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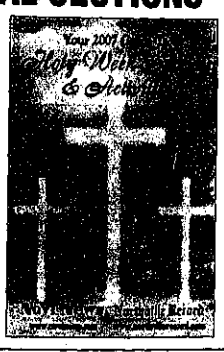

NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER

• FRIDAY

Temperatures may be warming up, but it is time to think snow at the **Polaris Industries Spring Tour** from 4-9 p.m. today at the **Rock Financial Showplace**, 46100 Grand River Ave. This is the first chance for snowmobile enthusiasts to see next year's models before they are built. Manufacturers include Polaris, Ski-Doo and Yamaha. Admission is free and parking is $5.

• SATURDAY

Get ready for some pizza pies! **Super Saturdays** continue at 4 p.m. today with a pizza party at the **Novi Senior Center**, 25075 Meadowbrook Road. Area residents ages 55 and older are invited to attend the festivities, including door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. The cost is $6 and pre-registration is required. For more information, call (248) 347-0414.

• SUNDAY

Come support **Teens Aiding the Cancer Community** today at Rebecca's restaurant in downtown Northville. Enjoy acoustic artists, food, ice cream and a raffle.

• My Novi Bulletin Board

Novi's official events calendar. **Page 14A**

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Novi News

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ELECTION '07

Council race competitive and crowded

■ Mayor Landry says he'll seek re-election

By Greg Migliore
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Next fall's City Council race could be crowded and hotly-contested.

There are three slots up for grabs, as council members Bob Gatt, Lynne Paul and Toni Nagy face re-election. They all plan to run again.

D. Landry

Mayor David Landry's term is also up, and he's seeking re-election as well.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kim Capello and members Andrew Mutch and Terry Margolis were elected in 2005, and their terms run through 2009.

The deadline to file is more than two months away, but one well-known local woman has already thrown her hat into the ring. Kathy Crawford, the long-time former senior services coordinator for city, told the *Novi News* last week she's planning to run.

Crawford could prove to be formidable candidate. She founded Novi's senior program in 1980 and led it for 24 years. The lifelong resident said she's running to be an advocate for older adults and to help shape Novi's burgeoning growth.

"I probably look like the silent majority of adults in the city," said Crawford, 65. "My goal is just to move the city forward."

She also said her campaign will focus on sharing city services, which has been a dicey topic at times in Novi and across the state.

continued on page 2

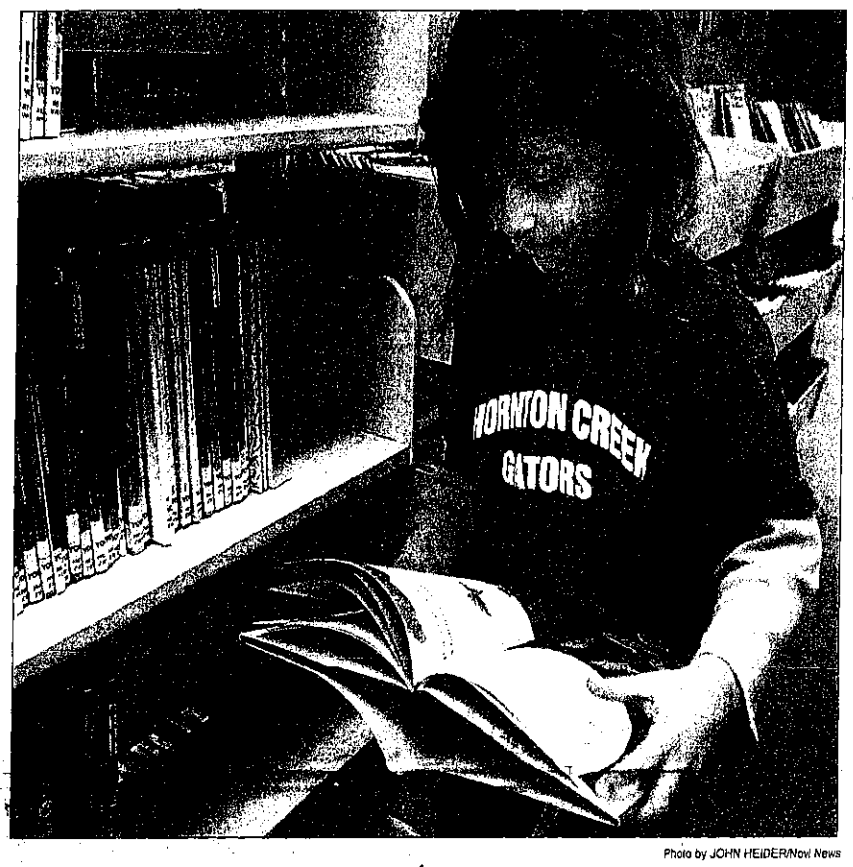

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

What are you reading?

Megan Lemke, 5, looks for some reading material at the Novi Public Library on Ten Mile Road. March is Reading Month events are wrapping up at the library and throughout the community.

CULTURAL HUB: New arts roundtable forms

■ Mixx Lounge hosting next event Tuesday

By Victoria Mitchell
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Members of the community are invited to attend an arts roundtable Tuesday at Novi's Mixx Lounge.

The event, hosted by the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce, encourages area residents to gather, brainstorming about the community as a cultural hub.

The April 1 meeting marks the second time residents will meet to discuss the arts in an intimate setting.

"We really want to connect resources and people with resources," said the Rev. Brian Sleeth, of Grace Pointe Presbyterian. "Connect the people who produce the arts with those who can afford the arts."

The initial connection

When Sleeth came to Novi, he wondered: How he could serve the arts?

He saw many great things in the community, like the Novi Theatres, but said he still felt there should be a stronger connection between the City of Novi and the arts.

So, Sleeth said, he made it his mission to expand the arts, engage the arts and help and equip area artists.

Sleeth said he also immediately recognized the economic value the pairing would make.

"It's about taking something the community would love and serving economic development," he said.

Economically, he said, creating a strong arts district brings in new businesses, brings in other area residents and encourages existing residents to stay in their own communities.

When Sleeth spoke of his vision at a Greater Novi Chamber meeting, he said a partnership was forged.

Now Sleeth and the Greater Chamber have joined forces to hold monthly roundtables on the subject.

"We would like to expand the role of the arts in Novi," he said.

continued on page 2

District refunding lowers millage tax levy

■ Taxes still lower if May 8 bond passes

By Renee Gates
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Novi homeowners will pay a lower school debt levy this summer even if the May 8 bond issue passes, said Gail Credit, director of finance for Novi Community Schools.

2007 NOVI SCHOOL BOND $26.4M VOTE MAY 8

The Novi Community School District refunded portions of its 1997 and 2001 bonds at a lower interest rate, March 27, in a process similar to refinancing.

"That would be the parallel to a homeowner," said Credit.

"It would be like taking your debt and refinancing it and if you can refinance it at a lower rate, even though there are some cost involved when you refinance, in the end you do it because you will benefit financially. It's the same way with a school district," she said.

A total of $64,360,000 was refunded Credit said, saving the district $3,766,155 and bringing the millage rate down to 5.17 mills from the previous 6.20 mills. That is a difference of 1.03 mills.

"It will take affect beginning this year," Credit said.

"It reduces our mileage next year by .16 of a mill. It will reduce it over a 20-year period of time."

Post bond savings

If the $26.4 million bond is approved by voters, it will add .49 of a mill to the tax levy, bringing it to 5.66 mills, Credit said.

With the refunding only, the owner of a $200,000 home will save an estimated $103 off their current yearly tax of $620. If the bond passes, they would save $54 a year.

"At the end of the day, when they write their check to the city to pay taxes, they are not going to be paying more money then they are paying today," said Fil Superfisky, Real Estate One Realtor and Novi Educational Foundation trustee.

"The net difference is it saves us money."

Renee Gates is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or by e-mail at vrgates@gannett.com.

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Kathy Crawford stands outside the Novi church where she was baptized, married, and had all of her kids baptized. Crawford has announced her candidacy for Novi City Council.

■ Mayor Landry also to seek re-election in fall

continued from front

She was a proponent of studying putting senior facilities in the proposed library expansion, but the senior plan was killed by council members last year. She also wants to explore partnerships between the Novi Community School District and the city.

"We are in one city," Crawford said. "We should have the same mission. I don't think we can afford these own little kingdoms in the city."

She also said she's not afraid to confront controversy and supports plans for a gun range for the police department — which have splintered council members.

"If that's how they (the police) want to use it, I respect their opinion of how the money should be used," she said.

Though she's never held elected office, Crawford already has a bit of name-recognition with voters. Her husband of 41 years, Hugh, is vice chairman of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and has been on the board since 2000. He also was on city council for 15 years, including an eight-year stint as mayor pro-tem.

Dog fight looms

Still, Crawford faces what will likely shape up to be a dog fight for the open slots, and holding a seat on council is a demanding and often thankless job. Members make $15 a meeting, and the mayor gets $20. They don't get other benefits or mileage reimbursement.

"It's a lot of work," Nagy said.

Candidates can begin filing to run May 18 at the City Clerk's office. The deadline is June 8.

■ Novi club serves as host for new arts roundtable

continued from front

Whitney McClellan, executive director of the Greater Novi Chamber, envisions a Novi where artists and residents flock for sought-after arts and entertainment.

McClellan said instead of venturing to other cities like Detroit, New York and Chicago, bring these types of amenities here.

"Why not Novi," she said. "There is no reason we can't bring these things to Novi."

McClellan said she would love for a family to be able to go out for a nice meal while listening to live jazz.

For something like that to happen, Sleeth said, connections must be made.

He said the point of the arts roundtables are to make that connection. The connection between the people who seek and supply art.

The first go-around

Sleeth said the first roundtable held last month went well. About six area residents attended.

"We received some really good feedback," he said. "The purpose of the roundtable is keeping the juices going and getting people together who are excited about this."

Sleeth said the chosen topic was: The Impact of Arts on the Community, but the group discussed many other topics.

Organizers believe the timing is right for an arts movement, including initial roundtable meetings.

"The roundtable idea, I don't know if people were ready for it until now," McClellan said. "Novi is becoming more urban and hip."

Sleeth agrees saying now is the time to bring more arts to the community.

"This is a demographic that loves this kind of stuff," he said. "Now is the time.

"It's like striking a match in a gas filled room."

The invitation

Tuesday's roundtable will follow the topic: How do we help the arts and artists in tough economic times?

Sleeth encourages Novi residents and those from surrounding areas to attend the 5:30 Tuesday meeting.

No RSVP is necessary, and organizers said the setting is informal.

McClellan said she loves the roundtable format.

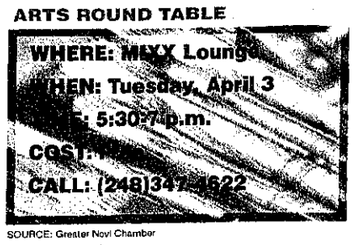
"It's just that brainstorming and ideas just come out and it's almost magical sometimes," she said.

Group organizers hope the roundtables will attract all genres of art enthusiasts including painters, sculptors, photographers, writers, actors, musicians and crafters.

McClellan also encourages art enthusiasts to attend.

"Those who have an appreciation of the arts, but may not be artists themselves are also invited," she said.

ARTS ROUND TABLE



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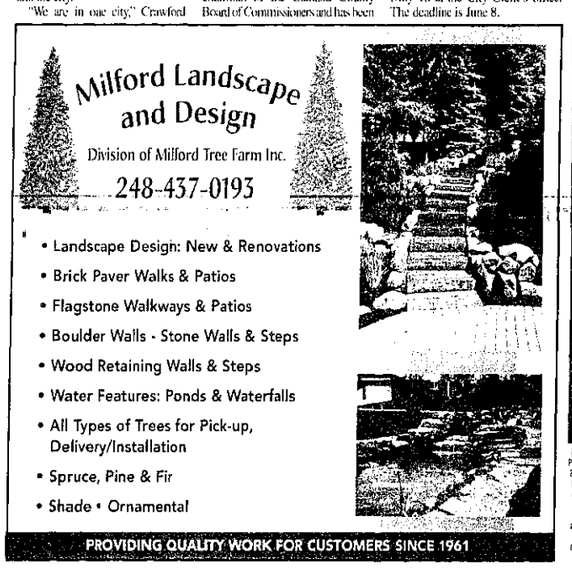

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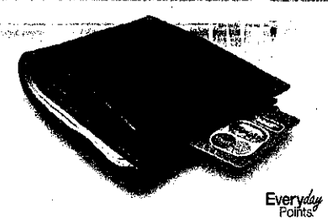

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MY COMMUNITY

Thursday, March 29, 2007
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SPRING PLANTING: 1,700 new trees in Novi

■ City finally recovering from ravages of emerald ash borer

By Greg Migliore
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Novi is finally getting past the carnage of the emerald ash borer infestation, and this spring the city is launching an aggressive planting program to enhance parks, roadways and subdivisions with new trees.

The city is planting about 1,700 trees at a cost of $327,154. More than 30 different species will be used. By planting a wide variety of trees, Novi officials hope to stave off future outbreaks.

"Diversify, diversify — No. 1 lesson learned," said Novi Forester Steve Printz of the emerald ash borer catastrophe. "Don't put all your eggs in one basket."

The emerald ash borer was discovered in 2002 and has wreaked havoc on trees in Metro Detroit and in the Midwest. Novi lost at least 3,500 trees to the infestation. About 2,300 trees were planted in residential areas last year to help replace them.

This year's planting will focus on streets and parks with some fill-in work in subdivisions. About 10 contracted workers are involved in the projects.

"The goal is to create a sustainable urban forest over time," Printz said.

To that end, city officials are trying to tweak the makeup of Novi's tree population. Most notably, this means planting less maples. Printz said they represent a disproportionate amount of Novi's trees.

He's aiming to have no more than 15 percent of a single genus of tree in the city.

Meanwhile, Novi officials' efforts to rebuild the tree population are garnering recognition. It was named a Tree City USA for the 15th time. The city also snared a Growth Award from the national Arbor Day Foundation.

The city will play host to Arbor Day festivities at 10 a.m. April 28 at Community Sports Park. More than 300 trees are planted each year at the event.

Tree-ing Up

- Novi is planting about 1,700 trees this spring.
- Last year, the city planted about 2,300.
- Novi has been named a Tree City USA 15 times and won a national Growth Award.
- Novi will play host to Arbor Day festivities at 10 a.m. April 28 at Community Sports Park.

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or gmigliore@gannett.com.

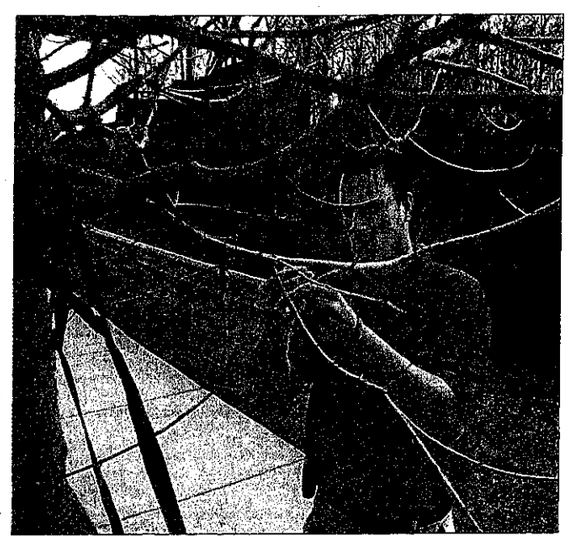

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi forester Steve Printz checks out a young maple tree the Department of Public Works planted last year in a subdivision off Meadowbrook Road. Novi's planning on planting thousands of trees this season.

Sciatica?

Suburban Detroit - A new free report has recently been released that reveals an amazing new medical breakthrough that has proven 86% successful treating debilitating back pain. Even with multiple herniated discs. Find out how space travel solved astronauts back pain treatment today. For your free report entitled, **"How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!"** call **1-800-469-3618** and listen to the toll-free 24 hr. recorded message for all the details. If phone lines are busy, visit: **www.midischerniation.com**

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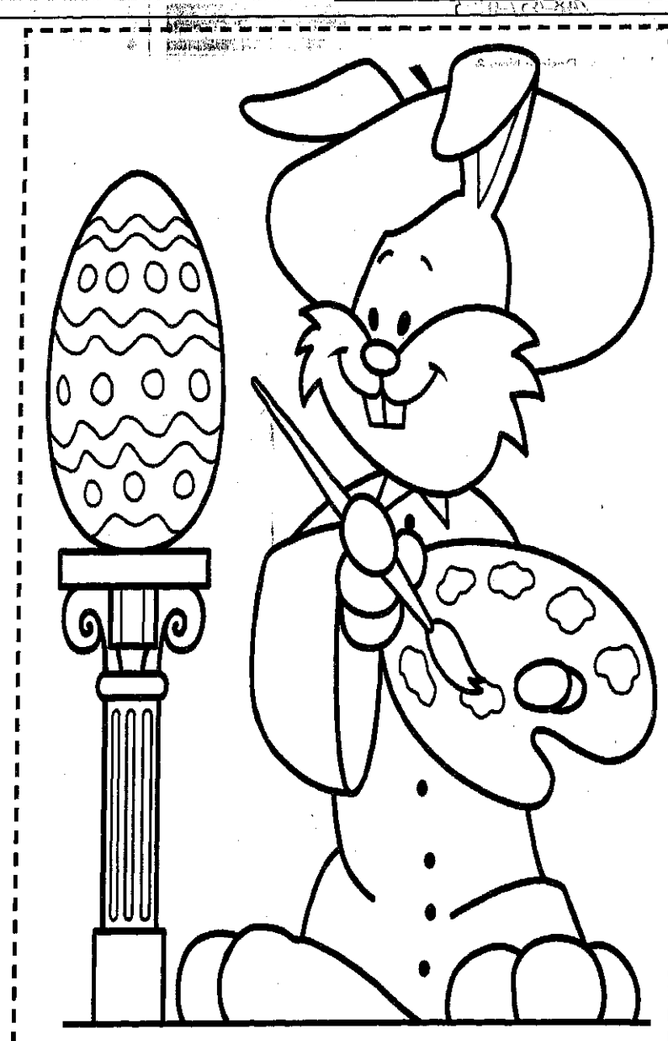

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QUOTED: "The entire area is kind of booming." – Gary Steven Jonna, Whitehall Real Estate president

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MY BUSINESS

Thursday, March 29, 2007
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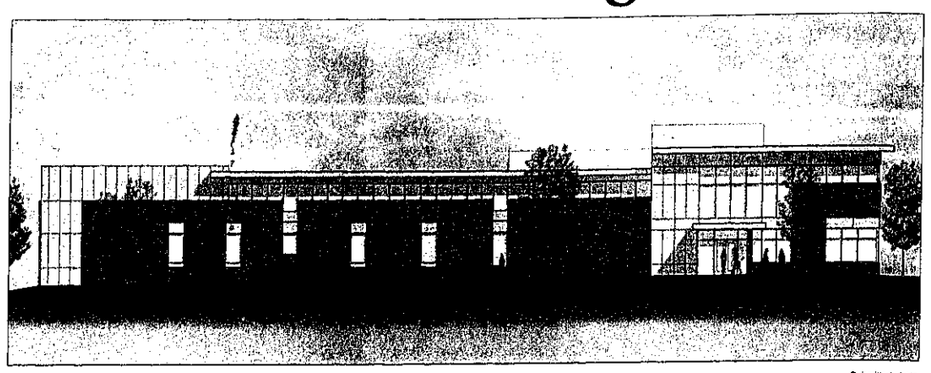
Architectural firm moving to Novi

■ JPRA to fill first of three buildings at Campus Park

By Greg Migliore
NEWS STAFF WRITER



Submitted photo

JPRA Architects announced recently it is moving to Novi. A rendering of the firm's future headquarters is shown above.

