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Volume 50 Number 35

Novi, Michigan

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INSIDE



### Ready for the Big Game?

If you're going to throw a party for the Super Bowl, we can help. Couch potato exercises? We've got those, too. If you really want to do it up in style, we've got the scoop on the Taste of the NFL event, being right here in Novi.

—Page 5A



### Stretch it out

Treat depression naturally, find out which of the latest diet books are good, discover a new treatment for depression, follow tips to stay in shape, set up a gym at home and discover much more inside Health & Fitness.

—Special Section

### INDEX

Business	17A
Calendar	18A
Classifieds	1D
Community	4A
Education	14A
Faith	11A
Food	5B
Health	12A
Opinion	16A
People	9A
Public Safety	10A
Regional Marketplace	6B
Seniors	13A
Sports	1B

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# Redistricting vote Thursday

## School board looking at Deerfield and other issues

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Bruce Bagdady believes there are two major issues facing the Novi Community School District. Novi's school board president

said decisions must be made by next Thursday on the status of full-day kindergarten for next year, and if, how and when the district will have to redistrict its neighborhood school boundaries.

Bagdady said redistricting has many subparts, including the status of Deerfield, the selection and composition of a redistricting committee, and the use and equity of facilities and space needs as affected by such things as class size and full-day kindergarten. "The issues are related in many

ways," said Bagdady, a few days after listening to over 50 parents voice their opinions at last Thursday's school board meeting.

Reducing class size and expanding full-day kindergarten both require space, and could impact how the district's boundaries are drawn or result in the future need for additional classrooms, or possibly even an additional elementary school.

"This is why we need to know the long term ramifications of such decisions before taking any drastic steps," said Bagdady.



Photos by Ramez Khuri

Roxanne Latain was one of many parents to speak to the Novi Community School District Board of Education at a meeting last Thursday night. She's in favor of Deerfield Elementary becoming a neighborhood school.

Likewise, Deerfield's status as a neighborhood school or school of choice would have an impact on how the boundaries are drawn.

Roxanne Latain, a parent who spoke at the meeting, said there is



Linda Conroy is a member of the Deerfield Task Force. She addressed the Novi Community School Board of Education at a meeting last Thursday night. She'd like there to be a debate conducted before any decisions are made.

an inequity existing within the district between Deerfield and the four other K-4 elementary buildings.

continued on page 2



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Margie Karp-Opperer, head of teen and youth services at the Novi Public Library, reads "Where's My Mommy" to visitor Megan Feury, 3, on a recent Friday morning.

# Miss Margi entertaining kids for years

## Novi Library's Karp-Opperer a familiar face to all

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Margi Karp-Opperer has a good philosophy on life.

"She's got a good sense of humor, a good outlook and she tries to stay positive all the time, no matter what the situation."

All of those attributes help her to be suc-

cessful at her job, but the most important one is the fact she likes people.

Karp-Opperer has been the Novi Public Library's head of youth and teen services for the last 12 years. It's a job she loves dearly and wouldn't trade for the world.

"I really like the type of people who go into librarianship," she said. "They're real genuine people with great values. I also truly enjoy working with the youth. Here at Novi, I can work with kids from elementary to high school and beyond, because they do keep coming back to say hi."

Karp-Opperer explained there are certain

criteria people have to have in order to become a librarian. For example, they must love reading and have a master's degree.

"It's a wonderful profession," she said. "Especially as a youth librarian. It's great exposure to fantastic literature that gets better and better each year."

"One would think doing the same job for so long would get old after a while, but not for Karp-Opperer. She commented on how committed and devoted her co-workers are to offering the best service with the most accurate informa-

tion."

continued on page 3



# Plant closure won't hurt Wixom

## Dornan says non-automotive tax base pays off

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Wixom City Manager Mike Dornan said he was prepared for last week's announcement that the Wixom Assembly Plant is closing.

"That was a joy for families and friends of the plant to reflect on their futures," he said.

In the following months, he said he will work in concert with representatives from Ford Motor Company to further and more specifically understand what they meant by the announcement.

"We want to identify what their uncertainties are so we can assist our partner of nearly 50 years to achieve their goals in a timely manner," Dornan said.

The manager said as his staff

continued on page 3

# They're coming to Novi!

## Area hotels ready for Super Bowl visitors

By Tracy Mlahor  
STAFF WRITER

Danielle Bastianelli anticipates filling 122 rooms with guests headed to Super Bowl XLII this weekend.

With more than 100,000 visitors descending into the metro Detroit area for football, and fun, the account executive for sales at

the Courtyard and Townplace Suites by Marriott Novi said her hotel had already been promised to the National Football League.

"Marriott as a whole went into an arrangement with the NFL a year ago for guest rooms," Bastianelli said. "We've been sold out for quite some time."

Bastianelli said the hotel will be opening up their dining area all day for drinks during Super Bowl Sunday, something they haven't done for many years.

"We're also selling licensed Super Bowl apparel and will be

continued on page 8



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Hotel Baronette front office manager Sara Chan takes a reservation over the phone as other patrons check into the Novi hotel near Twelve Oaks Mall. The Baronette and other Novi-area hotels will be very busy with guests as the Super Bowl approaches.

continued on page 3

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## The history behind Deerfield

■ The "Deerfield Difference" and how it became what it is today

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

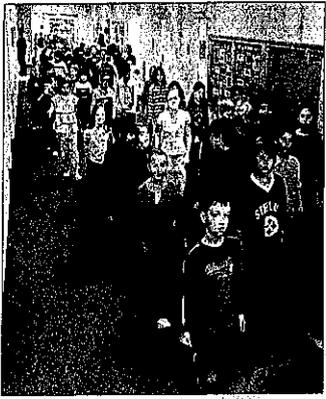


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novli News

Deerfield Elementary students walk in the hallways while heading to the Novli school's gymnasium for an assembly.

Bruce Bagdady and the Novi Community School District's Board of Education have some big decisions to make come next Thursday.

Should they keep full-day kindergarten in all the elementary schools? Should Deerfield Elementary become a neighborhood school, or should it stay a school of choice?

But these issues don't pose to this board. In fact, a very similar incident occurred during the summer of 1997, when overcrowding forced administration to research best practices for the design of an elementary program that would be an innovative approach to K-4 education in the Novi district. That program eventually turned into Deerfield Elementary School.

Similar to today's challenges, which forecasts Parkview Elementary being over its student capacity in just a few years, it became apparent in December 1997 the growth of the K-4 student population would accelerate the need for an additional elementary school.

At the time, the intent was to house such a program in one wing of the present Novi Meadows facility, but that idea was quashed when projected population growth numbers became available.

"We needed to have another school for the population that we were getting," said Richard Njus, Deerfield Elementary principal. "In the process, they decided to create an innovative school instead of a neighborhood school."

### It's killed as a "unique school of choice"

The Deerfield difference includes:

- Multi-age classrooms with kindergarten through fourth graders working and learning together
- Instruction and projects with themes
- Grouping of students to meet their learning needs
- Full-day kindergarten
- Common curriculum themes throughout the school
- Quarterly reports
- A variety of assessment instruments, including portfolios
- Parent involvement
- Art, music and physical education integrated into the basic curriculum
- Consistent use of interactive media and technology to enhance all curriculum areas

Information obtained from the Novi Community School District

to down into the other elementary schools, and to an extent that has happened," said Njus. "We have

### Researching the new school

A committee formed to research the change based their work on answering the following questions:

- How do people learn?
- What should be learned?
- How should learning be designed?
- How will we know if learning occurs?
- How should schools be designed to accommodate the desired learning?
- The intent was to have new ways of teaching that would trick-

## School board looking at Deerfield and other issues

continued from front page

"All we've heard lately is how Deerfield is just different," said Lakin. "It's not better, it's the same curriculum, and it's just a different style of teaching. However, a lot of people who spoke before me, as I waited in line, insinuated that should the Deerfield philosophy not be available, they may look into private schools. That was kind of disturbing because that means they really do think it's better."

But Deerfield Principal Richard Njus believes otherwise. He said the division among parents stems from people not having a full understanding of what Deerfield does programmatically.

"I think we should continually, as a district, praise what we're doing that's so good," Njus said. "We (at Deerfield) are in no way trying to say we are better than anyone. We're different, just like other schools are different. We need to celebrate our differences rather than use those as an excuse for things that are negative."

Though this sub-plot has been the topic of much discussion among parents, Bagdady believes the community realizes the board

only wants to do what's right for the students.

He said while recent board discussion has given a short-term appearance of disagreement, once a decision is reached the community will look forward and continue to do what is best—support all of the district's students and schools.

"The board needs to communicate more," said Linda Conroy, a parent who spoke at the meeting, and member of the Deerfield Task Force. "They need to set up a process so these issues are fully debated, rather than brought forth and decided really before any discussion has been made."

Factors to consider

According to Bagdady, the primary factors to consider in deciding these issues include, in no special order:

- What's best for students and for the community
- What is most fair and equitable
- What is most academically beneficial
- What is the most economically sound decision
- I believe that the board will be ready to make a decision (by next Thursday), said Bagdady. "I don't know if that decision will please the majority of parents, but I do know that we serve to do what is best for the students."

The next Novi Community School District Board of Education meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Novi Meadows Elementary School, located at 25549 Taft Road.

The task force is also trying to look at why there is discussion now of reconsidering the magnet school system six years after it was implemented. "It was brought forth by the board, the communities and the administration," Conroy said. "All thought it was a great idea. And based on the test scores and financials, it's still a good idea."

Conroy said the ultimate goal of the task force is to keep Deerfield

as it is, and keep full-day kindergarten as it is, unless there is new information that proves it would be better otherwise.

"A debate would bring that new information forward," she said. "Maybe there is good reasoning behind not having a magnet school. But from what we know, we don't see one."

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 Library's Karp-Opperer a familiar face

continued from front page

tion to all library users. Also, the enthusiasm of children inspires and invigorates her each and every day.

She spoke of how inspiring and heart-warming it is to have adults remember her years after they've graduated high school.

### She was a teacher first

Being a librarian wasn't Karp-Opperer's first choice in a career. Her undergraduate degree was in teaching, and she taught elementary school.

"I always wanted to go into some area of education," she said. "I remember when I was younger playing teacher with the chalkboard. I loved it."

After teaching for a number of years, Karp-Opperer stepped to raise her two daughters, Carolyn and Stacey. After that, the urge to work led her once again.

She decided to speak with a career counselor and determined her love was still to work and educate children, but she also wanted to have some exposure with adults.

"I thought if I went back into education, I probably would be just mostly with the kids," said Karp-Opperer. "So I thought I would try this, and I'm glad I did."

Karp-Opperer graduated from the University of Michigan in August of 1993 with a master's degree in librarianship. The public library allowed her to work with both adults and children.

"We're a little unique here at the Novi Public Library because usually you don't have to work both the adult section and the youth section," she said. "It's really wonderful because it keeps you well informed and educated. It keeps you on your toes."

Becoming "Miss Margi"

Kids know Karp-Opperer mostly as "Miss Margi" because she's been going into Novi's elementary schools and reading to the little ones for years.

"That started by talking to some of the teachers who visited the library on a regular basis."

"I'd tell them I'd love to come visit their schools," she said. "They said that was fine and word spread

from one school to the next."

Armed with Cuddles the Dog (a stuffed animal), Karp-Opperer reads to the kids in all of the Novi Community School District's elementary buildings. And in February, she's also doing a story time at Twelve Oaks Mall.

"I do that once a year," she said. "I try to keep the love of reading going, and I figure if they recognize me, they'll be more comfortable to come into the library."

In all 12 years on the job, Karp-Opperer couldn't think of one bad experience to share. But she did think of about a million good ones.

"When a parent thanks me for something I've done to motivate their child, or when a child remembers an inspiring story or program done here at the library, or maybe just a beautiful comment that a youngster will make," she said. "All these are memorable experiences."

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.

## Area hotels ready for Super Bowl visitors

continued from front page

having various private parties throughout the weekend," she said.

### Welcoming guests

Susan Sereno said the Sheraton Detroit Novi on Haggerty Road will have an NFL concierge on staff to help Super Bowl guests with directions to the downtown area and provide information about the city.

Sold out today through Sunday, Sereno, director of sales and marketing for the Sheraton said the hotel will be offering an extended menu for guests returning from the game.

"We're also giving all Super Bowl attendees a special guest room amenity," she said. "It's really going to be an exciting weekend for guests and our staff."

"The NFL is working with the (Detroit Metro Visitors) and Convention Bureau to fill as many hotels in the area as possible," she said.

According to the Detroit Super Bowl XL host committee, they have met and exceeded the NFL's hotel room requirements of 17,500 rooms with over 200,000 rooms booked to date.

Tim Haugh said rates have increased slightly across the board for hotels catering to Super Bowl guests.

Haugh, assistant general manager, said a standard room at the

## Margi Karp-Opperer

Occupational: head of youth and teen services for the Novi Public Library

Family: husband, Margi; two daughters, Carolyn, Stacey; step-son, Josh, and his wife, Rachel; step-daughter, Amy

Hobbies and/or interests: reading, outdoor sports, knitting, tennis and walking

Advice: "You have to be patient and accepting," she said. "You can't be judgmental, and you have to be willing to give people what they're looking for. You also have to be willing to stay informed and keep on your toes."

Schools: She graduated from Southfield High School, earned her undergraduate degree from Wayne State University and her masters from the University of Michigan.

Years in business: 12 years

Grew up in: Detroit, but moved to Southfield in ninth grade



### Express Check

Glenn Lynch uses the Novi Public Library's "Express Check" system to borrow some books. The system allows patrons to scan in their library cards and then scan the barcodes of books and videos they'd like to borrow. Lynch said, "It's very convenient to use, especially when you have little ones."

## Doman says non-automotive tax base pays off

continued from front page

identifies milestones along that timeline, Wixom's contingency plan will become more specific.

Describing Ford's announcement as "rather cryptic," Doman said the implementation of the automaker's plan won't immediately cut a leg off of the city.

"This is time for the city to really craft very specific alternatives and plans, just like Ford Motor Company took time developing their 'Way Forward' plan," he said.

"They don't really know exactly

when they're going to close the plant," Doman said.

"The financial impact on the community will be spread out over the same period of time that it's going to take them to close the plant."

Because the property is so valuable, Doman said the revenue stream from the plant to the city of Wixom will continue even after the plant closes.

"Ford keep paying for the building and the land even after the movement of employees, product and equipment," he said.

He says the city has already adjusted its budget to reflect the reduction of tax revenues from Ford in the past few years.

"A lot of the impact of the plant's loss is already reflected in our budget," Doman said.

All in all, he doesn't believe the loss of the plant will be that much of a detriment to the community.

"The challenges that our friends and partners face (at Ford) couldn't come at a more appropriate time for us, when development is occurring and Wixom is a world-class city," Doman said.

"Property values are up, and this property can be redeveloped in a short period of time," he noted.

"Maybe it was time for us to move on and for us to help our longtime partners at Ford Motor Company move on as well."

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

What Ford assembly plant is to Wixom

- Represents 2.49 percent of Wixom's tax base
- Represents 4.29 percent of Wixom's total industrial property
- Accounts for \$5.5 million in annual taxes to schools, Oakland County and Wixom (city taxes alone are \$1.2 million)
- Generates 12 percent of Wixom's total tax revenue
- Contributes 7.3 percent of revenues Wixom derives from industrial facilities

Source: City of Wixom

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# COMMUNITY

Cal Stone editor (248) 349-1700 ext 111 cstone@gannett.com www.novnews.com fax (248) 349-9832



Sgt. Pat Fanning of the Novi Police Department chats with Richard and Susan Graham of Delino Estates at last Saturday's Homeowners Association Leaders Breakfast at the Novi Civic Center. Several city departments had displays at the event.

