Adler of Novi, president of the Michigan Production Alliance in Novi, said it's rare to have a class like the 2-Day Film School offered in the Detroit area.

"Organizations like this one don't seem to come to the Detroit area that often, and there are a large number of aspiring filmmakers in the area," Adler said. He said more film classes are offered in Chicago and New York.

Adler, who is a member of the area's film production community, noted that there are still film industry jobs in Metro Detroit. In fact, he will work as a teleprompter operator at the Feb. 5 Super Bowl XL at Detroit's Ford Field.

The Michigan Production Alliance offers a half-day film boot camp twice a year. The next class will take place March 18 at the Detroit Film Center on Washington Boulevard in downtown Detroit.

For more information about the March event, contact Adler at markadler@mpaml.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@gannett.com.

All about film

The 2-Day Film School will be Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 21 and Jan. 22 at the Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel's Forum Amphitheater, 21111 Haggerty Road, in Novi. The $389 tuition is due in full upon registration and is non-refundable and non-transferable.

To register, go to www.StreetLampProductions.com or call (248) 922-3182. Class size is limited to 97, and registration will be processed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

"The class provided an A to Z presentation on how to make a feature film in terms that everybody can understand."

Thad Johnson
StreetLamp Productions Ltd.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Walkin' the dog(s)

Mike Mashari walks his golden retrievers "Cruiser" and "Shadow" along Novi's Taft Rd. near Nine Mile last Thursday morning. With snow melting along the path, Mashari warned to be careful as he'd fallen nearby last winter and broken an ankle.

FAITH

The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, along with the Episcopal Dioceses of Western, Eastern and Upper Michigan will be sending a truck of requested supplies to New Orleans, picking up the items from East Lansing, Kalamazoo and Flint on Monday.

This relief effort, organized by the Diocese of Michigan Hurricane Relief Office, is one of several truck loads of supplies, beds, medicines, new infant items and Christmas toys, that have been sent to the devastated regions in Louisiana and Mississippi since September. (www.edomi.org, go to main and click on the hurricane symbol to learn more about hurricane relief efforts).

K. Henry

Supplies requested include large first aid kits, large six-volt flashlights, hammers, crowbars, brooms, shovels, rakes, buckets, bleach, face masks, contractor trash bags, heavy duty wire cutters, duct tape, harmful dust repellant face masks, disposable plastic gloves, paper towels, toilet paper, diapers (all sizes) and hand sanitizer (small). Also needed are new blankets and twin size sheet sets.

The office of disaster response in the Diocese of Louisiana reports that these items are needed at their mobile units which services areas where folks are just re-entering their neighborhoods: Clients come to the mobile unit for pastoral care as well as immediate needs.

If you would like to donate any of the requested supplies, you may drop them off at Church of the Holy Cross, 40700 W. 10 Mile Road, (between Meadowbrook and Haggerty roads) Novi, no later than Sunday. Financial contributions to purchase the needed supplies are also welcomed.

The Rev. Karen Henry, Church of Holy Cross, is coordinator of hurricane relief for the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan. She can be reached at (248) 477-1175 or hkrelief@hotmail.com.

Floors To Your Door

By: Mike Riley

Making a Fashion Statement With Carpet

Early in any home decorating project is the best time to get specific with your 'floor-plan.'

Carpet is a designer favorite because it is so versatile, capable of tying together many different decorating styles to create that exciting personal statement. Carpet can be a neutral color, blending in with bold fabrics and other surfaces, or it can be the vibrant focal point of the room.

If you're going with carpet throughout the house, discuss layout with your salesperson to see if seams can be placed in less-noticeable areas.

If you plan to change the flooring types from one area to another, consider carrying a dominant color from adjoining rooms so a "flow" can be maintained. The next challenge, though, will be how to transition from carpet to other floor coverings. Let your independent retailer guide you.

Ask how you can "hide" soiling by using medium and darker colors, tweeds and textures which help disguise common household problems in high-traffic areas.

Don't be afraid to try new colors and designs. New stain and soil resistant technology makes today's lighter color carpet much easier to clean. That means more decorating options.

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2570 Jackson Ave. (next to Blockbuster) 734-769-1722
Briarwood Mall (In Sears Wing Near Center Ct.)
AUBURN HILLS
Great Lakes Crossing Mall 248-293-1799
Courtland Center Mall (next JC Penney)
BRIGHTON
8159 Challis, Suite C (off Grand River, in front of Target) 810-225-4769
BURTON
1295 S. Center Rd. (at corner of Lapeer Rd.) 810-743-4646
Courtland Center Mall
CANTON
45447 Ford Rd. (corner of Ford & Lilley Rds., Canton Corners) 734-844-0451
DEARBORN
23417 Ford Rd. (just West of Telegraph) 313-278-4491
Fairlane Mall (3rd floor next to Sear's)
313-441-0168
DETROIT
14126 Woodward (Model T Plaza) 313-869-7292
FARMINGTON HILLS
31011 Orchard Lake Rd. (S.W. Corner of Orchard Lake Rd. & 14 Mile Rd.) 248-538-9900
FENTON
12245 Silver Pkwy (In the Sear's Plaza) 810-629-2733
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NOVI
43025 12 Mile Rd. (Twelve Oaks Service Dr., North of Sear's) 248-305-6900
Twelve Oaks Mall (lower level play area)
PONTIAC/WATERFORD
454 Telegraph Rd. (across from Summit Place Mall) 248-335-6900
ROCHESTER HILLS
3035 S. Rochester Rd. (at Auburn Rd.) 248-853-4550
ROYAL OAK
31521 Woodward Ave. (at Normandy) 248-549-4177
ST. CLAIR SHORES
26401 Harper Ave. (at 10 1/2 Mile) 586-777-4910
SOUTHFIELD
28117 Telegraph Rd. (South of 12 Mile Rd) 248-358-9700
STERLING HEIGHTS
45111 Park Ave. (M-59 & M-53, Utica Park Plaza) 586-997-6500
Lakeside Mall (Lower CL play area)
TAYLOR
23455 Eureka Rd. (across from Southland Mall) 734-287-1776
NOW OPEN!
Southland Center 23000 Eureka Rd. (in the JC Penney wing)
TROY
1910 E. Big Beaver Rd. (Troy Sports Center) 248-526-0040
Oakland Mall (Inside Main Entrance, next to Food Court)
WESTLAND
35105 Warren Rd. (S.W. Corner of Warren & Wayne Rds.) 734-722-7300
OR VISIT THE VERIZON WIRELESS STORE AT CIRCUIT CITY
ANN ARBOR
AUBURN HILLS
BRIGHTON
DEARBORN
GRAND RAPIDS
HARPER WOODS
LIVONIA
NOVI
TAYLOR
INKSTER
TROY
WESTLAND
See store for Return/Exchange Policy.
Drive responsibly. Call with care.
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BUSINESS CUSTOMERS, PLEASE CALL 1.800.890.2002

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Ann Arbor Wireless 734-327-5960
Custom Communications 734-677-5600
BLOOMFIELD HILLS
Global Wireless 1-888-607-1800
BRIGHTON
Auto One Brighton 810-227-2808
Cellular and More 810-227-7440
CANTON
Cellular and More 734-981-7440
CLARKSTON
Cellular Technologies 248-625-1201
CLINTON
Communications USA 248-290-6300
COMMERCE
Cellular Sales 248-360-9400
Wireless Townsaver 248-960-1500
Wireless Townsaver 248-960-7800
DEARBORN
Wireless Cellular 313-582-1190
FARMINGTON
Dilorenzo Touch 248-615-1177
FARMINGTON HILLS
Cellular City 248-848-9800
Fusion Communications 248-427-9476
FENTON
Cellular and More 810-629-7440
FERNDALE
Communications USA 248-542-2390
FT. SMITH
Wireless Solutions 810-385-5400
GRAND BLANC
Communications USA 810-694-6500
GROSSE POINTE
Authorized Cellular 1-800-VIP-PLUS
HOWELL
Communications 517-548-7705
HUDSON
Authorized Cellular 734-981-7440
CLARKSTON
Cellular Technologies 248-625-1201
LIVONIA
Communications USA 248-290-6300
Cellular Sales 248-476-9400
Wireless Townsaver 248-960-7800
MT. CLEMENS
Authorized Cellular 1-800-VIP-PLUS
NEW BOSTON
Fusion Communications 248-437-5953
NOVI
Wireless 248-476-4077
ORTONVILLE
USA Wireless 248-627-4031
PLYMOUTH
Ann Arbor Wireless 734-455-3200
ROMEO
Wireless Xpertz 248-550-5151
ROCHESTER HILLS
Cellular Technologies 248-299-0008
ROSEVILLE
Authorized Cellular 1-800-VIP-PLUS
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Fusion Communications 248-546-7700
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TROY
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2005

YEAR IN REVIEW

(Read from the top of a column down to the bottom.)

continued from front

Molloy said. "He was a visionary who was always striving to do his best. Under his leadership, we saw over eight straight years of declining crime. I think that's a testament to the plan the Chief had in place."

Kathy Mutch, president of the Novi Historical Commission, said when Shaeffer came to Novi it was at a time of significant transition for the city.

"Novi's rapid growth meant that the police department was challenged to respond to the needs of an increasing population and to the increase in the number and types of crimes without a corresponding increase in staff or funding resources. Chief Shaeffer found ways to expand the use of technology and training within the department to better serve the whole community," she said.

The Chief's graveside service Aug. 19 at Orchard Hills Cemetery included a 21-gun salute and a fly-over by the Oakland County Sheriff's Office helicopter.

■ Tragedy strikes Novi jeweler

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Gary Weinstein is slowly recovery from a devastating 2005.

After losing his wife, Judith, 49, and two sons, Alex, 12, and Sam, 9, to a car accident in May, Weinstein, of Farmington Hills, thought life couldn't get any worse.

But it did. On Aug. 24, close to four months after losing his family to a drunk driver, Weinstein lost his business of 18 years to fire.

"We (were) shocked by the news that there (had) been a fire at Gary Weinstein's jewelry business in Novi," said Barry LaKritz, attorney for Weinstein and family. "Obviously, this loss pales in comparison to the loss of Gary's wife and children this past spring."

Around 3:30 p.m. May 3, Judith and her two sons were on their way to dentist when a GMC Denali plowed into their Honda Accord at 70 mph on 12 Mile Road. All three Weinstein's were killed from the impact of the crash, and police arrested 48-year-old Thomas Wellinger for drunk driving and three counts of vehicular manslaughter.

T. Wellinger

According to police, Wellinger reportedly had a blood alcohol level of .43, which is .35 higher than the legal limit of .08.

More than 1,000 people filled Dorfman Chapel in Farmington Hills to say their good-byes to the three Weinsteins.

Weinstein moved on with his life after his family's death, until he got a phone call that his business had gone up in flames.

"We had two calls," said Novi Fire Chief Art Lenaghan. "A passerby called it in, and within I'm guessing one to two minutes, we got a second call from the alarm company reporting the fire in the jewelry store."

