

Easter Egg  
Scramble at  
Maybury  
Park

The Friends of Maybury and the Northville Parks & Recreation will host a free Easter Egg Scramble from 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 26, at the park.

All activities will be near the Trailhead Shelter with games, face painting and seed planting 10:30-11:30 a.m.. The first scramble for ages 4 and under will be at 11:40 a.m. and a second scramble for 5 and older will be about 11:50 a.m.. Prizes will include candy, toys, patches and gift certificates. Be sure to meet our park celebrities: Smokey Bear and the Easter Bunny.

The park entrance is at 49575 Eight Mile Road. Allow extra time for traffic and parking prior to the egg scramble. Recreation Passport required for entry. For more info, call the park office at 248-349-8390.

Snyder’s budget proposal could  
affect local school districts

Danielle Alexander  
Staff Writer

If Gov. Rick Snyder's 2017 fiscal year budget proposal is approved, the Northville Public Schools district will receive an additional \$60 per pupil and Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will obtain an additional \$120 per pupil.

According to michigan.gov, the governor is proposing an investment of \$150 million to provide schools with a foundation allowance increase of between \$60 and \$120 per pupil, bringing the minimum foundation allowance from \$7,391 to \$7,511 and the basic foundation allowance from \$8,169 to \$8,229 per pupil.

Since NPS already receives the state guaranteed maximum foundation allowance, it will receive only half of the increase, whereas P-CCS will receive the



Gallagher

full increase since it currently receives the minimum foundation allowance.

If enacted, the proposal would reduce the gap between higher (like NPS) and lower (like P-CCS) funded districts.

P-CCS Interim Superintendent Monica Merritt said the district would receive \$2 million



Merritt

in additional revenue if the proposal is approved.

“This increase would go a long way towards the budget challenges that P-CCS is currently facing and would allow us to maintain the high-quality programs our students and community expect and deserve,” Merritt said.

Based on the district’s current enrollment, NPS superin-

tendent Mary Kay Gallagher said the proposed increase equates to approximately \$430,000.

The proposed budget is up just 0.8 percent from last year, calling for critical investments for the Flint water crisis, state-wide infrastructure and the Detroit Public Schools, as well. Gallagher said NPS is concerned that these challenges might impact the likelihood of the governor's proposal making it through the legislative process.

“The governor’s version of the school aid budget is the first step in a long process that will not finalize until June,” Merritt said. “Although it is the most favorable school aid bill that we have seen in a long time, as a district, we will remain conservative in our budgeting until the final proposal is approved.”

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**COMING  
MARCH 24**

- » Lakeshia Valdez still has decades to serve for stabbing to death Redford resident Matthew Oliva-rez.
- » Battered woman syndrome is gaining more attention in legal circles.
- » Domestic abuse can be physical or psychological.

**INSIDE TODAY’S  
PAPER**

Prison by the numbers, A7

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Shocking headlines dominate the news as a murder trial unfolds. The prosecution and defense offer different versions of the same event. Sordid details and dark secrets are revealed — pain turns to sorrow and questions of what might have been. Why really happened that day? What went so terribly wrong? What if?

Reporters Aileen Wingblad and David Veselenak set out to answer those questions in a series of interviews with convicted murderers Nancy Seaman and Lakeshia Valdez.



Murderer Nancy Seaman describes torment of prison life

Aileen Wingblad  
Staff Writer

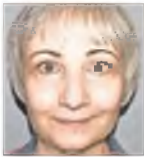
“I took a life. I never said I should just walk away free. I never wanted to kill him, I was only trying to protect myself. I just wanted to get away.”

Those are the words of Nancy Seaman, 11 years and a couple of months after a judge ordered her to spend the rest of her life in prison for the grisly hatchet murder of her husband Bob.

Seaman, an elementary school teacher at the time of the killing, claimed self-defense. An argument over her plans to end the marriage and move into her own condo had turned physical, she said, and she truly feared for her life the day Bob died.

Bob had threatened to kill her time and again, she said, and this time, she believed he’d do it. The Oakland County prosecutor who tried her case didn’t buy it. Neither did the jury.

Seven months after what she calls “the tragedy” in the garage of their upscale Farmington Hills home, Seaman started living out her days



Nancy Seaman



Robert Seaman

at the Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility in Pittsfield Township.

**Tears daily**

Eleven years-plus and still, Seaman said, not a day goes by that she doesn’t cry.

She cries for herself, as she continues her legal fight, knowing that her options for appeal are extremely limited – if not already exhausted.

She cries for her family – her two sons, their wives and the four grandchildren she’s never met. She cries for her brother, for the friends she misses so much.

And, she said, she cries for Bob.

“The person I loved for 31 years is dead and I’m responsible,” Seaman said, during a recent interview with the *Observer & Eccentric*. “I’m tormented – I can’t even put into words what it feels like.”

Seaman has yet to completely adjust to prison life.

Not your everyday gig:  
Visit with convicted killer

I’m sitting in the visitor center at the Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility, waiting to meet Nancy Seaman, a convicted murderer.

This place has been her home for the last 11 years.