## City seeks input on pathways

Homeowners talk at yearly meeting

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

If you've ever been walking or riding your bike in Novi and been annoyed when a path just ends? Or, can you think of an area where Novi's pedestrian and bike paths could be more connected or need to be widened?

What about a portion of sidewalk or bike path that is crumbling?

If you can respond to any of these questions, the City of Novi Planning Department wants to hear from you.

The department featured a map of the city's sidewalks and bike paths at the city's annual Homeowners Association Leaders Breakfast last Saturday at the Novi Civic Center.

The Greenways Pathways Study included in the fall 2005 in the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Departmental program registration booklet provided some response. But the city needs more.

The typical sidewalk is 5 feet wide, while bike paths are 8 feet wide.

The city staff may have some areas that need attention recorded, but it may not have them all.

The Rails to Trails Conservancy, in which miles of railroad tracks were converted into a bike path across the state, goes through the middle of South Lyon and Kensington Park.

City planners would like to have Novi look into this system sometime in the future.

"It's a lot easier to get state grant funding if a city has a solid greenways and pathways plan," said Jane Schimpf of the planning department.

"They take that a lot more seriously," she added.

She noted that building sidewalks around schools are even part of the No Child Left Behind legislation.

Residents who would like to comment on a sidewalk or bike path issue can call the Novi Planning Department at (248) 347-0475.

A lock at South Pointe condos

One of the homeowners associations represented at the breakfast was South Pointe Condominiums.

The residents in the small complex, located on South Lake Drive on the border of Novi and Walled Lake, collect items for the needy every Christmas.

Maggie Laurie and Betty Ann Casemere serve as co-vice presidents.

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## Daddy Daughter Dance next week

Tickets are still available

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

A 15-year tradition will be back, as the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is presenting the 2006 Daddy Daughter Dance at the Novi Civic Center next Friday and Saturday.

"Every year we try to create a memorable experience for the dads and the daughters," said Tracie Ringle, event and marketing coordinator. "This year will be no exception."

Fairly new in the last three years has been a theme to the event. This year's is a tropical one. The idea is to have guests feeling like they're somewhere warm. A professional disc jockey has been hired, and professional photographers will also be on hand.

"People will get to take the photos home that night," said Ringle. "We'll have chocolate fountains, light hors d'oeuvres and lavish desserts, which include chocolate dipped fruits."

Traditional favorite sing-alongs will be performed, as well as some of today's popular music and some of dad's favorite music from his generation.

Guests don't have to be dressed in the luau theme, however. As a semi-formal dance, dads usually have on a tie and the girls are known to wear holiday dresses.

"If they dress in a luau theme,

Dance details:

The Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry's Daddy Daughter Dance will be held from 6:30-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 10 and 11 at the Novi Civic Center. Tickets are \$12 per person and are on sale now.

In addition, white orchid wrist corsages, provided by Flowers of Novi, may be reserved with ticket sales at \$9 a piece, and may be picked up at the dance.

Tickets are being sold only in advance by either calling (248) 347-0400, in person at the Novi Civic Center between the hours of 8 a.m.-5 p.m., by fax with a credit card or by filling out a registration form online. Tickets may not be reserved without payment.

"Taste of the NFL is proud to help raise awareness and funds to support Detroit and extend those benefits to other food banks across the country."

Bowen said the chefs, which come from other NFL cities, will serve their favorite dishes. Many former and current NFL players will also attend at the event.

Bowen said 3,000 to 4,000 people from all over the world will be in attendance.

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# SUPER BOWL SUNDAY!

## Taste of the NFL at Rock Showplace

John Bowen, executive director, Rock Financial Showplace, and staff are getting ready to host The Taste of the NFL in Novi at 6 p.m. on Saturday on Grand River Avenue just west of Tift Road.

The 15th annual event is the largest fund-raiser for Super Bowl Weekend and benefits local food banks.

A large portion of proceeds from this year's Taste of the NFL will stay in the metropolitan area, going to Gleaners Community Food Bank of Metro Detroit and Forgotten Harvest.

Funds raised from the Feb. 4 event will help these food banks provide more than 24 million pounds of food to needy people in the area.

"Detroit has been extremely generous in its donations to the victims of recent national disasters," said Wayne Kostroski, Taste of the NFL founder and executive director.

"But with Detroit listed as the poorest city in America, there are many hungry residents right here that need assistance.

"Taste of the NFL is proud to help raise awareness and funds to support Detroit and extend those benefits to other food banks across the country."

Bowen said the chefs, which come from other NFL cities, will serve their favorite dishes. Many former and current NFL players will also attend at the event.

Bowen said 3,000 to 4,000 people from all over the world will be in attendance.

Always a nice touch, perhaps set up in an adjoining room or near the refreshment area, is a quick drink don't miss, much, and if it gets too crowded there's always someone to retreat to.

So, if you're home for the game, here's our guide to making the most out of it.

Back to get tickets, restaurant guide

Individual tickets are available for \$400, early entry VIP tickets are \$600, and corporate tables, with VIP privileges are \$5,000.

In addition to national event ticket sales, auction proceeds and sponsorships, funds are also raised through the sale of the Taste of the NFL Restaurant Guide, which sells for \$19.95, features recipes of the dishes served and biographies of the participating players and chefs.

Tickets to Taste of the NFL and copies of the 2006 Restaurant Guide can be purchased by calling (822) 835-7821 or by visiting the Taste of the NFL Web site at www.tasteofnfl.com.

What's on the horizon in heart care?

Technology in cardiac surgery is accelerating at an incredible pace. These advancements provide surgeons with exciting opportunities to achieve improved results with minimally invasive procedures.

A new operation to correct Atrial Fibrillation, which affects more than 2 million Americans, has proven to be very effective. Other technical surgical approaches to heart failure such as pacemaker implantation and heart remodeling are also achieving great results.

What is some medical advice the world can't do without?

It's ironic that we are often guilty of not following our own advice. Patients today are smarter; however, they often don't take the time to review the proper screenings, or to understand and manage the cardiac risk factors. Primary prevention of illness is preferable to effective treatment.

Why did you choose St. John Health?

I grew up in New York and trained in Florida, but I came to southeast Michigan 25 years ago I chose St. John Health because they are, by far, the most extensive system. With hospitals in many counties, St. John Health provides excellent care to a broad array of patients. St. John Health is a health care system that is truly for everyone. As a faith-based organization, St. John Health has shoulders above other systems because they treat the patient as a whole person - body and soul. The commitment of the medical staff, the dedication of the associates and the training of the administration combine to make an unbeatable team.

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You can find Dr. Goodman in his office location in Southfield or at Cardiac Surgery Institute, PC, in Detroit. If you would like to make an appointment, please call 1-888-440-REAL or visit us online at www.realmedicine.com

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## Ready for the big game?

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Unless you shelled out a couple grand for a Super Bowl ticket via a "broker," or you're extremely lucky, you're probably going to be sitting at home for the big game like the rest of us.

Not a big deal. It's more comfortable, cost effective and you don't have to put up with the agonizing slow pace of the game thanks to all the TV time-outs that interrupt the action when you're there live.

So, if you're home for the game, here's our guide to making the most out of it.

Back to get tickets, restaurant guide

Individual tickets are available for \$400, early entry VIP tickets are \$600, and corporate tables, with VIP privileges are \$5,000.

In addition to national event ticket sales, auction proceeds and sponsorships, funds are also raised through the sale of the Taste of the NFL Restaurant Guide, which sells for \$19.95, features recipes of the dishes served and biographies of the participating players and chefs.

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What's on the horizon in heart care?

Technology in cardiac surgery is accelerating at an incredible pace. These advancements provide surgeons with exciting opportunities to achieve improved results with minimally invasive procedures.

A new operation to correct Atrial Fibrillation, which affects more than 2 million Americans, has proven to be very effective. Other technical surgical approaches to heart failure such as pacemaker implantation and heart remodeling are also achieving great results.

What is some medical advice the world can't do without?

It's ironic that we are often guilty of not following our own advice. Patients today are smarter; however, they often don't take the time to review the proper screenings, or to understand and manage the cardiac risk factors. Primary prevention of illness is preferable to effective treatment.

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I grew up in New York and trained in Florida, but I came to southeast Michigan 25 years ago I chose St. John Health because they are, by far, the most extensive system. With hospitals in many counties, St. John Health provides excellent care to a broad array of patients. St. John Health is a health care system that is truly for everyone. As a faith-based organization, St. John Health has shoulders above other systems because they treat the patient as a whole person - body and soul. The commitment of the medical staff, the dedication of the associates and the training of the administration combine to make an unbeatable team.

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always a nice touch, perhaps set up in an adjoining room or near the refreshment area, is a quick drink don't miss, much, and if it gets too crowded there's always someone to retreat to.

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Crackers with cheese and sliced pepperoni and summer sausage is a nice addition, giving fans a variety of snacks.

Don't forget the substantial. Fans can only survive on chips and crackers for the first few pre-game hours. Then, haul out the ribs (cut into small, hand-held chunks), chicken wings, pizza and hot dogs.

Spinach dip? Fine. Baby spinach in a balsamic vinaigrette? Um, no. The only healthy food in the entire room should be veggies stacked on the sides.

The key is to keep the food close to the television so fans don't have to go far to load up.

Be prepared

The beauty of the Super Bowl is that the excitement usually runs out long before the game does. About 90 percent of the games played in the Big Game are blowouts.

Have some cards handy and maybe a few people will know how to play Texas Hold 'Em or cruet. If all else fails, blackjack, five-card stud and go fish are good alternatives.

Half the fun of a Super Bowl party is being with friends, family and fellow fanatics. Enjoy it and don't let it get ruined if one team starts whipping the other.

The aftermath

The day after the Super Bowl isn't going to be easy. There's probably still a mess at the house, the dog is still in hiding and there's an unidentified person sleeping on your couch.

But, maybe that can all change. White Castle (yes, home of the sliders and where Harold and Kumar wear) is heading the charge to make the day after the Super Bowl a national holiday. C'Mon, even senators, congressmen and the president probably don't want to go to work. Check out their Web site (www.whitesite.com) to sign the petition!

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## HERO AT HEART

Dr. Gary Goodman

This year, 1.2 million Americans will have a heart attack. Half of them will die.

The truth is that heart disease is still the number one cause of death of adults in America — and in Michigan. But the heart doctors of Providence Heart Institute are working to change that. And that's why we salute this week's Hero At Heart.

Meet Dr. Gary Goodman, Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery at the Providence Heart Institute.

Q: Dr. Goodman, when did you know you wanted to be a doctor?  
A: Halfway through medical school. I wasn't one of those people who knew from the age of 5. I had a strong aptitude in science, but it wasn't until the end of college — along with some pressure from my parents to get a career — that I chose to be a doctor. Medicine seemed like a good fit, and I developed an interest in cardiac surgery during my residency. I get that decision validated daily when I participate in sustaining a patient's health when they encounter a life-threatening condition. The technical demands and success rate of cardiac surgery are constantly challenging but always rewarding.

Q: What do you think are the challenges of practicing medicine?  
A: Certainly in terms of cardiac surgery, the aging population and ability to treat heart conditions in the advanced stages pose a challenge to practicing medicine. As aspects of cardiac illness become more complicated, it is a continuous challenge to achieve good results under progressively complex circumstances. The next challenge will be facing the fiscal task of caring for the aging baby boomers with the same excellent outcomes.

Q: What makes a good patient/physician relationship?  
A: Honesty on both sides of the table. A good doctor will not only be a medical professional, but also, in a way, a humanist. Attending to the personal side of medicine is very important. If a doctor can empathize with the patient, the relationship and treatment will be a success.

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## COUCH POTATO WORKOUT

1. **Leg Lift**  
You'll need to move from the couch to the floor for this one. Lie on your side with a pillow under your head. Keep your stomach tight and bend your bottom knee toward your chest while extending your leg straight. Slowly lift the leg about six inches. Hold for 15-30 seconds. Repeat on opposite side.

2. **Trunk Back**  
Stand on a non-slip surface with your back against a wall. Your feet should be about six inches apart. Inhale as you keep your stomach in and head forward. Slowly slide your back down the wall to a near-sitting position. It is important to be sure that as you slide down your knees are behind or directly over your ankles. Exhale as you lower your body. Hold for 5-10 seconds and then return slowly to start.

3. **Trunk Front**  
Stand on a non-slip surface with your back against a wall. Your feet should be about six inches apart. Inhale as you keep your stomach in and head forward. Slowly slide your back down the wall. Keep your feet six inches apart. Inhale as you keep your stomach in and head forward. Slowly slide your back down the wall to a near-sitting position. It is important to be sure that as you slide down your knees are behind or directly over your ankles. Exhale as you lower your body. Hold for 5-10 seconds and then return slowly to start.

4. **Back Stretch**  
Stand with your legs 6-8 inches apart. Stand with your legs 6-8 inches apart. Stand with your legs 6-8 inches apart.

5. **Shoulder Stretch**  
Stand with your legs 6-8 inches apart. Stand with your legs 6-8 inches apart. Stand with your legs 6-8 inches apart.

6. **Second Half**  
Lie on your back with your knees bent and your right foot flat on the floor. Keep your neck and trunk straight. Bend one knee toward your chest, grasp the back of your thigh with both hands and gently extend your leg from knee. Hold stretch from 10-30 seconds. Return slowly to start and repeat with opposite side.

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# Wixom plant first belonged to Novi

■ Assembly facility started out in township

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Many people in the area might be surprised to learn that the Wixom Assembly Plant once belonged to Novi.

"That plant was the Novi plant," according to former Novi Police Chief Lee BeGole, 85.

"It came into the area long before Wixom became an incorporated village."

BeGole explained that the land where the plant now sits was once Novi Township.

"Wixom was a unincorporated area that was in Novi and Commerce townships, served by a small post office," he said.

Dick Noble, a Novi police officer, owned a home and some acreage on the west side of Wixom Road.

"He had about 1,000 young Christmas trees and came in one afternoon to tell me that he was thinking of selling his property," BeGole said.

Noble told BeGole that a well-dressed man driving a Lincoln who was a Christmas tree farmer said he wanted to look at the soil and make Noble offer.

BeGole said Frazer Staman was the township supervisor who also served as the assessor.

"I said, 'Let's go up and see Frazer and see what that property's really worth,'" BeGole told Noble.

BeGole said once they arrived,

Staman said, "Come in and shut the door."

Staman told them that there had been a leak of information at Ford Motor Company.

"What he described to us was that the company was about to acquire some property that would run westward from the CSX Railroad into the property that was to become the Novi Ford Plant," BeGole said.

"It was never known in the early days as the Wixom plant. It was the Novi plant, and all the plant's mail came to the Novi Post Office," BeGole added.

The Novi Post Office served the entire township.

The plant opened in 1957, but construction started about a year and a half before.

BeGole was director of public safety for Novi Township in charge of police and fire service at the time the plant opened.

It was not until after the plant was built and running that residents launched an effort to incorporate Wixom.