According to reports, the fire was contained in about an hour. However, it did damage several neighboring businesses.

Lenaghan said at least 60 percent of the building frame was damaged in the fire.

Weinstein Jewelers was back on the map in a temporary location in October.

"You don't realize how much you have until you lose it," said store manager Rebekah Robinson. "We may rebuild in the same location or at another, but we are committed to the Novi area."

Currently, Weinstein is moving on with life and past his loss at 42400 Grand River Avenue.

According to Robinson, Weinstein is doing OK and working to rebuild his business in 2006.

■ Catholic Central moves from Redford Twp. to Novi

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Students of Catholic Central High School received a major treat in 2005, as the facility moved from Redford Township to its brand new state of the art complex in Novi.

The new school, at the southwest corner of Wixom Road and Grand River Avenue, includes more than 50 classrooms, six science labs, music and art rooms, a large library, a gymnasium with an indoor track and seating for 2,000 for basketball.

It also boasts a football stadium with seating for 3,500 fans, which was built by Mike and Lou Stanford of Varsity Lincoln Mercury, eight tennis courts, two baseball diamonds and several practice fields.

The Novi campus, which was designed by architect John Argenta, a member of the class of 1958, was open in time for the 2005 school year.

The move was the fourth for the school, which began educating students in 1928 in Detroit. It was a private, college-preparatory school for boys in grades nine-12 that held 260 students at the time.

Catholic Central moved to two other locations in Detroit before landing in a "temporary" location at a former middle school in Redford Township.

Five Basilian priests and three seminarians taught this unexpectedly large group of young men in 1928 at the former high school of Holy Rosary Parish located on Harper Avenue near Woodward.

In 1934, when Holy Rosary's new pastor reclaimed the building for use as a parish school, the Basilians moved their students to Holy Name Institute at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, which they had administered since 1932. The new school, located on Belmont Avenue in Detroit, was named Catholic Central.

The school also flourished, undergoing three separate renovations and additions by 1940.

In 1951, a new facility was completed at Hubbell and Outer Drive in northwest Detroit, an area from which many CC students came. More than 800 students were enrolled that first year.

In 1978, the Detroit Public School District, in need of an additional school in northwest Detroit, asked the Basilian Fathers to vacate the Outer Drive Campus and relocate. The chosen site was an empty junior high school on Breakfast Drive in Redford Township.

That location was Catholic Central's home for 24 years before the school's final move to Novi.

■ Revamped interchange helps to ease traffic woes

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Residents and local businesses celebrated the opening of the new I-96/Beck Road interchange in Novi with much fanfare on Oct. 24.

Several even braved cold winds to witness a ribbon-cutting ceremony that morning for the new Single-Point Urban Interchange (better known as its acronym SPUI or "spooey.")

"What a wonderful day this is for the city of Novi," said then-Mayor Lou Csordas. "This is the end of five to six years of tremendous effort and a lot of hard work from the men and women that built this interchange."

Novi taxpayers got the ball rolling on the project when they approved a road bond in 2000 in which they agreed to contribute $18.4 million for road improvements

This amount was leveraged into more than $90 million worth of road improvements from local, county, state, federal and private sources.

"It's been five years of constant repair, but there's never any gain without any pain," Csordas said.

State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) noted that Rep. Shelly Taub, chair, appropriations committee, House of Representatives, joined in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Cassis said it was 1997 when she had the opportunity to place the Beck Road and Wixom Road interchanges back on the Michigan Department of Transportation's plan.

"Today, indeed, is a great celebration," she said. "The opening of a new, modern interchange will ensure greater safety to our traveling public and further energize Oakland County's economic engine, bringing renewed opportunity for job growth."

Speaker of the House Craig DeRoche (R-Novi) said, "This is something we have worked so hard and so long for. This is an example of what can be done in state government to help Michigan change the economic situation that we're in right now."

MDOT Director Gloria Jeff said the new interchange included the work of designers, consultants, contractors, Jeff said, who recognized that while in the 1960s Novi was a rural environment that it changed into a suburban one.

Lou Martin, director of public relations for Providence Hospital, said the interchange was important with the opening of Providence Park Hospital in 2008 at Grand River Avenue and Beck Roads.

St. John Health, parent company of Providence Hospital, donated about 11 acres valued at about $3 million to make the project happen.

Wixom Mayor Mike McDonald said talk of the interchange started as early as 1991.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm finally approved funding for a new interchange at I-96 and Wixom Road just west of the I-96/Beck Road interchange on Nov. 17. She had previously vetoed funding for the project, much to the chagrin of local residents, lawmakers and business owners.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Providence Hospital of Novi president Rob Casalou, right, was joined by its former CEO Brian Connolly and Sister Xavier Ballance, Chairman of the Board of Providence Hospitals, at the groundbreaking festivities for Novi's new in-patient building.

An artist's rendering of the new Nordstrom store coming to Twelve Oaks Mall.

■ Nordstrom leads Twelve Oaks expansion

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Twelve Oaks Mall has grown up this past year with the addition of new stores and customer attractions.

The major addition to the already 180 store complex will be Nordstrom expected to come in 2007.

Nordstrom entered the market in 1996 at the Somerset Collection in Troy, and Novi can expect a two-level, 165,000 square-foot department store to be built on the southeast corner of the mall, according to Bloomfield Hills-based Taubman Development Vice President Bruce Heckman.

"A new store at Twelve Oaks Mall will allow us to more conveniently serve customers in the western communities of the greater Detroit area," Heckman said.

The Novi store will be the second Nordstrom's introduced into the Michigan market in the past 10 years.

Nordstrom's offers a large selection of fashion apparel, shoes and accessories for men, women and children. Merchandise ranges from classic to contemporary as well as exclusive couture designs.

Construction will start this spring, giving Twelve Oaks the advantage of expanding from about 1.2 to 1.5 million square-feet.

Marshall Field's, soon to be known as Macy's, is also included in the mall's square-foot addition.

As the second largest department store chain in the world, Marshall Field's plans to be a 300,000 square-foot super giant when construction is complete.

■ Dion chosen to lead Novi school district

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Peter Dion was introduced to the Novi Community School District in 2005, as 13-year superintendent Dr. Emmett Lippe retired from his post.

Dion is the former Grosse Ile Township Schools superintendent. He was chosen by the board of education to be Novi's super in early February and took over the job on July 1.

P. Dion

Originally, 31 individuals applied for the position. The board interviewed seven candidates and narrowed the search to three. When the board cut the pool of candidates from to two on the night of Feb. 2, eliminated from the list was Virginia Kyro, superintendent of the Oxford Area School District.

After that, the board held a candid, informal special meeting to give school district stakeholders a chance to voice their opinions on a candidate of either their personal choice, or the choice of the group they might be representing.

After that process, the board voted unanimously to extend the offer to Dion: Tom Hosler, superintendent of the Huron School District, was the other candidate.

"It was an extremely difficult decision as the two remaining candidates both had much to offer," former board president John Streit said. "The board is pleased to offer Peter a contract as he has demonstrated the ability, skills, and vision that will enable Novi to continue its mission of excellence and its never-ending quest for greatness."

"We wanted to hear from the administrative council, the PTO, parents, any of the staff meaning teachers, or any of the other bargaining groups that we have so we can consider that as far as our decision making," Streit said. "We had some feedback and I was hoping more people would come out. But the feedback we had was very positive in regards to the candidates and also in regard to the process that we used to get to this point."

Dion held the position of superintendent of Grosse Ile Township Schools for seven years. Prior, he served as superintendent for Birch Run Area Schools.

"Helping every employee — and I'm talking about every employee — have a feeling of self-worth is a big priority," Dion said a month after being hired.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi High School Athletic Director Curt Ellis went over the school's Athletic Policy in his office as the district weighed whether or not to make drug screening part of their code of conduct for athletes.

The store will also be introducing hundreds of new brands and presenting merchandise in bold and compelling ways in stores across the country.

"Following the renovation (and expansion), guests will find more spacious departments, expanded merchandise assortments and several new brands to choose from," said Frank Guzzetta, Marshall Field's president and chief executive officer.

Twelve Oaks also welcomed several smaller stores this year, including teen boutique Delia's and dog store, Just Dogs! Gourmet.

Delia's is a well-known brand aimed toward teenage girls. The store features the latest styles at affordable prices and is just in time for back to school wardrobes.

Pittsburgh-based franchise Just Dogs! Gourmet opened a kiosk on the lower level of Twelve Oaks in September. The four-year-old business sells gourmet dog treats and gifts at 50 shops across the country.

Dan Jones, manager of Twelve Oaks, said the addition of more square-footage for Nordstrom's and Marshall Field's will allow more than 25 new stores to join the center.

"There are definitely some big changes going on," Jones said, "and it will be great once everything is complete."

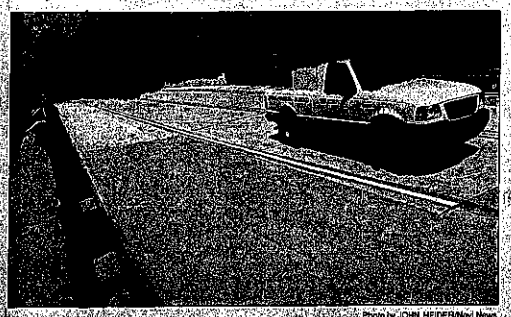


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Traffic cruised over the new Meadowbrook Road bridge in Novi on Aug. 8, the first time in awhile that it saw cars and not construction equipment.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/ Novi News

Kevin Mykolaitis in Judge Brian MacKenzie's 52-1 District Court for the start of his preliminary exam. Mykolaitis was charged in May with first degree murder in the death of Cameron Sandera.

"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."

■ Landry becomes city's new mayor

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

David A. Landry became the city of Novi's new mayor on Nov. 8, as the former Mayor Pro Tem was selected over political newcomer Keith Kuhn.

Three out of four in Landry's slate were victorious, with incumbent city council member Kim Capello and former library board chair Terry Margolis capturing council seats.

The fourth member of the political slate, David Staudt, landed in fifth place with 14.92 percent of the votes.

It was a close race for the third council seat between Andrew Mutch and Lowell Sprague, with Mutch receiving only 174 more votes than Sprague.

Justin Fischer, the youngest candidate at 22, came in sixth place in the city council race with 11.38 percent of the vote.

Gwen Markham, who dropped out of the race but whose name still appeared on the ballot, received 762 votes. Voter turnout was low, with only 20.99 percent of Novi's 32,301 registered voters casting their ballot.

The Northville Public Schools operating millage proposal for Novi residents living in the Northville school district passed, with 633 voters approving the millage and 286 opposing the millage. This restored the millage lost due to the reduction required by the state's constitution and will be levied only to the extent necessary to restore that reduction.

Landry said he was proud of the way his slate conducted the campaign.

"There was more negative campaigning, innuendo than I've ever seen before," Landry said.

"And we didn't engage in any of it. We stayed above it. It's an absolute honor that the citizens would vote to make me the mayor, and I'm going to try to do the best I can and keep everybody's interests in mind."