I’m not sure what to expect once our interview begins. I’m a bit apprehensive, of course, but curious and ready.

I’ve already muddled through



Aileen Wingblad

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NEWS BRIEFS

On air

A video camera will be coming to the Northville City Council chambers to record meetings and to make them available for the public through a link on the website. The council voted 4-1 on March 7 to purchase a video camera for \$4,671.65 from Advanced Lighting and Sound in Troy.

Councilman Jim Allen opposed the move, citing concerns about potential grandstanding. "I just don't like it," he said.

Recording city council meetings for the public was one of this year's council goals. The recordings will be stored digitally and viewers need to only choose the date of the meeting they wish to watch.

"The one risk in this is we won't know the video and audio quality we will have until the camera is installed," said City Manager Pat Sullivan.

Duncan billing

Duncan Disposal, which serves Northville Township's trash and recycling needs, has offered residents the choice of two billing schedules: bi-monthly or every six months, according to Northville Township Manager Chip Snider.

The move came after residents complained when they received a Duncan bill for six months as opposed to the bi-monthly billing they have paid for years. Some residents were also confused because the bill was a postcard. "From their perspective, it makes it easier administratively," Northville Township Supervisor Bob Nix said in early March. "It was also done to be consistent with the other communities Duncan services. It was not done maliciously or to create a problem."

In extending Duncan's contract this year, Northville Township had asked the disposal company to handle administrative tasks, including billing.

New work group

The Northville City Council created a new work group March 7 to review the number of special events and the review process at Ford Field. The group will include Mayor Ken Roth and Councilwoman Nancy Darga, representatives from Mill Race Village and city department heads involved in special events. Darga also urged inclusion of the Northville Downtown Development Authority and the Northville Chamber of Commerce.

— By Joanne Maliszewski

Northville goes against state trends

Joanne Maliszewski  
Staff Writer

For anyone who may have missed the local Northville area results in the March 8 presidential primary, city and township voters bucked the statewide trend and chose Ohio Gov. John Kasich on the Republican ballot and former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on the Democratic ballot.

In Northville Township — where the turnout was 48 percent, with 10,062 of 20,874 registered voters casting ballots — more Republicans than Democrats turned out for the election. Republicans cast 6,641 ballots to the Democrats' 3,421.

While billionaire businessman Donald Trump won Michigan for the Republicans and U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders took the Democratic winnings, Northville Township chose Kasich with 33.45 percent or 2,220 votes. Trump came in second with 32.64 or 2,166 votes, followed by Texas Sen. Ted Cruz in third place with 1,063 votes or 16.02 percent. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio came in last with 837 votes or 12.61 percent of the Republican vote.

City of Northville Republicans followed suit, choosing Kasich in the Wayne and Oakland precincts. In Northville-Oakland, Kasich took 37.79 percent of the vote to Trump's 30.21 percent. Cruz followed with 18.25 percent and Rubio with 8.87 percent. In Northville-Wayne, Kasich receive 39.50 percent of the vote, followed by Trump with 27.03 percent, Cruz with 16.95 and Rubio with 12.04 percent.

Northville Township Democrats cast 1,842 votes or 53.99 percent for Clinton and 1,494 votes or 43.79 percent for Sanders. In the city, Clinton received 52.30 percent of the vote on the Oakland side and 50.57 on the Wayne side. Sanders got 46.03 percent in Northville-Oakland and 48.53 percent in Northville-Wayne.

NORTHVILLE  
RECORD

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Skiing duo

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mother and daughter duo Kathleen (left) and Beth Hadley laugh as they prepare to be captured on by a photographer. The pair was cross country skiing Feb. 18 through Maybury State Park. They were on a trail that begin near the park's riding stables. The two have been out at Maybury five times throughout the winter. It appears their skiing days are over for this season.

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# Hillside Drama Club stages first production

**Joanne Maliszewski**  
Staff Writer

Hillside Middle School students will take to the stage to bring to life a one-hour play spiced with a bit of comedy, a smidgen of heat and an emotional button – with nods to Charles Dickens – written by their teacher, Jason Brooks.

A majority of the actors and crew behind “A Bully’s Ballad” got their start in Brooks’ five-week theater boot camp last fall – not long after the school year began. Brooks partnered with the Northville Drama Club at the high school. The club’s students worked with the boot camp middle school students in all phases of the theater – costumes, sets, lighting, auditioning and acting.

“A Bully’s Ballad” is a culmination of what the boot camp students – now officially the Hillside Middle School Drama Club – learned. They will highlight their skills to classmates the week of March 21, but the students will also perform for the public at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, at the middle school, 775 N. Center Street, at Eight Mile.

“It is officially free to the public,” Brooks said. “We really want people to come out and see the hard work these kids have put into this.”

If members of the audience, however, wish to make a donation, they will be accepted for the nonprofit effort.

Brooks, who some years ago began a drama boot camp at Silver Springs Elementary, where he previously taught, took the idea and expanded on it for the middle school crowd. For a year, he worked to create a winning partnership with the Northville High School Drama Club in which students work with the middle school-aged kids for the boot camp.