Novi has snagged another growing firm as the city looks to solidify its knowledge-based economy.

JPRA Architects announced recently it's planning to relocate from Farmington Hills to a new headquarters Novi. The move consolidates the firm's 90 employees, which were spread out through two buildings. JPRA said it expects to complete the move by the end of the year and signed a 12-year-lease.

The firm said it chose Novi because of its location and need for more space.

"We were looking to expand," said James Ryan, the chairman and founder of JPRA.

The 29-year-old firm specializes in designing shopping malls and retail developments. Its projects have included the Somerset Collection in Troy, the Palladium 12 theater in Birmingham, as well as work in the United States, Canada, Europe and the Middle East.

The firm is filling the first of three buildings in the new development, called Campus Park. It's located on the south side of Interstate 96, west of the M-5 interchange on Meadowbrook Road.

JPRA will take up about 30,000 square feet of the 94,000 square-foot development.

Whitehall Real Estate, which developed Campus Park, is in talks with other companies about filling the remaining space, said Gary Steven Jonna, the company's president, although he did not disclose the possible tenants.

"The entire area is kind of booming," he said.

An natural studio

JPRA's building is two stories and will try to foster a studio-like atmosphere. Most prominently, the building will feature a tall glass wall overlooking nearby wetlands and woodlands. The idea is to help spur creativity among the firm's architects.

"It is designed to bring in a lot of natural light," said Gary Steven Jonna, president of Whitehall Real Estate.

The building is also aiming to meet certain environmental benchmarks, a topic Novi City Council has been considering this winter.

The interior will feature exposed steel and rare, early 20th century posters. It will be an open studio setup so architects can collaborate on projects.

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or gmigliore@gannett.com.

At a Glance: JPRA Architects

FOUNDED: 1978

EMPLOYEES: 90

SPECIALTY: Designing retail developments

PROJECTS: The Somerset Collection (Troy), the Palladium 12 theater (Birmingham), developments in United States, Europe, Canada and the Middle East.

NEWS: Recently announced plans to move from Farmington Hills to a new headquarters in Novi by the end of the year.

10 IN A ROW!

Varsity Lincoln Mercury earns Leadership Award again

■ Dealership thrives despite tough times for Ford Motor Co.

By Victoria Mitchell
NEWS STAFF WRITER

When Michael Stanford opened Varsity Lincoln Mercury, his business plan was clear: The customer always comes first.

Thirteen years later, the intention reaped large rewards for the Novi car dealership.

Varsity Lincoln Mercury was given the "100 Leaders Award," bestowed to the top dealership in the world for Lincoln and Mercury new car and SUV sales for 2006. It's an honor the dealership received for the past 10 consecutive years.

"We've been in business for only 13 years, so it's been pretty good," said Michael Stanford, vice president and general manager. "But there is a lot that goes into it."

A great group

When asked why the dealership has secured the top honor year after year, the answer came easily to Dean Silver, new car sales manager.

"I'm not hesitant to say we have the best sales staff in the nation," Silver said. "I think the biggest reason we've won is the people we've hired.

"We've got a great group of people, and it all comes down from the top."

The top meaning Stanford, who echoes Silver's sales-staff praise and the group's dedication to customer satisfaction.

"They know I would be very disappointed if a customer complaint came to me," Stanford said.

Obviously bumps occur, he said, but it is how they are handled that makes a difference.

"I think it is what you do when there is a difficulty that shows what kind of dealership you are," he said. "It's how you pick up the ball that counts."

Stanford promotes from within and said he makes retaining his top-notch sales staff a priority.

"Loyalty breeds loyalty," he said.

Service after the sale

Stanford said another Varsity Lincoln Mercury secret to success is service.

"The service after the sale is what keeps people coming back," he said.

Stanford said amenities customers receive include access to a fleet of rental cars, shuttle service, car cleaning, quick and accurate service.

"So much more is said after the deal is made," Stanford said. "I think it says a lot about a company about how they treat you after."

Stanford said he stresses when employees bump into customers in real-life scenarios, they should hold their heads up high.

"Flash-in-the-pans aren't welcome here," he said.

The bottom line

Does putting the customer first, affect Stanford's bottom line?

"Sure it affects the bottom line," he said, "but if that's what you're in business for, then that's the wrong reason.

"The bottom line will come."

Referrals, he said, is what matters.

"Word of mouth will always be a better advertisement than a full-page ad," he said.

And the dealership's growth is an indicator something is going right.

Varsity Lincoln Mercury has between 90-100 full-time employees and nearly 30 part-time employees compared to about 60 employees 13 years ago.

In 1997 the dealership opened a 50,000-square-foot body shop and indoor exotic car showroom on 12 mile Road east of Wixom Road.

The new structure also hosts the dealership's employee concierge service, which provides support to employees ensuring all customers receive the same top-notch service.

Other accolades

In addition to winning the "100 Leaders Award," Varsity Lincoln Mercury also snagged two additional prestigious awards.

The Novi dealership recently won the "Presidents Award" for outstanding service, for the sixth year.

Sixty-nine Lincoln Mercury dealers out of about 700 are chosen for the honor.

The dealer also won the "Partners in Quality" award, Ford Motor Credit's most prestigious award.

The award is given to 100 businesses out of about 5,000 Ford and Lincoln Mercury dealers.

"It is the triple crown," said Michael Stanford, Varsity Lincoln Mercury vice president and general manager.

Submitted Photo

Michael Stanford has led his dealership to 10 straight Leadership Awards.

Tight times

Stanford said Varsity Lincoln Mercury peaked in 1999 selling about 5,200 vehicles.

He said waning Ford Motor Company attention to the Lincoln Mercury lines and stubborn economic times have made 1999 a tough act to follow.

But, Stanford said, new products lines are rolling in now. The Milan, MKZ and talk of the Sable returning has been a boost, he said.

"We're getting rid of a lot of old products and moving new models in," he said.

And sales are starting to pick up. He said last year the dealership sold 3,250 vehicles, up 25 percent from three years ago.

Stanford said customer satisfaction and low prices have kept him successful through tight times.

Blocks to build on

Sitting in his office covered in awards, family photos and inspirational sayings, Stanford said he began his auto dealership experience at 19, selling cars for Don Massey Cadillac in Plymouth.

He later moved to his brother's Ford dealership in Ann Arbor before Varsity Lincoln Mercury.

"It was something I worked at my whole life," he said.

Stanford said he has taken lessons he's learned to heart and applied them to his business.

And he said he is always there for his employees, often meaning 70-hour work weeks.

"This opportunity has fulfilled a life-long dream for me," he said. "I've always wanted to do great things. I've always wanted more responsibility."

But in the end, Stanford said, "it all goes back to the customer."

Victoria Mitchell can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122.

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Local teen to perform in Stars of Ballet and Broadway

■ Benefit to aid dance students

By Pam Fleming
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Fifteen-year-old Northville resident Chelsea Vick is so into dance she even entertains people at stoplights.

"She'll be listening to music in the car and making dance movements," said her mother, Arielle West. "We get some funny looks from nearby motorists."

Vick, a freshman at Northville High School, was one of 34 dancers selected out of 200 who auditioned March 10 to perform in the April 20-21 "Stars of Ballet and Broadway" at Detroit's Music Hall Center.

Four dancers earned featured roles as "Future Stars of Broadway" and will be paired with national stars in the show.

In addition to these four, Meg Paul, Music Hall's new director of dance, chose 30 other dancers from across the area to be part of the cast.

Vick will be one of these 30 dancers age 6-25.

"I wasn't nervous," Vick said about the audition. "I was really excited."

So were her instructors, Sally Doerr, and daughter, Nicole Doerr, of Flex Point Performing Arts Studio in Farmington Hills.

Vick has been studying dance at the facility for two years and started dancing when she was just 3 years old.

"She saw the 'Nutcracker,' and that was it," said her mother. "She's never wanted to do anything but dance."

Vick's training has included hip hop; ballet; tap; jazz; lyrical dance (a combination of jazz and ballet); musical theater, which includes singing, dancing and acting; and pointe (ballet with toe shoes.)

"I have the most fun when I'm dancing," Vick said. "It makes me so happy. I'm in my own little world."

Trains four days a week

Rehearsals for the performance don't start until the week before the show, but she trains five hours a day Monday through Thursday at Flex Point.

She's also an assistant teacher at the studio and is looking forward to helping with the summer camp programs, including "Princess Camp, an overnight dance camp for young girls.

"Chelsea has a tremendous amount of talent," said Sally Doerr. "She has the unique quality of being able to portray the different dance styles."

After graduation, she plans to major in dance and minor in dance education, with the goal of dancing professionally for a few years and then opening a center for the performing arts, much like Flex Point, which opened three years ago.

Vick said the April show, which includes medleys of tunes from popular Broadway shows, features original choreography from the classic musicals.

She auditioned to music from "All that Jazz," and loves working with Paul, who just moved to the Detroit area last year from New York with her husband, Vince, Music Hall president and artistic director.

"This is kind of a new thing for Detroit," Sarah Doerr said. "They want younger talent to have more opportunities and were impressed with the amount of talent in the area."

Vick, who sings alto, is also a member of the "Select" Choir at school and was also selected to attend the National Young Leaders Conference with students from across the nation in Washington, D.C., this summer.

This will be her third time at the 10-day leadership development conference in which scholars interact with professionals in government, the news media and the international community.

"We learn about what's going on in the world, public speaking and how to become well-rounded," she said.

Vick said she went out to dinner with her mother and stepfather, Jim West, the night she learned she'd be performing at Music Hall.

"They're very supportive," she said.

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

Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Chelsea Vick goes through a dance routine at Novi's Flex Point Performing Arts Center.

Buy tickets

For tickets to the Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts' April 20-21 "Stars of Ballet and Broadway," with prices at $19.50, $55 or $75 each, call (313) 887-8501 or visit www.musichall.org.

The 8 p.m. benefit performances, which will partner local dancers with theater professionals and raise funds for master classes for local students, will feature Donna McKechnie from "A Chorus Line" and stars from "Movin' Out," "Bring in Da Noise, Bring in Da Funk," "Fosse," the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the American Ballet Theatre and the Joffrey Ballet.

Music Hall is located at 350 Madison in Detroit.

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The basics of Mya's illness

QUESTION: What is an intrahepatic portosystemic shunt?

ANSWER: A rare condition that causes blood to bypass the liver.

QUESTION: What happens?

ANSWER: The condition results in neurological problems, including making dogs wander in circles and act lethargic. It can also stunt growth and cause seizures.

QUESTION: How is it treated?

ANSWER: Conventional surgery involves incisions in the dog's chest and abdomen. It's often fatal. The alternative, a procedure done at Michigan State University, has a much higher success rate — the school has never lost a dog. It is, however, relatively expensive and can run up to $5,000.

— By News Staff Writer Greg Migliore

■ Novi family searches for way to pay for procedure

Mya looks like a normal, healthy puppy.

She bounds around the living room of her owners, the Szczesniak family, with the reckless abandon only a four-month old dog can. She enjoys playing with the other household pets. Occasionally, she'll grab onto the tail of Sandy, the family's golden retriever, and sort of ski behind her for fun — much to Sandy's chagrin.

Greg Migliore

You would never know it by looking at her, but Mya is a very sick puppy.

She has a rare condition called an intrahepatic portosystemic shunt, which causes blood to bypass her liver.

This results in a slew of neurological problems, including making Mya wander in circles and act lethargic. Her growth is stunted, and she's had at least one seizure.

Conventional surgery is often fatal.

The dogs that do survive are usually sick for days, as incisions are made in their abdomens and chests.

Sick from the beginning

The Szczesniaks realized there was something wrong with Mya, a German Shepherd and husky mix, almost immediately.

They had taken her in temporarily in February, serving as a foster family while permanent owners were sought. The day after they got her, Mya threw up in her cage and began acting strange.

"I just feel bad for her," said Cindie Szczesniak, whose family has lived in Novi since 1988.

Still, they were reluctant to give up on Mya, who was part of a litter that was rescued from an abusive owner in Detroit. She assimilated quickly into the animal loving family, which includes two dogs, a cat and several fish. Cindie, and her husband, Stan, live under one roof with their six kids. The youngest is in first grade. The oldest attends Madonna University.

With so much going on, it was almost forgotten Mya was supposed to be a temporary pet.

"She kind of blended in," Szczesniak said.

What's next

At the moment, Mya's illness is in check, thanks to medicine and special dog food. The Szczesniaks, however, are quick to note it's a temporary fix.

Life in Novi

Since conventional surgery is risky, the family is placing its hope in a new procedure being done at Michigan State University. It repairs the blood vessels internally, without making major incisions. Experts say it offers a much better chance for survival.

"They tend to do real well," said Dr. Matthew Beal, director of Interventional Radiology Services at MSU's Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Though it's a highly-regarded procedure, it's also expensive. Costs run close to $5,000 — possibly putting it out of reach for the cash-strapped family, which is already burdened with a pile of unexpected veterinary bills.

"That's the plastic dog," Szczesniak, noted dryly, in reference to the spiraling credit card balances Mya racks up.

Right now, the family is searching for ways to pay for the procedure. MSU is chipping in with a $500 grant. They're looking for help from other organizations in the community, and there has been some support. When Szczesniak went to pick up a pizza, the clerk chipped in $20.

Though it's a difficult situation, the family is sinking plenty of time and energy into the dog. As the family's 24-year-old daughter, Stacy, put it: "I don't believe in just putting them down unless you have to."

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or gmigliore@gannett.com.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Andrew Szczesnak, 11, holds his puppy Mya at his Novi home. The puppy, a German Shepherd with some husky in her, needs a $5,000 operation to correct a serious liver issue.

"I don't believe in just putting them down unless you have to."

Stacy Szczesniak

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Thursday, March 29, 2007
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KOSTER: 'Goodbye, district'

Assistant superintendent served 19 years

By Renee Gates
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Novi Community School District employees are glad their coworker and friend Jim Koster is retiring after serving 19 years in the district.

But they also know, the district will never be the same without him.

Koster joined the district's accounting department in 1972 and served as an assistant for four years. After leaving the in 1976, he came back in 1992 and served for 15 years as the assistant superintendent of business and operations.

"Jim has been the key to the improvement of facilities of Novi Schools for the last 15 years," said Novi Schools Superintendent Peter Dion, who has worked with Koster for two years.

"It has been his thoroughness, his passion for improving education, being on the cutting edge, and providing staff and the community with what's needed in this day and age of technology," he said.

Robert Schram, assistant superintendent of human resources has worked closely with Koster for 12 years.

"It's a great loss. Jim is just a treasure. He is so good at what he does. As far as I'm concerned, he is the best in the state," Schram said.

"It's the way he understand numbers and the way he can explain them to you."

Tomorrow is Koster's last day as a district employee.

His successor, Novi Community finance director Gail Credit, has worked with Koster for 14 years. And, while she is ready for the opportunity to serve as the new assistant superintendent, she acknowledges she has some large shoes to fill.

"He has been a giant figure in this district," she said. "The truly is the best business manger in the state. He will be missed."

When Koster first came to the school district, most of the land northeast of Taft Road to 10 1/2 mile was still owned by Northville Public Schools. There was no Novi High School, students went to Northville after eighth grade. The first bond issue had just passed.

Four superintendents, six bond issues, 6,391 students and $190 million in construction projects later; on the eve of his retirement, Koster reflects on the most gratifying aspect of his tenure in Novi.

"Over the years, you end up having an interest in the learning of children and not so much numbers," he said.

"The numbers are important. I understand that but the emphasis has to be on the learning. From a career stand point that's been probably the best, just to see the learning and how the numbers relate to the learning."

Koster said he will miss his time with the district but, he is also looking forward to traveling, picking up his golf game and catching up on his yard work during retirement. He contracted to work on a major project that will consume most of his time over the next year.

"I'll be busy but with a whole lot more leisure time," he said.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Outgoing Novi School District assistant superintendent Jim Koster talks with his replacement, current school finance director Gail Credit. Credit will be taking over Koster's position after he retires with 15 years of service to Novi.

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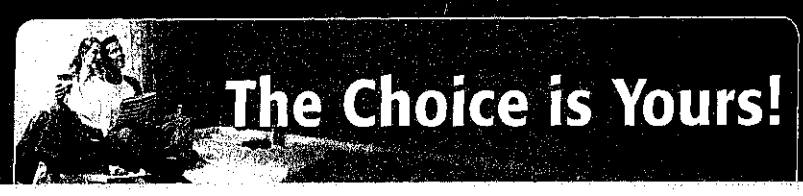
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MY EDUCATION

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Novi students send 'Hope' to Africa

Books of Hope Project helps teach kids about life in other countries

By Renee Gates
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Novi seventh grader Marcella Caprara is working on a book project she hopes will bring a smile to the face of fellow students on the other side of the world.

"I hope it gives them a smile and makes them happy for the time being, because things are really hard for them," she said.

Caprara and her Team 75 classmates at Novi Middle School are creating children's books to send to Ugandan children who are displaced every night by the country's civil war.

"The kids don't have as many things as we do, and it would just be nice to brighten up their day," she said.

Books of Hope Uganda is a project initiated at the middle school by seventh grade social studies teacher Lisa Shindorf and her student teacher Leslie Sniegowski.

"We always try to do a service project or a community project," Shindorf said.

"This project will touch children that are among the same age as the students we teach, while enhancing student experience realizing what kids around the world go through," she said.

"They are learning that students around the world do not have the same opportunity or same experiences as they do."

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi Middle School seventh grader Katie Seelenbinder works on illustrating her "ABC Animals" book which the school will send to students in Uganda.

Global focus

The project also ties into the seventh grade curriculum, Shindorf said.

In their world geography class the students studied the eastern hemisphere and Africa. The project teaches them about the civil war between the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance Army rebels. Rebels go into villages at night and kidnap children to use as child soldiers.

"Night commuters are people that run away from the war. There are 40,000 children that walk six to 10 miles every night to these shelters," Sniegowski said, quoting from the online PowerPoint presentation of the project.

The children flee to orphanages and shelters for protection from the rebels, she explained.

"In the morning they get back up and walk back to their villages or go to school, to work or do whatever they have to do," she said.

The process starts all over again the next evening.

The children's books are sent to refugee camps, schools and orphanages in the hope of communicating a message of friendship and support to the displaced children, according to the Web site.

The middle school is sending the books to Uganda through an organization called the Memory Project. Thousands of children around the country have participated in the Books of Hope project. Team 75 is the first group to work on the project at the middle school, but the hope is spreading.

"This wonderful project is catching on to where two other teams at Novi Middle School are trying to do the same thing to benefit other children around the world, especially in Uganda," said Shindorf.

Her team hopes to finish its books and send them out by the end of March.

"A lot of what they are writing are ABC books or simple children's stories, so they're not real detailed. They are more like for younger kids," Sniegowski said. The books are written in English, the official language of Uganda, she said.

"The kids do like it. They feel, I think, a sense of pride, and they are enjoying writing children's books. It's fun."

Seventh grader Eric Hopton thinks it is fun to make the books for others. His team is making an ABC book of the countries, and he is doing the drawings himself.

"When the people come to kidnap them, they go to the shelters, and they can read them there to make them happy," he said. "It's fun drawing for other people."