Kuhn, who watched the results come in at Lucky's with Mutch and Sprague, said he enjoyed the campaign.

"I didn't get a lot of votes, but it was a lot of fun. I enjoyed the challenge immensely. But, I was a little disappointed in the turnout of my constituency," he said.

Capello said, "Even being an incumbent, every campaign is difficult. I'm looking forward to working with these people. I think things are moving in the right direction."

Margolis said she was surprised and stunned by the win.

"I'm really honored that people saw something in me. I look forward to working to move this city to where we need to be and to continue to make it a great place to live," she said.

"It's a very exciting opportunity for me to have a chance to be able to have an impact on the future of the community," Mutch said.

"I think that a lot of people supported my message that I was campaigning on, which is controlling growth, making more of an investment in our community and giving residents a voice in city government."

■ Major bridge replaced in southeast Novi

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Residents of southeast Novi hailed the use of one of its major north-south connectors when the new Meadowbrook Bridge opened on Aug. 8.

The bridge on Meadowbrook Road between Nine Mile and 10 Mile roads had to be replaced after engineering consultants determined it was unsafe for travel, forcing an immediate closure of the bridge on April 6.

The bridge was completed 10 days ahead of schedule, giving the contractor a $28,000 early-completion incentive bonus on the project.

The bridge reconstruction needed to be completed before the start of the 2005-2006 school year. Motorists welcomed the ability to be able to use the major road again.

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

"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 bridge's 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 company'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 they 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.

Meadowbrook Road still has a weight restriction, Hayes said.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi School District superintendent Dr. Emmett Lippe, right, hands with Novi High School teacher Ron Flutur at Lippe's retirement party.

Those in attendance at the groundbreaking included Providence and St. John Health staff, members of the Novi City Council, then-Mayor Lou Csordas, Speaker of the House Craig DeRoche (R-Novi), State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi), Cardinal Adam Maida and Father Richard Elmer from Catholic Central High School.

Trinity-Health-Michigan and Mount Clemens General Hospital, inc., filed a lawsuit against St. John Health System (which owns Providence Hospital) and Henry Ford Health System to block the transfer of beds. But on March 23, the Michigan Court of Appeals affirmed the July 2004 decision by the Ingham County Circuit Court in favor of St. John Health and Henry Ford Health System.

The judges dismissed the opposing hospital systems' claims on the ground that they lacked standing.

"All in all, we couldn't have asked for a better outcome," said Rob Casalou, president of Providence Hospital. "It's not as much a victory for Providence and St. John as it is a victory for the community."

When it opens, Providence Hospital hopes to be "guest friendly," as it will be providing county adaptable rooms. A portion of the rooms will be designed so that patients can remain in one room throughout their hospital stay.

The rooms will be divided into two areas — the care giver and patient zone and the family zone. Bathrooms will be placed at the back of the rooms instead of just inside the front door, so staff can observe patients more easily. Staff will have access to a computer station with wireless laptops conveniently placed outside the rooms.

The hospital will still have a 31-bed dedicated Intensive Care Unit on the second floor next to the surgery department and above the emergency department for major trauma patients, extremely sick patients and complex surgical patients.

Out of the 200 beds at the new facility, 31 will be ICU beds; 27 will be labor-delivery-recovery-postpartum beds; six will be inpatient pediatric beds; and 133 will be the acuity adaptable beds.

Because the new hospital is being constructed south, where the current emergency department is located, the emergency entrance will be moved. Ambulances will continue to use the same route as always. But for walk-ins, the entrance will be moved to the front of the building facing Grand River Avenue.

"Novi's a great opportunity (to try a new patient care model), but it will be a waste unless we export the knowledge from our Novi experience to all of our other St. John facilities," Casalou said.

■ Lawsuit victory clears way for hospital

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Many of Novi's elite gathered on Oct. 17 to witness the groundbreaking ceremony of Novi's new Providence Park Hospital, set to open its doors in July 2008.

The plan calls for a 200-bed, $224 million hospital at the southwest corner of Grand River Avenue and Beck Road when it's all said and done.

■ Novi's new showplace really Rocks

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

The sale is final and the name is set in stone ... make that rock.

The Rock Financial Showplace, which opened Aug. 26 on Grand River Avenue, has become a leading exposition venue in Novi compared to neighboring Detroit competitor Cobo Hall and the former Novi Expo Center.

"This (was) in concept and dream form for so many years," said Showplace owner Blair Bowman. "To finally be standing there and welcoming people to the ballroom I've been talking about was really an incredible feeling."

Bowman partnered with Rock Financial's senior vice president, David Hall, and together built an $18 million project providing more than 320,000 square-feet of exposition and banquet space on a 50-acre site.

Bowman said the center was projected to attract 1.5 million visitors and generate in excess of $250 million of direct economic impact for the community in the first year of operation. It was also expected that more than 200 full-time jobs were created by the venue opening.

There have already been more than 30 users of the facility, including the Novi Rotary Club and Children's Hospital for the 2005 Festival of Trees, and more than 70 major events have been scheduled since August.

Recently, the Novi City Council has been going back and forth regarding plans for the former Novi Expo Center. Bowman is also the owner of the Novi Expo Center and currently in the process of trying to sell it.

"We began looking into options in 1996 because we knew we had to do something," Bowman said. "The old expo center just wasn't meeting the exposition needs or the demand for banquet and conference space."

Clay Pearson, assistant city manager, said he hoped something good would come of the old center.

"It's a shame to let it sit empty," Pearson said.

The Rock Financial Showplace is 35 percent larger than the former Novi Expo Center and offers more than four times the meeting space.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi High School Robotics Team member Eric Hepler watched as their Frog Force 503 machine went through its paces in a laboratory at MagnaTech in Livonia.

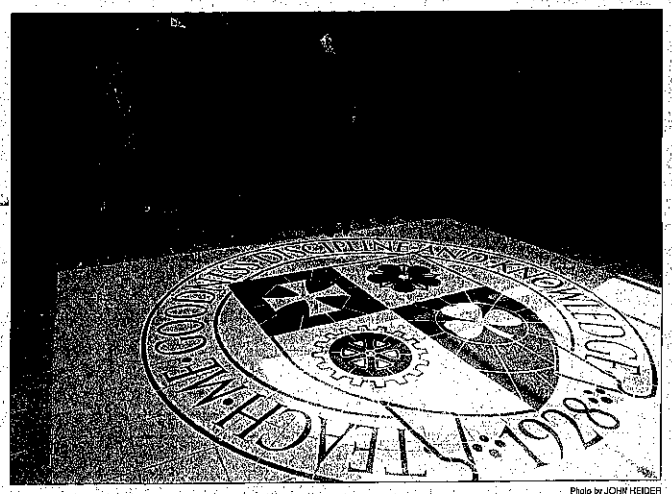


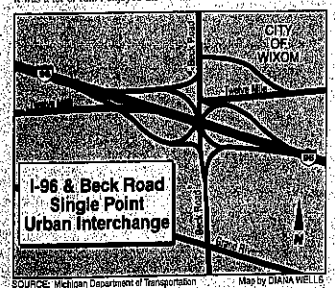
Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Passing by the school's crest, Father Marvin LaBute, far right, led a tour of Detroit Catholic Central's new Novi campus.

■ Other top stories of 2005

- State Sen. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, enters the race for Michigan governor and then drops out to give Dick DeVos the best shot at defeating Jennifer Granholm.
- The Sarmona family battles its neighborhood association for the right to display a nativity scene on their front lawn of their Novi home.
- Local Rotarians celebrate the 100th birthday of Rotary International, as the service organization nears its goal of eliminating polio worldwide.
- Former Novi City Councilman Craig DeRoche, in just his second term as a state representative, is sworn in as Michigan's Speaker of the House.
- Novi's "downtown" gets a boost as Anthimo of Novi and Second City opened their doors Aug. 4 in the former Local Color Brewery location.
- Several members of City Council went back and forth on whether having youths on boards and commissions was appropriate, but after several qualified young people applied, city council decided to increase the number of members of the Novi City Youth Council from 13 to 19.
- City Council members began the daunting task of deciding how to spend about $7 million the Novi Police Department will receive from the Drug Enforcement Agency following a nationwide two-year investigation of a large drug cartel that began after Novi and Northville police found $4.8 million in drug-related money in March 2004. In September, council members earmarked $1.2 million of the funds to help pay off the department's building fund debt and another $1 million for a firearms range.
- One of Novi's founding fathers, Fraser Stanton, passes away at 100.
- Administrative employees in the city of Novi contemplate unionization as City Council grapples with escalating costs for health care and benefits.
- Kevin Mykolaitis, 37, of Farmington Hills, was charged with first degree premeditated murder in the death of Cameron Sanders, 26, of Novi, whose body was found April 14, 2003, near Twelve Oaks Mall. The two former inmates incorporated an allegedly bogus business, then took out a $600,000 life insurance policy, naming each other as beneficiaries.
- Gannett buys HometTown Communications Network, which includes the Novi News.
- Members of Friends of Novi Parks and others were overwhelmed when a state trust fund board awarded a grant of $846,338 to the city in December that will form a new Meadowbrook Park on about 51 acres east and west of Meadowbrook Road between Nine Mile and 10 Mile roads.
- The fate of Ford's Wixom assembly plant remains in question even as the Wixom Road/I-96 interchange overhaul is rescheduled.
- Frog Force 503, Novi High School's robotics team, beat out 339 other teams from six countries to take the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology Robotics World Championship Event in April.
- After the Novi Community School District approved a new code of conduct, new superintendent Peter Dion made some modifications of his own. As several parents disapproved of its contents, he went to work and changed it from a code to an all-encompassing handbook.

Pam Fleming, Ramez Khuri and Tracy Mishler are staff writers for the Novi News. They can be reached at (248) 349-1700.



SOURCE: Michigan Department of Transportation Map by DIANA WELLS

D. Landry

K. Capello

BY THE NUMBERS

■ Mayor (two-year term)	
Keith Kuhn	1,329
*David Landry	5,055
■ Council (four-year term)	
*Kim Capello	3,938
Justin Fischer	2,106
*Terry Margolis	3,134
*Andrew Mutch	2,969
Lowell Sprague	2,795
David Staudt	2,760

*denotes winners

T. Margolis

A. Mutch

Search on for Novi's next city manager

■ City Council members note top qualities

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

With Novi's city manager, Rick Helwig, retiring on Feb. 3, the search is now on for his replacement.

City council members recently hired Robert Slavin of Slavin Management Consultants of Georgia to help them develop a profile for a new city manager for Novi.

Mayor David Landry said, "I think the profile is easy — find another Rick Helwig. I think that Rick has been an outstanding city manager. All Mr. Slavin has to do is look at him, and he'll know exactly what we need."

R.Helwig

Landry added, "I think we clearly need someone who is experienced as a city manager. There is virtually nothing that Rick has not seen. Whatever issue has come up, he's already been there. His experience has been invaluable to the city."

The mayor believes Helwig is also an excellent communicator, another quality he'll be looking for in the next manager.