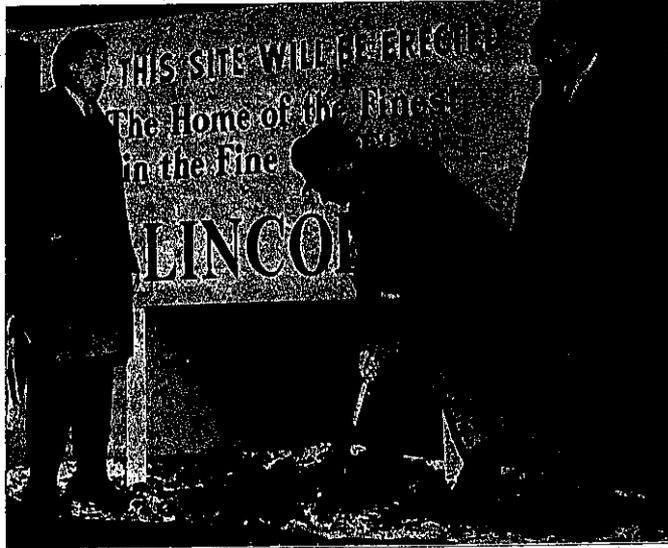
"Novi police and fire still served the area because residents paid township taxes," BeGole said.

It was only after the Village of Wixom was incorporated that the Lincoln plant became known as the Wixom Assembly Plant.

BeGole said before construction could start on the plant, Ford Motor Co. had to purchase nine parcels. He made an agreement that the Novi Fire Department would turn houses on those parcels as training.

One of the houses was Noble's. Wixom Fire Chief Fred Loynes directed the bars, and Assistant Fire Chief Bob Stellingner was the training officer, BeGole recalled.

"We got specific training during



Novi News file photo

Breaking ground on Dec. 2, 1955, for Ford's assembly plant on the northwest corner of I-96 and Wixom Road are (left to right) Henry Ford II, Ben D. Mills (Ford vice president / general manager of Lincoln) and Frazer Staman, Novi Township supervisor.

down these houses," he said.

He noted that all the local newspapers, including the Detroit papers, covered the story of the burning.

"The Novi plant started off with a blaze of glory," he said.

The Village of Wixom residents decided they wanted their own police force.

So, Joe Stadnick, the first leader in the village, made an arrangement with BeGole.

"I wanted to pay two officers, and they would work for Novi Township," BeGole said.

"He told me, 'When you think they are sufficiently trained, we'll call one of them chief,'" BeGole said.

Frank Jadzanski became the first permanent Wixom Police Chief, with the other officer, Ronald

Stomkowski, serving as a patrolman.

"They borrowed a Novi police car until they acquired a brand new one from Ford Motor Company," BeGole said.

So, the Lincoln plant was officially the Novi Ford Plant when it opened.

Until Wixom became a city, Novi Township still received taxes from

the plant, even though it was in the new Village of Wixom.

"But once Wixom became a city, that severed all connections with Novi," BeGole said.

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

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# PEOPLE

Carl Stone, editor (248) 349-1700 ext. 113 | cstone@gannett.com | fax (248) 349-9832

## IN THE SERVICE

Air Force Aviator Shawn A. Laque has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the aviator studied the Air Force's mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received

physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, aviators who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

He is the son of Tracey Robb of Novi and grandson of Donald Roberts of Walled Lake. The aviator is a 2005 graduate of Walled Lake Western High School.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

### Macprofessionals appoints Todd Tobin education account representative

Novi-based Macprofessionals announced the appointment of Todd Tobin to education account representative. In this role, Tobin is responsible for business development within school districts across southeast Michigan.

Tobin is a curriculum integration specialist. Among the services and products he supports include service contracts, training services, network support, deployments, and special education technologies.

Tobin was previously an account manager for Siler-Milton group in Livonia. He is a resident of Dearborn.

### Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce honors board members

The Annual Meeting of the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce was held Jan. 17 at Edgewood Country Club in Commerce Township. Representative Thaddeus G. McCotter provided the keynote speech.

At the event, board members celebrating milestone anniversaries were honored for their service to the chamber and to the Lakes Area business community.

James W. Pancy, publisher of the *Spirit Column*, West Duxford's newspaper, was recognized for 25 years of service to the board.

Robert Miele, secretary of the Commerce Township Planning Commission, was honored for 20 years of service on the board.

Jon Retherford, president of Goddard-Talmy Agency, Inc., Walled Lake, was honored for 20 years of service to the chamber.

Matt Burns, secretary/treasurer of the chamber since 1999, and a member of the accounting firm of Thomas M. Burns, Walled Lake, was honored for 10 years of service to the chamber.

Diane Allen, leisure travel manager with Hamilton Miller Hudson & Payne Travel Management Corporation, Southfield, was also honored for 10 years of service.

Joseph Dudak, vice president, Resource and Asset Management for International Transmission Company (ITC) in Novi, was introduced as the newest member of the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce board. ITC transmits high-voltage electricity throughout southeastern Michigan, providing the gateway for energy delivery to the Midwest and Canada.

### Automation Alley elects 2006 Board of Directors

Automation Alley, which drives the growth and image of Southeast Michigan's technology economy, elected six new members to its 2006 board of directors during its annual meeting at the Troy Marriott. The board of directors serve as key decision-makers within Automation Alley and play an instrumental role in the organization's growth, program development and member services.

"Our board of directors includes some of Southeast Michigan's most experienced, influential and hard working

professionals," said Ken Rogers, executive director, Automation Alley. "The continued support of the region's technology, business and educational communities, as represented by our board, is a testament to the strength of Automation Alley and its members."

The newly-elected board members will serve a three-year term and include: Brian Bniow, member, Dickson Wright; Ed Demom, president, Flint-Greene Economic Growth Alliance; Kathy Elston, vice president Michigan marketing and sales, Blue Cross Blue Shield; Scott Goernert, executive vice president, PAV Technologies; Dennis Herrick, senior vice president and CFO, Beaumont Hospital and Bob Nichols, vice president corporate relations and enrollment services, Kettering University.

Jerry Rush, senior director, government and community affairs, ArvinMeritor, will remain in his position as president of Automation Alley throughout 2006.

Other remaining board members include: Stephen Cassin, executive director Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development, Macomb County; Deborah Huxley, director of business outreach, County of Wayne; Frederick Hoffman, state relations director, DaimlerChrysler Corp.; Claudia Killen, manager of economic development, General Motors Corp.; Brian Kaulinger, president and CEO, Analytical Process Systems; Gary Mayo, director government affairs and corporate responsibility, Vision Corp.; Brian McGrath, executive vice president of finance, Tesco Engineering Inc.; Charlie Pryde, government relations officer, Ford Motor Company; Ken Rogers, executive director, Automation Alley; Dennis Tufino, deputy county executive, Oakland County; John Voorhorst, vice president, Denso International America, Inc. and Peter Zeller, business development representative, City of Detroit/Detroit Economic Growth Corporation.

### Quicken Loans Announces Promotions

Quicken Loans has promoted Lori Swarthout of Novi. Swarthout, a Plymouth native, achieved a bachelor's degree in international business from the University of Michigan, Dearborn in 1992 and a master's degree in finance from Walsh College in 1996.

She joined Quicken Loans in February 2005. Swarthout was promoted to senior mortgage banker where she assists clients with their home purchase or refinancing needs.

### Architect resigns

Novi landscape architect Lance Shipman said his goodbye last Friday as he made the decision to open a new chapter in his professional career elsewhere.

Shipman spent close to three years with the Novi Planning Department and said in his letter of resignation that it was time to make a change. Shipman informed Novi officials he would like to make filling his position a smooth transition. There is no word on who Shipman's replacement will be.

## ENGAGEMENTS



### Baront-Dennis

Bill and Pat Baront of Northville celebrate the engagement of their daughter, Heather Ashley Baront to Michael Raymond Dennis, son of Elaine and Roy Dennis of Tronton.

The bride-elect is a 2003 graduate of Northville High School. She is currently attending Schoolcraft College, graduating May 2006, with an associates degree in business. She is employed at CVS, Northville.

The groom-elect is a graduate of Trenon High School and is currently employed as a manager of CVS, Plymouth.

A June 2006 wedding is planned.



### Abbott-Petrella

Phyllis Abbott of Novi and Bruce and Becky Abbott of Florida announce the engagement of their son, Bradley Joseph Abbott to Gwyn Christine Petrella, daughter of Cheryl and Mike Wifilone of Davison and Dexter Petrella of Grand Blanc.

The bride-elect is a 1986 graduate of Novi High School and a 1990 "graduate" of Central Michigan University with a bachelor of science degree in business administration. He is currently employed as a Senior Mortgage Advisor with First Horizon Home Loans, Brighton.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Goodrich High School. She graduated in 2001 from the University of Michigan, Cooley Law School. She is currently an Attorney in Grand Blanc.

A September 2006 wedding is planned.

## OBITUARY

### FAITH R. HOBE

Age 90 of Novi, passed away January 28, 2006. A funeral service was held Wednesday at Casterline Funeral Home, Inc. of Northville. Mrs. Hobe was laid to rest at Grand Lane Cemetery in Detroit.

### 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 800-999-1288 or contact your funeral home. \*Daily deadlines are subject to change.

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Share your life, share your decision

Calls for help

Novi Police dispatchers say jobs are never predictable

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

Novi Police Dispatcher Justin Short never knows when he might answer a suicide-related call. "It's never predictable," he said. "It could happen today, it could happen tomorrow."



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi Police 911 dispatcher Kelly Mesh and her fellow telecommunicators who take emergency calls occasionally have to answer calls from individuals who are suicidal.

Short said that if and when she does, she'll be able to handle it. "It's just a matter of talking to the person and getting as much information as you can without making them scared or defensive and getting officers out there as soon as possible."

He said such calls do have some effect on dispatchers. "It's very hard to talk to someone who wants to end their life, and then find out it did happen," Short said.

"We only have so much control over what happens," Short said. Cathy Rich, the newest dispatcher, who started in May 2005, said their intensive training helps when they have to take such a call.

"You shadow a dispatcher, and then they gradually have you do things after you've watched them," she said. "You listen to phone calls and kind of get a feel for the type of calls that come in," she said. "You can range from a lost animal complaint to a possible suicide and worse."

Dispatchers are under constant supervision, work different shifts and are eventually on their own. The training program takes about a year.

Classroom instruction includes de-escalation and hostage negotiation. "Given your tone over the radio can affect these situations," Rich said.

When it comes to an attempted suicide, dispatch has to be concerned not only about the person on the other end of the phone but also the officers in route. "Does this person have a weapon? Are they maybe going to shoot themselves? Who else is in the home? There are a lot of things that you have to look at," Rich said.

"If somebody is seriously considering suicide, they're going to find a way to do it. And you want to make sure that they don't take anybody with them."

Barb Fritz, who has been with the department for 14 years and is a shift leader, talked for 45 minutes to a South Lyon man who barricaded himself in his home with a gun.

"He was shouting up in his house because he was distraught over a divorce," she said. The department's crisis management team talked to him and got him to come out.

"I had a girl who came downstairs and found her mother shot," Fritz said. "The mother shot herself and then tried to kill her husband."

Barb Dombrowski has worked dispatch 20 years; Donna Roy has worked there 23 years. Dombrowski remembers an incident involving a man who tried to commit suicide by cutting his neck with a chain saw.

"That was probably the most bizarre call that I've ever had," Dombrowski said. "The man had cut his neck from side to side, but I do believe he lived. That's the bad part — a lot of times we don't find out the outcome."

"You learn to deal with this over the years," Short said. "You see how your co-workers react, how they put a call behind them, pick up the next call and start right over again."

"The only people who really understand are your co-workers," Kaplan said. "We talk to one another, and we watch out for each other," Short said. "This is a team, and that's what it's all about — working as a team and backing each other up. That's what really helps a lot of us. I can trust my co-workers to back me up and to help me if I've got a problem."

Adult Bible Study is Sundays at 9 a.m. Worship Center for children ages 3-7, and Sunday School is at 10 a.m. Worship Service of Complines is held at 8:30 p.m. Rio 13 (ages 11-14) and IZA (ages 14 and up) groups meet at 5 p.m. for their program and dance. Youth Worship Services are held at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Sunday of every month; all are welcome.

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

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Dispatchers say it's co-workers who help them

It's a job you can't take home

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

We all deal with job-related stress from time to time. But how do police dispatchers not take their jobs home with them? Most of them will tell you that it takes a special type of person to be a dispatcher. And an important part of the job is trying to not let your job get to you.

Novi Police Dispatcher Justin Short said experience and talking to fellow dispatchers helps them forget about disturbing calls.

"Over the nine years, I've been able to control that," Short said. "You teach your co-workers and learn from them."

He came from a dispatch job in Allegany County, Pa., before moving to Novi. "We had a lot more homicides, shootings and stabbings," he said. "We were averaging one a night in certain areas."

"Our goal is just to get the police out there as soon as possible," Marzoff said. "You see how your co-workers react, how they put a call behind them, pick up the next call and start right over again."

"The only people who really understand are your co-workers," Kaplan said. "We talk to one another, and we watch out for each other," Short said. "This is a team, and that's what it's all about — working as a team and backing each other up. That's what really helps a lot of us. I can trust my co-workers to back me up and to help me if I've got a problem."

Adult Bible Study is Sundays at 9 a.m. Worship Center for children ages 3-7, and Sunday School is at 10 a.m. Worship Service of Complines is held at 8:30 p.m. Rio 13 (ages 11-14) and IZA (ages 14 and up) groups meet at 5 p.m. for their program and dance. Youth Worship Services are held at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Sunday of every month; all are welcome.

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Janet Kaplan has worked in Novi for two years and was a dispatcher for more than nine years in Billings, Mont., which is about twice the size of Novi.

Although she hasn't had any suicide-related calls in Novi, she had several while she was in Billings. Kaplan said suicide intervention training is key to helping someone on the other end of the line.

"You learn how to relate to people human to human," she said. She also said that talking with her co-workers is the best way to deal with a troubling call.

"The only people who really understand are your co-workers," Kaplan said. "We talk to one another, and we watch out for each other," Short said. "This is a team, and that's what it's all about — working as a team and backing each other up. That's what really helps a lot of us. I can trust my co-workers to back me up and to help me if I've got a problem."

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Group gives two kinds of comfort

Mihistry is first of three for Faith Presbyterian

By Ramez Khuri STAFF WRITER

First there was the Star Wars Trilogy, and now this. The Faith Community Presbyterian Church has unveiled the first of three new ministries set to improve and update services.

It's called HandiCrafters: a group of women who belong to the church and have begun knitting prayer shawls for those who are hospitalized or who are just going through a difficult time. "This came about because we

wanting to reach out to some of the people in our church," said Jani Martin, director of family ministry. "We also make prayer scarves for our graduating high school seniors."

The ladies meet quarterly, but their projects are ongoing. They work on their knitting at home because it's an activity they can do without having to be at the church.

"We give prayer scarves to the parents and have them place it on the child," Martin said. "It gives the love from the church and the parents to the child as they make this next big step in their lives."

The church is also looking to update itself with different types of banners, and ways to make the atmosphere prettier.

"We have several different things in the works, some that we haven't even started yet," said Martin. Martin brought the idea of

prayer scarves to the church after seeing prayer quilts being made at a church she used to attend. After determining there were more knitters than quilts at Faith Community, the idea was born.