The partnership and boot camp, collectively, prepare the middle school students to jump into the high school drama club armed with plenty of hard work and experience.

## NORTHVILLE POLICE BRIEFS

### Weapons offense

A 47-year-old Troy man was arrested Feb. 28 on possession of a semi-automatic handgun that was not registered, according to a Northville Township police report.

Police stopped the man in his 2014 Ford Taurus when he made an illegal turn from Seven Mile to Haggerty just after 9 p.m. Officers discovered the man had five speeding violations, no proof of insurances and had a suspended license for unpaid tickets in Troy and Livonia.

The man and a 39-year-old female passenger of Livonia pulled into the Macaroni Grill parking lot when stopped by police, who asked the man if he had any firearms. The man said he did and retrieved it from under the passenger seat.

The man was later released with a court date of March 23 in 35th District Court and told to obtain a license for his weapon.

### Larceny reported

A 21-year-old Livonia man was arrested by Northville Township police Feb. 26 after he was stopped as he reportedly wheeled out some \$451 in merchandise from from Meijer, 20401 Haggerty.

A store loss prevention officer told police he saw the man load a shopping cart with grocery items, personal hygiene products and clothing. The store officer followed the man, who went past the checkout and through the outer doors.

## ‘A BULLY’S BALLAD’

**Public performance:** 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, at Hillside Middle School, 775 N. Center Road, Northville. Free.

### HILLSIDE CAST AND CREW

Caroline Geer, John Bailey, Amelia Smith, Sophie James, Gabriel Monteiro de Castro, Etinosa Imalele, Jacob Maten, Alyssa Chechak, Jada Handy, Julianna Kakish, Emma Morris, Abby O’Connell, Constantina Perakis, Tessa McCarthy, Sarah Brown, Ryan Sibert, Katie Tabaczynski, Nick Lennox, Sakina Dawson, Sedona Shipka and Juliana Monteiro de Castro.

The cast and crew also includes: Zoe Shoemaker, Rishika Satapathy, Grant Neuwirth, Jennie Line, Paige Jensen, Ava Foresi, Meg Simonte, Nandini Patel, Praise Imalele, Laasya Vadrevu, Maggie Chen, Gia Sandhu, JadyN Mortimer and Juliana Wagner.

When the curtain opens on “A Bully’s Ballad” the week of March 21, it will be the icing on a cake that has had students totally involved in what it takes to create a stage production. Of course, volunteers have also lent a hand.

In particular, Brooks lauded Hillside counselor Mary Darr, who stepped up offering, “anything I can do to help.”

“She has been absolutely brilliant. She did the posters and the fliers. I cannot thank her enough,” Brooks said.

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Sets for “A Bully’s Ballade,” were created by members of the Hillside Drama Club.

JAYNE TUIE



JAYNE TUIE

Hillside Drama Club students manage all facets of the stage production.



JAYNE TUIT

Students do a run-through of the play that will open the week of March 21.

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## Hillside teacher wins science state honor

**Danielle Alexander**  
Staff Writer

Colleen (Pawlak) Polydoras, Hillside Middle School science teacher and long-time resident of Northville, was named Michigan Science Teachers Association's 2016 Middle School Science Teacher of the Year.

Polydoras was honored March 4 in Lansing. Her husband Michael, children Amanda and Michael, brother-in-law Jeremy Lingenfelter, colleague Hadley Brill, administrator James Cracraft and former colleague and mentor Dwight Sieggreen attended.

Sieggreen nominated Polydoras; once her nomination was accepted, she was asked to complete a lengthy and detailed application.

Although unable to be present for the ceremony, Polydoras' parents, Ron and Pam Pawlak, said they are extremely proud of their daughter's dedication to teaching.

"Colleen always worked hard and followed through with her dream as a teacher in science," Pam Pawlak said.

The Monday after Thanksgiving, Hillside Middle School administrators James Cracraft and Rob Watson, as well as Northville Public Schools Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher, came to Polydoras' classroom during her third-hour science class to make the announcement by reading the letter from the MSTA.

"I was shocked," Polydoras said. "I truly never thought I'd win."

Polydoras student-taught at Glengary Elementary in Walled Lake Consolidated Schools and, although she loved her experience there,

she said she will never forget what the principal shared with her during her exit interview: "Colleen, you did a great job here with our students, but you truly strike me as a middle level teacher."

"He knew before I did that I was meant to teach students at the middle level," she said.

This is her 20th year as a teacher and said she teaches because she loves being able to "make a difference in a child's day and perhaps even his or her life."

"I had fabulous teachers as a student in the Northville Public Schools," Polydoras said. "I wanted to give back what I received and be a positive role model, mentor, guide and educator to our youth."

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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michigan Science Teacher of the Year winner Colleen Polydoras gets some hands up answering questions during class at Hillside Middle School.

## Moraine Elementary School students work to become authors

**Danielle Alexander**  
Staff Writer

As part of the March is Reading Month celebration, Northville's Moraine Elementary students had the opportunity to participate in the annual Blank Book Program, in which they could request a blank book to create their own stories and illustrations.

Beginning March 1, student-authored books were collected by learning consultant Amy Devlin. Those turned in were shared in classrooms and displayed in the media center with all of the other published authors.