"We need someone experienced in managing people and a city of our kind and nature, such as one that's had to deal with land issues," Landry said.

Landry also mentioned that the city needs a manager who can remain cool and calm in the midst of crises.

Member Toni Nagy is looking for someone with leadership skills to improve city employees' morale.

"I'm also seeking someone with new management techniques who can implement a system in which city departments are interconnected when working on the same project," Nagy said.

She's also looking for someone who has the city's best interests at heart and can tell council if an idea is good or bad.

Nagy also wants a manager with good people skills and an understanding of the financial aspects of Novi.

Member Terry Margolis is looking for someone with experience in city management.

"I believe the best predictor of future performance is past performance," Margolis said. "I'm looking for someone with a broad range of experience with a city close to the size of Novi."

Margolis said she also wants a leader who's had experience managing a city with a similar character to Novi's and one that's also in a similar stage of development.

"I'd like someone who has shown that they can lead a group of professionals and someone who can work with the council to set and achieve goals for the city," Margolis said.

Member Bob Gatt believes choosing a new city manager is the single most important task that any present member of council will have during their tenure.

Honesty, integrity trustworthiness are Gatt's top priorities in selecting a manager. He's also looking for a long-term employee.

"I want a person who will commit to work as our manager for at least 10 years," Gatt said. "I want stability and the next manager to lead us to and then through build out."

Experience and education would be high on Gatt's wish list for a new city manager.

"I don't want Novi to be a training ground for someone who has dreamed of being a manager," Gatt said.

Finally, he wants someone with charisma. "I want someone who possesses that intangible quality that says 'I am the next Novi city manager...and you won't find better,'" Gatt said.

Member Andrew Mutch wants someone with prior experience as a manager in a high-growth community similar to Novi.

"I want someone with demonstrated ability to find creative solutions to the challenges facing Novi, including managing growth, dealing with long-term financial costs and reinvesting in Novi to maintain our status as one of southeast Michigan's top communities," Mutch said.

He also wants a city manager who can provide strong leadership, identify and develop skills and talents of existing employees and attract new employees.

Other qualities Mutch seeks is experience in economic development and business retention; a willingness to be actively involved in the community; and who can with surrounding communities on solutions to regional problems.

Mutch is also looking for someone who can work with the governing board/council to identify and prioritize short- and long-term goals and developing policies, programs and budgets to successfully meet these goals.

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@gannett.com.

Selection process usually takes about three months

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

So, what's the process city councils uses in hiring a new city manager?

Hiring a management consulting and recruitment firm was the first step, which was completed in December.

Robert Slavin of Slavin Management Consultants, headquartered in Norcross, Ga., then interviewed the seven members of city council and city department heads last month to see what they are looking for in a replacement.

Next, Slavin's staff will develop a profile for the ideal candidate for the city manager position, with city of Novi staff's and council members' approval.

Finally, after reviewing responses from advertisements and candidates that Slavin's staff finds, the top five prospective city managers will be reviewed by city council.

Mayor David Landry said council members will then decide how many of the five candidates they wish to interview.

Landry said the entire process usually takes about 90 days, and that council hopes to have retiring city manager Rick Helwig's replacement hired shortly after Helwig's departure in early February.

Helwig was the city's sixth city manager. Harold Ackley was the first manager when Novi became a city in 1969.

The second city manager was Alice Zonkers. The third one was George Athas. The fourth manager was Harold Saunders. Ed Kriewall was the fifth.

Former city manager Kriewall started working for the city in 1969, became city manager in 1974 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 2000.

Current assistant city manager Clay Pearson will serve as the interim city manager in Novi. Landry said, until a decision is made on Helwig's successor.

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@gannett.com.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Mud Bowl
With mud all over their clothes and shoes, Bob Johnson, left, Nick Kowalczyk and about ten other Novi High graduates play football last Friday afternoon at Novi Woods' field.

OBITUARY

NESBY E. BUTTON

Age 91, December 26, 2005. Beloved wife of the late Asron "Russ". Dear mother of Rose Estelle Gutton and Aaron Russell, Jr. (Jennifer). Loving Grandmother of Aaron, Brandon, Aaron III & Austin. Visitation was at the O'Brien Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi, (248) 348-1800. Instate and funeral service was Friday at Novi United Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi. Memorial donations may be made to a charity of choice. On line sympathy message at 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.

"I want someone who possesses that intangible quality that says 'I am the next Novi city manager...and you won't find better.'"

Bob Gatt
Novi City Council

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Space Reservation Deadline
Monday, January 16, 2006
Copy Deadline
Tuesday, January 17, 2006
Publication Date
Thursday, February 2, 2006

Livingston County Daily Press & Argus 517-548-7060
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Monday, January 30, 2006
Copy Deadline
Tuesday, January 31, 2006
Publication Dates
February 23, 2006

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

Volunteers patrol Alpine Valley for local skiing enthusiasts

By Aileen Wingblad
STAFF WRITER

One popular way to enjoy the winter months is strapping on skis or grabbing the snowboard and hitting the slopes.

Often times, Alpine Valley is the place to go with its easy access and convenient location off M-59 in White Lake Township.

Yet along with the fun of skiing and snowboarding, there's always the threat of getting hurt. Sure, following the rules of the hill, staying sharp and not attempting maneuvers beyond one's abilities play a huge role in leaving the slopes without injury. Yet as safe as skiing and snowboarding are, accidents happen. Bones break, ligaments strain, joints are sprained. Sometimes, things get really serious, requiring extensive medical care.

Fortunately, emergency help is ready at Alpine Valley. With a volunteer ski patrol 104 members strong, visitors who suffer mishaps can get assistance right away. And when more extensive help is needed, the patrol can make sure that happens, too.

Prepared for the worst

Greg Koenig won't soon forget the worst injury he's encountered so far during his 10 years as a ski patroller at Alpine Valley. He was on duty about two years ago when a 15-year-old boy came off a jump and had a horrible landing — hitting the ground head first with no helmet, then sliding about 100 yards. Right away, Koenig and two other patrollers were called to the scene. What he encountered was extremely disturbing, he said.

"The kid seemed completely out of his mind, yelling and screaming," Koenig said, likening it to how he imagines a crazed drug user would act. "It was unbelievable. He kept saying everything hurt, but he was unable to answer any questions. It was so surreal, and super scary."

But as frightening and critical the situation was, Koenig and the other patrollers called on their emergency training to help the injured teen. Immediately, they contacted paramedics and administered first aid on the hill. The teen was then transported down the hill on a toboggan-type stretcher as an ambulance arrived to whisk him off to a hospital for care.

"We didn't think the kid was going to make it," he said.

The ski patrol later learned the teen suffered a fractured skull and was put into a medically-induced coma to help him heal. He made a full recovery, returning to Alpine Valley several weeks later to thank the ski patrol, Koenig said.

"The doctors said he would have died back on the hill if he hadn't gotten the help from us," Koenig said. "And when he and his father came back and met everybody, the kid remembered nothing (about the accident), but it was cool to see him. He was perfect, walking around with no side effects or anything. We did everything right: we got to him fast and then got him the professional help he needed."

Doing their best

Fortunately, most of the injuries that the Alpine Valley ski patrol encounters aren't that severe. Instead, when someone does get hurt on the slopes there, it's much more likely an arm or leg — and often times the problem is relatively minor. Skiers that get injured tend to hurt lower limbs, he noted, while snowboarders more commonly have wrist or arm injuries.

"I've seen a couple of knee dislocations, but everything else is usually strains, bumps and bruises," said Koenig. "And I have heard of some serious ones, but as for very, very serious, none has happened while I was on duty."

Fellow ski patroller Greg DiCenso, who has been with Alpine Valley for 35 years, agreed that of the 200 to 300 injuries the volunteer crew handles each year, most are fractures or suspected fractures. And an ambulance is needed only about 5 percent of the time, he said.

"Of course, we treat for the worst. We treat a possible break like a break, splinter it, monitor vitals," he said. "We follow the standard procedures that if there is a suspected (spinal) injury, we use a backboard, then call an ambulance. And if there is a consciousness problem or bleeding, we call the paramedics."

When asked if he ever gets rattled when treating an injury, DiCenso replied with an emphatic "no."

"We have so much training, we're ready for it," he said. "I just do the job. Later, maybe, when I think about it there might be some stress over it, but when you have to, you just get into the mode. You don't let blood or whatever bother you."

Treating kids can be particularly heart-wrenching, he admits. "But you just do you best. Sometimes you know they may have to visit the emergency room, but you just do your best to calm them down."

Photo by HAL GOULD
Alpine Valley ski patroller Dan Gilin pulls a rescue toboggan down one of the runs.

Training pays off

So when one's injured self is put in the hands of a ski patroller, just how trained are those hands?

Close to those of an emergency medical technician, according to Marilyn Gilin, patrol director. Training spans two years and entails an intensive outdoor emergency program that covers all aspects of emergency care, including CPR and use of automotic defibrillators, assessing and calming a patient, and using backboards to stabilize spines — often staged in hockey medical situations. The program is held every year, beginning in July and running through November, with students meeting twice each week.

"We cover one-third of the first aid course each year, so every three years we go through the entire course," Gilin said.

Ski patrollers also undergo training to improve and enhance their skiing abilities and proficiency in "tobogganing" — transporting the injured on a toboggan for medical care.

Every year, patrollers refresh their skills — medical, tobogganing and chairlift evacuation — prior to the start of the ski season.

"I think we do an excellent job," Gilin said.

A varied bunch

Alpine Valley's ski patrollers are adults who come from all walks of life — from Koenig, who is a Milford business owner and DiCenso, a Bloomfield Township attorney, as well as paramedics, physicians, engineers, carpenters, plumbers, retirees and more.

Gilin, who is a senior occupational therapist and certified hand therapist, noted that there is always room for new ski patrollers. The best candidates are people in reasonably good shape who have a medical background — or are interested in learning. Of course, skiing skills are essential, too. The minimum age is 18, though there is a "mini patrol" for kids of patrollers, ages 6 through 12.

Photo by HAL GOULD
Alpine Valley ski patrol director Marilyn Gilin discusses the day's events with patroller Bob Cowen of Farmington Hills. He has volunteered on the ski patrol for 40 years.

Patrollers at Alpine Valley receive no pay for their duties. In fact, the volunteer work costs them money. Members must purchase their own ski patrol jacket, which ranges from $100 to $250, depending on the lining they choose. They also pay for their own training materials and dues, which total about $200 per year. Dues are put toward developing training techniques, books and equipment, Gilin explained.

Jeff Augustyn of Highland is a retired automotive engineer who joined the patrol six years ago. He said he particularly enjoys the camaraderie among the ski patrol members, noting that he never has to ski alone because each ski patroller is issued an annual pass for Alpine Valley. "As I got older, I was finding fewer and fewer people to ski with. But now, there is always someone to ski with — a community of people to ski with," he said.

Augustyn said that he's also learned to be a better skier and has been able to fulfill his long-time goal of learning CPR and life saving. "I like to be out on the hill with folks, helping them out. I like to be 'hands on'," he said.