For more information on the Books of Hope project, look up its Web site at: www.thememoryproject.org/uganda

Renee Gates is a news writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext.108 or by e-mail at rrgates@gannett.com.

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BE SCENE IN NOVI

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SPELL-BINDING

One of the hometown representatives, Bob Ketterer, at last Tuesday's third annual Senior Spelling Bee at the Northville Senior Community Center.

Highland resident Jeanette Morris, representing Milford, triumphed in the 11th round of the event, correctly spelling the words "desiccated," then "euthanasia," besting 17 competitors.

South Lyon's Gil Sievert took second after entertaining spectators with wisecracks throughout the hour-long competition. In the final rounds, he joked about a word Morris spelled correctly earlier, "Any lady that can spell testosterone is going to be a tough nut to crack."

After a series of elimination rounds, Sievert slipped when faced with the challenge of spelling "altazimuth," an instrument for determining both the altitude and the azimuth of a heavenly body. Ketterer misstepped on "streptococcus," omitting the "t."

Morris rose to the challenge of accurately spelling two words in a row for the win.

The top three finishers earned gift certificates to local restaurants Baker's of Milford, Applebee's and Olive Garden.

1 - Northville's Bob Ketterer received third place in this past week's Senior Spelling Duel at the Northville Senior Community Center.

2 - Milford resident Jeanette Morris smiles as she wins the 2007 Senior Spelling Duel after spelling the word "euthanasia."

3 - South Lyon's Vivian Buckler says "shoot" as she misspells the word "accessible."

4 - Competing for Northville, Mary Hoffman tries a word during last week's Senior Spelling Duel.

5 - Spellers prepare to take questions from the judges at the Northville Senior Community Center.

6 - Highland Senior Center representative Richard Gagnon reacts as he misspells the word "ptomaine."

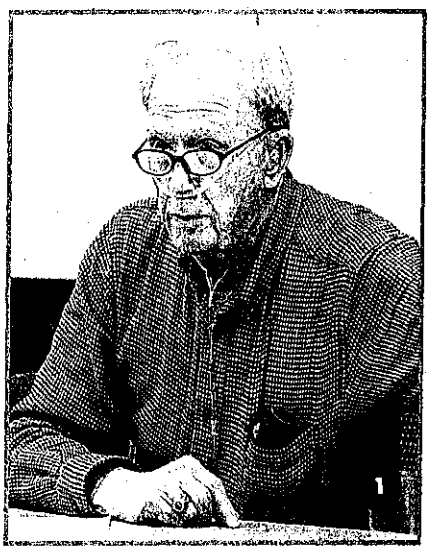

PHOTO GALLERIES: See more of photographer John Heider's work at www.novinews.com

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MY NOVI PEOPLE

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Engagements

Pantaleo-Reid

Rick and Nancy Pantaleo of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter Angie Pantaleo to Matthew Reid, son of Bill and Gay Reid of Waterford.

The bride-elect is a Novi High School graduate. The groom-elect graduated from Waterford Kettering High School.

An October wedding is planned.

Bullen-Alexander

Wayne and Mary Bullen of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter, Andrea Bullen, to Jason Alexander, son of Dale and Sue Alexander of Gladwin.

The bride-elect is 2000 graduate of Novi High School, 2004 graduate of the University of Michigan, and received a School Psychology Specialist degree in 2007 from Central Michigan University. She is currently employed as a school psychologist with Ionia Intermediate Schools.

The groom-elect is a graduate of Saginaw Valley State University and is currently employed as a teacher at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School in Grand Rapids.

A July 14 wedding is planned.

Obituary

STEVEN A. AGUILAR

Steven Anthony Aguilar, an everyday man who always had time for a kind word, a quick joke and a slowly savored meal, died in Detroit Thursday, March 22. He was 53. Born Nov. 20, 1953 to Martha and Francisco Aguilar, Mr. Aguilar was well-loved for his kind-hearted wit and gentle, Bible-based outlook. Each day he welcomed the world with fresh eyes, tailoring personal experience into unique insight others used as a searchlight during times of unexpected darkness. Mr. Aguilar graduated from Clarenceville High School in Livonia, attended Oakland County Community College and spent much of his life employed in the printing industry, working as a pressman. He loved equally artistic film, local sports, good jazz, old books and new friends. Mostly, he loved his family, relishing every joy-filled moment God bestowed upon him. Mr. Aguilar was guided by his unwavering religious faith and blessed with a devotion to God's word. He will be missed. Surviving are his mother, Martha Aguilar of South Lyon, MI; daughters, Lisa Aguilar of Livonia, MI, Jennifer Aguilar of Southfield, MI, and Heather Carter of Canton, MI; sister, Martha Morin of Flushing, MI, and brothers, Daniel Aguilar of Austin, TX and David Aguilar of White Lake, MI; four grandchildren, seven nephews and two nieces. Mr. Aguilar was preceded in death by his father, Francisco Aguilar. Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. Thursday, March 29 at Phillips Funeral Home in South Lyon, followed by a reception at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in South Lyon. Father Ken Chase will officiate. Arrangements entrusted to Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon.

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 a.m. for publication in Thursday's newspaper.

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

* Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

Names in the News

Gleaner's honor Pierce

Novi resident **Sandra Pierce** was honored at the 14th Annual Women's Power Breakfast hosted by Gleaners Community Food Bank.

The president and CEO of Charter Bank of Michigan and Indiana was honored for her effort in leading the drive against hunger, an effort ending with the Outstanding Leader Award.

The Women's Power Breakfast is an annual tradition bringing the area's top female leaders together to raise funds for Gleaners Community Food Bank.

The event was held at the Mexicantown International Welcome Center.

Four women were chosen this year, including Pierce, and honored for their efforts.

Pierce resides in Novi with her husband, Tom, and their three children.

Novi resident joins Peace Corps in El Salvador

Colleen Marie O'Neill, 24, the daughter of Patrick and Clarice O'Neill of Novi, has been accepted into the Peace Corps.

O'Neill departed for El Salvador on Feb. 5 to become a rural health facilitation Peace Corps Volunteer. O'Neill's work will include prevention based health sanitation projects, including HIV/AIDS prevention and reproductive health education. She will also be working with non-governmental organizations to improve water quality in her host community.

A graduate of Novi High School, she attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich., and earned a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy in 2005. O'Neill previously worked at Escuela Superior Politécnica de Litoral in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

During the first three months of her service, O'Neill will live with a host family in El Salvador to become fully immersed in the country's language and culture. After acquiring the language and cultural skills necessary to assist her community, O'Neill will serve for two years in her host community, living at the same level as the local people.

O'Neill joins the more than 310 Michigan residents currently serving in the Peace Corps. More than 5,930 Michigan residents have served in the Peace Corps since 1961.

The Peace Corps program in El Salvador was one of the agency's earliest ventures, and since its inception in 1962, more than 1,600 volunteers have served in the country. El Salvador is the most densely populated country in Central America, and more than six million El Salvadorans live in an area that is roughly the size of Massachusetts. Peace Corps Volunteers work on projects relating to business development, environmental education, agro-forestry, and health. There are currently 156 Peace Corps Volunteers in El Salvador.

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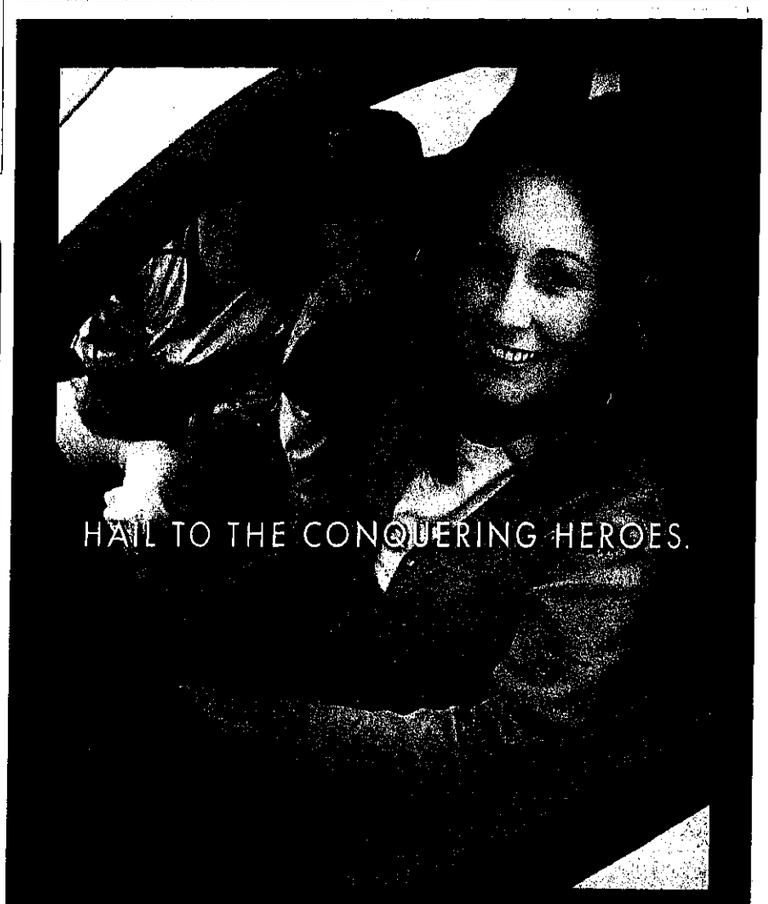

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Fogel to be inducted into Journalism Hall of Fame

Reports led to two men being freed from prison

By Pam Fleming
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Innocent men have been freed and corrupt judges removed from the bench because of Gene Fogel's relentless pursuit of the truth.

These are just two reasons the Northville resident and WJR-AM radio news reporter will be inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame this year.

Winners will be honored at a banquet on Saturday, April 14, at The Kellogg Center for Continuing Education at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

The Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame recognizes reporters, editors, publishers, owners, photographers, broadcasters and educators who have made outstanding contributions to the profession.

Since 1985, the Journalism Hall of Fame has continued the tradition of honoring journalists begun in 1952 by the Michigan Newspaper Hall of Fame.

Started with WJR in 1971

Fogel has been with WJR-AM 760 in Detroit since 1971, the same year he moved to Northville. He won the prestigious Peabody Award for a series of reports on the corruption in the Detroit Federal Bankruptcy Court.

The reports led to the removal of two out of three judges plus the arrest and conviction of two court clerks and the city's leading bankruptcy attorney.

He also received the Silver Gavel Award from the Michigan Bar Association for a series on flawed bite mark evidence which led to two men serving life prison terms being freed after being wrongly convicted in a brutal rape case.

The men, who served 10 and 14 years, respectively, both won retrials and were cleared of any wrongdoing.

Fogel's reports also led to him receiving the annual Advancement of Justice Award from the State Bar of Michigan. In 2005, he won the Associated Press' Lifetime Achievement Award.

Worked in radio since 1966

Born in Detroit and raised in River Rouge, Fogel was the first person in his family to go to college.

"At the time, you had to carry a 2.0 average to stay in school," he said. "I took a class in public speaking my first semester and got an A on it. I thought, 'Wow, I don't want to flunk out of college. Maybe I'll take another speech class.'"

As fate would have it, the only class available in the speech department the next semester was Introduction to Radio and Television Broadcasting.

"It was like lightning striking me," Fogel said.

He graduated from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo in 1963 and has worked in Detroit radio news since 1966.

In charge of the newsroom internship program at WJR for 25 years, he currently teaches two broadcasting classes at Oakland University in Rochester and assists with the campus radio station.

He said working with young people is a passion, and he enjoys seeing students move on to have successful careers in broadcasting and journalism. He's also a finalist in the 2007 Excellence in Teaching Award at the university.

Fogel, 66, took a retirement package last year after 35 years at WJR and now only works noon-7 p.m. Saturdays.

Rod Hansen, a WJR reporter who worked with him on the bankruptcy court and bite mark reports, nominated Fogel to the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

"I was stunned," Fogel said about learning of the induction. "I didn't even know I'd been nominated."

Fogel said making a difference, whether it be uncovering corruption or getting people out of jail, has been the most rewarding aspect of his career.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Northville Record

Longtime WJR radio broadcaster Gene Fogel will be inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame on April 14. Fogel is a Northville resident.

How he got the court story

Gene Fogel did some of his award-winning reporting at WJR Radio when his beat was the federal court.

"I went to federal court every day," he said.

One day he got word that the FBI was conducting an investigation in the federal bankruptcy court. The court had three judges who heard cases through a blind draw card system.

The illegal activity began when a local bankruptcy attorney started dating the court clerk in charge of the card system.

"He bought her an apartment and a car," Fogel said.

As a result of the romantic relationship between the attorney and the clerk, "He always had the most generous judges," Fogel said.

"I think it's the role of the press to be the watchdogs of society," he said. "It's up to us to explain things to citizens and hold elected officials accountable."

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

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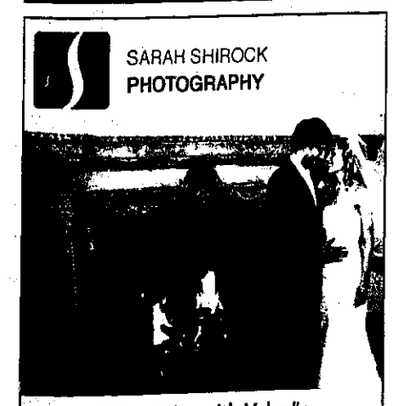

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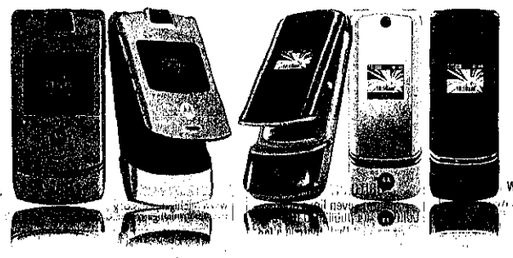

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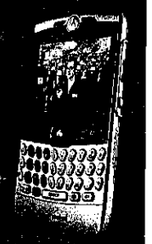

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Cal Stone
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OPINION

Thursday, March 29, 2007
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Novi News

Richard Peribergh
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Rich Ramhoff
PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER
Grace Perez Perry
GENERAL MANAGER

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

IN OUR OPINON

Ties that bind in Novi

A city is more than bricks and mortar. And in Novi that means looking beyond the burgeoning growth, glittering nightlife and top-notch shopping.

What binds a community together is everyday people working for a common good.

Case in point: Last week the Novi Chamber of Commerce played host to its annual Threads of Power breakfast.

The event is a clothing drive that seeks gently used business attire, which is passed on to a slew of charitable organizations.

The chamber has hosted the event for eight years. Last year, it added men's clothing to the collection.

The idea is to help people, who are trying to launch a professional career, get off on the right foot.

"One of the most expensive things when you're going back to work is getting a new wardrobe," said Peggy Hayes, past chair of the chamber and marketing and sponsorship director for Twelve Oaks Mall.

Threads brings in "truckloads" of clothing, said Nora Champton, the chamber's president.

It's initiatives like this that truly forms a community.

Another example is the city's annual Arbor Day festivities.

The event kicks off at 10 a.m. April 28 at Community Sports Park.

More than 300 trees are planted each year.

This is a great way to literally get your hands dirty and help the community.

By planting a tree that will last for years, you're helping give Novi roots that are more enduring than the latest commercial development.

There are plenty of other ways in Novi to contribute to the greater good.

Spring is a time of new beginnings. Now is a great time to get involved.

What do you think?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

- **Mail:** Novi News, Letters to the Editor, 104 W. Main Street, Suite 101, Northville, MI 48167
- **Fax:** (248) 349-9832
- **E-mail:** cstone@gannett.com
- **Deadline:** Letters must be received by noon on Tuesday to be published in the Thursday edition.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

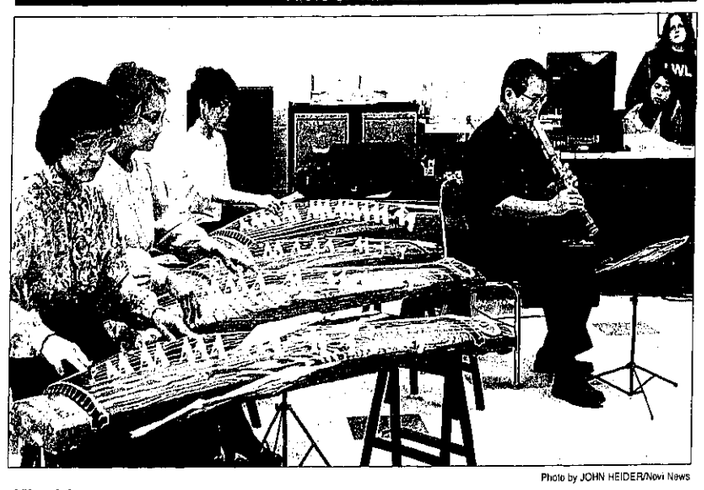

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Miyabi

The Japanese musical group "Miyabi" entertains the Novi High School Japanese Club on a recent Tuesday afternoon. Playing traditional instruments like the Koto (harp) and the shakuhachi (flute), musicians Moriyaki Takahashi, Etsuko Imai, Mizue Nishida, and Akiko Shiral went through a number of turn-of-the-century pieces for a small gathering at Novi High.

LETTERS

Vote Yes on School Bond

I suggest that before anyone votes on the School Bond issue on May 8 you get the facts. I am a resident of Novi with two children in the Novi Schools. I moved to Novi because of our safe city (thanks to the great Police Department) and our outstanding schools. The Bond consists of three elements: Adequate and Equitable Facilities, Security and Technology.

I believe that making the necessary changes to Village Oaks, Orchard Hills and Parkview will eliminate current scheduling conflicts, allowing equal time for classes for all elementary students. It will also improve the size of the classrooms at Parkview which it desperately needs. As far as security, I believe that locking the doors to my house and locking the doors of my car in a parking lot is necessary in today's world. Then why would I want anything less for my children when they are at school? I feel that monitoring all exterior and key interior doors is necessary to provide all students a safe school environment. When you speak of technology, I feel our school district is very aware that our children no longer compete academically with the children in neighboring states, they are competing globally. Technology is key in classrooms and keeping our technology current gives Novi the leading edge. As far as debt, the debt levy still goes down, even if the Bond is approved. Homeowners will be paying less than current tax bill, even with approval of the Bond.

Before you vote on May 8, get the Bond Proposal facts, then ask yourself why you moved to Novi. I feel that if we don't keep our schools current and our police department well funded, then why live in Novi? With anything less, it sure isn't the type of community I care to live in. Would you?

Sally Falsetti
Novi

More Bond Support

A letter posted last week in opposition to the upcoming school bond proposal included something I felt needed to be clarified. Specifically, police seizure money cannot be used to fund school improvements or any other non-police expenditures.

I know these are not the best of times, but the meat of this bond helps resolves an inequity that exists at three of the five elementary schools in our district. Many folks (like my wife and I) are fortunate to have kids attending either Deerfield or Novi Woods. These are great facilities that were built or renovated using tax dollars from citizens of this entire school district. That means, homeowners in the Parkview, Village Oaks and Orchard Ridge areas all contributed to these schools. It's time we return the favor, as their schools now need updating.

The bottom line is this. With a "YES" on this bond, you will not see a tax increase from current levels. In fact, if this passes, you'll actually still see a net tax decrease.