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Janni Martin of the Faith Community Presbyterian Church knits for HandiCrafters.

good. It's a way I can serve God for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at khuri@gannett.com

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer

Hurricane relief efforts continue

Holy Cross gathering masks, gloves

By The Very Reverend Karen Henry STAFF WRITER

From now until Tuesday, Feb. 28, the Hurricane Relief Office of the Diocese of Michigan (located at Church of the Holy Cross, 40700 W. Ten Mile Road) is requesting donations of masks and gloves for those laboring in "clean-up" of their homes and communities in Louisiana and/or donations to The Bishop's Fund, 4500 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Needs are:

Masks (face and dust masks because moli is a major factor now). Gloves (latex disposable, cleaning, work, or heavy duty cleaning gloves). Donations of masks and gloves can be dropped off at the Church of the Holy Cross Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Those who would prefer to ship these items directly, or learn more about hurricane relief efforts, can go to the Hurricane Relief Web site at www.dcmi.org, go to the main page and click on the hurricane symbol.

The Very Reverend Karen Henry is the head pastor at Novi's Church of the Holy Cross.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Meadowbrook Congregational Church invites everyone to attend a Sunday worship service at 10 a.m. The church is located at 2355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight Mile and Nine Mile roads. Call (248) 348-7757.

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross is located at 40700 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi. Call (248) 427-1175 or visit www.churchofthe-holycross.com.

Faith Community Presbyterian Church invites you to worship at either the 9 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. services. Adult Sunday school is offered at 9 a.m. Sunday school and nursery care is available at both services.

Dr. Henderson will be teaching an Amos and Hosea class on Tuesday's at 10 a.m. and Wednesday's at 10 a.m. Cost for the book and class is \$19. Everyone is welcome.

Women's Bible Study, led by Jani Martin, is the first Wednesday and Thursday of each month, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Zacharias Retreat begins at 7 p.m. Friday and concludes at noon Sunday. The church is located at 44400 W. 10 Mile Road in Novi. Call (248) 349-2345, or visit www.fathcommunity-novi.org.

The Holy Family Church is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Road, between Grand River and 10

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross is located at 40700 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi. Call (248) 427-1175 or visit www.churchofthe-holycross.com.

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## Seniors finding the fountain of youth

■ Active life means more years

By Tracy Mishler  
STAFF WRITER

John Treanor walks four miles a day to stay young. The 82-year-old Northville Township resident believes staying active is the key to finding the fountain of youth. "What are (seniors) doing?" They're sitting at home watching television," Treanor said. "They need to get more involved, because as long as you stay active, you'll be happy all the time."

Center, said the key ingredient to a longer life is both physical and mental activities. "Seniors have to do other things than just sitting at home," Zagari said. "We offer activities like tennis, volleyball, table tennis and a walking club to keep the mind and body active."

### Living life to the fullest

"I can't sit around all day," said Mary Arlington. "I'd rather get up and do something than sit around all day." The 78-year-old Northville Township resident said he participated in several activities in Northville and surrounding communities. "My wife died 5 years ago and I was very lonely when I lost her," he said. "But I figured it wasn't my time, so I had to move on."

Smith said the Northville Senior Community Center has plenty of activities for seniors who want to stay young. "People just need to take advantage of the opportunities," said the senior adult service program supervisor. "It's up to them to take the initiative."

The Northville Senior Community Center offers several exercise classes and opportunities for seniors to learn about their health. "Some (seniors) have told us they need something to do," Smith said. "We offer several volunteer opportunities — they just want something to keep them busy. It's a reason to get up in the morning!"

Smith said socializing is as important to health as staying active. "One thing we offer is computer training," he said. "Not only does it keep them busy, but more and more people over 65 have become competent."

Both Smith and Zagari agreed the mind and body had to work together. "Whether they're a couch potato or a highly active person, we're surrounded by senior activity centers that offer such an abundance of activities," Zagari said. "We're all going to get old — it all depends on how you want to do it."

Tracy Mishler is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or at tmishler@gannett.com.

## FIT FOR LIFE - DON'T FALL FOR THE NEXT FAD DIET

The low fat and low carb trends have finally passed. Can we all try being sensible now? Magazines like *Good Housekeeping* claim "lose 10 pounds this month!" AOL tells its subscribers via e-mail that it's time to lose your spare tire. NBC recently rolled out a special edition of *The Biggest Loser*, and weight loss tips have been on every channel since the day after Christmas. Yes, it's that familiar time of year following the holidays called the "diet season" — the

time of year when more than 76 million Americans set their sights on losing 30-50 pounds or more, as soon as possible. Americans spend more than \$33 billion a year on diet books, foods, programs, etc. Well, you may have heard about it in the news. The company that marketed the widespread "Law Carb" fad diet recently declared bankruptcy. We in the industry have gone ahead and officially announced that another diet trend has come and gone. So what will you and the other 75,999,000 Americans do this year to really make some lasting positive weight changes?

Before you jump on to some unrealistic plan or program or send in for that magic pill consider the sobering news: After decades of dieting, about two-thirds of the American population still remains overweight, some 30 percent are obese, and more than half of them are dieting. The patterns from the ongoing National Weight Control Registry should help you adopt some winning steps. This source tracks people who have lost 30 pounds or more and maintained the loss for at least a year. There are some 5000 people in the registry, most eat a lower calorie diet, record their food intake, and move or exercise at least an hour a day or more. Here's the bottom line: Try to eat as healthily as you can, but at the end of the day, when it comes to weight loss, it doesn't matter what you eat or when you eat it. What does matter is the difference between the calories you take in and the calories you burn. The best way to control

this is through reducing traditional meal and snack sizes and eating small meals throughout the day. And, if you eat a little more in a day than you should have, that's OK — just be sure to move a little more that day. When I say move I am talking about anything that burns at least three calories a minute, and the list is endless — from walking the dog to cleaning, house to shopping, yard work, etc. If you move more less one day, just be sure to eat less that day. Don't make it a fad; make it a lifestyle. It is that simple!

Chris Klebba owns and operates the Water Wheel Health Club in Northville, and is a certified fitness trainer, regular columnist and public speaker. For more information call (248) 349-7634 or go to [www.wheelhealth.com](http://www.wheelhealth.com).

Visit us on the Web: [www.novnews.com](http://www.novnews.com)

### Carpal Tunnel Syndrome?

Washington, D.C. — A Carpal Tunnel Syndrome hotline has recently revealed a "missing" location that is often overlooked by many physicians when they diagnose and treat their carpal tunnel and wrist pain. To discover what your doctor may not know about carpal tunnel symptoms, call the carpal tunnel/wrist pain hotline toll-free at 1-800-233-3723 (24 hr. recorded message) or go to [www.freecarpalpaininfo.com](http://www.freecarpalpaininfo.com).

### Free Pake!

Naturally pretty lips. New business tips and a fresh look are just a few of the benefits you'll receive when you come in for your FREE MAKEOVER featuring the new spring colors. 43428 West Oaks Dr. • Novi 248-348-0080

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Accepting New Patients • All Ages  
Call for appointment 248-324-2222 evening appts. available  
Lewis Medical Office Center, 39475 Lewis Drive, Suite 150, Novi, Michigan 48277  
[greatlakesderm@aol.com](http://greatlakesderm@aol.com)

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### GET A TASTE OF THE SEASON'S MOST IRRESISTIBLE ROMANTIC COMEDY!

Simon Baker, Steve Zahn, Donald Sutherland, Bruce Campbell, Colin Hanks, and Adam Carolla  
LATHAM AND EPIS RAYSON UNDERWOOD TROBROWNS BODDYS HUDSON WOODWARD  
The film is a hilarious comedy about a man who falls in love with a woman who is a professional thief. It's a romantic comedy with a twist.

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1 year	4.25%APY*
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4 years	4.35%APY*
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\*Annual Percentage Yield as of 1/29/08. Rates subject to change without notice. Minimum deposit to open a certificate of deposit is \$500. Some restrictions may apply. See your agent for details. All deposits are insured by the FDIC. State Farm Bank, Member FDIC. ©2008 State Farm Bank, Member FDIC. All rights reserved. State Farm Bank, Member FDIC. All rights reserved. State Farm Bank, Member FDIC. All rights reserved.

### SPOTLIGHT ON: ALLERGY & ASTHMA

Presented by Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.C.P., F.R.C.P.  
CAMPAIGN TO BE STEPWISE ABOUT ASTHMA  
More than 70% of people with mild to moderate asthma who are on medication are unaware that a new guideline calls for their condition, according to a recent study conducted by the American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI). To help asthma patients learn the guidelines and communicate effectively with their doctor, the AAAAI has created the "Be Smart, Be Stepwise About Asthma" campaign. Included in this is a list of questions patients can bring to their allergist. Some of the questions include: How would I know if my asthma is under control? What do I do if I have an asthma attack?  
If you would like further information about today's asthma, or register care for your allergist, or for asthma education, contact 248-324-2222. ALLERGY AND ASTHMA CENTER OF MICHIGAN, P.O. Box 20, Novi, MI 48277  
[www.allergyinfo.org](http://www.allergyinfo.org)

### something new

STARTS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 31!  
The film is a hilarious comedy about a man who falls in love with a woman who is a professional thief. It's a romantic comedy with a twist.

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# SENIORS

Call Stone editor (248) 349-1700 ext 113 cstone@gannett.com fax (248) 349-9832



Waltonwood Senior Community Center resident Robert Miles tries out some of the equipment in the center's new fitness room.

## No pressure

■ Air resistance helps seniors get into shape

By Tracy Mishler  
STAFF WRITER  
Fitness coordinator Terry Dibble wants to make sure the seniors at Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks are physically fit and healthy. Dibble came to Waltonwood in November to help build the community's fitness center, which celebrated its grand opening Monday. "What we have done is put together strength training equipment that is senior friendly to help keep them active," he said. "The goal is quality of life, and it's important to keep our independent living residents healthy and strong."

resistance is all dependent on how much pressure you put on it." Dibble said there are no weights involved. Dibble is currently working with all five Waltonwood senior communities to introduce new exercise programs.

Two types of fitness  
Hijazin said it is important to be not only physically fit but also mentally fit. "If our residents live longer and are happier, then our goal has been met," she said.

Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks provides homes for about 137 independent residents and several assisted living and memory care residents. Dibble said he anticipates about 40 to 50 percent of the residents will get involved with the new fitness program, which includes a leg press and knee flex and several pieces for both the upper and lower body. The fitness programs at Waltonwood are free of charge to residents. "We're also going to introduce more health education programs," he said. "It's important for our seniors to be aware of all aspects of their health."

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### SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

<b>Friday 23</b>	8:45 a.m. - Panera Bread	1:30 p.m. - "Ask the Lawyer" with Eric Glick, by appointment
9 a.m. - Stretch and Strengthen	2:30 p.m. - Massage	
10 a.m. - Body Recall		<b>Wednesday 26</b>
12:30 p.m. - Lunch		9 a.m. - Stretch and Strengthen
12:30 p.m. - Dupl. Bridge		10 a.m. - Body Recall
12:30 p.m. - Bingo		10:30 a.m. - Quilting
2:30 p.m. - Message		11 a.m. - Blood Pressure
		11 a.m. - Taking Off Pounds Sensibly
<b>Monday 26</b>		12:30 p.m. - Lunch
9 a.m. - Stretch and Strengthen		12:30 p.m. - Cloggin'
10 a.m. - Body Recall		1:30-2:30 p.m. - Sing-A-Long with George and Caroline
11:30 a.m. - Goodie Lady		2:30 p.m. - Massage
noon - Lunch		
12:30 p.m. - Pinochle		<b>Thursday 29</b>
2:30 p.m. - Message		9 a.m. - Line Dance
6:30 p.m. - Cloggin'		9 a.m. - Medicare Assistance by appointment
		10 a.m.-2 p.m. - Income Taxes by appointment
<b>Tuesday 27</b>		11 a.m.-1 p.m. - Computer Lab open
8:30 a.m. - Panera Bread		noon - Lunch
8:30 a.m. - Coffee and Conversation		12 p.m. - Cloggin' Bridge
9 a.m. - Line Dance		12:30 p.m. - Lunch
10 a.m. - Asian Pacific		
11 a.m.-1 p.m. - Computer Lab open		
noon - Lunch		
12:30 p.m. - Bingo		

\*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Phone (248) 347-0414.

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# EDUCATION

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com www.novinews.com fax (248) 349-9832

## Winterguard program growing at Novi High

Increasing scores and interested students pleases coach

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

In only her second year on the job, Betsy Richards has seen her Novi High School winterguard program grow from nine students to 30.

For those who aren't quite familiar with what a winterguard is, it's OK. It's not well known yet, but that is quickly changing as it becomes a household word among students and staff.

Winterguard is an indoor activity for girls that competes on weekends. It consists of students from the high school color guard with the marching band, who do their activities inside the school gymnasium. It's set to recorded music, and it consists a lot more of dance and theatrical activities than what the marching band does in the fall.

"It's nice to see such an interest," said Richards. "I think it's really just getting the pieces in the right places and getting good, committed kids who enjoy the activity and want to be a part of something great."

Richards explained her activity is unlike many sports because she doesn't yell at kids. "I think this is a nice avenue for students to feel really important in a group. We really strive for giving them a well rounded experience," she said. "It's about the experience that the kids get and not just about the results."

Richards is proud she was able

to turn the program around in such a short time, but she attributes her success to her commitment to the sport. She explained it's usually hard to find someone as interested as she is, and who's willing to stick around through good times and bad.

"I'm lucky because I work with a couple of other instructors who all came from the same background of why we do the activities," said Richards. "We're all from competitive colorguard programs, and though we didn't compete together at the same schools, we had a lot of the same instructors."

Richards described it as "a very intimate and close-knit group" in Michigan that teaches the activity. "It's really nice when you can find who have your same philosophy on growing a group, and really taking the time to cue about the kids and not just what you're going to get out of the competition," she said. "That really makes the difference between our staff and what has happened in the past in many other places."

### Building the program

This is the second year Novi High School is competing in the Michigan Color Guard Circuit. During the last show, Novi took third place out of a field of nine schools.

"That was a big boost for the girls," said Richards. "In the first year, we wanted to get our program off their crutches. This year it's really about focusing on having high expectations for skill development and a lot of movement and dance, and ironing out the kinks and making it work smoothly."

Richards wants for students to be where they stepped last year, and to build this year. As far as



Lauren Murray, senior, performed a dance solo with the Novi High School Winterguard at Lakeview High School in St. Clair Shores on Jan. 14. It was the beginning of the group's four-and-a-half minute routine. She is one of the captains of the group and has been a featured dancer for the past two years.

competitions go, the team's scores have been much higher this year already, but the main goal is to have kids be interested in the program and want to continue and grow with it.

For more information on all show schedules, features and a background on all the activities, visit [www.novine.com](http://www.novine.com).

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at [rkhuri@gannett.com](mailto:rkhuri@gannett.com).

## FIRST begins new year of Robotics competitions

Novi's champs feeling pressure to repeat

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Jennifer Harvey has seen her creation go from a small club to a world championship winner in a relatively short period of time.

Now she and the rest of Novi High School's Team Frog Force 501 are anxiously waiting to see if they can repeat the feat.

Team 501, along with its alliance partners, won the 2005 FIRST Robotics World Championship at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta April 23, 2005. The win propelled the team to fame, and made the city of Novi take notice of the extraordinary talent that was generated from its high school.

And now it's time to go back to work. The 2006 FIRST Robotics kick-off was held on the campus home turf of Novi High School on Jan. 7.

"There is added pressure, from my point of view, on the students," said Harvey, coach and founder of 501. "I think they finally reached a point last year where they realized and felt the results of their hard work at the end. A lot of students are used to getting As and Bs when they do well, but I don't think they've ever been faced with such tremendous odds and have been surrounded with so many thousands of people cheering them on."