Ski patrollers sign up for two five-hour shifts each week, skiing along the slopes to make sure everyone is keeping safe and watching for injuries, as well as manning the ski patrol building. And they often put in extra volunteer time, too, helping to take care of the ski patrol building by keeping it clean and doing minor repair work. Patrollers also run a ski swap fund-raiser each fall to help pay for first aid supplies.

"We're an all-volunteer army," said Ray Fitzsimons, another ski patrol member.

And it's a service they are proud to perform. "The potential (for injury) is always there. We do our best to make it as safe as we can, training for the worst-case scenario.

"I like skiing, but it's good to give back a little, "said Fitzsimons, a professional pilot from West Bloomfield. "We are here to make this sport a little safer — and have plenty of fun enjoying it, too."

For more information on the Alpine Valley ski patrol, visit the web site www.alpinevalleyskipatrol.org. The Alpine Valley is part of the National Ski Patrol System, Inc., a federally-chartered educational association based in Colorado.

Aileen Wingblad is a reporter for the Milford Times. She can be reached by phone at (248) 685-1507 ext. 22 or by e-mail at awingblad@gannett.com.

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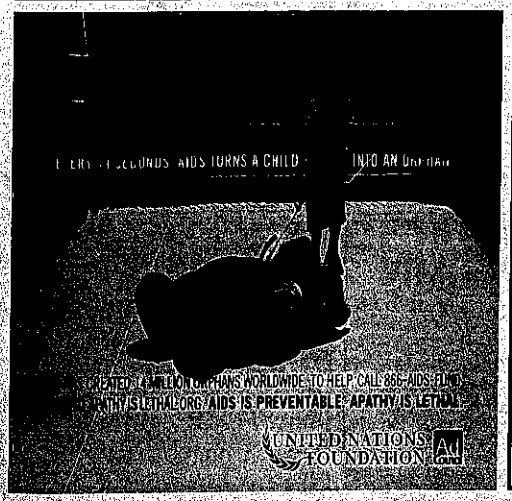

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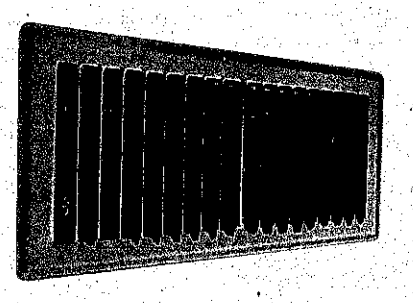

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EDUCATION

Ramez Khuri, school reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 rkhuri@gannett.com

Courtesy photo

Mothers, prepare to cheer!

Mothers Cheri Crist, Molly Seidl, Denise Sherman and Karol Miller await members of the Novi High School band as they get in their concert attire before the Winter Concert on Dec. 8. Their job is to make sure that everything runs smoothly, and the students are able to get their uniforms on and prepare for the concert.

Courtesy photo

Novi Woods students go shopping without their parents

Novi Woods students recently visited their annual Holiday Shop. The children were able to choose presents for their relatives and friends and have them gift wrapped. Pictured here are some of the many students and parent volunteers who participated in the event.

Pepper has Novi students eating healthier

■ Food services uses mascot, prizes to promote healthy eating habits

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Where's Pepper?

That seems to be the question on every Novi elementary school student's mind lately, and it's music to JoAnn Clements' ears.

Pepper the dog is the Novi Community School District's new nutritional mascot, and he's based on Clements' own dog. His picture is plastered on menus from Village Oaks all the way to Deerfield, with signs that read "Pepper says don't forget your vegetables," and other health conscious messages.

"This is a new idea that we just started doing this fall," said Clements, food services director. "We're doing it with the idea in mind that children will pay more attention to a cute little character than they might with a school cook or to me."

A nutritional worksheet goes home with the kids every month that features games for kids to participate in, such as coloring the food groups, or a food jumble, where they try to figure out words.

The children send Clements their entries, and once a month she does a random drawing, where one child from every school is the winner.

The prizes have been fitness based, like exercise balls, or family passes at Paradise Park for Laser Tag or to Bonaventure.

"Also, once a month my dog and I visit each school and Pepper gives the kids a prize," Clements said. "The kids love having a dog there. I sit with them, we talk about nutrition and how important it is to eat right, and how Pepper eats right."

The importance of eating healthy isn't just an issue within the Novi Community School District. There's actually a federal mandate by the government that says by July 1, 2006, every school district in America must have a wellness policy in place. One of the charges for food service is to participate as much as possible in educating kids about nutrition.

"My goal is to just surround them with positive messages, and I hope that ultimately they'll just become used to the fact that this is how we eat, and this is the way it's done at school," Clements said. "Hopefully it will become normal and common to them to think about making good choices and to eat healthy. The dog was my way to hook them and get them excited about it."

And it's working. Clements said students are recognizing her instantly when she walks into any elementary building, and many ask her where Pepper is.

"The kids are really enjoying it, and it's turned out to be a lot more fun than I thought it was going to be," Clements said. "We realize that we're not going to change anything overnight, but I really hope that by the time our kindergartners are graduating high school, the concepts of nutrition are going to be there."

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@gannett.com.

Novi Community Education Corner

• Cardio Sculpt
Date: Monday, Jan. 9-Monday, March 27 (Mondays and Thursdays); Tuesday, Jan. 10-Thursday, March 23 (Tuesdays and Thursdays). No classes Jan. 16, Feb 20, 21, 23
Time: 7–8 p.m. (Monday and Thursday classes); 6:30–7:30 p.m. (Tuesday and Thursday classes)
Location: Orchard Hills Elementary School gymnasium (Monday and Thursday classes); Parkview Elementary School gymnasium (Tuesday and Thursday classes)
Details: A combination class that is 25 minutes of heart-pumpin' cardio, and 25 minutes of muscle conditioning to tone the major muscle groups in your body.
Fee: $60 one day per week; $99 two days per week
Phone: (248) 449-1206

• Builder's License Seminar
Date: Tuesday and Thursday, Jan. 10-24
Time: 6–9 p.m.
Location: Novi Middle School, room 506
Details: Prepare for the State Builder's License Exam. This course includes 18 hours of instruction and is approved by the Michigan State Assessor's Board for 6 hours of recertification for Level 3 & 4 assessors.
Fee: $167 and a $20 material fee payable to instructor at first class
Phone: (248) 449-1206

• Beginner Bridge
Date: Wednesday, Jan.11-Wednesday, Feb. 15
Time: 7–9 p.m.
Location: Novi Middle School, room 506
Details: Have fun, and learn bridge while playing it. This class is for students with no knowledge of the game of Bridge.
Fee: $59
Phone: (248) 449-1206

• Mat Pilates
Date: Wednesday, Jan. 11-Wednesday, March 22; No class Feb. 22
Time: 7:45–8:45 p.m.
Location: Village Oaks Elementary School gymnasium
Details: This intensive mat workout enhances posture, flexibility, endurance, and balance while toning and firming.
Fee: $60
Phone: (248) 449-1206

• Learn to Knit 1
Date: Wednesdays, Jan. 11 & 18
Time: 7–8:30 p.m.
Location: Novi Meadows Elementary School, 6 Art Room
Details: Join this beginner lesson and learn the basics of knitting. You will learn how to knit, cast on, and bind off. No previous knitting experience necessary.
Fee: $30, $9 material fee payable to instructor at first class
Phone: (248) 449-1206

• Michigan Snowmobile Safety (ages 12 and older)
Date: Monday and Wednesday, Jan. 23 and 25
Time: 6–9 p.m.
Location: ITC Forum
Details: This DNR course will provide you with the basics required to become a safe and courteous snowmobiler.
Fee: $12
Phone: (248) 449-1206

On Campus

Novi resident RoseAnna Downing-Vicklund has been named a 2005 Canada-U.S. Fulbright Fellow. Downing-Vicklund, a doctoral candidate in anthropology in Michigan State University's College of Social Science, is using her fellowship to explore issues of trust and responsibility with respect to the quality of drinking water in Walkerton and Stratford, Ontario, Canada.

She is a 1994 graduate of Jackson High School. Her parents, John and Cheryl Downing-Vicklund are Novi residents.

She obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees in anthropology from MSU in 1998 and 2003, respectively.

School Briefs

Local bank gives back

Community Financial has presented checks to the Northville Educational Foundation General Fund, and the Novi Education Foundation Teacher Grant program.

The donations were made possible by Community Financial's financial performance during 2005 and its ongoing commitment to financial literacy. The foundations are among seven recipients in Michigan to receive a total of $5,300 from Community Financial's 2005 Community Shares program.

Hillside Middle School's student credit union was the site of the recent check presentation to the Northville Educational Foundation. A presentation to the Novi Education Foundation was made at the Orchard Hill's elementary school student credit union.

Headquartered in Plymouth, Community Financial is open to anyone who lives, works, worships, volunteers or attends school in Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi, Algonac, Ossego and Montmorency. With more than 35,000 members, Community Financial provides financial services to members at seven branch locations and through a variety of automated and online services.

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Courtesy photo

Novi helps Waterford

Novi Woods Elementary students collected about 1,000 clothing and toy items for needy students at Leggett Elementary school in Waterford. Pictured here are Conor Sherman, Chloe Allen, Jenna Beaudoin and Ryan Turner.

Courtesy photo

Building yummy houses

Novi Woods Elementary first graders celebrated the holidays by building and decorating gingerbread houses. Pictured, with their tasty creations, are Bradshaw Grady, Aaron Thibaudeau, David DeNova and Katie McMaster.

Courtesy photo

Santa's little helpers sing the holidays

Left, Annie Bailey's music classes at Orchard Hills Elementary School, which included Barbara Zimmerman's and Ron Levin's fourth grade classes, performed Christmas songs on their recorders for the residents of Henry Ford Village of Dearborn Retirement Community on Dec. 12. Pictured here are students Clare Backus, Chihiro Okano, Emma Howe, Stephanie Bixby and Sally Dagher.

Novi Middle School Honor Roll – 2nd Marking Period

Seventh Grade

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SPOTLIGHT ON: ALLERGY & ASTHMA
Presented by
Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.P., C.C.R.I.
ALLERGENS VS. IRRITANTS
Asthma attacks are triggered by allergens about 80% of the time, according to experts. Allergens include dust, pet dander, pollen, and mold. When an asthma patient breathes in an allergen to which they are sensitive, their immune system springs into action and their airways tighten. They suffer wheezing and shortness of breath as a result. Irritants set off a different body response that leads to similar symptoms. Irritants include pollutants, chemicals, tobacco, and perfume. When these substances are inhaled, receptors in the respiratory tract are stimulated, cause airways to narrow, and trigger common asthma symptoms. Key to an asthma patient's successful management plan is an awareness of which allergens and triggers should be avoided.
When you require the care of an allergist, or if you would like further information about today's topic, call the ALLERGY AND ASTHMA CENTER OF MICHIGAN. We provide outstanding care for your allergy and asthma problems, utilizing the newest treatments and medications. For an appointment call (248) 473-6400. Our office is located at 24101 Meadowbrook Road, STE 201, Novi. New patients are welcome. "The Caring Allergist Who Gets Results."
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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

Comau Pico: There's still hope they'll pick Novi

The city of Novi and Blair Bowman have put their best foot forward in their efforts to get Comau Pico into the former Novi Expo Center facility, but it looks like Southfield-based manufacturer is going to consolidate its operations to a site in Plymouth Township instead.