In 2008, the debt tax levy will be decreasing from 6.20 mills to 5.17 mills. With the passage of this bond, the debt levy will change from 5.17 mills to 5.66 mills — leaving a net decrease of .54 from the current 6.20 mills. So, a resident whose home is valued at $200,000 (assuming a $100,000 taxable value) would still see a net tax decrease in 2008 of $53.

I don't like taxes, but at least my vote gives me a say in this matter. I ask that you VOTE YES on this bond in support of our children.

Willy Mena
Novi

Career Day Thanks!

On Thursday, March 15, the Novi Middle School held their 17th Annual Career Day. We would like to thank the people in the community who so generously gave of their time that day to come out and speak to the Middle School students.Thank you to :Brian Adams,Physical Therapist, U-M; Major Raymond Casber/APM Software Integration/US Army; Beth Fisher, Reporter, WWJ Radio 950; Suzanne Schulz, Personal Fitness Trainer, Sports Club of Novi; Dr. Robert Goodman, Orthodontist, Goodman Orthodontics; Jeff Johnson, Deputy Fire Chief, City of Novi; George Kacan, Architect, Fanning/Howey Associates; Tim Lawlis, Commercial Producer, CBS/SSJ-TV & WKBD-TV; Thomas Lindberg, Deputy Chief of Police, Novi Police; Rob Murphy, Director of Sales & Marketing, Plymouth Whalers; Marjorie Nanian, Attorney and Professor, Schoolcraft College; Kathy Pawlicki, Pharmacist, Beaumont Hospital; Jenny Phan, General Manager, BD's Mongolian Barbeque, Novi; Steve Printz, Forestry, City of Novi; David Ray, Special Agent, FBI; Kurt Schuster, Airline Pilot, Jet Blue; David Darling, Real Estate Development Director, Rameo-Gershenson; Scott Spahr, Fitness & Wellness Coordinator, Livonia Parks & Rec; Lt. Keith Wuotinen, Uniform Division Commander, Novi Police;Michael Zerkich, Writer

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

Ange Vaughan, Sheri Giampa,Ellen Hulverson,

Christie Santure, Karen Odell, Martha Palmer,

Martha Massab, Ann Shoop, Shona Vincent,

Judy Poppenger, Julia Schnaidt, Andrea Mohr,

Cathy Robbins
The Middle School Career Day Committee

continued on page 13

Michigan's budget crisis: Opportunity for real leadership

There is great angst and anxiety in Michigan today. Seems that every economic indicator one looks at is heading in the wrong direction. Home foreclosures, bankruptcies and unemployment are up, home sales (if you can sell) and personal income are down and the domestic auto industry and auto suppliers are shedding jobs and many of us wish we could peel off a few pounds. And the very jobs that we believe are our future and salvation are pulling up stakes and leaving town as well. Comerica is heading west, Chrysler may go east to China, while Pfizer's departure from Michigan has many of their employees, and local and state government officials heading to the medicine cabinet.

No job sector or region of our state is immune from the rapidly changing, disruptive information and technological-ly driven, flattened world in which we exist.

The state budget is shambles with the budget deficit for this fiscal year hovering at nearly a billion dollars.

Last September, I in an earlier column said that after the 2006 election Lansing politicians would discover the budget was out of whack. Specifically, I wrote in part:

"The state budget that has not been solvent enough for provide significant increases to education over the past there years and lo and behold, in an election year when nothing has improved economically, suddenly there is money available? There is an old southern saying that seems to fit: "This dog don't hunt!"... Could it be that the budget is nothing more than an election year shell game to pull the wool over the voters eyes by providing increases (in theory) to politically popular programs in a cynical attempt to garner votes? Hmm? It is the classic shell game that will leave Michigan citizens without the promised services after the election? If so, responses will go from "hmm" to "How did that happen?"

As we all know, looking in the rearview mirror will not take us lead us boldly into the future. The current debate in our state capital is revolving around "revenue enhancements" aka. tax increases and program cuts to help balance the state budget and provide the resources to invest in worker retraining and funding for our K-12 schools, community colleges and universities.

Yet, even the increased revenue being discussed is anemic as a true investment in educating our citizenry to be competitive in the 21st century knowledge economy. Even if Gov. Jennifer Granholm is successful in selling her 2 cent tax increase in services, schools across the state will still be facing deficit spending, cut backs and layoffs because the $178 per pupil increase will be absorbed by ever-increasing health and pension costs. The meager increases to Community Colleges and Universities will not be enough to stop the escalating costs of obtaining a higher education that is pricing many middle class students out of hope and opportunity.

If Michigan is going to retool for the future it is going to take bold decisive leadership that will force wholesale restructuring of our schools, community colleges, universities, county and municipal governments. Michigan's governmental structures at all levels were constructed at a different time and are no longer sustainable in today's environment. The sooner that our elected leaders come to this conclusion and take action to right-size government at all levels to fit this new reality, the better off we all will be. There is not enough tax revenue to address our problems without significant and fundamental restructuring and reform -- period! Perhaps we can paraphrase a line from President Clinton's first Presidential bid: "it is not the revenue-- it is the structure--stupid!"

Further, Michigan needs an International/Asia Economic Plan to ride the growing economic wave that is coming out of the East. Here we are seven years into the 21st century and no statewide elected leader has been to Russia, India or China, where 3 Billion new capitalist and consumers exist, to tap this rich economic vein. We have the academic, business and professional talent in our rich ethnic communities to develop such a plan rapidly. Such a plan could serve as a blueprint that would enable Michigan to construct a two-way bridge between our state and these developing nations that would also help Michigan workers and families benefit from their rise. None exists today. This is juxtaposed with other states and nations that are working their plan and have been riding the eastern economic wave.

Without fundamental change, led by courageous and creative thinkers, Michigan will continue its slide and become an economic backwater, lose jobs and people and become an international exhibit of what was once an economic powerhouse from the bygone 20th century. It is our collective job to stop Michigan from becoming a rusted-out shell of its former greatness. Real change, requires real change.

Leadership matters and it is desperately needed in Michigan today. Further, the families struggling to pay the bills and educate their children don't care if the leadership comes from the left or the right — as long as it comes, and soon.

About Tom Watkins

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served as state superintendent of schools from 2001-2005. Read his internationally recognized report: The New Education (R)evolution at www.nacol.org. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

JOIN IN: Discuss our stories online via **Story Chat** at novinews.com

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COMMENTARY

Thursday, March 29, 2007
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Lansing, Detroit continue political dances

About Phil Power

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan, and was a regent of the University of Michigan from 1987 to 1999. He is also president and founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank. These opinions and others expressed in his columns are his own and do not in any way represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. Phil would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@hcnnet.com.

Dressed in elaborate costumes, faces hidden behind stylized masks, the actors in the famous Japanese theater art form known as Kabuki engage in complex and ritualized dramas of conflict.

The term, "Kabuki dance," has come to mean a set of stylized, posturing maneuvers in which the performers act as if they will be hostile toward each other — even though everybody understands perfectly well that things will have to be worked out in the end. Everybody's benefit depends on it.

We observed last week two classical Kabuki dances performed, in our own unique form of theater, the political arena of the state capital. In Lansing, both Democrats and Republicans declared each other's proposals for resolving the state's $940 million budget deficit dead on arrival. Gov. Jennifer Granholm announced she would veto the $630 million in spending cuts and accounting changes passed by the Republican-controlled state Senate. The Senate contemptuously rejected the governor's proposed two cent sales tax on services.

Then they all repeated the play's classic and expected lines. Republicans called the governor's tax plan a further blow to the state's fragile economy and mocked her "the sky is falling" portrait of the state's deep financial troubles. The governor said the GOP cuts would hurt kids and local government services and criticized the "cut taxes at any cost" ideology of the Republican base.

One highlight of the GOP plan: The senators would cut state funding for the public schools by $34 per pupil from the current minimum appropriation of $7,085. Most, but not all districts, have enough fund balance to survive — barely — the cut. Schools, however, fix their costs early on, commit to spending decisions, and would find it terrifically hard to make cuts this far into the school year.

Local governments would also take a $40 million hit in revenue sharing payments, which already have been slashed by around $500 million since the state's economy began to soften in 2000.

And so it is back to the drawing board. Meanwhile in Detroit on Friday, the Detroit School Board voted 6-5 to reject a plan to close more than two dozen schools, after a chaotic and contentious meeting that left no one happy.

Interim Superintendent Lamont Satchel told the board that failing to close schools would result in 1,800 employees being laid off. Worse, it could put the system in the grips of a state-required deficit-elimination plan that would require shutting up to 50 schools by 2010.

But not only did they not listen, board members declined to hear a presentation on the district's financial condition.

Opponents of the closure plan said it would hurt children forced to move to different schools. They also argued that the Detroit Federation of Teachers and members of the community should have been involved in preparing the closure plan.

They argued that any final decisions should wait until the arrival of new Superintendent, Connie Calloway. And board President Jimmy Womack said some board members were playing politics with their votes with an eye on their re-election campaigns.

None of this was calculated to reassure anyone about the quality of leadership. In both the legislature and the state's largest city, the drama overwhelmed the financial realities.

The cold hard facts are that the state faces an enormous deficit in this fiscal year's budget, which must be solved before Sept. 30. The Detroit schools, already facing massive enrollment drops and reductions in state per-pupil aid have stark but clear choices: Cut costs, lay off staff — or do some of both.

Most political insiders, whether in Lansing or in Detroit, see these Kabuki dances for what they are: Posturing for popularity before highly motivated constituency groups, whether rabid anti-taxers or angry parents. And most political insiders understand full well that at the end of the dance-drama, consequences will have to be faced and some accommodation to reality will have to happen.

But you cannot blame ordinary folks for failing to understand what all this saber-rattling is all about. Looking on from the outside, dimly aware that we have major problems, the average person has to be wondering why their leaders can't find common ground.

Worse, repeated charades of this sort contribute to cynicism about our governments. They increase Joe and Josephine Average's suspicions that all this is just more political posturing.

All this came home to me last Friday morning when I spoke at a session at the Southeastern Council of Governments, the main local government association for the Detroit metro area.

Most participants were throwing up their hands in frustration at yet another cut in their already stretched budgets. But most also said they would soldier on, trying to make do with ever-thinning resources, doing their best to be good and responsible public servants.

Suddenly I wondered whether being responsible was the responsible thing to do. Or whether declaring that, yes, this is a crisis wasn't exactly the appropriate remedy to legislative irresponsibility and repeated budgetary Kabuki dances.

If cities have already slashed their recreation departments in the face of repeated budget cuts, why not just shut down all recreation programs and say that's it — until those who get voted into office are willing to make the hard decisions and ask the voters to pay. If cities have had to slash their police force beyond anything reasonable thanks to budget cuts, announce that fine, there will be no more day-time policing on the streets. And so forth.

Certainly, the profound instinct of serious, professional government officials is to try to make do, to carry on in the face of financial difficulties. It's the responsible, diligent thing to do.

But it also enables elected officials to be irresponsible and continue to refuse to come to grips with the financial realities: Budget cuts have consequences. And if they are layoffs, school closures and elimination of public services, so be it.

Doing that just might push the political actors on our stage to take off their costumes and their masks and get down to business in the first act rather than waiting for the final curtain. That's a curtain, by the way, that Michigan very much needs to avoid.

LET'S TALK *Jewelry* WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN GEMOLOGIST

BLACK DIAMONDS

Black diamonds are fast gaining popularity with men. A carbonado, as it is called, is actually rarer than a colorless diamond, which is the preferred gemstone for symbolizing marital love. Compared to other fancy (colored) diamonds, black diamonds are among the youngest. According to some geologists, black diamonds were collections of carbon atoms that were squeezed into crystal form some 3.5 billion years ago. It was not until volcanoes thrust them to the surface, between 100 million and 1.1 billion years ago, that they saw the light of day. Other geologists believe that black diamonds come from meteorites. Whatever their origin, there is no denying that black diamonds are casting their spell over diamond aficionados.

Once believed by the ancients to be splinters from the stars, April's birthstone continues to capture the hearts of lovers of great beauty. Are you looking for fine diamond jewelry a cut above the rest? Look no farther than WEINSTEIN JEWELERS OF NOVI, where we only choose diamonds that have the advantage of having been cut by a master lapidary (a person who cuts and polishes gemstones). Brilliant choices of all colors abound here at 41990 Grand River Ave., whether you're searching for something outstanding for a man or a woman. Hours: Monday-Closed, Tuesday 10-6, Wednesday 11-6, Thursday/Friday 10-7, Saturday 10-4. PH: 248-347-0303.

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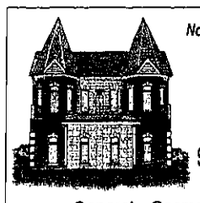

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NPT Physical Therapy
Rehabilitation Update

by Dennis Engerer, P.T.

SMOKING CAN WORSEN KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS

Osteoarthritis sufferers who smoke may be putting the health of their knees in further jeopardy. New research suggests that among men with knee arthritis, the smokers report more pain and are twice as likely to suffer significant loss of knee cartilage. It is this elastic tissue that cushions the ends of the bones. In people with osteoarthritis, the most common form of arthritis, the cartilage breaks down, leading to inflammation, pain, and bone deformity. While previous studies have indicated that smokers may be at greater risk for developing osteoarthritis, the most recent study is the first to suggest that the condition may be more severe in smokers after arthritis develops. Thus, physical therapists encourage their patients to quit the habit.

If you smoke, it is in your best interest to quit for your own health and the health of loved ones around you. By now nearly everyone is aware of the serious and life-long harmful effects of smoking. Speak to your physical therapist about information and methods for breaking the habit. If you have questions about anything discussed in today's column, please call our office during business hours at 248.349.9339. We are located at 215 East Main, Suite B. New patients are welcome.

P.S. Osteoarthritis is the "wear and tear" form of arthritis.

www.northvillephysicalrehab.com

LETTERS

continued from page 12

Green Gala Gratitude

On behalf of the Novi Educational Foundation, I'd like to thank the community for its support of our Green Gala fund-raising event held on March 17. Local businesses, community members, teachers, PTOs, and more all pulled together to make this first annual event a huge success. Together we raised over $35,000 that will be invested back into our students and schools. We appreciate the community support as the NEF works to increase its visibility. Watch for more to come from the Novi Educational Foundation as we expand our presence in the community and work to make a difference in Novi community schools.

Lynn Berg
NEF Trustee

Proud to be a part of this great community

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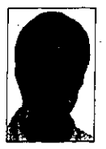

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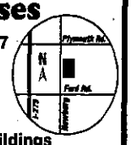

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For Inventory and pictures, go to www.markoberfyauctions.com

HOT TICKET: Novi Senior Center hosts Super Saturdays this weekend with a pizza party and raffle.

Cal Stone
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MY BULLETIN BOARD

Thursday, March 29, 2007
www.novinews.com
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EVENTS

Walled Lake Central's "The Man Who Came to Dinner"
DATE: Tonight; Friday; Saturday
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Walled Lake Central High School, 1600 Oakley Park Road, Walled Lake
DETAILS: Tickets are $8 for adults and $7 for seniors and students. All seats are reserved. Tickets can be ordered by calling the number that follows after March 19, and can also be purchased at the door.
CONTACT: (248) 956-4750

Michigan Star Clipper Dinner Train
LOCATION: 840 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake
CONTACT: (248) 960-9440
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m., Friday
EVENT: Big Band Sound Returns to Walled Lake
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m., Saturday
EVENT: Two entertainment trains, one with David Stan, "Vegas Style" impersonator, the other with "Murder Madness".
TIME/DATE: 1:30-3:30 p.m.
EVENT: Sunday Family Dinner Train with live entertainment, featuring George "Kat" Katsakis.

Teens Aiding the Cancer Community Fund-raiser
TIME/DATE: 6-9 p.m.,Sunday, April 1
LOCATION: Rebecca's, downtown Northville
DETAILS: Enjoy acoustic artists, food, ice cream and raffle. TACC is a non-profit student organization raising money to fill backpacks with toys for cancer-affected kids in area hospitals.

Novi Oaks Chapter of American Business Women's Association
DATE: Wednesday April 11
TIME: 6:15 p.m.
LOCATION: Wyndham Garden Hotel
DETAILS: Lou Martin, Account Executive for St. John Health Marketing will be speaking on the new hospital coming to Novi. Tickets are $16 per person.
CONTACT: (248) 593-5269

Michigan Paralyzed Veteran of America Open House
DATE: Thursday, April 12
TIME: 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: MPVA Headquarters, 40500 Grand River, Novi
DETAILS: This will be the debut of the "Ford Michigan Mobility Resource Guide". The publication provides information that any driver with disabilities can use to achieve greater independence in daily life. The open house will feature displays and information about products and services that improve the quality of life for people with spinal cord injuries or disease.
CONTACT: (248) 476-9000

Book Club Meeting
DATE: Friday, April 20
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Starbucks, 302 East Main St., Northville
DETAILS: The book for April is "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston
CONTACT: northvillebookclub@gmail.com

Spring Design Seminar
DATE: Thursday, April 26
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Art Van, 27775 Novi Road
DETAILS: Design expert Ray Boley will share tips for easy spring home updates. Check out the new spring collections, enjoy refreshments. Guests also receive a gift.

LAKES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Since 1963, the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce has proudly served as West Oakland's Regional Chamber, servicing the communities of Commerce Township, Union Lake, Walled Lake, Waterford, Wixom, Wolverine Lake and White Lake. Our purpose is to improve the quality of life for businesses and residents in the Lakes area. We act as a unified voice on behalf of the business community, provide a forum to discuss and review topics of interest, serve as a source of information and develop programs that are responsive to the needs of the communities we serve.
CONTACT: (248) 628-2826

NOVI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The chamber is celebrating 40 years of business, representing over 500 members. Our mission is to be a responsible, proactive advocate of business interests in the greater Novi area. We are business and professional people working together to enhance the life of our community and the businesses in it. For more information, visit www.novichamber.com or contact the chamber office at (248) 349-3743

Networking Across the Borders
DATE: Tuesday, April 3
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Burton Manor, Livonia
DETAILS: Join the Novi Chamber and 17 other chambers for speed networking across the borders. Cost is $10.

GREATER NOVI CHAMBER

The Greater Novi Chamber is a nonprofit business association. We provide enjoyable networking opportunities for our members; act as a bridge between local business and government; help businesses stay aware of other member's services and products and the activities of their community. For more information, contact: Whitney McClellan, executive director, at (248) 347-4622 or wmgnce@yahoo.com. For event listings, check: www.greaternovichamber.com.

Network Meeting
TIME/DATE: 8-9 a.m. Thursday
LOCATION: Hooter's of Novi
DETAILS: Serious networking with no fee.
CONTACT: Michelle Winn, (248) 835-3754

Arts Round Table
TIME/DATE: 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, April 3
LOCATION: Mixx Lounge
DETAILS: Join this group to discuss art and culture in the area (no fee). This group will meet on the first Tuesday of every month.

Neighborhood Round Table
TIME/DATE: 3 p.m. Thursday, April 12
LOCATION: Comfort Suites, 28049 Wixom Road
DETAILS: Come and brainstorm about bringing more conventions and visitors to the area and create a new name for the group. The group will meet on the second Thursday of every month.

Ambassador Committee Meeting
TIME/DATE: 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17
LOCATION: Steve and Rocky's
DETAILS: Come to learn more about this energetic group.