One of the perks of winning a robotics world title is the team gets an automatic invite to the world championship competition again this year. And according to Apoorva Rastogi, business group leader and secretary, one of the team's main goals is to win a regional event, something that was not accomplished last year.

"Chances aren't that likely we'll win a world championship again, but we hope to do really well," the Novi High senior said. "I think our whole team does have a little bit of added pressure because we're trying to defend our title."

In addition, Novi won the Chairman's Award last year at the

Detroit Regional, and will be trying for a repeat victory in that department as well.

"I think that's one of our biggest pressures because our team has been doing so much community work, and trying to spread the message of FIRST," Rastogi said. "The Chairman's Award is one of the highest honors of FIRST, and it would be a really good thing for our team to win again."

### Being part of a winning team

Winning has definitely attracted more students to Frog Force 501. This year there are about 50 kids on the team, compared to last year's 43. There are also 31 mentors.

At the beginning of the year, over 60 students wanted to join. In order to accommodate everyone, the team plans on building two robots that are identical, with one being a practice robot so everyone who wanted to join could be involved.

And what about this year's robot? As junior Mansoor Siddiqui put it, this version will be quite different than anything the team has ever built before. Last year's robot had to stack tennis balls, but this year the robot has to shoot balls. "I think it's more of a challenge because there are a lot of things you can't control," said Siddiqui. "The balls are soft and can be squished. You don't know if the robot will squish the balls before shooting them. You have to factor that in."

But no matter what the outcome of this year's competition, the team is very thankful for the support it has received from Novi High School and Inter Automotive for their funding, facilities and knowledge.

"It makes me proud because the hard work definitely pays off when you get to go to a championship event," Rastogi added. "The feeling you get when you win is really unbeatable because you're putting in your effort and brain power to win something."

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](mailto:rkhuri@gannett.com).



Novi High School's Scholastic Art Winners include: (first row from left) senior Yukina Tanabe; junior Darya Zorina; junior Emily Graybowski; (second row from left) senior Timothy Mij; senior Claire Harold; sophomore Alexandria Egner; junior Jason Gauzner and sophomore Alina Bruder.

## Trio of students win Gold Keys in Scholastic Art competition

Zorina is one of five in nation to win Best of Show honors

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

With two Gold Keys, a silver one and a certificate, it's safe to say Darya Zorina cleared up during this year's Scholastic Art competition.

But her winnings don't end there. She was also one in five in the nation to be awarded a Best of Show American Vision Award in the mixed media category.

"I was surprised because I'm used to seeing big works or oil paintings win that," said Zorina, a junior at Novi High School. "Mines just a book."

The Southeastern Michigan Region of the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards received 3,400 individual entries and 300 art and photography portfolios. Zorina, along with senior Yukina Tanabe, one of her teachers, "She's doing a lot of good work, but that piece is going to New York, and she will compete versus all of the other American Vision Awards."

Zorina, one of her teachers, Erin Worden, encouraged her to keep up her sketch book, which eventually turned into the Best of Show winner. "This is almost a guaranteed sketchbook," she said. "She's going to want to compete in the senior portfolio next year."

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](mailto:rkhuri@gannett.com).

## Bonefish to host NYA charity night

Rescheduled event on Friday

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Bonefish Grill is celebrating the opening of its new location in Novi with a fund-raising event to benefit Novi Youth Assistance. The charity event - originally scheduled for Jan. 28 - will now be held on Friday from 6-8:30 p.m. at Bonefish Grill, located in the Novi Town Center. A \$25 donation per person

includes two complimentary drinks, appetizers and a main course tasting with all proceeds benefiting Novi Youth Assistance and children participating in Novi Community Education Child Care Services Programs. NYA and Novi Community Education, along with the support of Providence Park, have been providing scholarship funds for Novi children.

"We are very appreciative for Bonefish Grill choosing NYA as the recipient of their charity night," said Bob Sued, director of Novi Community Education and Board member for NYA.

"These funds will give children enriching educational opportunities that they normally may not have been able to participate in." NYA is an organization directed by citizen volunteers who are guided by professional staff. Their purpose is to help strengthen youth and families and to provide positive growth experiences by offering educational, recreational and counseling opportunities.

Brian O'Hara, managing partner of Bonefish Grill, said, "This is such a wonderful way to introduce both Bonefish Grill and our commitment to the community and Novi Youth Assistance." Those interested in donating prizes for the organization's next fund-raiser, the 24th Annual Dowl-athon on March 11 at Novi Bowl, can contact Kim Ziegler of Novi Youth Assistance, (248) 347-0416.

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](mailto:rkhuri@gannett.com).

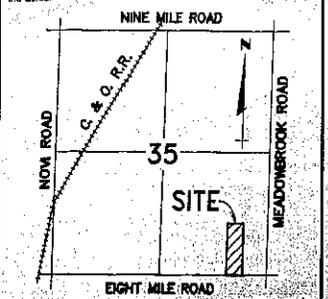
### CITY OF NOVI SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE FEBRUARY 11, 2006

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council for the City of Novi will hold a special meeting on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2006 AT 8:30 A.M. in the Council Chambers, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, for the purpose of discussing the composition of the City of Novi millage rate and the cost and benefits to the City of a mid-career course.

MARIYANNE CORNELIUS  
NOVI CITY CLERK

### 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, February 8, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **NOVIMANOR HILLS RESOURCES, SITE PLAN NUMBER 06-03-04, FOR PRESERVATION OPTION CONCEPT PLAN RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL, PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WETLAND PERMIT, WOODLAND PERMIT AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 25 OF PROXIMITY WEST OF MEADOWBROOK ROAD, ON THE NORTH SIDE OF EIGHT MILE ROAD, IN THE R-1, ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT.** The applicant proposes a 1.074 single-family development on 9.9 acres.



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, February 8, 2006.

### NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS STREET TREE INVENTORY

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for Street Tree Inventory according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the Office of the Purchasing Director.

Sealed bids will be received until 3:00 P.M., prevailing Eastern Time, Tuesday, February 28, 2006 at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:

CITY OF NOVI  
CAROL J. KALINOWIC, PURCHASING DIRECTOR  
45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.  
Novi, MI 48375-3024

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE MARKED:

"Street Tree Inventory Bid"

AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER. The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informality or both, to reject any or all proposals; and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interests of the City of Novi.

CAROL J. KALINOWIC, PURCHASING DIRECTOR (248) 347-0448

### NOTICE OF DAY OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS SUMP INTER-COUNTY DRAIN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that special assessment districts and the apportionment of costs of lands within the Sump Special Assessment District for maintenance of the Sump Drain will be available for review on February 8, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Oakland County Drain Commissioner's Office, One Public Works Drive, Waterford, MI 48326.

This special assessment will be levied on the 2006 winter taxes for properties located within the Sump Drainage District, described as those properties located in Section 31 in the City of Novi and Section 35 in the Township of Lyon.

Therefore, all unknown and non-resident persons, owners and persons interested in the above described lands, and the County Clerk of Oakland County, Board of Oakland County Drain Commissioners, Township of Lyon Supervisor, and the City of Novi Mayor are hereby notified that the time and place aforesaid and at such other time and place to which said day of review may be adjourned, the apportionment for benefits to the land comprised within the Sump Special Assessment District will be subject to review.

The owner of any land in the special assessment district or any city, village, township, district or county who may disagree with the apportionment of benefits may appeal the apportionment within ten days after this day of review of apportionments by making an application to the Oakland County Probate Court for apportionment of a Board of Review, as provided in Section 16 of the Michigan Drain Code (Act 40 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1959, as amended).

### CITY OF NOVI VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE ON CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Notice is given that the Novi City Council will be meeting to interview applicants for appointment to the Beautification Commission, Construction Board of Appeals, Economic Development, Cooperation and Historical Commission.

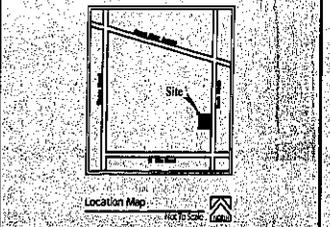
If you are a qualified voter in the City of Novi and interested in volunteering to serve on a City Board or Commission, applications and booklets containing information about the various Boards and Commissions are available in the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375. Also, you may contact the City Clerk's office by calling (248) 347-0458 to receive an application by mail or fax, or by visiting the City Web Site at [www.novine.com](http://www.novine.com) to print out an application.

The deadline for filing an application is Wednesday, February 8, 2006, at 4:00 pm to allow time for scheduling and interview appointments. Council will be interviewing applicants on Monday, February 13, 2006, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers; interviews are scheduled for 10 minutes each and all City Council meetings are televised.

MARIYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK (1-1825 & 2-2-06 NN 263023)

### CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

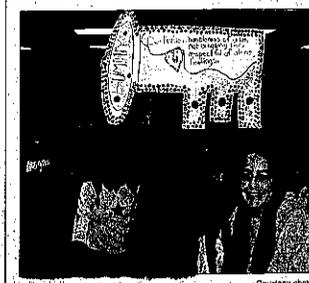
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 8, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **LANNY'S EXPRESS BIJOU STATION, SITE PLAN NUMBER 06-03-04-01A, FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN AND SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF BECK ROAD, SOUTH OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE, IN THE R-1, SINGLE-FAMILY, RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT.** The City is proposing a generator building associated with a new sanitary sewer pump station on the Providence Hospital property.



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, February 8, 2006.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION WAYNE WROBEL, SECRETARY (2-2-06 NN 265737)

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION WAYNE WROBEL, SECRETARY (2-2-06 NN 265737)



Novi Meadows Elementary's sixth graders work together on their keys to character. Keys to character is part of the RESPECT program initiated at Meadows by counselors Darby Jones and Gail Haskra. Humility is the respect characteristic that these students are defining and developing. The "finished keys" will decorate both the classrooms and hallways of Meadows.

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### ON CAMPUS

Novi resident, Jennifer Rudolph, has been named to the dean's list for fall 2005 semester at John Carroll University (Cleveland, Ohio).

Novi residents, Heather Balon, Megan Gambrian and Allison Louflier were named to the fall 2005 semester dean's list at Calvin College.

Walled Lake resident, Courtney Busch, has been named to the fall 2005 dean's list at Calvin College.

Novi resident, John Fleming, was named to the fall 2005 semester dean's list at Willamette University.

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# OPINION

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## Novi News

Cal Stone  
EDITOR

Grace Peraz Perry  
GENERAL MANAGER

Richard Periberg  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Richard Ramboff  
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

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

#### Novi Youth Assistance: A cause worthy of your support

One has to love it when a new business comes to town and immediately jumps into community involvement head first. That's the case with Bonefish Grill, whose managing partner is Brian O'Hara.

The new restaurant, located in the southwest corner of the Novi Town Center, is hosting a fund-raiser for Novi Youth Assistance tomorrow from 6-8:30 p.m.

The event has been sold out, but we've just learned that a limited number of tickets became available. And at just \$25 per person for two drinks, appetizers and a main course tasting, it's a win-win. All proceeds will go to the NYA program.

For those unfamiliar with Novi Youth Assistance, it's another one of those little gems that make this community shine. It's a joint effort between the Oakland County Probate Court/Circuit Court-Family Division, the Novi School District and the city of Novi dedicated to the prevention of juvenile delinquency, child abuse and child neglect.

NYA is made up of volunteers who are assisted by a professional staff in providing positive growth experiences for families through a number of services: education, youth recognition, summer recreation, scholarships, mentoring and counseling.

It works. Be a part of the solution and pick up some of the few remaining tickets for Friday's charity event. Call Gail O'Connor at (248) 449-1713 or e-mail gconnor@novi.k12.mi.us.

#### Corrections / Clarifications:

In last week's business feature, "Kicked up taste," the incorrect phone number was given for Ya Ya's Flame Broiled Chicken. The correct number is (248) 374-9292.

In last week's Your Novi Neighbors feature, "Meet the only known rabbi in the Novi/Northville area," contact information for Rabbi Avraham Susskind was inadvertently left out. He can be reached at (248) 790-6075 or novnews@comcast.net.

#### 3 NFL greats in Novi

A ticket to the Big Game Sunday? Yeah, right. Up until last week, I was wondering where, or even if, I'd be watching the Super Bowl on television. Thankfully, some friends (probably with a sweet TV) came to the rescue, but better late than never.

For example, just an hour or so before this week's paper went to press, I received a phone call and fax from a Sprint representative about an event that I think readers - at least football fans - will definitely want to know about.

From 6-8 p.m. tonight, Lucky's in the Fountain Walk mall will host three of the great-great football players to ever strap on a helmet: Steve Young, Emmitt Smith and, yes, Barry Sanders. If I have to further explain who any of these gentlemen are, then you better skip down to Tracy's column right now.

It's billed as a "town hall meeting" hosted by ESPN's Mike Tirico. "Those in attendance will have an opportunity to interact directly with the three former NFL greats with a question and answer session," according to the press release.

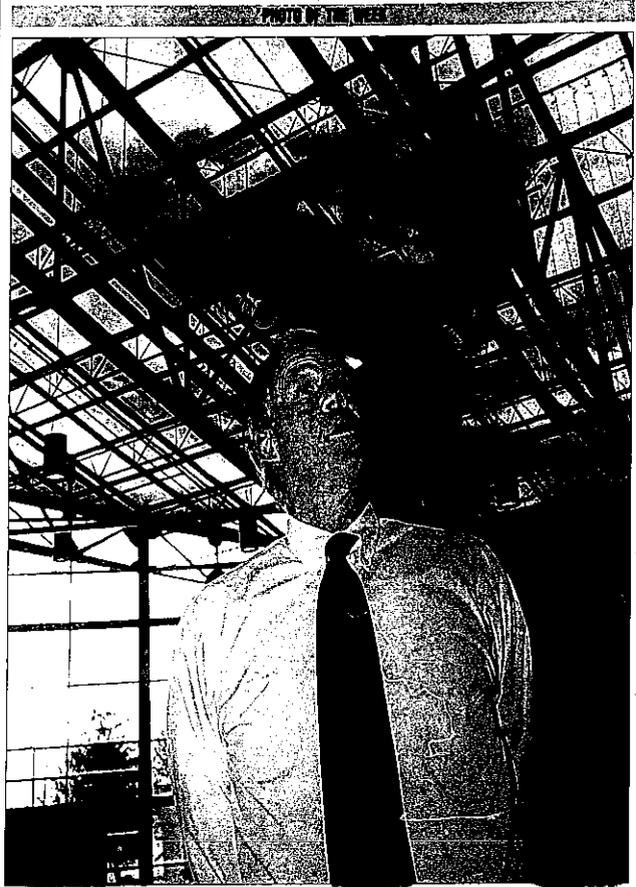
Afterwards, everyone will have an opportunity to meet the players and have their photographs taken with them. It's only open to about 200 individuals on a first-come, first-served basis, but it's free to the general public.

If you're an autograph hound, sorry - none will be given. The event will be repeated Friday night at the Boli Family YMCA in downtown Detroit (1401 Broadway Ave.).

I don't know how Lucky's landed this one, but it's just another testament to how happening this city is becoming. Of course, the Taste of the NFL (see page 5A) will be held Saturday at the Rock Financier Showplace. The local hotels are sold out (see page 1A), and the eBay auction of these 40 celebrity NFL footballs on display at Twelve Oaks Mall will conclude at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Novi's looking Super, but that's not news, is it?