The company made a formal announcement of its headquarters preference, but choosing Novi could be a win-win situation.

- The expo facility is a prime site, right off of I-96 and Novi Road.
- Comau Pico already has two plants – Novi Industries and Autotech – just south of the expo site and could remain a valuable business partner in this community.
- Although tax abatements in Novi are as rare as a good Detroit Lions team, the company met every single criteria for getting a 12-year one.
- State funds could be accessed for creating a necessary ring road.
- True, the expo center would be a retro-fit as opposed to starting with a clean slate in Plymouth, but we're willing to bet owner Bowman would consider altering his facility.

We haven't heard any lady (regardless of her size) sing yet, and we're hoping that Comau Pico takes another close look at all that the expo facility and Novi have to offer.

LETTERS

Blame Uncle Sam for auto industry woes

The following is an anecdotal story illustrating just how the problems in the US auto industry, which many believe stem from the UAW and Big Three management, have a wider impact on the economy than just car sales.

My son-in-law and I drive over 100 miles one way for the services of an automobile mechanic for routine maintenance because of his honesty and the high quality of his work at a reasonable cost. This mechanic told me the other day that when his clients, some of whom have used his services for years, buy a Toyota, he never sees them again. He has called on occasion to inquire about their health, only to find that they now use Toyota service exclusively. He believes that the Toyota dealerships have been very successful in convincing their patrons that their service is just as superior as the quality of their automobiles.

Having seen some of the styling on certain foreign automobiles, e.g., the Toyota Scion, and the comparisons of vehicle reliability, I find it difficult to believe that styling and superior quality are the basic causes of market share loss to foreign competitors. Perception, rather than reality, is perhaps the major factor. However, it is difficult to say what could change this perception over the short term. However, U.S. cars with batteries buried in the engine, engines without oil dipsticks, and warning lights that do not reset after a simple spark plug misfire might be an example of another place to start. Minor routine maintenance should not require a costly visit to your dealer.

Massive recalls certainly do not help either. I just had a 1998 van recalled because it was asserted that children might hang onto the door handle while the side door was being opened and they could get hurt in the process. Why don't the kids do their gymnastics in school?

One has to wonder just how much the U.S. government is contributing to the destruction of our U.S. auto industry. But American voters apparently support and consistently vote for these politicians who have nothing better do than interfere with industry at every opportunity, an essential area of our economy they know absolutely nothing about.

Richard Reising, Libertarian
Novi

Remember, no free lunches

A very interesting read was the letter from Walter Sobczak regarding the end of our Republic 12/29.

Unfortunately the Republic has been fading for quite some time, beginning with the creation of the Federal Reserve System. It seems we have become, or are becoming, an Empire much as the Romans once were. We have troops in over 100 locations around the world. For some reason (never have heard a good explanation) our fearless leaders wish to impose our form of government on others, most of whom are not the least bit interested in any change.

Meanwhile, our Congress and Emperor George have increased our national debt by 3 trillion dollars. This is done by borrowing 2 billion dollars per day from China, Japan, S. Korea, and others foreign countries.

This is a terrible legacy to leave for our children. Remember TANSTAAFL. There aint no such thing as a free lunch. I hope that others are seeing the fallacy of what our leaders are doing.

Clare Wilson
Novi

End of Republic or selective memory?

In response to Walter Sobczak's editorial if this action by President Bush is the end of the Republic - where was he 11 years ago when President Clinton exercised this authority.

In a quote from Deputy Attorney General Jamie Gorelick (who served under President Clinton) "The Department of Justice believes, and the case law supports, that the president has inherent authority to conduct warrantless physical searches for foreign intelligence purposes." Deputy Attorney General Jamie Gorelick testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee on July 14, 1994, "and that the President may, as has been done, delegate this authority to the Attorney General."

President Bush simply exercised an existing Presidential power. There was nothing illegal in what he did and precedent had been set by President Clinton in the Aldrich Ames case in 1993. This is simply another attempt to bash President Bush with half truths.

In the future I wish people would do a little research to find out the facts. Apparently it is just easier to pile on President Bush. By the way, this power has been available to all President's since 1981 (Executive Order 12333).

Edmund P. Shaheen
Novi

On theory and belief

Peter Pascaris ("Science and faith both offer ways to learn, but in teaching must be kept separate" p.19A, The Detroit Free Press, Dec. 22, 2005) gives reasoned arguments against one issue in the current administration's attack on science. He defends scientific methods which require exhaustive procedures of "verification and or nullification... ... constantly under scrutiny and... altered by verifiable evidence." "Scientific theories.. result from scientific inquiries that demand justification." "Hypotheses are tested by experiments that are repeatable and judged by quality of evidence, not by preconceived notions.

In other words, there is a difference between theory and belief.

The political cartoon by Signe Wilkinson/Philadelphia Daily News (p.18A, in the same edition, Dec. 22, 2005) which shows a minister holding a textbook titled Darwin in School pointing to a sign in front of his church containing these words, "Our church Sunday School: Creationism" summarizes succinctly Pascaris' valid views.

Hannah Provence Donigan
Commerce Township

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Catching fish, and time, with dad while on vacation

As I write this, pen and paper in hand jotting down notes, there are few worries on my mind.

Some around these parts might say one worry should probably be fear thanks to the three inches of ice separating me from 10 feet of water. Others would say the 20-some degree weather that is actually dramatically reduced thanks to the whipping wind chill coming unabated along the length of the lake and turning my face and ears a bright red.

S. Eggleston

Yet nothing of pressing importance is on my mind. Not money, not Novi and definitely not work.

Not far from me, sitting on a downed log on the shoreline is my dad, Mark. My Christmas wish this year was to spend some time with him. It, I'm happy to report, was granted.

There's nothing limiting my time with my dad other than the eight hours of driving currently separating us. But spending time with him is important to me and, quite frankly, I haven't done it near enough.

Growing up I was just too busy. As a kid I played video games and read comics. As a teen I participated in three or four sports a year, watched movies and did whatever else it was a teenager does. My dad was busy too, working as a logger in the woods, hunting, fishing and trapping, working on cars that have seen too much tough love and doing all those things a dad does.

Then life got even more hectic. I got married. Had a kid. Had an organ removed. Wrote a few sports stories. Won a few awards. I've managed to stay busy.

But on this trip to the Upper Peninsula I wanted to make time to be around him. Christmas, New Year's and Hell and high water weren't going to stop me from being around my dad.

So far I have helped him build his spearing shack, which he'll use to stick a few fish in 2006. I fixed the speaker system in the Jeep Wrangler I gave him earlier this year. I even took out the trash – something he couldn't get me to do real well when I lived at home.

But the most special time has been with him out on the ice. The Au Train Basin is a man-made lake that helps the power company keep the juice flowing. There are northern pike, walleye and a smattering of perch. An eagle flies overhead. Trees and hills surround the frozen water.

We're currently going after pike. We've had a few flags and a little luck. It's been a lot of fun, especially since my uncle Paul and his son Paul – who we affectionately call "Peanut" – are here with our neighbors Lenny and Kurt Garrow.

My dad isn't one to talk much. He'll add to a conversation and he'll respond to casual small talk, but he's not going to break out the good old stories just to keep it from being quiet. The others? They've got a story or two at any time one is needed.

Today is a little different though. My dad's laughing and joking around. He's told a few stories and he's given me plenty to think about. He reminded me how to haul the fish via a tip-up line through a 10-inch hole.

I watch him as he tells a story about a previous fishing expedition I wasn't around for. My back is to the tip-ups, but there are plenty of eyes scanning the ice besides mine.

The entire time I keep thinking about how much I want to be like him. He's a true outdoorsman, he's the hardest working person I know and he's my hero. He's worn a full beard – graying with age and the stress of raising me as a son – the entire time I've known him. In all those years he's never had teeth either, though you wouldn't know it with the way he eats venison, pork chops, steak and anything else he likes. He wears flannel. He drives a pick-up truck. He's as rural as they get and that's the way he likes it.

My dad is basically everything I'm never able to be.

But I try. I think he knows that. I hope he does.

Here I am, on my vacation, and I'm as relaxed as can be. I've got two 24-inch-plus pike under my belt already and I'm itching for more. My dad? He's smiling, sitting next to a fire he's made out of a downed cedar tree that my uncle has carved a seat in with his chainsaw.

The wind? The cold? The relatively thin ice I'm skating on while I'm out here? Nothing to worry about because I'm with my dad.

It's been a great vacation and I hope to repeat it as soon as I can, especially if it means spending more time with my dad.

It's a nice thought, but one that will have to be put on hold. There's a tip-up waving and it's my turn to try and set the hook on dinner. It's the furthest hole out from where we're sitting and I'm going to head straight for it. My dad will grab the bait and come with me.

Funny – with him there it doesn't matter if I miss the fish or not. I'm just happy we can do it together.

Sam Eggleston is a sports writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@gannett.com.

Straws in the wind as we make the turn into the New Year

"DEMOGRAPHY IS HISTORY," the experts say. That's a bit cloudy, but it basically means that a state's or a nation's future is profoundly determined by the size and nature of its population. In Michigan's case, the demographic trends that will determine what happens to our state in the long run will start becoming clear in 2006.

P. Power

First glimpses are not encouraging. The auto industry is scaling back and closing plants. Michigan's total auto employment is still 223,000, but that's down 79,000 from a decade ago.

That means that one out of every four 1996 auto jobs has disappeared. Blue collar workers are especially feeling the pinch, finding jobs outside the industry and often moving out of state.

That's especially true for younger workers who can't see much of a future in the auto industry — or elsewhere — here.

This also means that Michigan's population growth will likely continue to lag other states. Overall, we have grown by only 1.8 percent since 2000, which puts us 42nd among the states.

Keep this trend up, and we'll lose another seat in the U.S. House of Representatives — and the political clout that goes with it — after the 2010 census. (We've already lost four seats since 1980.)

The big question has to do with the education and skill level of those who stay. It's clear the manufacturing jobs of the future — like those at the DaimlerChrysler engine plant in Monroe or the Toyota tech center near Ann Arbor — will require post-high school credentials.

But the quality of Michigan's workforce overall lags behind other states — the consequence of a culture that assumed that any high school drop-out could get a good paying job at the auto plants.

THE DOMESTIC AUTO INDUSTRY will continue to shrink, of course, bringing the toughest economic times to Michigan in living memory.

David Cole, the head of the Center for Automotive Research and the ranking independent expert on the industry, thinks the chance of a strike at the now-bankrupt Delphi bringing General Motors down is less than 20 percent. I hope he's right.