B2B Breakfast
TIME/DATE: 7:45 a.m. Thursday, April 19
LOCATION: Telcom Credit Union, 44575 West 12 Mile Road
DETAILS: This is early morning networking. The cost is $5 for members, $10 for non-members. Reservations required.
CONTACT: (248) 347-4622

BUSINESS

Females in the Family Business Affinity Group
TIME/DATE: 8-9:30 a.m. Third Thursday of every month
LOCATION: Walsh College Troy Campus
DETAILS: Walsh Business Leadership Institute invites women who own, are partners in, or work for family businesses. Items discussed will be common issues, and women can share solutions in a non-threatening, noncompetitive, non-sales roundtable. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Jan Hubbard, jhubbard@walshcollege.edu

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Hop, Hop, Hop

Kayla Sexton-Carson, 1, meets the Easter Bunny at Twelve Oaks Mall last Monday. Kayla is held by her granddad Bob Sexton.
The Easter Bunny has arrived and is making his home at the Twelve Oaks Mall Central Park Garden through April 7.
The garden, decorated for spring, is located in the lower level, center court.
Photo operation hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday.
The bunny does take brief breaks during the day.
Each visitor will receive a free gift and photos with the Easter Bunny will be available for purchase.
For a complete list of photo packages and prices, visit www.shoptwelveoaks.com.
Prices vary to create custom packages.
Twelve Oaks Mall is located at Interstate 96 and Novi Road.

CLASSES

Providence Center for the Healing Arts
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

Wanted: One-Time Art Workshop Instructors
DETAILS: We are looking for people who have an art or craft that they would like to share in our series of one-time workshops. Please call (248) 465-5455 if interested.

Learn to Design Your Own Jewelry
TIME/DATE: 1:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, April 18
DETAILS: The cost for the class is $5. Call the number above to register.

Modern Mosaic Masterpieces
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, April 25
DETAILS: The cost for the class is $5. Call the number above to register.

Colored Pencil Workshop
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m., second Tuesday of every month
DETAILS: The cost is $2. Beginners are welcome.

Ceramics Class
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 1-5 p.m. Wednesday
DETAILS: There is a $10 materials fee.

Knittin' Yarns
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. Wednesday
DETAILS: Join others and create hats and shawls for those in need.

Tai Chi Class
TIME/DATE: 10:15-11 a.m. Thursday
DETAILS: This is an ancient Chinese exercise used to improve flexibility, balance and strength. No experience is necessary. The cost is $5.

Meditation
TIME/DATE: 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., beginning Thursday, April 19
DETAILS: Learn proper breathing techniques that can be used at home or on the job to help reduce stress. The class will be held in the serenity of the reflection space in the Cancer Center.

Yoga Classes
TIME/DATE: 12:30-1:15 p.m. Monday (for backs); 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday (for strength & endurance); 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m Wednesday (for backs); 12:30-1:30 p.m. Friday (for backs)
DETAILS: The cost is $10 for walk-in; $80 for 10-class card and $70 for seven-week evening session. Registration required.

Massage
TIME/DATE: Various times, Monday and Thursday
DETAILS: Therapeutic massage is shown to be effective for stress and tension, chronic fatigue, pain and headaches. Everyone is welcome. Patients undergoing treatment should bring a physician's referral. Call for an appointment. The cost is $50 for a 50-minute session.

Dinner with a Doctor
TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m. tonight
DETAILS: Dr. Michael Kraut, Chief of Oncology will present "Cancer-Early Signs and Symptoms" for breast, colon, lung and prostate cancer. The session will be held in conference rooms A, B and C at the Novi facility. There is no charge. Use southeast building entrance, off Beck Road.

Line Dancing
DATE: Monday and Friday
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m. beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m. intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: No partner needed for lessons in this pay-as-you-go program. Novi residents and those 55 years and up $5; Non-residents $6.

SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT

Novi Co-op Preschool Open House
DATE: Saturday
TIME: 10 a.m.-noon
LOCATION: Novi Co-op Preschool is located in the Novi United Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Teachers will be available to answer questions. Open enrollment has begun for the 2007-08 school year.
CONTACT: (248) 349-3223 or go to www.novipreschool.com

Novi Woods Montessori Center Open House
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. Saturday; 6-7 p.m. Monday, April 2
LOCATION: 42800 W. 13 Mile Rd.
DETAILS: Montessori infant, toddler, preschool and kindergarten programs offer an enriching curriculum that includes these foreign languages: Japanese, French, Spanish.

Novi City Council Meeting
DATE: Monday, April 2
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting
DATE: Tuesday, April 3
TIME: 6 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

Novi School Board Meeting
DATE: Thursday, April 19
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Orchard Hills Elementary

Faith Community Preschool
LOCATION: 44400 West 10 Mile Rd.
CONTACT: (248) 349-7911

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library
LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday
Note: April 6: Library closed in observance of Good Friday; April 8: Library closed in observance of Easter Sunday
DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

Library Board Meeting
DATE: Wednesday, April 4
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Novi Civic Center

Preschool Story Time
DATE: Session 4 through tomorrow; Session 5 April 16-May 18

***Mastering the Mouse* for Seniors**
DATE: Thursday, April 5
TIME: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: This class is for seniors to help them learn how to use the computer mouse. Registration required.

Novi Knitters
DATE: Monday, April 9
TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.
DETAILS: Knitters of all levels welcome to drop in for an informal knitter's group in the Youth area of the library.

Magician Thomas Plunkard
DATE: Wednesday, April 11
TIME: 7-7:45 p.m.
DETAILS: One of our favorite magicians has new tricks up his sleeve. Fun for all ages.

Introduction to the Internet for Seniors
DATE: Wednesday, April 11
TIME: 1-3 p.m.
DETAILS: Comfortable use of the mouse is required for this class. Registration required.

Kid's Movie Day
DATE: Thursday, April 12
TIME: 1-2:30 p.m.
DETAILS: School-age kids bring a blanket and pillow. Enjoy a movie and popcorn with us.

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

E-Mail for Seniors
DATE: Wednesday, April 18
TIME: 1-3 p.m.
DETAILS: Must know the basics of navigating the Internet and using a mouse. Call the library to register.

Pageturners
TIME/DATE: 4:30-5:15 p.m. Wednesday, April 18
DETAILS: This is the book discussion group for fifth and sixth graders. Bring a peom, one that you've written or by someone else, to read.

continued on next page

continued from 14A

Walled Lake City Library
LOCATION: 1499 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake
CONTACT: (248) 624-3772

Evening Story Hour
TIME/DAY: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Thursdays
DETAILS: The drop-in story time is for children ages 3-5.

NOVI SENIOR CENTER

Located in the Meadowbrook Commons Senior Complex, 25075 Meadowbrook Road

Friday
9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
12:30 p.m.: Duplicate Bridge
1 p.m.: Bingo

Monday
9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
12: 30 p.m.: Pinochle

Tuesday
8:30 a.m.: Panera Bread; Coffee and Conversation
9-11 a.m.: *Line Dance-Intermediate
11 a.m.-12 p.m.; 1-3 p.m.: Computer Lab
10 a.m.: Asian Pacific
1 p.m.: Bingo

Wednesday
9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
11 a.m.: Blood Pressure; TOPS
11:30 a.m.: Clogging-Beginner
12:30 p.m.: Clogging Club
1-2:30 p.m.: "Talk It Over"
6:30 p.m.: *Clogging (Beg./Easy/Int.)
7:30 p.m.: *Clogging-Club

Thursday
9-11 a.m.: *Line Dance-Int.
10 a.m.-2 p.m.: Income Taxes by appointment
11 a.m.-12 p.m.; 1-3 p.m.: Computer Lab
11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: *Line Dance-Beg.
12:15 p.m.: Contract Bridge
2:30-3:30 p.m.: Line Dance

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

Massage: Call for an appointment.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting
DATE: Last Wednesday of each month
TIME: 10-11 a.m.
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Road
DETAILS: This informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. There is no charge. Child care is available. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Lisa Molloy (248) 334-3595

Bereavement Supporty Group
DATE: Third Tuesday of each month
TIME: 7:30-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: A clergy from the area will be lead in prayer and reflection to help those recover from the loss of a loved one. All are welcome and there is no fee.
CONTACT: Michael M. Meyer, Doctorate of Ministry

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

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

MOMS Club of Novi
DATE: First Thursday of each month
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: Moms Offering Moms Support (MOMS) is a non-profit support group for mothers who choose to stay at home with their children or work out of their homes.
CONTACT: jensungfleming@yahoo.com

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples
DATES: Second Thursday of each month
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Witch's Hat Depot, 300 Dorothy St., South Lyon.
DETAILS: This group provides information, support and social activities for mothers of multiple birth children and their families. Mothers of multiples living in and around the Kensington Valley school conference are all welcome.
CONTACT: (248) 437-5496 for more information.

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

Breast Cancer Support Group
DATES: Second and fourth Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C
TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: No registration needed.
CONTACT: (248) 937-5017

Crohn's & Colitis Support Group
DATES: First and third Wednesday of each month
LOCATION: Providence Park Hospital and Medical Center
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
DETAILS: Enter facility through southeast entrance. Meeting in Conference Room A, immediately to the left.
CONTACT: Al Biggs (313) 805-7605 or Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (888) 737-2322.

Novi Toastmasters
DATE: First and third Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
TIME: 7-8:45 p.m.
DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.
CONTACT: Colleen (248) 685-9226

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Chapter
TIME/DAYS: Wednesdays 11 a.m. weigh-in; 11:30 a.m. meeting
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi
DETAILS: $24 per annual membership includes handbook; $1 per meeting. New members welcome.
CONTACT: Rebecca Boyke (248) 305-8646

FAITH

Meadowbrook Congregational
LOCATION: 21355 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: Rev. Ed Willingham, Interim Minister, (248) 348-7757, or visit www.mbccc.org or gmccc@aroundde troit.biz
Sunday Worship
TIME: 10 a.m.

Special Lenten Discussion Series
TIME/DAY: 7 p.m, Wednesday
DETAILS: The topics to be discussed will include a critique of the sermon from the previous Sunday, and some current issues in the news with the question being asked, "What is the faith dimension?" The public is encouraged to attend.

12th Annual Pancake Breakfast
TIME/DAY: Following Worship, Sunday
DETAILS: Tickets are $6 for adults and $3 for children. Call the church office for tickets.

First Baptist Church of Novi
LOCATION: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-3647 or www.firstbaptistchurchofnovi.org
Sunday Schedule
Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m.
Family Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible Study: 6 p.m.
Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m., fourth Sunday of every month.

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross
LOCATION: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 427-1175 or www.churchoftheholycross.com

Sunday Worship
TIME: 7:45 and 10 a.m.
Sunday School
TIME: 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship Center for ages 3-7; 10 a.m. All ages

Lunch Hour Worship
TIME/DAY: 12:10-12:50 p.m. Wednesday
DETAILS: The service will include scripture and Holy Communion.

Youth Worship
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. second and fourth Sunday of every month
DETAILS: All youth welcome.

Alzheimer's Support Group
DATE: Saturday, April 14
TIME: 10 a.m.
DETAILS: This group will meet on the second Saturday of each month, offering support and open discussion for all those dealing with Alzheimer's.

Holy Family
LOCATION: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org
Mass Schedule
TIME/DAY: 7:30, 8:45, and 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. Sunday; 7 p.m. Tuesday; 9 a.m. Wednesday-Friday; 5 p.m. Saturday

Bible Study
DATE: Thursdays
TIME: 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.
DETAILS: Join the group for prayer, sharing, and discussion of the Sunday scripture readings.
CONTACT: Maria (248) 349-8847 or e-mail at spiritwalker001@aol.com

Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting
DATE: Last Wednesday of each month
TIME: 10-11 a.m.
DETAILS: This free informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Child care is available. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Lisa Molloy (248) 334-3595

Ascent on Women Program
DATE: Tuesday, April 17
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
DETAILS: The author of "Alive on the Andrea Doria", and Novi resident, Pierette Domenica Simpson will speak on surviving the sinking of the great ship. The event is free.
CONTACT: Deborah Phillips, (248) 344-7404

Catholic Update
DATE: Monday, April 30
TIME: 7-8:30 p.m.
DETAILS: The session will be moderated by Monsignor John Budde in discussion of God, church, Heaven, Hell, or "whatever".

St. James Catholic
LOCATION: 46325 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-7778
Mass Schedule
TIME/DAY: 8, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday-Tuesday; 7 p.m. Wednesday; 5 p.m. Saturday

Novi United Methodist
LOCATION: 41671 W. 10 Mile
CONTACT: (248) 349-2652
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:45 a.m.

First United Methodist of Northville
LOCATION: 777 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-1144 or visit www.fumcnorthville.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 8, 9:15, 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Community Healing Service
DATE: First Monday of every month
DETAILS: This service is open to anyone asking God for healing in their life or in someone close to them.

Career Ministry Meetings
DAYS: Sunday
TIME: 1:30-3 p.m.
DETAILS: The Career Ministry program is to help meet the needs of job seekers and others in career transition. It is free of charge and is focused on providing career development resources, programs, and networking opportunities to anyone in the Northville/Novi area.

Spring Performing Arts Series Concert
TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m. Sunday, April 29
DETAILS: Presenting the Christian concert team of Randy and Marli. Afterglow immediately following the performance.

Crosspointe Meadows
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Elementary School, 29200 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 427-2700, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9 and 10:30 a.m.

Oak Pointe
LOCATION: 50200 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 912-0043 or visit www.oakpointe.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

St. Paul Lutheran
LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-3140
Sunday Worship
TIME: 8:30, 11 and 11:30 a.m.
Kindergarten Registration
DETAILS: Children who turned five before Friday Dec. 1 may register for full or half-day kindergarten at St. Paul's Lutheran School.

The Baha'i Faith
CONTACT: (248) 473-0355 or visit www.us.bahai.org
Devotional Gathering
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. last Saturday of every month
LOCATION: 23803 Ripple Creek St., Novi
DETAILS: This is a gathering focusing on prayers for peace. People of all faiths are welcome.

continued on next page

Running 101
Classes for the Beginning Runner
Thursdays at 6:30pm — Running Fit Northville, 17783 Haggerty Road, 248.380.3358
Class and group run combo — 5-session course designed to give beginning runners the info and motivation needed to turn running into a life-long passion
Saturdays at 8:30am — Running Fit Novi, 26146 Ingersoll Drive, Novi Town Center, 248.347.9400
Spring 2007 classes start the week of April 1!
running 101 is proudly presented by New Balance, Runner's World

CITY OF NOVI
NOTICE OF ADOPTION
ORDINANCE NO. 07-124.16

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 07-124.16, an amendment to the Novi Code of Ordinances, Chapter 11, to allow the use of turf pavers for secondary access drives.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, March 19, 2007 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS
CITY CLERK

(3-29-07 NN 344793)

NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

Bid proposals will be received by the Novi Community School District, located at 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan, 48374, by mail or hand delivered by 10:00 a.m. local time on Thursday, April 19, 2007. Faxed or e-mailed responses will not be accepted.

Middle School Propylene Glycol Installation
Novi Community School District
25345 Taft Road
Novi, MI 48374

Bid documents will be available for examination and distribution beginning March 23, 2007. There will be available one set of contract documents per contractor. Specifications may be obtained and/or examined at:

Novi Community School District
25345 Taft Road
Novi, MI 48374
Attn: Gail Credit

Your bid proposal form shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board or the Superintendent of the school district.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, either in whole or in part. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding and to accept bid alternates. The Owner also reserves the right to award a contract in any manner deemed by the Owner, in the Owner's sole discretion, to be in the Owner's best interests.

(3-29-07 NN 343130)

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CITY OF NOVI VOTERS WHO RESIDE IN THE NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLCRAFT COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICTS NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION FOR TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007 - ELECTION

To the Qualified Electors of the City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan.

Notice is hereby given that Monday, **APRIL 9, 2007** is the last day to register to vote or change your address for the above election.

If you are not currently registered to vote in the City of Novi at your present address, you may do so in any of the following ways:

In Person:

- At the Novi City Clerk's Office, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road during normal business hours of 8-5 p.m.
- At any of the Secretary of State Branch Offices located throughout the State during normal business hours including Novi's newest location - Southwest Oakland County Plus, 31164 Beck Rd., Novi, MI 48377.

Online

- Mail-in voter registration applications may be obtained by visiting the city's website at www.cityofnovi.org Main Page - References-Forms/Permits - click on Voter Registration).

By Mail:

- By obtaining and completing a Mail-in Voter Registration Application and forwarding to the election official listed below by the close of registration deadline, **APRIL 9, 2007** or contacting:

Maryanne Cornelius, City Clerk
45175 West Ten Mile Road
Novi, MI 48375
(248) 347-0456

- **Note:** Persons who register to vote by mail are required to vote the first time in person unless they have previously voted in person in Michigan or are at least 60 years of age or are physically unable to attend the polls.

Take Further Notice that the following proposition will be submitted to the vote of the **Novi Community School District** electors at the May 8, 2007 special election:

GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED $26,400,000.

Please take further notice that the bonds of the school district, if approve by a majority vote of the electors at this election, will be general obligation unlimited tax bonds payable from general ad valorem taxes.

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the administrative office of Novi Community School District, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan 48374, telephone (248) 449-1200.

(3-29-07 NN 342811) MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

TAX PROBLEMS?
Never Talk to The IRS
Talk to Tax Resolution Specialists of Michigan!
We Can Help!
• Offer in Compromise • Penalty Abatement • File Old Returns • Installment Payments
• Remove Liens/Levies • Audit Representation • Innocent Spouse Relief • Payroll/Sales Tax Relief
Call (248) 985-HELP (4357) for a FREE consultation
Tax Resolution Specialists of Michigan
Member of American Society of IRS Problem Solvers

CITY OF NOVI
NOTICE OF ADOPTION
ORDINANCE NO. 18.213

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 18.213, to amend Ordinance No. 97-18, as amended, the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, Section 1902, I-1, Light Industrial District, to expand permitted locations for Veterinary Clinics.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, March 19, 2007 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS
CITY CLERK

(3-29-07 NN 344797)

NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

Bid proposals will be received by the Novi Community School District, located at 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan, 48374, by mail or hand delivered by 2:00 p.m. local time on Thursday, April 19, 2007. Faxed or e-mailed responses will not be accepted.

Re-roofing of Educational Services Building
Novi Community School District
25345 Taft Road
Novi, MI 48374

Bid documents will be available for examination and distribution beginning March 23, 2007. There will be available one set of contract documents per contractor. Specifications may be obtained and/or examined at:

Novi Community School District
25345 Taft Road
Novi, MI 48374
Attn: Gail Credit

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Rd., Novi, MI 48374. Contact person: Jeff Sotzen, Director of Operations, 248-449-1241.

Your bid proposal form shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board or the Superintendent of the school district.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, either in whole or in part. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding and to accept bid alternates. The Owner also reserves the right to award a contract in any manner deemed by the Owner, in the Owner's sole discretion, to be in the Owner's best interests.

(3-29-07 NN 343134)

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First Presbyterian Church of Northville
LOCATION: 200 E. Main St.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0911
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:30 and 11 a.m.

Single Place Ministries
CONTACT: (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org
PROGRAM SCHEDULE: 7 p.m. Thursdays
PROGRAMS:
Tonight: Concert with Men of Grace

Walking Group
TIME: 11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: First, second and fourth Saturday, Big Apple Bagel Shop, 2334 Farmington Road, Farmington; Third Saturday, Panera Bread Co., 34635 Grand River Ave., Farmington
DETAILS: This is a walking/social group. Everyone is invited.