Seventy-seven books were distributed this year and 32 books have been returned thus far; however, students still have the opportunity to turn in their finished books if they choose.

Of the books returned, the majority of them were authored by students in fourth-grade teacher Kim Dean's



Ten of Moraine Elementary's fourth-grade authors proudly hold their completed books.

classroom.

Dean said she not only has her students write every day, but allows them to share their

work aloud, often in a whole-class setting, which "really gets the kids excited."

Students who submitted

from her class said the most difficult part of the process was coming up with original ideas and creating illustrations that matched each page's content.

Fourth-grader Mackenzie used a video series as a mentor text to assist in creating her story line, while Hannah, whose family adopted a dog from Mississippi with no history, fabricated a possible story about her dog's past for her plot.

Jack, who co-authored his humorous book about unicorns with his sister Kate, said he made many mistakes in his book and learned a lesson for next year: "I now know I need to write in pencil."

As part of the school-wide theme of "Go for the Gold" (part of "The Leader in Me" framework), all students who submitted a book received a medal to recognize their efforts.

In addition to the Blank Book Program, Moraine Ele-

mentary celebrated March is Reading Month in several other ways:

Beginning at the end of February, students and staff participated in a grade-level reading marathon challenge where they logged minutes spent reading outside of the school day and "raced" to complete the most. The minutes recorded by each grade level and staff were tallied and updated weekly on a March is Reading Month bulletin board.

On March 1, students were invited to wear shirts with appropriate words or sayings to promote reading to kick off the month's festivities.

On March 3, grades kindergarten through second enjoyed a presentation by story teller Laura Raynor.

On March 10, students were able to bring in books to trade and participate in the Student Book Swap.

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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Hillside Middle School student Alex Ujenic works on an assignment in an English as a Second Language class. Students were creating travel brochures to their native lands. Alex is originally from Romania.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Hillside Middle School teacher Jim Lee works with students Hanna Meyer (right) and Yeliz Bulbul with an assignment in their ESL class. Hanna is from Germany and Yeliz is a native of Turkey.

# Northville school district works to improve ESL program

Danielle Alexander  
Staff Writer

More than 1,400 students in the Northville Public Schools district come from homes where a language other than English is spoken.

Since this number has increased and is predicted to remain on an upward path, the district plans to continue taking measures to improve the English as a Second Language program.

“The biggest impact our district has made is improving the cultural knowledge base,” English Language Learning coordinator and teacher Rick Rojas said.

Starting in 2005, an instructional model called Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol was introduced to the district. According to siop.pearson.com, the SIOP model “offers an empirically-validated approach to teaching that helps prepare all students – especially English learners – to become college and career ready” and “supports teachers in planning and delivering high-quality instruction for all students.”

Rojas said training in this model affected teachers’ awareness and their delivery of instruction, which produced more comprehensible content for students. He said that even administrators are familiar with SIOP and many even attended trainings, as well.

In addition to SIOP training and other ESL-related professional development, a third full-time ESL teacher and two full-time ESL para-professionals were hired this year. Funds from an immigration grant are also being used, so two temporary teachers can work with immigrant students who are most in need of additional support.

These additions to the district’s Multi-Tier System of Supports have yielded increased student data collection and monitoring of the data, communication between ESL and general education teachers and more time for ESL teachers to work with students.

“Northville’s ESL program focuses on language and comprehension skills in the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening,” Director of Special Services Nadine Harris said.

When a student is identified as having a primary language other than English, a World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment screening and the gathering of other academic information from the school is initiated. This data, as well as the Michigan Department of Education’s Entrance and Exit Protocol, is used to

determine eligibility for the ESL program. Northville currently has 520 students receiving ESL services from the district.

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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Napier Road between Nine Mile and 10 Mile roads is expected to be paved in spring 2017.

# Napier paving among road work plans

Diane Gale Andreassi  
Staff Writer

Upcoming road improvements in Lyon Township include a traffic signal for 11 Mile and Milford and pavement of Napier from Nine Mile to 10 Mile, according to Lyon Supervisor Lannie Young.

Young said Lyon will host a public meeting, some time in spring, with Lyon and Novi residents to talk about the paving project that will also eventually include a signal at 10 Mile and Napier.

The road work will include the mile-long stretch, as well as the intersections of Nine

Mile and 10 Mile, tapered lanes and left and right turn lanes.

Federal grants for 2016 and 2017, totaling \$3 million, will be used to help pay the \$3.5 million minimum bill that is expected. Lyon also received \$335,000 from developer contributions, as well as Oakland County Tri-Party funds. Lyon and Novi will likely pay the balance.

Young said he expected to pay land acquisition costs, as well as design and engineering fees.

The survey work has been completed and the multi-step design process is underway to determine the impacts on the roads and drainage. An intersection evaluation is the next step.

Bids for the paving project aren’t expected until January 2017 and the company that will do the work will be chosen some time in spring next year with construction to begin shortly after.

Ten Mile will be closed for during some of the work and traffic will be detoured, “which

will be a monumental task, because 10 Mile has a lot of traffic,” Young said, adding that he believes Napier will be open for traffic in late fall 2017.