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



Looking up, looking back  
In the atrium of the Novi Civic Center, steps from his office, city manager Richard Helwig talks about his pending retirement. See the full story on page 4A.

## LETTERS

#### Don't Delay

This week, House Republicans in Washington, D.C. will select a replacement for Tim Delay as Majority Leader. All three candidates, Roy Blunt (Missouri), John Boehner (Ohio), and John Studds (Arizona) claim to cure the hunger for reform. But close examination shows they are cut from the same cloth as Delay.

Blunt was Delay's right-hand man, collecting millions from corporate interests for his political fund and voting their way 90 percent of the time. Boehner is known in DC as the "traffic cop" for the business community. And Shadegg boasts that he took only \$4,250 from Delay's PAC. Lucky for us, Representative Mike Rogers (R-Brighon, Mich.) took his hat out of the ring since he received three times this amount from Delay, and voted 95 percent of the time Tom's way.

Let's not wait for our Republican legislators to clean up corruption in Washington. Let's put them out of business in November.

Donna Glowacki  
Lake Orion

#### Redistricting not new

In regards to the redistricting subject that has consumed the Novi School Board Meetings - I have watched both meetings and not once has the following been mentioned:

Back in 1998 the Novi School District was in the same situation it is now, we were overcrowded and needed to redistrict. In 1998 a group of concerned parents, teachers, administrators and community members spent many, many hours getting the word out to the community, campaigning for a bond that would provide additional improvements to the High School and at the same time provide the funds to build a "neighborhood school" not a "magnet" school. In March of 1998 the citizens voted and approved this bond for a "neighborhood" school, then the game plan changed and a committee was formed to decide what kind of school, thus Deerfield.

This should have never happened, but it did and now look where we are at - right back at square one. I have to believe that if a vote was taken today the results would be the same. The majority wanting a "neighborhood" school.

As of 9/30/05, the attendance at the five

elementary schools totaled 2,330. Deerfield makes up 497 plus 70 on the waiting list (per the Detroit Free Press). So, give or take a few, it looks like 1,763 students have parents that are not waiting to get into Deerfield and are very, very happy with their "neighborhood" school.

In regards to the communication of "redistricting," this is not a new topic. Redistricting has been on the table since 1998, it should have been done then, but wasn't and now is the time, we cannot wait any longer. We need to do it and be done with it.

In regards to the Board not communicating to the public, I think one of the biggest things in Novi is that the parents don't get involved until it affects them personally. There is all kinds of communication out there as to what is going on in the district at all levels, if only parents would take the time to obtain it. My daughters are now in high school - but I still care what goes on at all levels in the district.

Michelle Santovik  
Proud Parent of two Orchard Hills Alumni

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

## Steelers, Seahawks - Who cares? It's the commercials we want

There are two types of Super Bowl fans: the die-hard football buffs or the over-the-top commercial viewers.

Whichever category you fall into, there is simply no way to avoid the once-a-year hype - known simply as Super Bowl commercials.

This Sunday, millions will tune in to watch the Pittsburgh Steelers

take on the Seattle Seahawks. Although the bulk of man will swear they're only watching the game, they can't help but take notice of the side-splitting Budweisers and the controversial GoDaddy.com girl, Candice Michelle.

The Super Bowl has become the number one time slot on television for companies to promote their products. Each year, the cost to advertise goes up, from \$2.5 million last year to \$2.6 million this year.

According to Admarts.com, Arheuser-Busch will air 10 com-

mercials during the game at 30 seconds a piece for a mere \$26 million.

The reality behind spending so much money on commercials during the Super Bowl is that more people actually remember the advertisements (and wardrobe malfunctions) over who kicked the winning field goal in the fourth quarter.

There have been issues with past Super Bowl commercials and halftime shows, and if league executives seem to act more offensively than defensively, they have a billion reasons why.

The Super Bowl is and always will be a gold mine, and no matter who is playing, the real money comes when the people want entertainment.

This year's round to 40 will not only feature quarterbacks and tight ends on the field, but also cellular phones, monkeys and pizza advertisements.

Although big name adresses like McDonald's and Visa are still looking forward to seeing Pizza Hut, Dove and Carerwilder.com sometime during the game.

According to a survey taken in January by the Retail Advertising and Marketing Association, 34.5 million American consumers believe the Super Bowl commercials are the most important component, while others watch the game primarily to socialize with friends.

Although I can't speak for everyone, I know a little bit about football, but I would rather watch the commercials.

For those looking for a little pre-game commercial insight, more than 27 brands will be featured during this year's Super Bowl.

Pizza Hut, Warner Bros. and Burger King are sure to be some heavy hitters according to the 2006 advertising scoreboard from Adage.com.

When it comes down to crunch time this weekend, pay attention, take notes and remember the memorable moments from Super Bowl XL at Ford Field in downtown Detroit: the commercials and the Rolling Stone's halftime show.

Tracy Mishler is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or at tmishler@gannett.com

## COMMENTARY

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

### Gov's speech offers new ideas

Anybody who doubts the political smarts of Gov. Jennifer Granholm would do well to look carefully at the State of The State address she delivered last week.

Other politicians in her shoes might have approached this speech with dread, for the state of the state is not, by any measure, anything to brag about. The governor is saddled with a terrible economy, a formidable (and for-ridably well-financed) Republican opposition and a GOP-dominated legislature that will do anything and everything it can to make her life difficult.

Yet Granholm responded with a speech that was both masterfully delivered and which showed a street-level understanding of the probable electoral landscape come November.

As you listened to her speech, you could see her systematically clicking through a list of likely political targets, be they Democratic, independent or moderate Republican.

She had something for workers for small companies; for poor people without health insurance; workers scraping along on the minimum wage; college-bound kids and their parents; K-12 students and their families; and entrepreneurs and venture capital types.

She knows perfectly well that the legislature is not about to approve any of her proposals, but politically, that won't hurt her a bit.

Wasn't it Harry Truman who laid out a similar set of challenges and won an upset victory for President in 1948 by campaigning against "a do-nothing Republican Congress?"

Let's consider Granholm's main proposals, and to whom they are likely to appeal.

• She called for a new 401(k)-type savings retirement plan for employees of small businesses that don't offer pensions. Her idea was that the state should set up the apparatus for the program without kicking in any matching funds.

"People shouldn't be counting on

Social Security for their retirement, nest egg," State Treasurer Jay Rising told the Detroit News. "We know that 60 percent of firms with 25 employees or less offer no 401(k)."

Hard to see how conservative voters can argue against this. For years, Republicans have asserted that workers should take more individual responsibility for their own retirement.

• The governor proposed creating a health insurance plan for the 850,000 working poor who have no health care coverage. That proposal will need approval from both the state and the legislature.

That will take months, even assuming a tiny sliver of good will and willingness to work together on the part of the legislature (hah).

There was no clue as to what this would cost, or where the money would come from. But the half million plus Michigan folks affected certainly are not going to blame their governor for standing up for them - or reward the GOP for steering at the idea.

• Likewise the low-wage workers who would stand to benefit by an increased minimum wage. Granholm proposed increasing the wage by nearly \$2 an hour to \$6.85, effective January, 2007. And she pledged to lead a campaign to place the issue on the statewide ballot this fall. What a wonderful way to appeal to union voters to turn out strong in the middle of a tough campaign.

• College-bound kids and their parents, both increasingly concerned about increases in tuition, will be pleased by Granholm's proposal to rejigger the Merit Scholarship program to award a total \$4,000 to students who complete two years of college.

There's more than politics lurking behind this one. In comparison with other states, Michigan's labor force falls far behind in percentage of workers with college degrees, and four grand for kids who suck it out for two years should be a pretty good incentive.

The prospect of a much tougher school curriculum - including four years

of English and math, two of social studies and science and two years of a foreign language - might make kids in school nervous.

But most of them can't vote yet - and their parents, at least, are by now beginning to realize that merely getting a high school diploma without really knowing anything is hardly the route to a secure economic future for their children.

They'll look kindly on the governor's proposal. (Even the Republicans are unlikely to stop this one.)

• The rapidly growing health sciences sector in Michigan cannot but be enthused at her call for repealing current medieval state restrictions on stem cell research that could lead to cures for diseases like diabetes and Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

A fair number of companies that might locate in Michigan have said they won't come as long as the legislature's head-in-the-sand attitude toward scientific research persists.

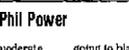
The overall picture is clear. If the major purpose of a politician's life and career is to get reelected, Governor Granholm did a mighty fine job of preparing for political conflict coming this fall.

The only sad thing is that nowhere in her speech did she tackle the really fundamental issues facing Michigan and its urgent need to restructure our hemorrhaging economy. Those include the chronic structural state budget deficit, now at well over \$1 billion per year; and the archaic, arcane and business-unfriendly Single Business Tax.

Worst of all may be the many cuts higher education has suffered in recent years, which have damaged the launch pad for creative innovation on which our economic future depends.

I know, I know. The governor knows perfectly well she won't get anywhere banging her head against a legislature and a political system that is both unable and unwilling to deal with these issues. But sooner or later, somebody's got to. And as Moses could have told her, sometimes a leader just has to lead.

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



Phil Power

## BUSINESS

#### Tower reorganizes

Novi-based Tower Automotive's top priority is to develop a plan of reorganization that permits its U.S. operations to exit from bankruptcy as a profitable, competitive automotive supplier. This will enable us to continue supporting our customers and to offer our colleagues valued employment because the only real job security is to be competitive. This can only come with sacrifice from all key parties.

Salary and non-union col-leagues have already made concessions totaling \$32 million annually. We need our union colleagues to participate in a fair and equitable manner or no jobs will be safeguarded. While we know these concessions are difficult, they are some of the necessary actions to ensure that Tower's Plan of reorganization is successful in a very competitive environment.

Tower Automotive remains committed to negotiate with its unions outside of the court process. Tower Automotive remains ready to meet at any time with its unions to negotiate a settlement.

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Do you have a new hire at your business? Are you gearing up for your grand opening? Is your business leading in an exciting new market? Celebrating the anniversary of moving? If so, we want to know. Send your business news to:

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It possible, include a photograph with your submission. Bites can come in the form of press releases or announcements, and the Novi News reserves the right to edit for length and content.

For more information, call (248) 349-1700, ext. 113.

#### Getting ready to build

General contracting firm Oliver/Hatcher is setting its sights on office construction in Novi.

The 30,000-square-foot building, located on Meadowbrook Road south of 12 Mile, is scheduled for completion in September. It will have two tenants and plenty of room for Oliver/Hatcher's staff to grow.

The firm is perhaps best known for building the Brownstown Business Center off I-75, a distribution center park with nine buildings totaling more than 1 million square feet. Its single biggest project was the \$45 million renovation project at the Warren Tank Plant.

Oliver/Hatcher is managing construction of distribution centers in Orion Township and Lansing for New York City-based Ashley Capital LLC, which owns the Brownstown Business Center and is the largest industrial developer in Michigan with buildings totaling 13 million square feet.

Mark A. Sharkey, Chief Operating Officer of Remington, said, "The Doubletree Hotel Novi is the third Doubletree-branded property in our management portfolio. Remington has a long track record with the brand, and we are well-versed in its culture. We are pleased to have been selected to manage the hotel and look forward to implementing our proven company revenue and satisfaction, for our guests and the operating performance for our client."

Remington is one of the largest independent hotel service companies in the U.S. The company currently has property, project and asset management assignments from coast to coast for many of the world's leading hotel owners and developers.

Beauty you Valentine  
Salone Nadwa and Day Spa is offering men a contest they will love. In 100 words or less, Salone Nadwa officials want you to explain why their ladies should be beautified at Salone Nadwa and Day Spa on Valentine's Day.

Salone Nadwa will select the lucky lady who will receive a day at the spa including a facial, massage, manicure and pedicure care treatment, along with a hair-style and make-up application. This is a \$340 value.

Entries should be sent to Valentine's Day contest, Salone Nadwa and Day Spa, 43234 Eleves Mile, Novi, Town Center, Novi, MI 48375. The deadline to enter is Monday. Entries may also be dropped off at the front desk.

Automation Alley recently announced it received \$92,000 in state funding to expand its capabilities to attract, grow and retain technology focused businesses in Southeast Michigan.

The state acknowledged Automation Alley as a Southeast Michigan Information Security Regional Skills Alliance (MIRSA) recipient. MIRSA is a regional and industry-based partnership among employers, educational institutions, training providers, economic development organizations, and public workforce system agencies.

Automation Alley will receive the funding to implement a number of goals, including identifying career ladder opportunities within the information security industry, identify opportunities for Southeast Michigan businesses in information security development, provide information to K-12 students through 12th grade students regarding information security careers and provide timely and accurate information to adult learners regarding information security careers.

Compiled by Tracy Mishler

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# CALENDAR

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com www.novi.com fax: (248) 349-9822

## EVENTS

### Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting

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

### Art Show

TIME/DATE: 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Feb. 7-Friday, March 11  
LOCATION: Iroquoisance Center for the Healing Arts, Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue  
DETAILS: "A Quest for Hope and Recovery" is a collection of original artwork by local artists and cancer survivors Adele Evans. The show is free and open to the public.  
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

### City of Wixom 4th Annual Wine Tasting

DATE: Friday, Feb. 10  
TIME: 7-9 p.m.  
LOCATION: Wixom Community Center, 49015 Pontiac Trail  
DETAILS: This event is for ages 21 and up. Merchant's Fine Wine will bring wines and cheeses from around the United States. A buffet table including breads, assorted crackers and fruits will be available. The cost is \$20 per person; registration deadline is 3 p.m., Feb. 8  
CONTACT: (248) 624-2890

### Valentine Dinner Dance

DATE: Saturday, Feb. 11  
TIME: 6 p.m.-midnight  
LOCATION: Baker's Restaurant, South Millfield Road, Milford  
DETAILS: Silent Hands, a non-profit Christian organization, is hosting this event. This charity provides temporary assistance to families in need in the United States. A buffet table including breads, assorted crackers and fruits will be available. The cost is \$20 per person; registration deadline is 3 p.m., Feb. 8  
CONTACT: Mary Davis, (248) 684-3338

### Valentine's Ball

DATE: Saturday, Feb. 11

### TIME: 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Sheraton Hotel  
Novi, 21111 Huggely Road  
DETAILS: The Philippine American Community Center of Michigan is hosting the 2nd annual Valentine's Ball. The speaker will be Dr. Stok Wilkerson, Chair of the Governor's Advisory Council on Asian Americans.  
CONTACT: For further information or tickets call Fred Pate, Executive Director, (248) 443-7037.

### Northville Genealogical Society

DATE: Sunday, Feb. 12  
TIME: 2:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady St.  
DETAILS: Kathy Match will speak on "History of Novi".  
CONTACT: Grace Wilfong, (248) 349-9679 or visit www.rootsweb.com/nings

### Sudan: War in Darfur

DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 14  
TIME: 6:45 p.m.  
LOCATION: The Northville/Novi American Association of University Women (AAUW) invites participants to come and discuss foreign policy topics. At the conclusion, opinion ballots are distributed, information gathered will be presented to the White House, Department of Defense and U.S. Congress.  
CONTACT: Beth Ann Kinsley, (248) 305-8992

### American Cancer Society Relay For Life Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 22  
TIME: 6-7:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Northville Senior Community Center, 303 W. Main St., Northville  
DETAILS: This meeting is for residents to learn more about Relay For Life. The Northville-Novi Relay will be May 20-21, Ford Field, Northville.  
CONTACT: Barb Iwan, (248) 483-4317

## SCHOOL/GOVERNMENT

### Wixom City Council

### DATE: Tuesday

TIME: 7:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Wixom City Hall, 39045 Pontiac Trail  
CONTACT: (248) 624-4557

### Novi City Council Meeting

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

### Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 7  
TIME: 7:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Meadows Elementary, 28549 Taft Road  
CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

### Oakland County Business Workshops

TIME: 9 a.m.-noon  
LOCATION: 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac  
CONTACT: (248) 858-0783  
How to Start a Business  
DATE: March 2  
DETAILS: This class 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.  
Write a Business Plan  
DATE: Thursday, Feb. 16  
DETAILS: This is a workshop for small business owners. The fee is \$40, including all materials. Registration required.