St. John Lutheran
LOCATION: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills
CONTACT: (248) 474-0584 or visit www.stjohn-lutheran.com
Saturday Worship
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9, 11:15 a.m.
Sunday School
TIME: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community Presbyterian
LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile
CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9, 10:30 a.m.

Gracepointe Presbyterian
CONTACT: (248) 497-3178 or e-mail gracepointe@mac.com
"Preview" Worship Service
TIME/DATE: 6-7 p.m. Sunday
LOCATION: Holiday Inn and Suites, 37259 Grand River, Farmington Hills
DETAILS: The public is invited for worship and to stay after for fellowship and learn more about Gracepointe. Child care will be available. For more information on Bible Study and other ministries, see above.

HEALTH

St. John Providence Park Hospital-Novi Classes
LOCATION: 47601 Grand River Ave.
CONTACT: (888) 440-7325, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday
Childbirth Education
DETAILS: Evening or weekend series helping you and your partner get ready for the birth of your baby.
Childbirth Refresher
DETAILS: A one-time class to review important information for birth of your baby.
Breast-feeding Preparation
DETAILS: A one-time class for mom and her partner helping to provide tips for successful breast-feeding.
Baby Care Basics
DETAILS: A one-time class with practical information about how to adapt to life with a baby.
Infant Massage
DETAILS: This two-session class teaches parents how to offer their infant the comfort of massage.

Health Screenings at Meijer
LOCATION: 49900 Grand River Ave., Wixom
DATE: Friday
DETAILS: The pharmacy at Meijer will offer the following tests for low cost: Cholesterol, $30; Liver Function, $15; Diabetes Screening, $4; Hemoglobin A1C, $30. You will receive results within 15 minutes. All tests include consultation and explanation of results by the pharmacist, answers to questions about your medications and blood pressure check. Appointments are necessary.
CONTACT: (248) 449-5733

CLASS REUNIONS

Novi High School Reunion-Classes of 1974-1977
DATE: July 28
DETAILS: A combined class reunion is being planned for the four graduating years.
CONTACTS: Laurie (Maier) Butler, Class of '74, lbutler@motorcityharley.com; Claire (Salow) Klingelholer, Class of '75, clairek1@comcast.net; Leigh (Tarczy) Guzowski, Class of '76, laguzow@alumni.nmu.edu; Patty (Pohlman) Mayer, Class of '77, mayer123@comcast.net

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 1987
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.
CONTACT: Call (323) 467-0642 or NoviHigh@gmail.com

Detroit Mackenzie High School Class of 1957 Reunion
DATE: Friday Oct. 19
TIME: 6:30 p.m. to midnight
LOCATION: Holiday Inn Livonia, 17123 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia
DETAILS: The cost is $75 per person. Mail M. vonGlahn, 20997 Chase Drive, Novi, MI 48375 for tickets. The deadline is June 30. Note: The reunion committee is looking for classmates from the class of 1957.
CONTACT: June Class-Marj Storch at marj.storch@sbcglobal.net or Mary Middleton at mvonglahn@aol.com.
January Class-Eleanor Locke at eplocke@aol.com or Dick Bebbington at rbebbroseville@yahoo.com.

REGIONAL

Free Spring Fun Day
DATE: Saturday
TIME: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
LOCATION: The Learning Experience, 53318 Ten Mile Road, South Lyon
DETAILS: The Learning Experience is an early child care and preschool center that is an educational alternative to standard daycare. The day is open to the public and will feature free photos with a holiday bunny, treasure egg hunt, crafts and snacks.
CONTACT: (248) 446-6283

ONGOING

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

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

ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE

46100 Grand River Ave. Call (248) 348-5600 or visit http://rockfinancialshowplace.com/for more information.

Send your calendar items to Novi News, 104 W. Main Street, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-9832; or e-mail to cstone@gannett.com.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Wine talk
With an array of white wines in front of him, Clay Fritz talks about his family's winery in Dry Creek Valley, Calif., during last Friday's International Wine Expo at Novi's Rock Financial Showplace.

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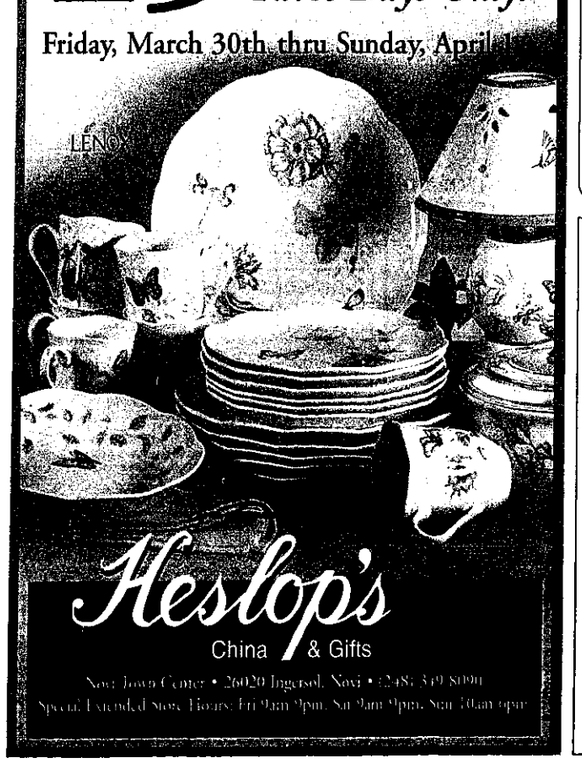

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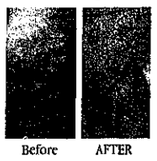

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LIVING

Thursday, March 29, 2007
www.novinews.com
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Maybury opens for the season

■ Staff offers syrup, dairy and animal tours

By Maureen Johnston
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

The kids squealed as they ran from pen to stall to coop.

"I saw a bunny!" "Lambs!" "Oooooch!"

Daniel Henning, 7, pulled for his mom, Chris, to look at the pigs, then the horses. On a St. Paul's Lutheran School field trip, the boys and girls and their chaperones explored the grounds of Maybury Farm — taking a horse-drawn wagon ride into the woods, visiting the barn and learning about the animals' daily routine.

"They had a great time," Henning said. "They learned about getting syrup from the sugar maple trees. It was awesome."

Yep, it's spring. Maybury Farm opened for the season last week.

As the visitors crossed the concrete path from the parking lot to the grass and dirt farm yard, they passed from the hurried pace of 2007 to the deliberate slow of a vintage working farm.

Nature's harmony

Not far from acres of Northville subdivision homes with every latest convenience, motorists can turn off Eight Mile Road onto Maybury land where a farm with roots in the 1900s is alive with spring.

The homestead visible from the main road has remained a beacon to the past. The barn, destroyed by fire in 2003, was replaced through efforts of the Northville Community Foundation, which continues to grow new programming.

"The animals have waited all season for their friends to come back," said Shari Peters, foundation president.

Kids pulling their iPod earplugs and piling out of SUVs tuned in instead to nature's harmony of birds tweeting, pigs grunting and horses whinnying.

Back to basics

Last Friday, volunteers Mark Sanchez and Kelly Johnson added an "open" banner to the farm entrance sign.

Their chores in recent weeks have ranged from building a fence along the pasture to sweeping the barn, and building a fire in the welcome center to fixing the service trails.

On Friday, a testy ram added to their to-do list by ramming into a barn wall, breaking a plank.

"He just keeps ramming his head into it," said Sanchez, who, like Johnson, is a laid-off Ford employee that can opt to spend idle hours working for a non-profit organization instead of in the plant.

Sanchez, a hydraulic repair worker, was green when he first reported to the Maybury last year. Now, he has learned the farm ropes, handling animals, driving the tractor and performing ongoing maintenance tasks.

"We're always looking for volunteers," said Peters, adding the farm staff includes farmer John and Norma Beemer, two part-time farm hands and two part-time docents. "Anyone who has time, we're more than happy to find something for them to do.

"There's always something."

Through donations and tireless fund-raising efforts, the farm was born again, literally, from the ground up. Peters acknowledges progress, but she sees plenty of work ahead.

"This time of year, this all has to be landscaped again," she said. "Replacing fencing will be a big part of this spring.

"We have to repave all the paths, be it with dirt or woodchips or whatever. There's always so much work here."

But already this season, Peters said the farm has been reaping what it sows during visits.

Last week, she received a thank-you note from a scout troop and phone call from a woman who hosted her three-year-old son's birthday party at the farm.

"The mom said it was 'off the charts,'" Peters said. "To see everyone back is just great."

Eyes accustomed to watching TV or computer animation grew wide at sleeping pigs nestled contentedly in the mud and the large cow's slow hay chew.

After initially recoiling at the pungent barn smell, the little noses were quickly distracted by the abundance of sensations surrounding them: goats, pigs, sheep, bunnies, turkeys, cows, ducks and roosters.

"Little kids are the best," Sanchez said. "They're just like in awe when they see it.

"It gives you a good feeling."

Johnson said she knows children will remember their visit to the farm. When Farmer Beemer held out the baby lamb, he was swarmed with little hands wanting to touch its soft white wool.

"They love it," Johnson said. "Just that look on their face.

"It's spring on the farm."

Maureen Johnston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or via e-mail at mjohnston@gannett.com.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Maybury Farm volunteers Mark Sanchez and Kelly Johnson walk near the barn.

Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

St. Paul School student Daniel Henning, 7, pets a Belgian horse.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Farmer John Beemer holds up a bucket of maple sap and a bottle of maple syrup, demonstrating for a visiting group the amount of of sap needed to be boiled down for the final product. About 40 gallons of sap is needed for one gallon of syrup.

Upcoming events

April 7: Easter Egg Hunt. Starting at 1 p.m. Free for children 2-10.

April 19: Clean-up Day for families. Starting at 10 a.m. Bring rakes, shovels and annuals to plant.

April 28 & 29: Sheep shearing. 1-4 p.m. both days.

May 5 & 6: Antique tractors. Plowing Maybury fields begins at noon.

May 12: Trot for Animals. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Events open to the public include a 5K run/walk and a Bunny Walk.

May-September: Rustic Chef series resumes.

Visit the farm

Who: Open to the public

Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays.

Closed: Mondays and for inclement weather.

Cost: $3 for adults; $2 for children

Parking: Enter off Eight Mile Road, west of Beck Road and the state park entrance.

Tours: Pre-registration required. Maple syrup through the second week in April; dairy; farm animal

For info: (248) 374-0200

Want to help?

Items needed: Crushed asphalt, automatic post-hole digger, wood chips, welcome center roof

Services needed: Barn cleaning on Mondays and Tuesdays; experienced hayride drivers for weekdays and weekends, and docents for school programming.

Scouts welcome: For service badges or earning Eagle status.

For info: (248) 374-0200.

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SENIOR EVENTS: Be sure to see **My Bulletin Board** for a listing of local events for seniors **15A**

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MY SENIOR LIFE

Thursday, March 29, 2007
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Scouts, seniors share experiences

■ Girls Scouts: past, present and future

By Tracy Mishler
NEWS SPECIAL WRITER

Photo by Tracy Mishler/Special to the Novi News

Fox Run residents Lois Christeller, left, and Thelma Walters, center, talk about their experiences as former Girl Scouts with Troop 401B member Ellie Klezek.

Rosemary Beggs just wanted to be a Girl Scout.

And though she grew up in a small town in Illinois, Beggs made sure her goal of camping, hiking and working on badges was accomplished.

"Girl Scouts is a great educational experience that teaches girls a lot of things through the badges they earn," said Beggs, 77, of Fox Run in Novi. "(Girl Scouts) gives girls experiences they might not otherwise get."

Beggs is one of many female seniors with many scouting stories to tell.

She and a group of ladies from the Fox Run knitting club recently offered their time to help a group of Girl Scouts learn about scouting years ago and assist in earning two badges for their sashes.

Troop 401B from Berkshire Middle School in Birmingham joined the Fox Run knitters to sew bedding for the neonatal department at Henry Ford Hospital in order to earn their bronze award and also talk to seniors about scouting for their cross-generation badge.

"As children, (the girls) are kind of sheltered, and this exposes them to something different," said Diane White, troop leader. "Talking with the older ladies helps the girls get a different perspective on life."

Learning to scout

Juliette Gordon Low founded Girl Scouts March 12, 1912.

According to the Girls Scouts of the USA, Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Ga. for a local Girl Scout meeting with the idea that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally and spiritually.

"It's important for the girls to find out what happened years ago," Beggs said. "Some kids don't have grandparents nearby. We always enjoy seeing the kids."

During their visit to Fox Run, the group of sixth grade girls worked on sewing machines to make blankets and also sat talking to seniors about times of war and what they did to keep busy.

"I joined the scouts the first meeting after turning 10," said Peg Quigley, 80. "I believe in Girl Scouts. I was there once trying get badges just like them today."

Quigley said back in the 1930s-40 when she was a scout, there were more opportunities for boys than girls.

"There weren't many things for

continued on page 19

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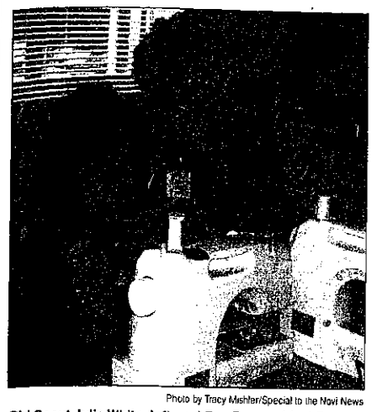

Photo by Tracy Mishler/Special to the Novi News

Girl Scout Julia White, left, and Fox Run resident Peg Quigley sew during the Girl Scout Troop 401B's recent visit to the retirement village. The seniors and young girls shared experiences about being Girl Scouts at the intergenerational event.

■ Girls Scouts: past, present and future

continued from page 18

girls to do," she said. "Girl Scouts had a real impact on my life."

Stephanie Lester, 11, said she was excited to talk with the ladies at Fox Run because of what she could learn.

"It's interesting to hear about what they did in Girl Scouts," Lester said. "What they learned in Girl Scouts can help teach us."

During their time at Fox Run, the girls from Troop 401B took turns sitting with different ladies, talking about the past and exchanging stories about scouting today and many years ago.

"Not only (were) the girls helping the babies at Henry Ford Hospital, but they're learning about scouting in the past from the ladies here at Fox Run," White said. "I told them to ask about scouting, their careers, what made them happy and what they liked."

Thelma (Tim) Walters said she hoped they helped the girls learn a thing or two during their visit.

"If anything, I hope they take with them compassion for older people," Walters said. "Kids really miss out if they don't interact with the older generations.

"This was a great way for the girls to get out, meet new people and hear some really interesting stories."

Walters said when she was in scouts, her troop never got to interact and have the opportunities girls today have.

"We used to pick potatoes," she said. "I really enjoy the young people. It's neat to interact with them."

Quigley said by welcoming the Girl Scout troop to Fox Run, they helped the girls reach out and help others.

"Girl Scouts gives a sense of helping people and reaching out," she said. "That's what we try to do, and that's what these girls are doing. That's what Girl Scouts is all about."

Tracy Mishler is a freelance writer for the Novi News.

Why scout?

- Girl scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character, in order to make the world a better place.
- The U.S. Congress chartered Girl Scouts of the USA on March 16, 1950.
- Today, there are 3.7 million Girl Scouts, 2.7 million girl members and 928,000 adult members working primarily as volunteers.
- Girls at home and abroad participate in more than 236,000 troops and groups in more than 90 countries through USA Girl Scouts Overseas
- More than 50 million American women enjoyed Girl Scouting during their childhood.
- Through its membership in the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), Girl Scouts of the USA is part of a worldwide family of 10 million girls and adults in 145 countries.

SOURCE: GIRLS SCOUTS OF THE USA, www.girlscouts.org

"If anything, I hope they take with them compassion for older people. Kids really miss out if they don't interact with the older generations. This was a great way for the girls to get out, meet new people and hear some really interesting stories."

Thelma Walters
Fox Run resident

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Spotlight on Business

Lotus Bank

There is a new face on the banking landscape in Novi. And this new face intends to make a big splash with small business owners and the fast-growing Novi medical community. Lotus Bank recently opened its doors on Grand River in Novi, becoming the first community bank headquartered in Novi in more than 20 years. That's important, too.

The experienced staff members at Lotus Bank are ready to meet your financial needs.

"Any community bank that is owned and staffed by members of the community has a lot of big advantages over larger banks," said Satish Jasti, president and CEO of Lotus Bank. "Here you can deal directly with your neighbors without having to adhere to policies made by larger banks that are headquartered outside of your community.

"We get to make decisions for our neighbors. These will be fast decisions that won't require our customers to put their lives on hold, waiting for word on their loans."

Jasti formed Lotus Bank along with Richard Gurne, executive vice president and chief lending officer, and Richard Bauer, executive vice president and chief financial officer. The doors opened after the team raised over $12 million in capital from local investors. The bank's temporary location at 45650 Grand River (across from Paradise Park) opened on February 28th. This "soft" opening is giving Lotus Bank time to get its employees acclimated with the bank and to finalize all systems and procedures. The grand opening will take place on April 19th.

That won't be the end of the grand openings, however. Lotus Bank will soon be breaking ground for its permanent location at Twelve Mile Road and Dixon Road, across from Fountain Walk of Novi.

"We chose Novi because it is a growing community," added Gurne. "We want to be active in the lending needs of medical professionals and with the growth in health care such as the Providence and Henry Ford medical facilities, it is smart to be here."

Jasti said that Lotus Bank is a full-service bank that is committed to offering loans to private individuals as well as businesses and it will specialize in health care lending, commercial real estate lending/developing, and the growing Asian population in the community. The last reason, in part, had something to do with the choice of the name Lotus.

"Lotus is a generic name not tied to anything," said Jasti. "But it means a lot to the Asian community. We also didn't want the name to be tied to any one location since future plans include locations in Troy and Canton."

The addition of Lotus Bank to the Novi business community has already paid dividends to the local job market. "We already created 10 jobs and intend to add another 20 by the end of the year," noted Jasti. "We are not only helping the local economy by creating jobs ourselves but we are lending money to other businesses in the community that will help create more jobs. I guess you could call us an economic engine for the community."

Speaking of Lotus Bank staff, Jasti, Gurne, and Bauer have a combined [illegible] years of experience in the banking and lending industries. All [illegible] everyone on the entire staff has at least 10 years of banking experience. Using their experience, Jasti, Bauer and Gurne together [illegible] on loans and meet [illegible] as needed basis. That's another advantage to Lotus Bank's customers because it reduces the amount of time it takes to get a loan approved.

Not only is Lotus Bank looking for new customers, there is still time for [illegible] who may be interested in investing in the local community. It is said that the bank will sell $3 million more in shares [illegible] IPO closes on June [illegible]th.

Lotus [illegible] hours are Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to [illegible] and Friday [illegible] p.m. For more information call (248) [illegible]1000 or visit [illegible]bank.net.

By Jo[illegible]

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Novi, Catholic Central High School schedules, P. B3

Wildcat Soccer
Novi starts the season with two shutout wins against Lahser, Canton ... P. 2

SPORTS GALLERY: CC LACROSSE

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MY NOVI SPORTS

NEXT WEEK: All-Area Swim Team

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2007 • WWW.NOVINEWS.COM • SPORTS SUBMISSIONS: JTHEISEN@GANNETT.COM • PAGE 1B

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: SOCCER PREVIEW

STORY CHAT: WHAT DO YOU THINK? TELL US AT WWW.NOVINEWS.COM

One, Two ... Three?

■ Novi focuses on task at hand, not the past

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Don't bother asking Novi head soccer coach Brian O'Leary about "the streak." He said the team doesn't even bring it up, despite constant questions about it from the media before the season and after each game.