“The focus is not so much to limit traffic on 10 Mile, but definitely eliminate some of the traffic on Currie Road,” he said. “People like Lyon, and the more houses and people, the more traffic.”

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CITY OF NOVI  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **MONTEBELLO JSP 15-76 FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WOODLANDS PERMIT, WETLANDS PERMIT AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY ZONED R-3, ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL AND IS LOCATED IN SECTION 27, WEST OF NOVI ROAD AND NORTH OF NINE MILE ROAD.** The applicant is proposing a 32 unit single-family detached residential development on a 26.94 acre property. Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department in the Novi Civic Center.

Subject Property Parcel ID's: 50-22-27-452-001

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 23, 2016.

Published March 17, 2016  
Novi Planning Commission  
Michael Lynch, Secretary

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE  
NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS  
OFFICE CLOSING

The Charter Township of Northville Administrative Offices will be closed on Friday March 25, 2016 in observance of Good Friday. The offices will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 28, 2016.

**POLICE & FIRE EMERGENCY SERVICES WILL REMAIN AVAILABLE.**

Sue A. Hillebrand, Clerk

Published: March 17, 2016

LO-0000275172 2x2

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# SEAMAN

Continued from Page A1

“It doesn’t get easier. Every single day, I wake up and cry, realizing I’m still here. Why am I still here?” she said, her voice rising as tears streamed down her face. “I can’t understand the failing of the justice system. I can’t understand how they can just let me die in here.”

It’s a life of despair. “And, yes, I’m angry. This didn’t have to happen. I did all the right things, trying to (move out), getting everything in order, waiting for the right time to go,” she said. “I did the right things and how it turned out is so wrong.”

## True love

Flash back some 40 years. Seaman, at the time Nancy Onofrio, meets Bob. He’s charming – a young engineer at Ford Motor Co. who wasted no time stealing her heart. She was just 20 years old, working as a secretary for Bob’s supervisor.

“I knew the moment I saw him that he was my true love,” she said, smiling at the memory. “He had charisma, he was handsome, a gentleman, respectful ... it was love at first sight – he ‘checked all the boxes.’”

Just one year later, they were husband and wife.

She claims some “red flags” emerged prior to them taking their vows – one of Bob’s co-workers had dropped a hint that the marriage wasn’t a good idea and a couple of her aunts simply “didn’t like him,” she said. And the night before the wedding, Seaman said, she saw a side of Bob for the first time – a side that concerned her.

Bob phoned her after he’d been drinking, she said, and was extremely angry that she wouldn’t come over to hang out with him and his relatives. She had things to do to get ready for the wedding, she said, but Bob simply didn’t understand. He was mad. Very mad, she said.

The call left her so rattled that she didn’t know what to expect the next day when she walked down the aisle; she actually questioned marrying him. But she wouldn’t call it off. She couldn’t. That would have been too much of a disappointment – and embarrassment – to her parents, she said.

“I couldn’t do that to them,” she said.

As it turned out, Bob was all smiles when she met him at the altar. “It was as if that phone call never happened,” Seaman said.

## Making a life

Thus began their life together. There were plenty of good times, she said, and Bob’s steady climb career-wise meant a healthy paycheck. They lived quite well. He was “a generous provider,” she said.

Life also had its share of challenges – the kind you expect with a growing family and job stress and other demands.

And then there were the challenges Seaman said she never had anticipated with the man she loved, the one who promised he loved her back. The kind of things she mostly kept to herself.

Things like Bob’s excessive control, hot temper, need to “always be right,” she said. Things like kicked-in doors and kicked-in drywall, household items thrown and smashed. Shoving and hitting, black eyes, bruises, a broken bone, chipped teeth. Hard-core berating and name-calling. Infidelity.

These are the things, Seaman maintains, that she endured – off and on – for three decades. These are the things she tried her best to hide from their two sons – and the rest of the world, she said.

“In many ways, Bob was a good person. He had so many fine attributes – he was smart, funny, handsome. He had so many good qualities,”



COURTESY OF DOC

The inside of a prison cell at the Women’s Huron Valley Correction Facility.



AILEEN WINGBLAD

The former Seaman home in Farmington Hills as it looks 11 years after the murder.



FILE PHOTO

Nancy Seaman in Oakland County Circuit Court for her 2004 trial.

she said. “Then there was this other side ...”

For years, Seaman said, she felt trapped. She was a stay-at-home mom, financially dependent. Bob doled out the money.

“Where could I go? What could I do? I had two kids, I had no job,” she said. “I couldn’t leave.”

Yet that was to change. When she was in her 40s, Seaman earned a teaching degree and eventually landed a job at Longacre Elementary School in Farmington. Bob paid for her education, but had no respect for the profession she chose, Seaman said.

Yet to her, having her own classroom and students brought immense joy and personal satisfaction. “Teaching wasn’t a job to me. It was a passion, my identity, who I was,” she said.

According to Seaman, as her career blossomed, Bob’s began to nosedive. The fighting intensified. She made a few feeble attempts to reach out for help, but nothing came of it.