### Certification Orientation Session for Women Business Owners

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 23  
TIME: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue  
DETAILS: This is a workshop for businesses at least 51 percent owned, operated and controlled by women, needing resources to help expand and finance business growth. The fee is \$25 per person, including all materials. Registration required.  
How to Write a Business Plan  
DATE: Thursday, 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.

### Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 7  
TIME: 7:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Meadows Elementary, 28549 Taft Road  
CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

### Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Events

CONTACT: (248) 624-2826  
Morning Connection  
DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 7  
TIME: 8:30-9:30 a.m.  
LOCATION: Flagstar Bank, 7950 Coley Lake Road, Waterford  
DETAILS: Bring business cards to network.  
Manufacturers' Roundtable  
DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 8  
TIME: 5-8 p.m.  
LOCATION: WTVS, Clover Drive, Wixom  
DETAILS: Manufacturers are invited to attend this discussion relating to problems in the manufacturing sector.

### Oakland County Business Workshops

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CONTACT: (248) 858-0783  
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DATE: Thursday, Feb. 16  
DETAILS: This is a workshop for small business owners. The fee is \$40, including all materials. Registration required.

### Providence Center for the Healing Arts

Cultural Percussion Workshop  
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m., second Tuesday of every month  
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi  
DETAILS: This is a free class.  
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455  
Artists in Residence  
TIME/DATE: 10-11:30 a.m., first and third Thursday of every month

### Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 7  
TIME: 7:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Meadows Elementary, 28549 Taft Road  
CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

### Line Dancing

DATE: every Monday and Friday  
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-8:30 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

### Starlight Story Time

DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 14  
TIME: 7-7:30 p.m.  
DETAILS: Preschoolers and their families are invited to enjoy bedtime stories. No registration required.

### Novi Public Library Hours

LOCATION: 45345 W. 10 Mile Road  
HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday  
DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

### Etiquette Program

DATE: Today  
TIME: 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
DETAILS: Etiquette experts from the Charmelle School will offer a class on social etiquette and manners for ages 5-8. Class size is limited to 25 children. The cost is \$15 per child, payable the day of the program. Registration is required.

### Snack Tales

DATE: Monday, Feb. 6  
TIME: 7-7:45 p.m.  
DETAILS: This program is for kindergarten through third grade and includes a story and refreshments. Registration required.

### Thomas Jefferson

DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 7  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
DETAILS: Actor David Dausst portrays founding father Thomas Jefferson. Registration is required for this free program, sponsored by the Friends of Novi Public Library.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

### Etiquette Program

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 9  
TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.  
DETAILS: Etiquette experts from the Charmelle School will offer a class on social etiquette and manners for ages 9 and up. Class size is limited to 25 children. The cost is \$15 per child, payable the day of the program. Registration required.

### Book Sale

DATE: Saturday, February 11  
TIME: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
DETAILS: This is a used book sale and includes coffee table books, cookbooks and videos. Sponsored by the Friends of the Novi Library.

### Support Groups

Neighborhood Baby-sitting Co-op  
DETAILS: Using the co-op, you and your children can make friends and get your need somewhat filled without the little ones in tow. Also enjoy a mom's night out and other social events.  
CONTACT: Sue Tracz, (248) 383-0958

### 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) 351-0730, Florence Voight, (248) 347-3837 or Joy Iversall, (248) 348-9138, joyiv@carl-link.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 "MOMs" who choose to stay at home with their children, work out of their homes, or work part-time.  
CONTACT: dswallman@bcg-global.net

### Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples

DATE: Second Thursday of each month  
TIME: 7 a.m.  
LOCATION: Wixom's Hot 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) 477-5496.

### Healing Prayer Service

DATE: First Monday of each month  
TIME: 4 p.m.  
LOCATION: First United Methodist Church, 777 W. Eight Mile Road  
DETAILS: This service is open to all faiths and is a service of hope.

### Women's Prayer Support

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

### Breast Cancer Support Group

DATE: Second and fourth Tuesday of each month  
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Saint Joseph Hospital, Classroom C  
TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.  
DETAILS: No registration needed.  
CONTACT: (248) 937-5017

### 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.

### Walled Lake Community Education Seminar

DATE: Monday, Feb. 27 and Wednesday, March 1  
TIME: 6-10 p.m.  
LOCATION: Walled Lake Middle School, 46720 W. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake  
DETAILS: Walled Lake Community Education in cooperation with Oakland Builders Institute will offer this seminar, "Basement Remodeling." The instructor will explain many facets of basement remodeling including space planning, meeting building codes, insurance, permits, estimating materials as well as the basics of construction. The seminar costs \$99 plus \$10 for textbook and materials payable to teacher. Sponsor's discount is half of the tuition. Pre-registration with payment is required no later than Thursday, Feb. 23 to Walled Lake Community Education, (248) 956-5000, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

### Providence Center for the Healing Arts

Cultural Percussion Workshop  
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m., second Tuesday of every month  
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi  
DETAILS: This is a free class.  
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455  
Artists in Residence  
TIME/DATE: 10-11:30 a.m., first and third Thursday of every month

### Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 7  
TIME: 7:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Meadows Elementary, 28549 Taft Road  
CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

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continued from page 18

list of five books and then participate in a contest where each team answers questions about those 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, Feb. 15  
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.

### Support Groups

Neighborhood Baby-sitting Co-op  
DETAILS: Using the co-op, you and your children can make friends and get your need somewhat filled without the little ones in tow. Also enjoy a mom's night out and other social events.  
CONTACT: Sue Tracz, (248) 383-0958

### 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) 351-0730, Florence Voight, (248) 347-3837 or Joy Iversall, (248) 348-9138, joyiv@carl-link.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 "MOMs" who choose to stay at home with their children, work out of their homes, or work part-time.  
CONTACT: dswallman@bcg-global.net

### Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples

DATE: Second Thursday of each month  
TIME: 7 a.m.  
LOCATION: Wixom's Hot 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) 477-5496.

### Healing Prayer Service

DATE: First Monday of each month  
TIME: 4 p.m.  
LOCATION: First United Methodist Church, 777 W. Eight Mile Road  
DETAILS: This service is open to all faiths and is a service of hope.

### Women's Prayer Support

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

### Breast Cancer Support Group

DATE: Second and fourth Tuesday of each month  
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Saint Joseph Hospital, Classroom C  
TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.  
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CONTACT: (248) 937-5017

### Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 7  
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LOCATION: Novi Meadows Elementary, 28549 Taft Road  
CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

## A journey through nature and art during recovery

### Cancer survivor shows artwork at Assarian Center

Providence Center for the Healing Arts presents "A Quest for Hope and Recovery" by local artist and cancer survivor Adele Evans. The collection of artwork captures the power of healing effects nature can have during difficult times in a person's life. Evans has always found solace in the natural unfolding and beauty of nature around her. She especially felt a deep connection while undergoing cancer treatment. The positive forces helped her cling to the hope of life and recovery.

This mixed media show includes 25 works of art using watercolor, glazes, oils, pastels, batik, and hand-made paper. "Through focusing on nature to express myself, I found a feeling of strength and inner peace needed to battle the cancer that was in me," says Evans. As a result, she has broadened the depth of her spirituality and has learned to appreciate everything around her on a new level. The public is cordially invited to attend an artist's reception to be held 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Nancy A. Fox Art Gallery. The gallery is located in the Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi. The show will be on display through April 30. The gallery is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Providence Center for the Healing Arts, located in the Assarian Cancer Center, provides a variety of programs that promote emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being for cancer patients, their families, and the greater community. Contact Lori Taylor at (248) 465-5455 or e-mail: lori@providence-center.org.



Providence Center for the Healing Arts, located in the Assarian Cancer Center, provides a variety of programs that promote emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being for cancer patients, their families, and the greater community. Contact Lori Taylor at (248) 465-5455 or e-mail: lori@providence-center.org.

help you improve your communication skills, your opinion, polish your presentations and practice keyboarding.  
CONTACT: Colleen, (248) 685-9226

### New Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) chapter

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

### 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) 351-0730, Florence Voight, (248) 347-3837 or Joy Iversall, (248) 348-9138, joyiv@carl-link.net

### HEALTH

#### Oakland Physical Therapy, P.C. Classes

LOCATION: Providence Medical Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Suite B124  
CONTACT: (248) 380-3590  
Preventing Injuries in Instrumental Musicians  
DATE: Wednesday  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
DETAILS: This presentation includes a lecture with an audience participation format focusing on prevention and management of instrumental playing-related injuries. Musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments. Participants should wear form-fitting shirts or tops to properly evaluate posture. No fee, registration is required.  
Introduction to Pilates  
DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 15  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
DETAILS: This presentation guides you through basic Pilates philosophy and principles and experience in a Pilates workout. No fee, registration is required.

#### 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 Center

#### ONGOING

#### SWOCC Studio Tours

## ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE

The Rock Financial Showplace is located at 46100 Grand River Avenue. Call (248) 348-5600 or visit <http://www.rockfinancialshowplace.com> for more information.

### Home Improvement Show

TIME/DATE: noon-9 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday  
DETAILS: This is the 14th annual Home Improvement Show featuring over 300 exhibitors including the latest technology, products and services for kitchens, baths, doors, windows, remodeling, heating and cooling. Admission is \$9 for adults; \$5 for seniors; under 12 free.  
CONTACT: (248) 737-4477 or [www.builders.org](http://www.builders.org)

### Antique Arms Show

TIME/DATE: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12  
DETAILS: Buy, sell and trade antique arms. Admission is \$6; ages 16 and under free.  
CONTACT: (248) 676-2750

### 40th Annual Detroit Camper & RV Show

TIME/DATE: 2-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15-Friday, Feb. 17, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, February 18; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19  
DETAILS: 2006 recreation vehicles will be on display including folding campers, motorhomes, travel trailers, truck campers, park models and fifth wheel travel trailers. Booths will feature parts and accessories, campground information and RV financing. Admission is \$9 for adults; under 12 free.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-8832; or e-mail to [cstone@gannett.com](mailto:cstone@gannett.com)

### Baby Expo

DATE: Saturday, March 4-Sunday, March 5  
TIME: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
DETAILS: This is hosted by "Baby's K US" stores and will include 100 exhibitors with new products, child care and parenting information, children's activities, samples and coupons. The cost is \$8 for adults and free for grandparents and children under 12.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-8832

### Send your calendar items to Cal Stone, editor, Novi News, 101 W. Main Street, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-8832; or e-mail to [cstone@gannett.com](mailto:cstone@gannett.com)

**Plans to fit your needs.**

<p>Plan A: 13-month CD</p> <p><b>4.80% APY</b></p>	<p>Plan B: 4-month CD</p> <p><b>4.50% APY</b></p>
<p>Plan C: 36-month Penalty-Free CD</p> <p><b>4.50% APY</b></p>	<p>Close the account or take a one-time withdrawal anytime during the term of the CD</p> <p><b>No Penalty</b></p>

**JOE'S PRODUCE**

**Super**

# PARTY IDEAS

**Michigan's Finest**

Cellar Selection  
**Keug Brut Champagne**  
Vintage 1988  
Nearly Perfect  
99 Points  
Wine Spectator

**Clos Mimi**  
Petite Roussee  
Syrah '04  
**\$20.99**  
Unique and  
Massive  
Rich Fruit  
and Velvety

- PARTY TRAYS**
- FRUIT TRAYS
  - SPECIALTY CHEESE TRAYS
  - VEGETABLE PARTY TRAYS
  - TROPICAL FRUIT SALAD
  - GARDEN SALADS, GREEK, CHEF AND PASTA SALADS

## Party Planning IDEAS

Keep it simple! You can easily serve snacks and appetizers and still have a fabulous time.

Have a Sandwich Buffet. An easy way to entertain! Put out an array of breads, meats, cheese and sandwich fixings and let everyone help themselves! Want to go all out? Cook a whole turkey or ham to slice for sandwiches!

Turn your table into a field. If you have a rectangular table, drape it with a piece of green fabric and draw on the yard lines and the end zones with white fabric paint.

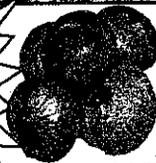
Use your empty dishwasher or washing machine to ice down extra cans and bottles of drinks. When the ice melts, the water just drains away.

Set up a football pool and give gag gifts to the biggest losers.

Give away door prizes, like team t-shirts and other NFL paraphernalia.



**Oso Sweet Onions**  
**99¢ lb.**



**Florida Grape Tomatoes**  
**2/\$3.00**

Firm & Crisp

California Andy Boy  
**Romaine Hearts**  
**2/\$3.00**  
22 oz. bag

Golden Ripe  
**Pineapples**  
**\$3.99 ea.**  
Whole, cut & cored

Crisp & Sweet

Try this with Columbus Salsami

Annabella '03  
**Napa Cabernet**  
**\$13.99**  
750 ml  
Bright Fruit with a Smooth Finish

Columbus  
**Salame**  
**\$5.39 ea.**  
Traditional Flavors of Italy

Bricco Riella  
**Moscato D'Asti '05**  
**\$10.99**  
750 ml  
This is a sweet and full bodied Desert Wine with a light bubble

Try this with Joe's Peach Praline Pie

Great for Parties

Colby Longhorn  
**Cheese**  
**\$2.49**  
Mild & Tender Flavor

Alouette Spreadable  
**Cheese**  
**\$3.99**  
All Flavors  
Great Cheese Dips

Delice de France  
**Grand Camembert**  
**\$8.99**  
Mild, Mushroomy Flavor

Great with St. Urban's Hot '04 Reeling

All Natural No Cholesterol

Joe's White Corn  
**Tortilla Chips**  
**2/\$4.00**

Joe's Salsa  
**All Flavors**  
**2/\$6.00**  
15 oz. Jar

Joe's Organic Blue Corn  
**Tortilla Chips**  
**2/\$5.00**

Great with Joe's Salsas

Great for your Super Bowl Party

Cape Cod  
**Tortilla & Potato Chips**  
**2/\$5.00**

T. Marzetti's  
**Veggie Dips**  
**\$2.99**  
All Varieties  
Great for Parties

Edy's Family Favorite  
**Ice Cream**  
**2/\$6.00**  
56 oz.

A variety of All Natural Flavors

## Byrd's Choice Meats

33066 W. 7 Mile  
248-478-8680  
P.O. Box 330  
Feb. 5th, 2009

SUPER SPECIALS!		
Ground Chuck Any Amount		\$2.19 lb.
Veal & Pork City Chicken		\$4.98 lb.
Grade A Skinless Chicken Breast		\$1.49 lb.
Lean Beef Stew		\$3.69 lb.
Meatloaf Mixture		\$3.19 lb.
Tilapia Fillets		\$4.19 lb.
Cooked Shrimp		\$7.89 lb.
Byrd's Cooked Turkey Breast		\$5.98 lb.
Kowalski Polish Ham		\$4.98 lb.