The Wildcats are undefeated for the last two seasons. It's an amazing streak to say the least, but because much of the team wasn't around for the start of it, each season is a new story in itself.

"We really don't even talk about that stuff," O'Leary said. "I think people imagine it different than it is — like we are just living in some world that's easy. It really isn't that way at all.

"We just start over every season, really. You have to incorporate the new players ... you have a lot of stuff to figure out."

But five seniors have already enjoyed the spoils from the team's overall success. Kristine Chaklos, Stephanie Crawford, Emily Esbrook, Jessica Barndt and Stephanie Janssens have all signed with Division I soccer teams before the season's start.

"Those girls are in the position they are in because of the way they do things," O'Leary said. "They come every day, they work hard every single day, they have incredible work ethic, they are very competitive, it just kind of sets the stage for everyone else that's there.

"Those five girls really have their act together."

Crawford is the team that most people try to shut down but usually can't.

"Stephanie Crawford is one of the best forwards in Michigan," O'Leary said. "She's a great goalscorer, she's scored big goals in big games, and we know we can count on her."

But even if Crawford doesn't do

See SOCCER, 2B

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi's Stephanie Crawford (17) returns as an offensive threat for the Wildcats.

What is SPORTS SPOTLIGHT? Each week, the Novi News takes a closer look at Novi athletes. Have a suggestion? E-mail it to jtheisen@gannett.com.

AT NOVINEWS.COM: NOVI WILDCATS SPORTS SCHEDULE. CHECK IT OUT!

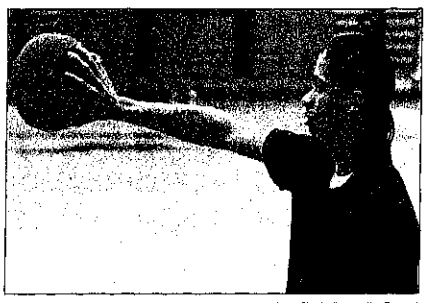


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Northville Record

Northville High School senior and varsity basketball standout Alvin Storrs palms a ball in the gym the Mustangs haven't lost in for more than two seasons.

Storrs: A real slam dunk

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Simply put, Northville senior basketball player Alvin Storrs did it all for the Mustangs.

Storrs led the team in scoring with 24.3 a game, in rebounding with 5.6 a night, snagged 5.5 steals and averaged a little more than a block a contest.

Despite leading the team in several categories, Storrs cared more about how the team did than his own personal stats.

"That's a strange part of him," Northville head coach Darrel Schumacher said. "He doesn't like to be singled out. He just wants to fit in to the team.

"Yet, when the game is on the line, he wants the ball. That's a quality that you hope for in every player, yet not every player has that."

It's unknown if Storrs is Northville's all-time leading scorer, but Schumacher said he's the highest scoring Mustang in recent memory. Storrs finished with 1,096 career points.

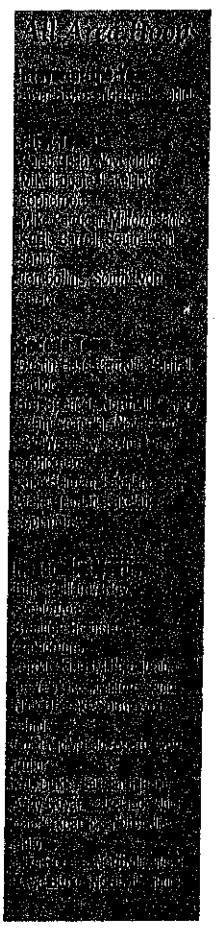
Having one player responsible for leading the team in so many categories doesn't always result in wins. It did in Storrs' case.

The Mustangs went 18-3 a year after going 20-1. They were a combined 38-2 during the last two regular seasons and captured a pair of division crowns and one league title and a runner-up WLAA tournament finish.

"He always wanted to involve his teammates into the game," Schumacher said. "He didn't want to just isolate it and take it himself."

Storrs will transfer his game to

See ALL-AREA, 2B



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NOVI NEWS Athlete of the Week

Novi sophomore Erin Zerio, Soccer

Wildcat goalie Erin Zerio has yet to allow a goal through the first two Novi games. She made 10 saves in a 3-0 shutout against Lahser and two more saves in a 4-0 blanking against Canton.

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■ All-Area

continued from front

the next level at Grand Valley State — a school that has a history of making waves in Division II.

"It's been a goal all of his life," said Schumacher about Storrs playing in college. "I'm looking forward to making a few trips to Grand Valley to watch him play. That's a heckuva program.

"I'm so happy for him because he is such a genuine individual that has worked so hard to be good at what he does."

First Team

Novi junior Caleb Dean lands a spot on the All-Area First Team. He led the Wildcats with 16.5 points a game and eight rebounds. He also led the team in charges taken.

"He's much improved from last year," Novi head coach Pat Schluter said. "He was our go-to-guy who has the ability to score from the perimeter and the inside.

Lakeland sophomore Mike Fugate, Milford senior Mike Petrucci and South Lyon seniors Kurtis Carrol and Jon Collins round out the First Team.

Second Team

Novi senior Adam Chandler is part of the All-Area second team along with Northville senior Bret Spencer, Catholic Central senior Dustin Hess, South Lyon sophomore Eric Wedesky, Lakeland senior Luke Heiman and Lakeland sophomore Blake Heiman.

Honorable Mention

The All-Area Honorable Mention players are Novi sophomores Chris Bellamy and Brandon Bradford; Northville juniors Dan Kirkpatrick, Mike Rogers and David Burke; Milford junior Jordan Kidd and senior Steve Wykes; South Lyon senior Nick Oberski and junior Chad McMullen; and Lakeland senior Andy Govan and junior Kris Dukic.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

All-Area First Team member Caleb Dean puts up a shot during a distric game.

Wildcats start where they left off — winning

■ Zerio posts two shutouts

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

The Novi soccer team had to wait a couple of extra days to get the seasdon started, but things started right were left off with a pair of wins.

The rematch against Northville (scheduled for March 21) was postponed to noon April 21.

The Wildcats instead focused their game against Bloomfield Hills Lahser and walked away with a 3-0 win March 23.

On Monday, Novi kept pushing in the right direction with a 4-0 win against Canton.

The shutouts allowed head coach Brian O'Leary to get everyone in both games for extended minutes.

Novi 3, Lahser 0

Lahser came in as the No. 1 ranked team in Division II after losing the in state-final game last season.

Stephanie Crawford got the scoring started just a couple minutes in. The Wildcats strung several passes together, and Katie Chaklos sent a cross in that Crawford converted.

Just five minutes later, Stephanie Janssens sent Crawford in a lone for a breakaway goal and a 2-0 lead that stood into halftime.

The final goal came when Crawford sent a cross into the box, and Jenna Carosio corralled and converted 10 minutes into the half.

Erin Zerio made 10 saves to earn the shutout.

Novi 4, Canton 0

Janssens recorded the first goal six minutes in off a feed from Chaklos.

With five minutes left in the first half, Chaklos scored off a Crawford cross for a 2-0 halftime lead.

Janssens scored her second goal just a couple of minutes into the second half off a Chaklos corner kick.

Jamie Fratto ended the scoring five minutes later off a pass from Emily Esbrook.

Zerio needed just two saves to pick up another shutout.

Jeff Theisen can be reached at jthesien@gannett.com or at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

Submitted photo

Top Cats!

The Novi Cats fifth-grade basketball team won the March Madness tournament in Midland. Novi went undefeated through the tourney to capture first place.

Top row, from left, Mike Zugaro (head coach) and Jim Cox (assistant coach). Middle row, Alex Warner, Kyle Garcia, Grant Cox, Jay Kim, Jonathan Bain. First row, Sam Li, Nicky Cox, Austin Beyer, Daniel Park, Nick Zugaro. Assistant coach Todd Beyer is not pictured.

Sports Shorts

Coleman first for Albion

Dan Coleman (Novi) took first place in a field event and second place in the 110-meter hurdles as the Albion College men's track & field team performed well in a non-scored meet at Wittenberg University on Saturday.

Coleman won the pole vault by clearing the bar at 13-1, and he was second in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 16.2 seconds.

Carrs earn varsity letters at Hope

Jennifer and Sarah Carr, Novi resident and former Northville students, each earned a varsity swimming letter at Hope College.

Jennifer was also part of the 200 medley relay team that finished ninth at the NCAA Division III finals meet. She was also on the 200 freestyle relay team that finished 11th.

Youth football league taking signups

The Northville Youth football program is adding an additional team and still need football players and cheerleaders. Registration ends March 31.

The Northville Colts and the new team, The Northville Stallions needs participants for Freshman (ages 8-9), JV (10-11), and Varsity (12-13).

For Registration and additional information, go to northvilleyouthfootball.com.

■ SOCCER: Back on the attack

continued from front

all the scoring, others can definitely fill the net.

"Emily Esbrook is one of the best center/mids in the county," O'Leary said. "We know Janssens is one of the most underrated forwards around. Because Crawford gets so much attention from everyone, Stephanie Janssens has won us plenty of games by herself too."

Seniors Chaklos and Barndt keep control over the defensive duties.

"Kristine and Jessica keep that defense organized — one on the right side and one on the left side," O'Leary said.

Erin Zerio, a sophomore, will handle the netminding duties.

Improvement over goals

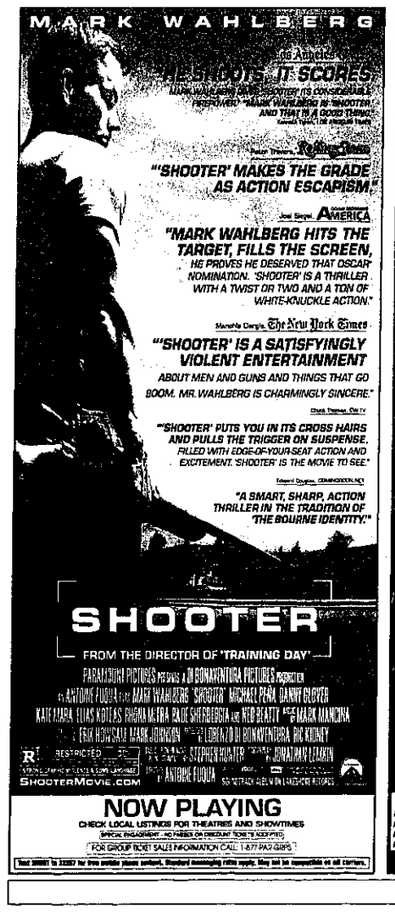
Team goals are not something O'Leary places a strong emphasis on. He focuses on improvement through each practice or game.

"We never set our goals, really, to win anything," O'Leary said. "The winning is kind of a BI-product of the way you do everything else. If you cut corners on the other things, than the winning doesn't happen."

Competition from within the league should come from Brighton O'Leary said.

"Brighton is going to be really good this year, really good," O'Leary said. "It will be interesting."

Jeff Theisen can be reached at jthesien@gannett.com or at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.



Planet Fitness

Don't believe all the hype

Chris Klebba

Recently, my toughest client ever (my wife), was venting about how tired she was of my "burn more calories than you take in" technique of weight loss. She had just passed on desert and was watching her one-millionth commercial about some magic pill that a shapely bikini-clad model swears that you take once a day and you will lose 15 pounds in a month while you sleep and have a body like hers in no time.... Guaranteed or your money back! For an over-50, menopausal, mother of three with a recent total hip replacement (she allowed me to reveal all that!), that is tough to take and really tough competition against my 'promoting positive lifestyle changes' and also just too enticing for most Americans who spend some $35 billion a year on over 30,000 diet supplements a year. My tough client/wife is tired of not losing the weight fast enough, but before she picks up that phone and orders one of those magic pills and abandons her New Year's resolution all together, I throw out some facts ...

• Reports shows that 64 percent of Americans think the government requires warnings about side effects on weight loss products, it doesn't – and 54 percent think products are approved by the FDA; they're not.

• There's no proof of effectiveness and no proof of safety. Why would you put it in your body?

• Chances are that model on TV never touched the product she is advertising.

• The Federal Trade Commission recently fined the marketers of four weight loss drugs a collective $25 million for false advertising: Xenadrine EFX, Cortislim, One-A-Day Weight Smart and Trimspa. The products will still remain on store shelves, the $25 million a mere cost of business.

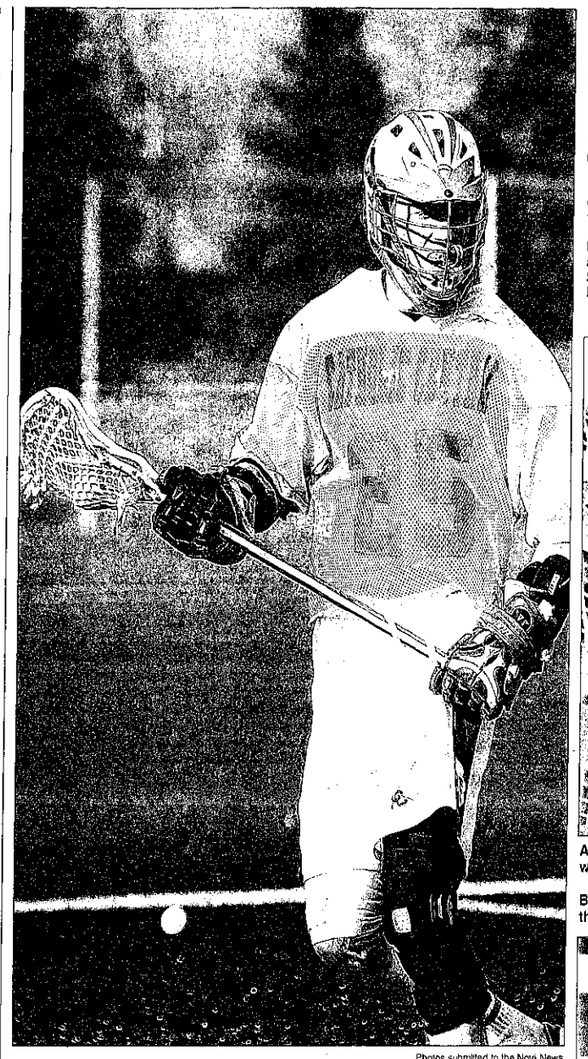
• FTC Chairman Deborah Platt Majores warns against celebrity endorsements of many of these products claiming: "Testimonials from individuals are not a substitute for science." The FTC's investigation in an Xenadrine commercial found that the people who appear in many of the before and after pictures in many ads lost weight by engaging in rigorous diet and exercise programs (surprise, surprise!).

• These supplements have been around for years and yet two thirds of Americans are overweight. If they really worked, why would this fact remain and be growing in the wrong direction?

As my final plea to my client, I explained that I was well aware that the road to 'positive lifestyle changes' translated means eating less and moving more. I also know this is about as exciting as walking on a treadmill for 30 minutes and eating more fiber. But, the bottom line is this has been, still is now, and will be the only safe path to long term weight control and health. And, I want this particular client to be around and be healthy for a long time. (Did you ever notice that no matter how much weight a woman has already lost, it's never enough?) She said I could say that, too. I'd better quit now.

So next time you are tempted by that shapely model, save your money, move a little more, eat a little less each day and don't be fooled; you are doing it right – and in the long run, you will be further ahead and a little richer. Good Luck!

This column was written by fitness expert Chris Klebba. Chris owns and operates Planet Fitness in Northville, and is a regular columnist and public speaker. For more information call 248-449-7634 or go to www.planetfitness.com.



Photos submitted to the Novi News

Catholic Central and Novi resident Pat Nemes looks for space to pass the ball during a game last week.

CC posts consecutive 6-4 wins in lacrosse

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Catholic Central lacrosse got off a 2-0 start with a pair of 6-4 victories.

The Shamrocks knocked off East Grand Rapids on March 24 and hosted Seneca Valley High School from Pennsylvania on March 25.

Against Grand Rapids, Conner Bush led the charge with three goals. Brad Janer, Matt Aubrey and Jack Dumsa each scored a goal.

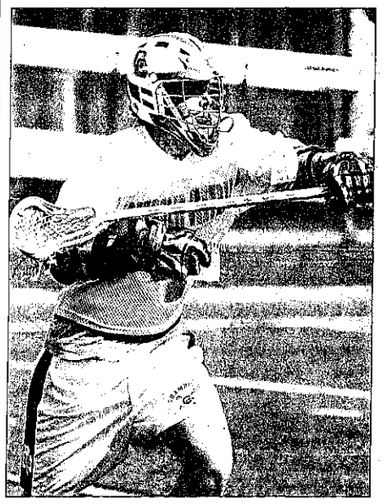
Nick Garry recorded 15 saves in net for the Shamrocks.

Against Seneca Valley, Zach Menard and Aubrey each scored a pair of goals. Ryan Cebula and Pat Nemes each tallied a score.

Garry recorded 17 saves for the second win.

Above: Shamrock and Novi resident Mike Dunleavy works around the net during a game last week.

Below: Shamrock and Novi resident Connor Bush tallied three goals against East Grand Rapids on Saturday.



Submitted photo

Members of the Novi Sturgeon swim team Include: First row, Caitlyn Sultana, Sarah Dombkowski, Ines Charles and Linda Erickson. Second row, Kasey Calwell, Tanner Vincent, Jordan Ewald, Parker Belmore, Madeline Loniewski and Kathleen McGee. Third row, Nicholas Buccellato, Simon Shanks and Chris Stefan. Fourth row, Rachel Green, Brianna Schoenek, Colin Brinkman, Jongmin Kim, Austin Davidson and Steven Neill. Back row, coaches Mark Winter, Kevin Hafner and Bob Jenrow. Swimmers not pictured, Jared Goan, Blake Kent, Madeline Kipke and Barry Zeltzer.

Sturgeons rake in medals

Submitted to the Novi News

The Novi Sturgeons Swim Team, of the Sports Club of Novi, placed fourth out of 55 teams at the 12 & Under Michigan State Swimming Championships held at Jenison High School on March 9-11.

Each competitor swims in preliminaries and onto the finals if placing in the top 16. The top 16 places score points for the team.

The Sturgeons had 23 swimmers at the meet.

Tanner Vincent is the State Champion in boys 10 & Under winning the 50 butterfly as well as the 100 butterfly. He was awarded second-place medals in the 200 and 500 freestyles and 100 individual medley, and a third place in the 200 individual medley. In addition, Vincent received a third-place trophy for the 10 & Under Boys Individual High Point Award.

Rachel Green tied for first place in the 50 freestyle and is the State Co-Champion for Girls 11-12. She also won four other individual medals: second in the100 free, fifth in the 200 IM, and two sixth-place finishes in the 200 and 500 freestyle events.

Ines Charles won six individual medals: second in 50 backstroke, third in 100 IM and 50 fly, fourth in 100 fly and 50 free, and sixth in 100 backstroke.

Simon Shanks won five individual medals: fifth in 200 free and 100 free, sixth in 100 back, seventh in 50 free, and eighth in 500 free.

The boys 10 & Under 200 Freestyle Relay consisting of Vincent, Blake Kent, Kasey Calwell and Shanks swam into 2nd place.

Other top eight finishers were: Colin Brinkman, Nicholas Buccellato, Calwell, Madeline Loniewski and Brianna Schoenek.

Mark Winter, Bob Jenrow and Kevin Hafner coach the Sturgeon Swim Team, which practices at the Sports Club of Novi. For more information on the Sturgeons Swim Team, contact Mark Winter at (248) 735-8850, ext. 4061.