“And Bob said, ‘No one will care. No one will believe you,’” she said, sobbing. “And he was right. Look where I am now. Bob was right.”

## A ‘mental break’

Seaman is the only one who knows what really happened at her house on that day in May 2004 – Bob’s last day.

Bob’s voice was taken from him, denying him the chance to defend himself, to respond to the accusations, to share his side of the story when his private life became obscenely public.

During Seaman’s trial,

the prosecution maintained that she had planned the murder – evidenced by her purchasing a hatchet the evening before and ambushing Bob in the garage. More than 20 hatchet and stab wounds were found on his body.

Seaman testified that she and Bob had fought that morning, that he had found out she had planned to leave him. Bob chased her into the garage and she grabbed what she could to defend herself. That happened to be a hatchet she had purchased for yard work, she said.

She remembers hitting him with it and him falling on top of her. And she kept hitting him, she said, because she still thought he would be able to hurt her, unaware that he was incapacitated – or likely killed – by the first blow. She was scared, she said.

Seaman said she was “shocked” to later learn just how many times she had hit Bob with the hatchet – and that she had stabbed him multiple times, too.

“I don’t remember having a knife, I don’t remember stabbing him ... and when my lawyer showed me the autopsy, I couldn’t believe it,” she said. “To this day, I can’t believe it, but it’s true. Autopsies don’t lie.”

Seaman claims she had a “mental break” after the killing. In a daze, she said, she went to her teaching job that morning. A couple of hours later, “something overcame” her and she felt compelled to get home. She saw Bob’s body in the garage.

“I just went into some kind of shock and thought ‘this can’t be happening ... Bob’s dead, he’s not moving.’ I lost my mind right then,” she said.

Seaman wrapped the body in a tarp and somehow managed to put it in the back seat of her Ford Explorer. Then she bought cleaning supplies to “take care of the mess.” She says she was in “make-it-all-go-away” mode, like she did after all their fights.

Of course, she didn’t make it all go away. Farmington Hills police found Bob’s body in her car a few days later. She told them it was an accident.

On Dec. 14, 2004, the

jury returned with the verdict: guilty of first-degree murder.

## ‘One hell for another’

Seaman’s crime sent her from one gated community – Ramblewood in Farmington Hills – to another, where people are kept in, not out.

Some 40 miles from the neighborhood she and Bob had called home.

Where they had raised their two boys.

Where Bob lost his life.

Where Seaman said she endured torment and suffering – which now continue, albeit in a different way.

“This place is terrible. I can’t believe I’ve survived 11 days, let alone 11 years,” Seaman said. “I traded one hell for another.”

She’s quick to note that the guards treat her fairly and decently. “They are very kind and sympathetic. Very professional,” she said.

It’s the “women here abusing each other, all the time” which is unsettling to see, she said. Seaman herself has had just one altercation with a fellow inmate, but escaped injury. “I was chased after by an older woman and called every name in the book,” she said.

So she keeps to herself, for the most part.

“This is a scary place. And I’ve always been a very, very private person. I’m not going to change that – especially in here,” Seaman said. “I’ve even had guards ask me how I cope so well and I’ve told them I’m using the same strategies I used to manage and deal with 31 years of abuse. I just shut it all out to survive.”

She avoids being part of any of pseudo family with fellow inmates – common among the female prison population – including intimate physical contact. “There’s lots of sexual relations in here. Everyone is paired up,” Seaman said. But not her.

“They just consider me the little old lady with the gray hair – thank God,” she said, chuckling. “I’m cordial and friendly, but I don’t get close. I don’t forge friendships.”

And that makes for an extremely lonely life, compounded by her deci-

sion to not let any family or friends visit her – ever.

“They’ve begged and pleaded, but I don’t want them to see me here,” she said, sobbing. “I want them to remember me the way I was – not behind barbed wire. I just don’t want them to see this.”

Her younger son, Greg, phones her regularly, she said, and she communicates via mail with her older son Jeff.

“They are my reason for living; they are what keep me going. I visualize walking out of here one day and wrapping my arms around them,” she said.

The two sons took opposing sides during her trial – Greg being the one who supported her.

Have she and Jeff repaired their relationship? What about the brothers themselves?

This is one topic Seaman refuses to discuss. “I really don’t want to talk about my sons (anymore),” she said.

But she will say the most difficult aspect of incarceration is being separated from her family “and the lack of physical contact from anybody.”

“Sometimes, I just long for a hug, for comfort. But I (won’t) get that in here,” she said.

Her cellmate – “bunkie” in prison-speak – is in her mid-50s, Seaman said, and has been incarcerated for nearly 30 years. She, too, killed her husband.

Seaman said they get along fine, but stops short of calling it a friendship. “She gets frustrated, because I won’t talk about my personal life,” she said. “But I lived my whole married life keeping my business to myself. Why would I change that in here?”

“We talk about the weather, clean our room together and watch TV a lot,” she added. “I’m polite and helpful when I can be, but it’s all superficial.”