# JOE'S PRODUCE

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**Defensive specialist**

The Novi Wildcats graduated a lot of defensive player last year and with the addition of a "libero" or defensive specialist, this season they had to find someone to fill that role.

Shannon Cody was the team's choice.

— Page 3B



**Getting ready**

Novi girls basketball just ended in the fall, but players are already suiting to get ready for next year.

One of those players is Taylor Graybiel, who has a whole season to make up for after an injury sidelined her in the fall. She's not only working out and working hard, she's working for her school, too, as a co-op with the athletic department.

— Page 4B



**SPORTS**

**Splish, splash**

Novi senior Derek O'Branovic is a leader in, out of pool

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Derek O'Branovic doesn't worry about earning state cuts or Oakland County titles.

Instead, the senior captain of the Novi swimming and diving team worries about being a good example for others to follow. It's a role he plays well.

"I've been trying to be a leader ever since I became an upperclassman," said O'Branovic, who will attend Michigan State University in the fall. "I want to stay a good role model for the younger swimmers and do my best to help keep them on the team."

O'Branovic focuses on being a leader outside of the pool as well. He carries an

**"That's how sports have helped me. I've always been busy and it's taught me how to keep a tight schedule, stay focused and get things done."**

Derek O'Branovic  
Novi Senior Swim Captain

impressive 3.92 grade-point average and maintains a challenging course schedule.

He doesn't skimp in the pool either. As one of the team's top tankers, O'Branovic is expected to lead by example. He swims mostly the 100 backstroke and the medley relay, but he has tried his hand in the 500 and 100 freestyle races as well.

He said leading this year's team hasn't been difficult.

"We're a really good team this year because we have fun together and everyone gets along," O'Branovic said.

"The team stays close by participating in events such as sledging and team dinners. Sometimes before a swim meet, they gather at Denny's near the Twelve Oaks Mall.

Though they try to enjoy themselves as much as they can, O'Branovic said he's still aware of the other part of his role as a captain. Competitive leadership.

"We try to have as much fun as possible, but we still get the work done," he said.

**He's everywhere**

If the name O'Branovic sounds familiar, it could be one of two things: First, O'Branovic's older brother, Evan, was an athlete at Novi, too. Second, O'Branovic also lent his hand to some very successful football seasons for the Wildcats.

He's also easily found in the summer working as a counselor at a summer camp, Camp Daggert, near Waloon Lake.

"I started going there when I was eight and it was something that was a lot of fun for me," he said. "I decided I would stay on as staff."

O'Branovic has seen some ups and downs with the swimming and diving team, too. There was a stretch when they didn't even have a home pool, swimming all of their meets on the road and practicing at the newly constructed Walled Lake Northern High School.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Derek O'Branovic takes to the Wildcats' pool. He is a senior captain this year.

O'Branovic didn't mind. In fact, he said it helped the team grow closer during the season.

The bus rides back and forth to the Walled Lake pool kept them close as they were able to get to know one another in more detail than regular practices would have allowed.

Though O'Branovic is a good student and a top-notch athlete, he said he still gets bouts of "senioritis."

"I think I'm just like everyone else," he laughed. "It's hard to focus and stay on track at times, but I manage."

"That's how sports have helped me. I've always been busy and it's taught me how to keep a tight schedule, stay focused and get things done."

And he's definitely getting things done. O'Branovic has qualified for the Oakland County meet this weekend and is just a few seconds away from qualifying for the state finals in the backstroke.

Cheering him on every step of the way are his parents, Tom and Laura.

"They're great," he said. "They always support me. My dad is always taking my times down and my mom is really involved with the team with team dinners and food after the meets."

"It makes things a lot easier because I have my parents there supporting me in everything I do."

And O'Branovic is hardly planning on taking any time off after the season. He has spring break, graduation and all summer to plan.

If his career in high school is any indication, he's going to make sure it's full of fun times, great memories and plenty of quality leadership.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 3104 or at [eggleston@novi.net](mailto:eggleston@novi.net).



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News  
Novi High School senior and varsity swimmer Derek O'Branovic.

**Quick Hits**

**Happy Birthday!**

Last Friday, Novi junior Taylor Graybiel earned her 17th mark, celebrating her birthday with her friends.

Graybiel, a near 6-foot-1 Wildcat girls basketball player, has had quite the beginning of the year. She's the new co-op at Novi High School's athletic director's office and she's working out with Bill Kelly, her coach, in weight training class.

She also earned a place in this week's sports section thanks to her hard off-season work.

**Walled Lake Western gridiron headed to college**

The Walled Lake Western Warriors football team, coached by Mike Zabalski, recently announced they have two players headed to the collegiate level this fall.

Travis Maxey will head to Alma College to take to the gridiron while Randy Wright earned plenty of attention from Saginaw Valley State University.

The two players have been integral parts of the Warriors football program and the team will be celebrating their accomplishments this week with a small party.

**Where's your sports results?**

If you don't see your sports results in the newspaper each week, it means the sports department isn't receiving the results.

If you're a parent who would like to become a team liaison and submit statistics, scores, records and comments from the coaches, please e-mail the Novi News sports department at [eggleston@gannett.com](mailto:eggleston@gannett.com) for more information.

**Interested in writing?**

The Novi News sports department is currently looking for interested candidates to cover Catholic Central High School.

The Shamrocks have everything from a premier hockey program to a ski team and provide plenty of opportunity for articles, features, columns and photos.

If you like sports and you like writing, e-mail Sam Eggleston at [eggleston@gannett.com](mailto:eggleston@gannett.com) for your chance to report on the outstanding athletics at Catholic Central High School.

**Kat a good situation**

Rumor has it the Michigan High School Athletic Association is considering putting an end to combined teams, like the Novis.

Northville gymnastics team. It's a benefit to both schools, which wouldn't have enough participants for teams of their own, and it has worked well for several years.

One day, hopefully, the MHSAA will learn to focus on things that work alone and focus on things they are always missing up, like post-season pairings and assignments.

<b>By the numbers</b>	<b>2-0</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>491.5</b>	<b>487.5</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>0</b>
	Novi cheerleading's all-time record against Northville's team.	Novi's score at the varsity level from last week's meet against the Mustangs.	Northville's all-around score against Novi during last week's cheerleading meet.	Novi's junior varsity score against Northville during their dual meet.	The score awarded to Northville's JV team by the cheerleading judges.	The score collected by the Novi Wildcats freshman cheer squad against the Mustangs.	The number of freshman cheer teams at Northville High School this year.





# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 6B

Novi News

Thursday, February 2, 2006

## Ready for the (real) Big Game?

The Big Game will be exciting. Watch for brilliant moves by the defense, but never underestimate the power of the offense to launch a dazzling end run or throw a Hail Mary pass that will turn the tide in their favor. As the contest gets heated, there will be fumbles, interceptions and calls of unsportsmanlike conduct. But this grueling spectacle won't

feature half-time entertainment or slick advertisements, and the television audience will be very small.

### Jack Faris

Unlike the professional football playoffs that are flooding the airwaves of America, the confirmation hearings of U.S. Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito Jr. will capture a much smaller share of the nation's attention, but the stakes of this game are much greater than any sports event.

Among those sure to be paying rapt attention to Capitol Hill's latest grilling of a justice-to-be are small-business owners whose enterprises are increasingly threatened by state and federal government agencies that stretch the interpretation of laws beyond their original intent. Many are aware that the National Federation of Independent Business Legal Foundation's defensive posture helped block an end run by the U.S. Tax Court last year. Taking the case for small business all the way to the Supreme Court, the foundation successfully turned back the tax court's secretive practice that allowed special trial judges to withhold reports from taxpayers who had appealed decisions.

NFIB's Legal Foundation has a flexible game plan: it can play defense or offense, depending on the challenge. Created to represent the interests of small-business owners in America's courts and to educate entrepreneurs about legal pitfalls, the affiliate of the nation's largest small-business organization scored several victories in 2005.

Weighing in on a Fair Labor Standards Act case, the group helped overturn a district court ruling that determined finance and insurance employees, who earn money from commissions on goods and services sold at dealerships, were not exempt from overtime requirements. By preventing excess payments, this effort results in significant savings for small firms.

Taking another case to the Tennessee Supreme Court, the foundation successfully argued that "loss of enjoyment of life benefits" should be excluded as part of a workers' compensation award. The ruling will keep workers' compensation insurance premiums from escalating, which, according to a recent NFIB study, ranks as the third-most important issue of concern for small-business owners.

In New York, the Legal Foundation added a few more points to the small-business scoreboard by successfully halting the expansion of workplace safety liability. Agreeing with its reasoning, the State Court of Appeals ruled that an employer cannot be held liable for the personal injury to an employee's spouse due to secondary exposure to asbestos.

There won't be any replays highlighting the foundation's leaps across the legal goal lines, nor will you see any locker-room interviews with champagne toasts, but the small-business sector will celebrate the results on their bottom lines. They'll be able to use more of their hard-earned dollars to expand their enterprises and create jobs as a result of these unheralded legal victories. And I'd say that is something worth celebrating.

Jack Faris is the president of NFIB (the National Federation of Independent Business), the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB represents the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. More information is available on-line at [www.nfib.org](http://www.nfib.org).



In their new, expanded office at 56330 Grand River Avenue, the staff at Brenda W. Smith & Company, P.C. is ready to serve you this tax season. Photos by Hill Gauld

## Brenda W. Smith: small business solutions

### Accountants offer satellite office for customers on the go

For small business owners, a visit to a Certified Public Accountant can be a nerve-racking experience. Some proprietors avoid consulting a CPA, or put off the choice until a day that they are better organized.

But delaying the process of getting help can be costly. Knowing how to manage the financial aspects of a business makes a difference in overall success. Staff at Brenda W. Smith & Company, P.C. make it much easier to run a business.

### Small businesses audited

Small businesses are being audited now more than ever. Messy bookkeeping can lead to mistakes that attract the attention of the Internal Revenue Service and increase the chance of an audit. An IRS audit is time consuming and stressful - certainly something to avoid.

Getting help from the CPAs at Brenda W. Smith & Company will go a long way to preventing unnecessary audits.

### Consultation prevents errors

A good accounting strategy is key to a small business. While some may delay in getting help, those who start off right will be a step ahead.

"Mistakes made in the first year cost more than doing things right by setting up an initial consulting arrangement," said Brenda Smith, owner of the accounting firm.

Brenda W. Smith & Company offers a no cost, no obligation, hour-long consultation with potential business clients. This is one way Smith puts customers at ease. "It's a good opportunity for the client to interview us to see if



Brenda W. Smith & Company staff (left-right) Debbie Farneth, Patty Speer, Brenda W. Smith, CPA, Mary Noff, CPA and Amy Haseluhm, CPA.

there's a good personality fit," she said. "It's very important that they can communicate comfortably with their advisors."

For start-up businesses Smith and her staff answer questions about what type of business entity will work best in the situation, how to keep records, and what taxes are required. If the business is already in operation, staff will look over prior returns or financial statements and answer questions about management, computerized accounting systems and planning for the future.

### Small business specialists

Smith is the owner of a small business herself and understands the everyday struggles that business owners go through. She can put together a comprehensive plan that includes everyday record keeping and periodic tax payments.

The friendly, personable staff can assist clients with numerous questions. There are many times when a client needs to resolve a problem, but doesn't know where to turn.

"We can usually put them in touch with the right person, even if it's not us," Smith said. "We're a touchstone for all those other serv-

ices such as legal, financial services or even personal maintenance."

### Making tax filing easy

Brenda W. Smith & Company offers complete services for accounting and taxes. This includes bookkeeping, quarterly payroll taxes, financial statement preparation, business and personal tax return preparation, and IRS problem resolution.

The firm can help keep clients in compliance with all government regulations and obligations for tax returns. It can facilitate various tax filings such as state, local, sales tax and personal property tax.

### Quick data access

In today's world, a business must have quick access to decision making data.

"If someone is still doing books manually, they're spending time writing and adding, and they are not getting the benefit of instant information," said Smith.

### BRENDA W. SMITH, P.C.

**Certified Public Accountants**  
 Location: 56330 Grand River Avenue, near I-96 and Millford Road  
 Phone: (248) 437-8010

Computer based accounting software allows much of the manual "work, and time" implemented on save time and increase accuracy uncommodably. Smith recommends that small businesses use some kind of computer software right from the start - while the business is small.

"It's easier to learn when working on a smaller scale," she said.

The selection, set-up and training for computerized accounting systems is another area of expertise for Brenda W. Smith & Company. Mary Noff, CPA and Amy Haseluhm, CPA are both Certified Pro Advisors for QuickBooks.

"We deal primarily with QuickBooks and Peachtree accounting software products, but work with other software as well," Smith said. "We can help our clients convert from manual books to a computerized system or help them improve their existing computer system. This will provide the business owner with the right information and reports needed in better manages their business."

### Experience counts

Brenda W. Smith & Company can handle a variety of accounting situations because of the depth of experienced staff. The firm has over 60 years of experience in bookkeeping, accounting and taxation. Staff can help guide emerging businesses towards planning for future growth and owner retirement planning.

Although small businesses make up a large portion of the practice,

Brenda W. Smith & Company also handles non profits, estates and trusts, and all types of personal tax issues.

"People tend to match their accounting firm with the size of their business," said Smith. "Our firm is small to medium business. We do as much or as little for a client as they need."

"One of our goals is to educate business owners to help them better manage their business. I believe that our clients - whether they're signing a tax return or giving a financial statement to a bank - need to understand how the numbers came from and what they mean. We can help business owners improve their bottom line through education."

### Satellite office solutions

New, expanded offices give Brenda W. Smith & Company the facilities to provide telecommuters and small business clients with office and conference room space. Flexible rental plans are available for both facilities.

The new suite includes a conference and training room plus a fully equipped office available for public use. The multi functional conference and training room seats up to 20 people. It is equipped with high speed Internet access, presentation boards and a flat screen.

The office space offers a distraction free setting for business people to meet with customers, check in with a home office, return e-mail or compose correspondence. Copy, fax and notary services are also available.

"I'm sure beats signing papers in a coffee shop or answering e-mail from the front seat of your car," Smith said.

The office is easy to access from most West Oakland and Livingston County area businesses. Brenda W. Smith & Company P.C. is located in New Hudson at 56330 Grand River Avenue near I-96 and Millford Road.

## Brenda W. Smith & Company, PC

Certified Public Accountants and Business Advisors

**Accounting**

- Financial Statements
- Bookkeeping
- Quarterly Payroll Taxes

**Taxes**

- Business, Individual
- Tax Planning
- IRS Problem Resolution

**Personal Financial Services**

- Pre-Retirement Counseling
- Post-Death Accounting Services
- F.A.F.S.A. Application Processing

**Professional Service**  
 In Words You Can Understand

**Business Consulting**

- Evaluation of Legal Business Status for Tax Purposes
- Sole Proprietor, S Corp, C Corp, LLC
- Loan Application Assistance
- QuickBooks Setup and Training

**Satellite Office Solutions**

- Conference Room Rental
- Office Rental

NO CHARGE Initial Consultation

\$33 OFF Any Tax Service

Brenda W. Smith & Company

All services available in our new office at 56330 Grand River Avenue, near I-96 and Millford Road. Call for details.

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This office is a new location. Office hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm. Friendly, Professional Service.