TALK ABOUT IT: Join in discussing our stories online via **Story Chat** at novinews.com

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MY FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Thursday, March 29, 2007
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Celebrating Salads with Pistachios

America's Top Chefs Share Their Favorite Recipes

FAMILY FEATURES

Want to add taste, color and crunch to salads any time of the year? Then sprinkle on pistachios. Chefs are going nutty over them, and for good reason. California grown, these pale green nuts have a subtle, delicate flavor that is wonderful in sweet as well as savory dishes or for eating out of hand. Traditionally used in rice dishes, stuffing, ice cream and pastries, pistachios are now a key ingredient in signature salads.

Harvest Salad with Caramelized California Pistachios and Green Apples

Chef Andrew Carmellini of A Voce Restaurant in New York celebrates the bounty of the harvest with this delicious — yet simple — salad featuring crisp green apples and caramelized California pistachios.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups arugula, picked and washed
- 2 cups watercress, picked and washed
- 1 bulb fennel, sliced in half lengthwise then thinly sliced
- 1 cored green apple, thinly sliced
- 3 stalks celery, thinly sliced
- 4 leaves basil, washed and coarsely chopped
- 3 tablespoons white raisins, soaked in warm water and drained
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2 whole lemons, zested then juiced
- Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon breadcrumbs
- 1/2 cup California pistachios, caramelized

Method:
Combine all ingredients except cheese and breadcrumbs in mixing bowl. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste. Divide into 6 salad bowls; top with cheese, breadcrumbs and caramelized pistachios (see sidebar for caramelizing). Serve immediately. Serves 6.

Nutritional Analysis (Amount per Serving):
Calories 250, Total Fat 16g, Saturated Fat 2.5g, Monounsaturated Fat 10g, Cholesterol less than 5mg, Sodium 610mg, Potassium 530mg, Carbohydrate 27g, Dietary Fiber 5g, Protein 6g

Goat Cheese, Beet Roots and California Pistachio Salad

Executive Chef Pascal LeSeach of Pastis, one of New York City's hottest restaurants, loves serving this simple beet salad featuring California pistachios.

Preheat oven: 375°F.

Ingredients:

- 5 medium size beet roots
- 6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup California pistachios, toasted and coarsely chopped
- 1 bunch flat parsley (1/4 cup chopped)
- 1 log (6 ounces) Montrachet goat cheese
- Salt and white pepper, to taste
- 5 tablespoons red wine vinegar

Method:
Clean beet roots with cold water, dry with paper towel, coat with 1 tablespoon olive oil and season with salt. Wrap beets in aluminum foil and place in oven 1 1/2 hours. Check doneness by poking with small knife. Remove and peel beets and slice 1/2-inch thick. Reserve and cool in refrigerator. While beets are cooling, toast pistachios, let cool, then chop. Clean and dry parsley, then chop with large chef knife. Slice goat cheese 1/2-inch thick.

To Serve:
Alternate slices of beets and goat cheese on salad plate. Season with salt and white pepper. Add vinegar and remaining olive oil. Garnish with pistachios and chopped parsley. Serves 2.

Nutritional Analysis (Amount per Serving):
Calories 380, Total Fat 33g, Saturated Fat 9g, Monounsaturated Fat 19g, Cholesterol 20mg, Sodium 310mg, Potassium 450mg, Carbohydrate 13g, Dietary Fiber 4g, Protein 11g

Spicy Pear and Endive Salad with California Pistachios

Nationally-renowned celebrity chefs and "Too Hot Tamales" Mary Sue Milliken and Susan Feniger offer this scrumptious salad featuring California pistachios from their award-winning Border Grill and Ciudad restaurants.

Salad Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup California pistachios, raw and shelled
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 Comice or D'anjou pears, quartered, cored, and sliced into 1/2-inch wedges
- 4 heads Belgian endive, cored and sliced lengthwise into strips
- 1/2 to 3/4 cup Cabrales blue cheese, crumbled
- 2 tablespoons pickled jalapeños, sliced
- 1/4 cup Honey Chipotle Vinaigrette (recipe follows)

Salad Method:
In small frying pan, combine pistachios, salt, pepper and sugar. Sauté over low to medium heat, stirring and shaking frequently until pistachios are toasted and sugar caramelizes and coats pistachios. Transfer pistachios to non-stick or parchment-lined cookie sheet and allow to cool. In large bowl, combine pears, endive, blue cheese, jalapeños and vinaigrette. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Transfer to 4 chilled salad plates and sprinkle with pistachios. Serves 4.

Honey Chipotle Vinaigrette

Vinaigrette Ingredients:

- 1/3 cup red wine vinegar
- 1 dry chipotle, stemmed and seeded
- 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 1/2 tablespoons honey, warm
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt

Vinaigrette Method:
Combine vinegar and chipotle in small saucepan and bring to boil. Remove from heat and allow to cool. Place all ingredients in blender and blend until smooth and oil is emulsified. Adjust seasonings to taste. Makes 1 cup.

Nutritional Analysis (Amount per Serving):
Calories 310, Total Fat 20g, Saturated Fat 5g, Monounsaturated Fat 10g, Cholesterol 15mg, Sodium 640mg, Potassium 500mg, Carbohydrate 30g, Dietary Fiber 6g, Protein 8g

Pistachio Facts & Helpful Tips

The key to including nuts in the diet without adding extra calories is portion control. Use pistachios on salads, or in main dishes, to replace meat or poultry. California pistachios have versatility, texture and great taste. They also pack a powerful nutritional punch. A 1-ounce serving — 49 pistachios — contains more than 10 percent of the Daily Value for dietary fiber, vitamin B-6, thiamin, phosphorus and copper. One serving of pistachios has as much potassium as half a large banana. Pistachios contain mostly monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fat (11 of 13 fat grams), the types of fat recommended by the 2005 Dietary Guidelines For Americans. Pistachios also are naturally cholesterol free and trans fat free.

Other Pistachio Facts:

- A serving of pistachios has more fiber (2.9g) than 1 small tomato (1.1g) or 1 cup of raw spinach (.8g).
- A serving of pistachios provides almost 1 1/2 times the amount of thiamin as 1/2 cup serving of cooked, long grain, enriched white rice and 2 1/2 times the amount of thiamin in long grain, brown rice.
- The amount of vitamin B-6 in a 1-ounce serving of pistachios is comparable to that in a standard 3-ounce serving of roasted pork loin, 2 times that in a serving of peanut butter and 5 times that in a serving of black beans.
- Pistachios contain more phytosterols such as beta-sitosterol than any other commonly eaten nut, 61mg per serving or 279mg per 100g. Phytosterols may help lower cholesterol levels, thereby reducing the risk of heart disease. Preliminary research suggests phytosterols also may offer protection from certain types of cancer.
- The largest USDA study of food antioxidants reveals pistachios are one of the best sources of beta-carotene of all tree nuts and peanuts. Pistachios also provide the most lutein and zeaxanthin of all tree nuts. Antioxidants are compounds in foods that may help fight cancer, heart disease and Alzheimer's disease, and help maintain healthy arteries.

To Caramelize Pistachios:

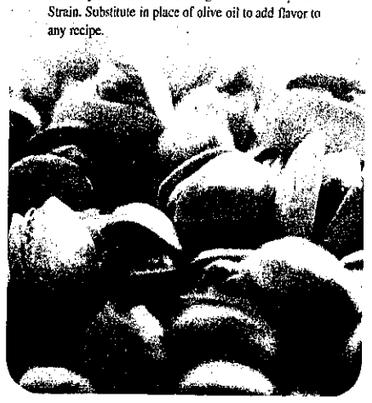
Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Pinch cayenne pepper
- 1/2 cup California pistachio kernels

Method:
In a medium saucepan, heat sugar with water, salt and cayenne pepper over a high flame. Cook until mixture is soft and bubbling. Add pistachios and stir 2 to 4 minutes, until caramelized (pistachios may clump together). Remove pistachios from pan and lay on a cookie sheet lined with wax paper. When pistachios are completely cool, break apart and reserve.

To Make Pistachio Oil:

Toast 1 cup pistachio kernels. When cool, finely grind in food processor. In a saucepan, warm 1 1/2 cups olive oil and ground pistachios and stir until blended. Transfer to a jar and let stand overnight at room temperature. Strain. Substitute in place of olive oil to add flavor to any recipe.



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MY FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Thursday, March 29, 2007
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Tea Leaves Tell Big Flavor Tale

FAMILY FEATURES

Look no further than the message in the tea leaves for the next cutting-edge food trend. If your cup of tea is a relaxing, steaming hot beverage, you're in good company. But if you're a trend seeker, check out the emerging practice of cooking with tea.

Recent research revealed that the latest Boston Tea Party is taking place in the kitchen for some innovative cooks. Interviews conducted* with more than 1,000 home cooks indicated that only one out of nine adults have used tea leaves or brewed tea in cooking. But, once these cooks discover the flavor that tea can bring to so many recipes, they're sold on its benefits. Nearly one out of four surveyed who cooked with tea leaves or brewed tea commonly use them as a key flavor ingredient in salad dressing (24 percent), in a dessert or as a meat rub (17 percent each) or in an entree (16 percent).

It's a secret only some top chefs have used, until now. "From tea-smoked salmon fillet, to herb-tea infused rice dishes, to green-tea flavored ice-cream or sorbet, premium teas are really a secret weapon to adding phenomenal flavor and depth to a variety of dishes," said Thomas Griffiths, Certified Master Chef, professor in nutrition and culinary arts at the Culinary Institute of America's award winning restaurant, St. Andrews Cafe. "In addition to the extraordinary flavor tea can add to a dish, it is a nutritionally sound way to go, as Americans look for ways to eat healthier without sacrificing taste."

Using exquisitely flavored teas, such as the new Lipton® Pyramid Teas, can add exotic flavors to your cooking. Salad dressings and sauces, special beverages, entrees, baked goods and heavenly desserts can all benefit from a boost of flavors from these teas, offering interesting and succulent options to make inspiring dishes.

New Lipton Pyramid Teas are a collection of exotic premium teas made with innovative, pyramid-shaped gossamer bags that allow the long leaf tea plenty of room to infuse your cooking with memorable flavors. Green Tea with Mandarin Orange, White Tea with Island Mango and Peach, Red Tea with Harvest Strawberry and Passionfruit, Bavarian Wild Berry, Vanilla Caramel Truffle and Black Pearl are the first premium, long leaf teas in pyramid bags to be conveniently found in the grocery store.

So if your cup of tea is sublime flavors, check out the hot new flavor source in a pyramid-shaped tea bag. You can find additional tea-inspired recipes and creative, healthy culinary ideas at www.thebestlife.com, the official Web site for the recently launched Best Life Diet book by Bob Greene, renowned fitness guru and trainer to Oprah Winfrey.

*Interviews were conducted as part of The Tea Leaves Omnibus study by ICR's EXCEL (for Lipton Pyramid Tea). A total of 1,004 interviews were completed with adults between Dec. 8 and Dec. 12, 2006.

Tea Stir-Fry

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 15 minutes

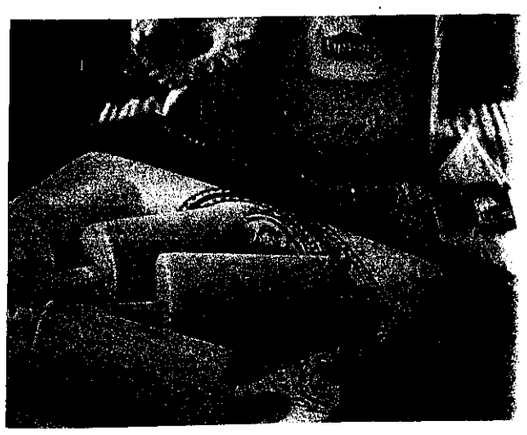
Makes: 4 servings

- 1 cup water
- 4 Lipton Green Tea with Mandarin Orange Flavor Pyramid Tea Bags
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon firmly packed brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons Bertolli Classico Olive Oil, divided
- 1 pound pork tenderloin, cut into thin strips
- 2 cups stir-fry vegetables OR 1 16-ounce package frozen stir-fry vegetables, thawed
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

In 1-quart saucepan, bring water to a boil over high heat. Remove from heat. Add tea bags; cover and brew 5 minutes. Remove tea bags and squeeze; cool slightly. Stir in soy sauce, brown sugar and cornstarch; set aside.

In 12-inch nonstick skillet, heat 1 tablespoon olive oil over medium-high heat and cook pork, stirring occasionally, 4 minutes or until lightly golden; remove and set aside.

In same skillet, heat remaining olive oil and cook vegetables, stirring frequently, 4 minutes or until golden. Add garlic and ginger and cook, stirring occasionally, 1 minute. Stir in tea mixture. Bring to a boil over high heat and cook, stirring occasionally, 1 minute or until sauce is thickened. Return pork to skillet. Reduce heat to low and simmer 2 minutes or until pork is done. Serve, if desired, with hot cooked rice.



Dulce De Leche Tea Pops

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Chill Time: 4 hours

Makes: 8 servings

- 1/2 cup boiling water
- 1-1/2 cups half and half
- 4 Lipton Vanilla Caramel Truffle Pyramid Tea Bags
- 1/2 cup sugar

Pour boiling water over tea bags; brew 5 minutes. Remove tea bags and squeeze. Stir in sugar until dissolved. Add half and half; let cool.

Pour evenly into 8 4-ounce paper cups or ice pop molds. Freeze until almost firm, about 1 hour. Insert popsicle sticks into centers; freeze until firm.

To serve, press firmly on bottom of paper cup to remove.

Spring Greens With Wild Berry Dressing

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Makes: 6 servings

- 1/2 cup boiling water
- 6 Lipton Bavarian Wild Berry Pyramid Tea Bags
- 1 small shallot or onion, peeled and halved
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 4 teaspoons granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1/3 cup Bertolli Classico Olive Oil
- 6 ounces spring mix or salad greens
- 1 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 2 oranges, peeled and sectioned
- 4 ounces herbed goat cheese, sliced
- 1/2 cup toasted chopped pecans

Pour boiling water over tea bags; cover and brew 5 minutes. Remove tea bags and squeeze; let cool.

In blender, process tea, shallot, vinegar, sugar and mustard until smooth. While processing, slowly drizzle in olive oil. Season, if desired, with salt and pepper.

On serving platter, arrange spring mix. Evenly top with onion, oranges and cheese, then sprinkle with pecans. Just before serving, drizzle with dressing.

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Stop your hibernating and get ready for spring time

By John R. Hall
SPECIAL WRITER

Humans are not unlike bears during the winter months. They tend to hibernate from the world and ignore some of the fitness programs that keep them in shape the other nine months of the year. It's human nature. So with spring fast approaching, there is one local business that wants people to come out of hibernation and improve their quality of life.

FEEL BETTER THAN EVER

Fitness Together of Novi and West Bloomfield has the programs to bring people out and make them feel happy with their bodies and with their health. Boo Sadikot, owner of Fitness Together, wants his customers to feel better than they ever have before. And he has been successful at helping people to understand that there is a big difference in fitness programs — especially when it comes to personal attention.

"Public gyms are not the answer to a fitness program," he said. "They are crowded, intimidating and confusing. Most people aren't getting the results they want on their own because they purchase a membership and that is all they get."

A DIFFERENT APPROACH

Fitness Together's business model is totally different. It's motto is "One client, one trainer, one goal." The focus is on individual attention. "Our training facilities offer fully equipped private suites for the best one-on-one training," Sadikot said. "There is never a wait for equipment. It is just you and your trainer in the suite for the entire session."

Sadikot knows that people tend to focus more on their health when the warmer months are approaching. They look for results and the Fitness Together approach fits right into their expectations.

"We guarantee your results," he said. "Tell us your goals and we'll develop a plan to get you there fast."

FOR THE BUSY PERSON

Sadikot also knows that people have busy schedules, which makes him wonder why they would want to wait in a gym for exercise equipment to become available. "You exercise with a personal trainer in your own private studio with state-of-the-art equipment and then get on with your day," he added.

With over eight years of experience, Sadikot has fine-tuned a program that will get people in shape within 16 weeks or the sessions are free. He backs the guarantee up by noting, "I have never once failed to help my clients achieve the results I promised them."

Photos by JOHN R. HALL

The Novi staff of Fitness Together includes, from left, Matt Ambrosi, Sandy Pinkerton, Ben Cooper and owner Boo Sadikot.

SHARING THE PROGRAM

Sadikot goes one step further, too. He is willing to share Fitness Together's Five-Step Fitness Program for free. People calling him, (248) 348-9230, will learn about the program in a few minutes.

To recap — personal service, guaranteed results, and a commitment to helping all customers feel better about themselves than ever before — the best reasons to call Fitness Together today. As Sadikot said, "We take personal training to a new level."

FITNESS TOGETHER

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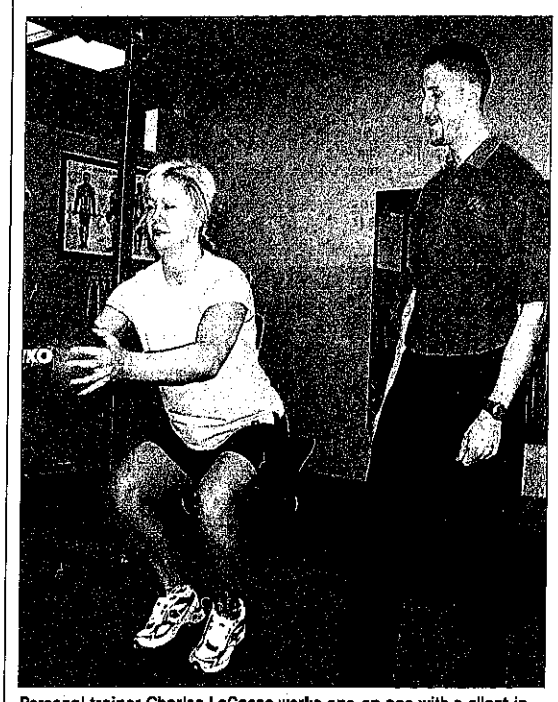

Personal trainer Charles LaCasse works one-on-one with a client in their private suite.

Try these encouraging tips

Losing weight and getting fit can be a rewarding journey. Before you start, or anytime you feel your motivation waning, think of the following for affirmation and inspiration.

■ **Be patient.** Of course you want to see results quickly. But remember, Being honest with yourself, visualizing your goals and making the commitment to change your lifestyle are the keys to long-term success. These things take time.

■ **Rediscover good eating.** Learn everything you can about low-fat cooking, try some exotic fruits and vegetables, or taste test some low-fat products until you find your favorites. Rather than feeling deprived, look at food in a new, exciting way. It will do wonders for your willpower.

■ **Think movement!** Introduce some everyday activities to help make exercise more of a habit than a chore. Take the stairs instead of the escalator and walk rather than drive. Plan active outings instead of going to a movie. You can even make cleaning the house an aerobic exercise. Dance like crazy — no one's watching!

■ **Stay flexible on food.** You don't have to nix all your favorite goodies, nor should you feel guilty or abandon your goal if you occasionally splurge. Enjoy every bite, then balance the rest of the day — or the next day — with healthier foods.

■ **Splurge on water.** Think of water as a treat — your body sure does! Try it bubbly (in flavored seltzers) or on ice with citrus slices. Drinking eight 8-ounce glasses of water per day is essential to losing weight. It also keeps digestion smooth, cleanses your body, and curbs hunger. And it's great for your skin!

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