## Continuing to fight

While some may argue a convicted murder doesn’t deserve it, Seaman has managed to find a purpose, a diversion of sorts, a reason to wake up each day. Six years ago, she landed a clerk job at the prison’s law library. Five days a week, she takes on two or three shifts, each lasting up to three hours.

“I love it; it’s my sanity. I help with cases, show (inmates) how to find legal resources, do record-keeping and inventory,” Seaman said. “It has helped to restore my self-esteem.”

She considers it a vast improvement over her previous prison job – tutoring inmates for the GED.

“I hated that,” she said. “The women were angry, embarrassed, resentful. They’re re-

sentful of (my) education.”

The law library is her go-to place, every day – because when she’s not on duty, she’s there working on her own case. Seaman admits it can be tough to hang on to hope, but she’s not ready to give up on herself and the chance that she’ll be granted one more appeal – and perhaps walk out of prison someday.

Her “fight for justice,” as she sees it, has zigged and zagged since her trial. First, a district judge reduced her conviction to second-degree murder, yet it was subsequently reinstated by a state appeals court. In 2010, a U.S. district court ordered that she be given a new trial or released within four months, stating Seaman’s attorney failed to develop a strong enough case regarding battered spouse abuse. But that, too, was overturned, this time by a federal appeals court. An appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court went unanswered.

Now, Seaman is trying to again appeal to federal court – hoping to address the state of Michigan’s limits on battered spouse abuse as a defense, in and of itself.

“I’m running out of chances to get back in court and the window of opportunity to appeal is getting harder and harder,” she said. “But there’s no other way out.”

“Some days, I just feel old and tired,” she added, sighing. “It’s incredible that, 11 years later, I’m still fighting for justice. It’s like being on a merry-go-round that you can’t get off of and you start to lose hope. But hope is all I have.”

Seaman said she has yet to reconcile the fact that she committed murder. “I still feel humiliated and ashamed, in total disbelief,” she said. “Anyone who knows me, knows this just wasn’t me.”

“For 30 years of marriage, I was never confrontational, never defended myself. I had no malice in my heart, never (before) did I do anything to hurt Bob. I always took the high road, acted with dignity. I took it on the chin. That’s why I’m so tormented, why I feel so brokenhearted. I went from not defending myself to doing this – and he’s dead.”

But she has made peace with God over taking Bob’s life, she said.

“Absolutely. God knows what’s in my heart,” she said. “God knows I loved Bob to the end. I have no second thought to that.”

*The Observer & Eccentric reached out to members of the Seaman family for comment, but received no response.*

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# WINGBLAD

Continued from Page A1

the intake requirements – allowed only “clear pens” and my notebook, patted down by an officer, proving to her that I’m not trying to sneak anything in under my tongue, behind my ears, between my toes. The jewelry I’m wearing is accounted for; the metal detector finds nothing of consequence.

Now, I wait.

Glancing around, I see that the room looks pretty much how I had imagined it to be. A uniformed guard standing watch over the goings-on. Facing rows of austere plastic chairs. A few vending machines.

From my seat, I see small groups of inmates through a window to the outside. Dressed in dark blue uniforms and bright orange caps, they stroll the prison grounds.

A couple of rows behind me, one inmate – I guess to be in her early 20s – sits with a woman who I assume is her mom. They’re talking softly, smiling, sharing a couple bags of Sun Chips, drinking pop. To my left, another inmate and her



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**“I can’t understand the failing of the justice system. I can’t understand how they can just let me die in here,” Nancy Seaman said of her life sentence.**

visitor quietly read the Bible together.

As the minutes tick by, I stand up and check out the room a bit more closely. In a corner is a collection of well-worn board games, books, decks of cards and bins of plastic toys – the kind of stuff you might find in a day care or waiting room of a doctor’s office. Diversions to pass the time, to keep the kids occupied.

But this is no doctor’s office or day care. The kids who use these toys come here to see their mom, grandma, big sister, auntie or, perhaps, a close family friend.

I let that thought sink in for a moment, pictur-

ing in my mind a 6-year-old playing a game of Uno with someone who chose a serious crime over her role of mommy — and now they are both paying the price.

Deep sigh.

## Family time

“Hey, you really need to sit down.”

That’s the guard speaking – to me.

So I do.

And a few feet away, I see a family seated at a table. They look like a mom and dad a few years younger than I am, a teenaged boy and a grandma. They are peering out that window that looks onto the yard, giddy with excitement as

they see their loved one make her way toward the visitor center.

A couple of minutes later, she walks in. She’s thin, has long dark hair, wears glasses. She reminds me of the typical girl you see at a high school football game or Twelve Oaks Mall or hanging out at Starbucks with her friends. She appears sweet, even.

The four rush to her and exchange hugs. The woman I’ve decided is the girl’s grandmother looks her up and down. “You’ve grown so much,” she says, smiling. The girl grins.

They take their places around the table and start to talk about “regular” things: books, hunting, shoveling snow, starting their own business. Also, classes the girl is taking while she’s locked up.

Then the woman I figure is the girl’s mom makes eye contact with me. I know she sees my reporter’s notebook – but still, I tell her I’m a member of the media.