It's a funny feeling, though, to realize that to a large degree the economic fate of Michigan depends on decisions to be made by only three people: GM's Rick Wagoner, Delphi Corp.'s Steve Miller and the United Auto Workers' Ron Gettelfinger. They may not be able to save our economy, but they could destroy it with a few bad moves.

You have to hope they're all as sane and smart as they appear.

SOME HOPEFUL SIGNS are on the horizon, though. State Superintendent of Instruction Mike Flanagan has recommended a seriously beefed-up curriculum for Michigan schools.

The State Board of Education has endorsed the idea, but it has to get through the legislature to become effective this year. I'd be surprised if our political masters actually stepped forward this year, but stranger things have happened. With a newly elected school board taking over in Detroit, I doubt anything of any substance will happen in what certainly is the most crisis-ridden district in the state.

And by mid-March, parts of six communities in Oakland County will be hooked up for widespread wireless Internet access in homes, cars, stores, parks and anywhere else. By the end of 2007, all 910 square miles of the county will be wired for wireless.

County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, the moving force behind this leap forward, says it's "history in the making." What puzzles me is why, if our political masters are so fired up about fixing Michigan's economy, they don't push a program like this statewide.

WHICH BRINGS US TO BUSINESS TAXES: Gov. Jennifer Granholm, House Speaker Craig DeRoche, R-Novi, and Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Grandville, have all agreed that Michigan's business tax structure badly needs to be simplified and restructured.

Granholm proposed a fairly substantial program early last year, but it languished amid partisan sniping. And the tax changes passed at the end of last year were marginal, at best.

Personally, I think a radical program is called for: Repeal the Single Business Tax and replace it by extending the sales tax to services while reducing the 6 per cent rate. But don't hold your breath. Unless I am happily wrong, the political system is sufficiently broken to insure nothing substantive or far-reaching will happen, even though this state is literally fighting for its economic life.

WITH THE FAILURE OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM over the past few years, you can expect a whole bunch of measures to be placed directly on the November ballot, bypassing a paralyzed legislature with "citizen-based" (i.e., special interest-financed) initiatives.

A partial list includes: Bans on abortion, dove hunting and affirmative action; raising the minimum wage; hiring preferences for veterans; guaranteeing funding increases for schools; strengthening private property rights; relaxing legislative term limits.

California leads the nation in this, a trend much criticized by political scientists as replacing representative democracy with direct vote by an uninformed and easily manipulated electorate.

"Californiaocracy," however, is the inevitable outcome of a political system that is dysfunctional and out of touch with the big concerns of real people. We need to change this — and my new year's wish for us all is that we figure out how.

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

CALENDAR

Cal Stone editor (248) 349-1700, ext 113 cstone@gannett.com

EVENTS

Kensington Valley Baseball Softball Association (KVBSA)

DATE: Monday, Jan. 16
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Scranton Middle School, 8415 Maltby Road, Brighton, west of Rickett Street and south of Lee Street
DETAILS: This travel baseball meeting is for the 2006 season and is for any new or returning U12-U18 teams.
CONTACT: Jeff David, (586) 206-7646, e-mail jeff.david@kvbsa.com or visit www.KVBSA.com

State of the City Address

DATE: Thursday, Jan. 19
TIME: 11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Avenue
DETAILS: The City of Novi and the Novi Chamber of Commerce hosts this event with Mayor David Landry and City Council members.
CONTACT: RSVP, Chamber of Commerce, (248) 349-3743 by Jan. 16.

Novi Theaters Open House

DATE: Tuesday
TIME: 7-8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: This is for anyone interested in the dramatic arts and will include refreshments, music, games, face painting and backstage tours. There is no cost.
CONTACT: (248) 347-0400 or www.novitheatres.com

Film School

DATE: Saturday, Jan. 21 and Sunday, Jan. 22
TIME: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
LOCATION: Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel, 21111 Haggerty Road
DETAILS: StreetLamp Productions of Michigan and Hollywood Film Institute Founder, Dov S-S Simens, will host this workshop. It is intended for the professional or amateur who wants to create an independent feature film. Tuition is $389. Class size is limited to 97 on a first-come, first-served basis.
CONTACT: Call, (248) 922-3182 or visit www.StreetLampProductions.com

Borders Bookstore and Music

LOCATION: 43075 Crescent Boulevard
CONTACT: (248) 347-0780

Second City Detroit, Novi

LOCATION: 42705 Grand River Avenue, Novi, located across from the Novi Town Center
CONTACT: (248) 348-4448 or www.secondcity.com

"In iPod We Trust"
TIMES/DATES: Various times, Wednesday-Sunday
DETAILS: Tickets are $15 and $20 and may be purchased at the Second City Box Office, on-line at www.ticketmaster.com or (248) 645-6666.

Training Center Classes
Conservatory Program:
Advanced training in the art of creating and performing a Second City revue.
Beginning Program: The fundamentals of Second City improvisation for adults with little or no experience.
Writing Program: The basics of comedy writing with advanced levels in stage, TV and film writing.
Youth Program: Improvisation and performing ensembles for ages 4-18.
Acting Program: Traditional scene study and text analysis training.
Music Program: Musical improvisation and the fundamentals of Second City song writing.
Private Workshops: Special classes in improvisation, comedy writing, and musical improvisation that can travel to your school or group.
DETAILS: Students (ages 18 and older) can register for classes through Dec. 23. Training center classes meet once a week for eight weeks.

Maybury Park Programs

LOCATION: Maybury State Park, Eight Mile Road between Beck and Napier roads.
CONTACT: (248) 349-8390

Providence Center for the Healing Arts Exhibit

DATE: Through Jan. 31
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi
DETAILS: This is the fourth annual "Mad Hatter Tea Party," a free show of original artwork by patients, families and associates, as well as juried pieces by Novi High School students. A reception will be held, 5:30 -7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6. Costumes are encouraged.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

American Association of University Women Northville/Novi

DATE: Saturday
TIME: 11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Schoolcraft College, VisTaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia
DETAILS: The cost is $22 and includes luncheon. The program will be True Colors by Barbara DeGrazia.
CONTACT: Mary Ann Stewart, (248) 449-7602

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 7
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

SCHOOL/ GOVERNMENT

Wixom City Council

DATE: Tuesday, Jan. 10
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wixom City Hall, 49045 Pontiac Trail
CONTACT: (248) 624-4557

Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Monday, Jan. 9
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 344-0470

Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, Jan. 12
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Educational Services building, 25345 Taft Road
CONTACT: (248) 449-1200.

BUSINESS

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Chat
DATE: Thursday, Jan. 12
TIME: 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m.
LOCATION: Chamber Office, 305 N. Pontiac Trail, Ste. B, Walled Lake
DETAILS: This is a roundtable luncheon sponsored by COCARD/Datalink Merchant Services. Discussion will include how to avoid fraud.

Annual Membership Luncheon
DATE: Tuesday, Jan. 17
TIME: 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m.
LOCATION: Edgewood Country Club, 8399 Commerce Road, Commerce
DETAILS: Meet the incoming new board members. Congressman Thaddeus McCotter will be the special guest.

CLASSES

Planning for a Successful Retirement Seminar

DATE: Monday
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School, Eleven Mile and Wixom roads
DETAILS: Novi Community Education Center is sponsoring this seminar featuring Jeff Land, of Bloom Asset Management. There is an $18 fee and reservations are required.
CONTACT: RSVP, Novi Community Education Center, (248) 449-1206

Oakland County Business Workshops

TIME: 9 a.m.-noon
LOCATION: Oakland County complex, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac
CONTACT: For registration, call (248) 858-0783

How to Start a Business
DATE: Today, Feb. 2, March 2
DETAILS: This is for anyone thinking about going into business. Participants examine their entrepreneurial skills, learn how to implement their ideas and receive a list of pitfalls to avoid when starting a business.

Legal Issues in Business
DATE: Thursday, Jan. 12
DETAILS: This covers the five main business entities available in Michigan, contract considerations and other related questions and answers. The fee is $30 per person.

How to Write a Business Plan
DATE. Jan. 19, March 9
DETAILS: This is a workshop for small business owners who are developing a plan to serve as their road map to success. The fee is $40 and includes materials.

Sales/Marketing Basics
DATE: Thursday, Jan. 26
DETAILS: This workshop is for building sales through smart marketing, including learning about product position, sales function and advertising. The fee is $45 per person.

Dementia Awareness Seminar: "Legal and Financial Issues"

DATE: Wednesday, Jan. 18
TIME: 7-8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Waltonwood Assisted Living at Twelve Oaks, 27493 Huron Circle
DETAILS: This seminar, for adults, seniors and families, is sponsored by Waltonwood Assisted Living and Alzheimer's Association. There is no fee, however, registration is advised.
CONTACT: (248) 735-1030

Walled Lake Community Education Builder's Pre-License Class

DATE: Jan. 23, 25, 30 and Feb. 1
TIME: 6-10 p.m.
LOCATION: Walled Lake Middle School, 46720 W. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake
DETAILS: This is a 16-hour comprehensive seminar offered by Walled Lake Community Education in cooperation with Oakland Builders Institute and includes information to pass the Michigan State builder's license examination. The cost of the seminar is $199 plus $20 for the course textbook and sample questions. Pre-registration with payment is required no later than Thursday, Jan. 19.
CONTACT: Walled Lake Community Education, (248) 956-5000 to register.
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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 Avenue, 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

Colored Pencil Workshop
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m., second Tuesday of every month
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center-Art Studio, Novi
DETAILS: This is a free class.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

Artist In Residence
TIME/DATE: 1-2:30 p.m., first and third Thursday of every month
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center-Art Studio, Novi
DETAILS: Join Artist-in-Residence May Oura Teevens and experiment with drawing, pastels, watercolor, Chinese brush painting, mixed media and collage. Beginners are welcome, there is a $5 materials fee.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

Line Dancing

DATE: every Monday and Friday
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Arena Drive
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

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.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.
DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

MLK hours

The library will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day, Monday, Jan. 16.

Story Times

DETAILS: Story Times resume Monday. Brochures listing the days and times of each drop-in Story Time session are available in the library.

Snack Tales

DATE: Monday
TIME: 7-7:45 p.m.
DETAILS: This program is for ages kindergarten-third grade and a story and making a snack based on the story. Call the library to register.

Knitting Class

DATE: Wednesday
TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.
DETAILS: This class is for ages 10 and up, with an adult, and includes learning how to knit, cast on and cast off. Each person should bring size 9 or 10 knitting needles and a skein of light-colored, 4-ply worsted-weight yarn. Call the library to register.

Starlight Story Time

DATE: Tuesday, Jan. 17
TIME: 7-7:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Preschoolers and their families are invited to enjoy bedtime stories. No registration needed.

Reading Maniacs

DATE: Wednesday, Jan. 18
TIME: 4:30-5:15 p.m.
DETAILS: Read a biography of your choice and be ready to discuss why biographies should be read. Hear about the books nominated for the 2006 Caldecott and Newbery awards.

Give the Gift of Reading

DETAILS: Novi Public Library is a collection point for The Gift of Reading program sponsored by the Detroit Free Press. New books suitable for reading to children up to age 6 can be dropped off at the library through today.

Battle of the Books Registration

DETAILS: The Battle of the Books is a program designed to encourage reading and to recognize young people who like to read. All fifth and sixth grade students who live or attend school in Novi are

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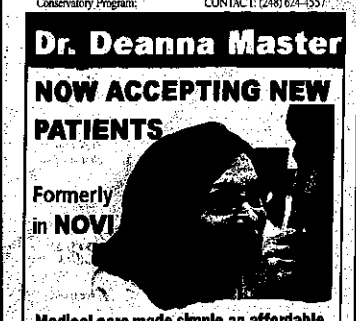

Typical visits (from sign-in to check out) take less than one hour. Same day appointments are available. The cost of a typical visit is $45 and in-office tests (when needed) are $10. Dr. Master is an M.D., board certified and on staff at both Garden City and Providence Hospitals. She sees patients of all ages and treats everything from sore throats to Diabetes.

FAMILY DOCTOR
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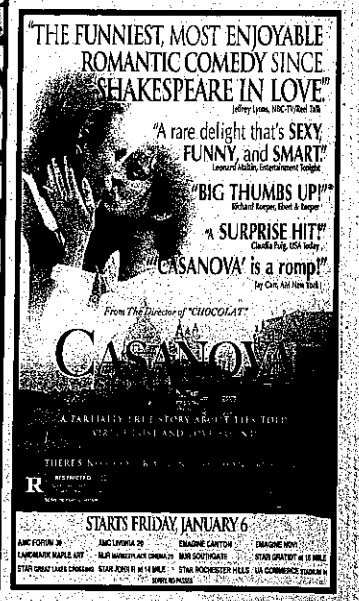
WALK IN or CALL 734.427.1889
30414 Cherry Hill
Between Middlebelt and Merriman
OPEN Monday - Friday 9am-2pm, CLOSED Thursday
noinsurancefamilydoctor.com



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eligible to participate by organizing teams of 3-6 students, plus an adult coach. (It is not necessary for teams to be from the same school or grade.) Students read from a list of five books and then participate in a contest where each team answers questions about these books. The first 12 teams to return their registration forms will be eligible to participate in the Battle, which will be held in March 2006. For more information, please contact the library's Youth and Teen Services department.

Library Board Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, Jan. 18
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: City Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: Community members are welcome to attend. Meetings are also broadcast live on cable channel 13.

Walled Lake Library Events

LOCATION: 1499 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake
CONTACT: (248) 624-3772
Weekly Story Hours
TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Wednesday; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Thursday
DETAILS: Includes stories, crafts, finger plays and games. Designed for ages 1-5. No registration required.

Taubman Centers unveil celebrity football exhibit and auction for Super Bowl XL countdown

Taubman Centers will unveil at 11:30 a.m. today, the Celebrity Football Exhibit and Auction, an officially sanctioned Super Bowl XL event, at Twelve Oaks Mall, Fairlane Town Center and Great Lakes Crossing.

The exhibit will feature over 120 plaster footballs decorated and autographed by representatives from all 32 NFL teams, in addition to local and national sports media and personalities including former Lion Barry Sanders and Jets quarterback Eli Manning. The footballs will be auctioned off on eBay, 6 p.m., Jan. 27 through 6 p.m., Feb. 5 and benefit "Detroit's NFL/Youth Education Town — Boys & Girls Club."

Twelve Oaks Mall, along with Fairlane Town Center and Great Lakes Crossing, will each display one-third of the 120 footballs.

Since 1993, the NFL has established a Youth Education Town (YET) in each Super Bowl Host city. The aim of these facilities is to positively affect youth in underserved neighborhoods by providing a state-of-the art site for enriching educational and recreational programs. The 30,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art facility will be owned and operated by Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan.

Among the over 120 decorated and autographed footballs in the three-center exhibit are:

- Paul Tagliabue, NFL Commissioner
- FOX Sportscasters Terry Bradshaw, James Brown, Jimmy Johnson and Howie Long
- Barry Sanders, Hall of Fame Player, Retired, Detroit Lions
- Eli Manning, New York Giants
- Deion Sanders, Baltimore Ravens
- Bill Belichick, Head Coach New England Patriots
- Joe Horn, New Orleans Saints and Jim Haslett, Head Coach New Orleans Saints

SUPPORT GROUPS

Neighborhood Baby-sitting Co-op

DETAILS: Using the co-op, you and your children can make friends and get what you need accomplished without the little ones in tow. Also enjoy a mom's night out and other social events.
CONTACT: Sue Tracz, (248) 380-0998.

Friendship Circle

DATE: 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: 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, (248) 437-5496.

Women's Prayer Support

DATE: Saturdays
TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
DETAILS: Come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer. Drop in for five minutes or longer.
CONTACT: Nancy or Susan, (248) 926-8332 or harvestfellowship@comcast.net

Novi Toastmasters

DATE: First and third Tuesday of the month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road
TIME: 7-8:45 p.m.
DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.

Breast Cancer Support Group

DATES: Second and fourth Tuesday of the month
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C
TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: No registration needed.
CONTACT: (248) 937-5017
CONTACT: Colleen, (248) 685-9226

New Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) chapter

DATES: Wednesday
TIME: 11 a.m. weigh-in; 11:30 a.m. meeting
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi
DETAILS: $20 per annual membership includes handbook; $1 per meeting. New members welcome.
CONTACT: (248) 347-0414

HEALTH

Yoga Classes

TIME/DATE: 12:30-1:15 p.m. Monday; 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Friday
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River, Novi
DETAILS: The cost is $10/walk-in; $80/10-class card; $70/7-week evening sessions.

Providence Medical Center Classes

LOCATION: Providence Park, Novi, 47601 Grand River Avenue
CONTACT: (888) 440-7325, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Childbirth Education
DETAILS: Evening or weekend series helping you and your partner get ready for the birth of your baby.

Childbirth Refresher
DETAILS: A one time class to review important information for birth of your baby.

Breastfeeding Preparation
DETAILS: A one time class for mom and her partner helping to provide tips for successful breastfeeding.

Baby Care Basics
DETAILS: A one time class with practical information about how to adapt to life with a baby.

Infant Massage
DETAILS: This two session class teaches parents how to offer their infant the comfort of massage.

Yoga Classes
TIME/DATE: 1:30-2:30 p.m. Monday; noon-1:30 p.m. Friday
DETAILS: The cost is $10/walk-ins or 10 class card for $80.

Boost Camp Day

DATE: Friday, Feb. 3 and March 3
TIME: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Providence Center for the Healing Arts, 47601 Grand River Avenue
DETAILS: This is a day of enrichment and personal exploration designed to provide valuable tools, information and a new perspective on healthier living through wholeness. The cost is $50 per person, including lunch and materials. Registration is required.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE

The Rock Financial Showplace is located at 43700 Expo Center Drive (southwest corner of I-96 and Novi Road). Call (248) 348-5600 or visit http://rockfinancialshowplace.com/for more information.

25th Annual Cycle World International Motorcycle Show

DATES: Jan. 6-8
TIMES: Fri: 4-9 p.m., Sat: 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
DETAILS: Special features includeBOSS Stunt Show, Suzuki Giveway, interactive game experience, vintage displays and a Kids Cycle Center. Admission is $13 for adults; $5 for children ages 6-11; free for children 5 and younger. Parking is $5.
CONTACT: (800) 854-3112 or www.motorcycleshows.com

Bridal Expo 2006

DATES: Jan. 7-8
TIMES: noon-5 p.m.
DETAILS: Michigan's Largest Bridal Expo five years in a row. Up to $100,000 in prizes, gift coupons and giveaways. Three completely different fashion shows daily. Hundreds of experts, plenty of fun. *Admission is $8; parking is $5.*
CONTACT: (888) 900-3976 or www.thebridalexpo.com

Ultimate Fishing Show

DATES: Jan. 12-15
TIMES: Thurs. 2-9:30 p.m.; Fri. noon-9:30 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
DETAILS: The show for everyone who loves to fish – tackle, trips, boats, charters, seminars and much more. Admission is $9 for adults; $4 for children 6-14; free for children 5 and younger. Parking is $5.
CONTACT: (800) 328-6550 or www.ultimatefishingshow.com

ONGOING

SWOCC Studio Tours

LOCATION: 33300 Nine Mile Road, Farmington.
DETAILS: Come in for an up-close look at the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission Studios, local community television studio.
CONTACT: Melissa Cohn, (248) 473-2840

Novi Concert Band Rehearsals

TIME/DATE: 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesday
LOCATION: Novi High School, Tall Road
DETAILS: Open to all wind and percussion players.
CONTACT: Diran Kochyan, (248) 348-5135

***

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 estone@gannett.com.

f-Stop Photography Center
39293 Grand River Ave. (at Haggerty)
(248) 476-2928 www.fstopgc.com

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"Monte Nagler's Michigan" & His 2006 Photo Calendar

Don't miss your chance to be a part of Oh Baby 2005! All babies born in 2005 will be published on Feb. 16, 2006.

Just fill out the coupon below and send it along with a photo of your baby. Be sure to include a SASE if you would like your photo returned.

Ivan Cyril Kunec
March 4, 2005
Beaumont Hospital
Jill & Brandon

Oh Baby 2005!

1. Send a photo and $20 to:
Livingston Press & Argus
Attn: Leslie
P.O. Box 2307
Howell, MI 48844
All entries must be received by Feb. 10, 2006
Include a SASE if you would like your photo returned.
2. Child's Name (First, Middle & Last)
3. Date of Birth 2005 Hospital
4. Parents Name (First & Last)
5. Address
6. Check for $20 enclosed
Please bill my Visa/Mastercard/American Express or Discover card
Credit card number Exp. Date
Signature Phone

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Close the account or Take a one time withdrawal anytime during the term of the CD
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4-month CD
4.25% APY

Plan A: *Certificate of Deposit Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective as of 12/21/05. Minimum opening balance requirement is $500 and maximum deposit is $100,000. Deposits are allowed only on the maturity date or during the grace period. **One complete or partial withdrawal can be made at any time with no penalty. Close the account at any time with no penalty. Interest compounded quarterly on 36-month CD. Partial withdrawals if made will incur a penalty of 180 days interest earned or lessened to Mark to Market penalty, whichever is greater. Rate is effective for a limited time only and subject to change without notice. Offer cannot be combined with coupons or other special offers and is not eligible for VIP bonus. Plan B & C: *Annual Percentage Yield (APY) on 4-month CD (120 days) and 13-month CDs are effective as of 12/21/05. Minimum opening balance requirement is $500 and maximum deposit is $100,000. Deposits are allowed only on the maturity date or during the grace period. Penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Interest compounded quarterly on 13-month CD. Interest paid, at maturity on 4-month CD. Rates are effective for a limited time only and subject to change without notice. Offer cannot be combined with coupons or other special offers and is not eligible for VIP bonus. Not available for public units. Account fees could reduce earnings. Please contact your local Flagstar branch for more information. Certain restrictions may apply.

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