She confirms it’s her daughter at the table with them, just 15 years old, sentenced to 7-20 years in prison. The girl doesn’t belong incarcerated with adult convicts,

she says.

“We hate the state of Michigan (now). It’s corrupt,” she says, scowling. “We’re going to move out of this state when this is all over.”

I don’t know the girl’s crime and the mom won’t tell me. But a sentence of 7-20 years tells enough.

The mom turns back to her family.

Again, I sigh. Silently, I thank God for my blessings.

Moments later, the reason for my visit enters the room.

Nancy Seaman.

## Ugliness, consequences

Seaman is thinner than I thought she’d be. Her gray hair is cropped short. Her face, for the most part, is unlined – which surprises me. After all, she’s 63. She killed her husband in a most brutal way. And she’s been in prison for more than a decade.

I had expected haggard and beaten down. I was wrong.

Inside the visitor center’s tiny private room – typically reserved for attorney consultations – we sit facing each other across a small table.

Seaman seems a bit uneasy, and why not? She likely knows some probing questions are coming her way. As I find out later in the interview, Seaman isn’t a fan of the media due to the way she says she was treated after the killing and during the trial. Still, she’s giving me the benefit of the doubt. She says she’s heard good things about me.

I tell her she looks good.

Seaman shrugs and chuckles. “No, oh no,” she says, shaking her head. “No, I don’t.”

Then her smile fades.

And before I can ask her one question from the list I’ve prepared, Seaman starts in on her story. Unabashedly, with an underlying current of desperation, she talks and talks. She breaks down in tears, time and again.

I listen as she tries to explain why she commit-

ted murder – which she calls “the tragedy.” I listen as she tries to explain why she believes she was unjustly sentenced.

And I wonder what really happened that day in the Seamans’ Farmington Hills home.

Her husband of 31 years, killed with a hatchet blow to the head. Several other strikes with the hatchet followed, plus he was stabbed multiple times.

All these years later, Seaman maintains that she was physically and emotionally abused throughout their marriage and that she was defending herself during an argument – fearing for her own life – on the day her husband was killed.

As she continues talking, I think of the two sons she’s left behind, the four grandchildren she’s never met. I think about her dad, who died while she’s been behind bars. I think about her neighbors and friends and former colleagues at Longacre Elementary School. I think about the kids she had in her classroom.

And I’m once again reminded of ugliness and rawness and abhorrent pain — and consequences.

It’s sitting two feet away from me.

An officer sticks her head in the door. We’ve been at it for nearly three hours. Visiting time is over, she says. We say our goodbyes. Perhaps I’ll be back, I tell Seaman.

As I head out of the building and dash through the parking lot to my car, the January sky opens up and a slushy rain pelts down. Glancing back at the prison complex, I welcome the stinging cold and wetness. I drive off toward the expressway that will take me from here, that will take me home.

*Aileen Wingblad is a reporter for the Farmington Observer. She can be reached at awingblad@hometownlife.com or 248-390-3976. Follow her at on Twitter:@awingblad.*

## BY THE NUMBERS

**1981**  
— Year the Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility opened

**2009**  
— Year the Scott Correction Facility closed, inmates transferred to Huron Valley

**2,287**  
— Current inmate population

**2,151**  
— Inmate population, 2015

**1,881**  
— Inmate population, 2011

**573**  
— Number of employees

**1.03 million**  
— Combined square

footage of facility buildings

**300**  
— Facility’s acreage

**2**  
— Number of inmates younger than 18

**15**  
— Age of youngest inmate

**I, II, IV**  
— Security levels at Huron Valley

**12**  
— Percentage of inmate population statewide serving life sentence

**5**  
— Percentage of state-wide inmate population that are women

— By Aileen Wingblad

## ABOUT THE FACILITY


The Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility is the only prison in Michigan which houses females. It includes 13 housing units, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment, Special Alternative Incarceration, Residential Treatment Program, Acute Care, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Infirmary and Detention.

Programming offered includes Adult Basic Education and General Education Development preparation classes, as well as pre-release and life skills instruction. Vocational training is offered in auto mechanics, building trades, business education technology, horticulture, food technology and custodial maintenance. Prisoners have access to religious programs, substance abuse treatment, psychological services, general library and law library services. Phase I programs are offered in cognitive therapy, violence prevention and social support.

Prisoners are provided on-site routine medical and dental care. Pregnant prisoners receive counseling, parenting classes and child care options. Medical emergencies are referred to local hospitals.

The facility has two perimeter security fences with electronic detection systems. Security cameras are located throughout the facility and perimeter. Vehicles with armed personnel patrol the perimeter.

Source: Michigan Department of Corrections



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# Northville dentist sponsors annual Short on Words

Dr. William Demray of Preservation Dental in Northville has been taking pictures for most of his life. Five years ago, he opened up his photo albums for aspiring writers to peruse. The photographic journey continues and once again authors are asked to take a look at the doc's photos and answer this simple question: "What's the story?"

The fifth edition of the Short on Words competition is underway. Young authors, age 17 and younger, are invited to choose one of four select photos. Adult authors, age 18 and older, can choose from a field of six.

Poems and/or short stories should be 1,500 words or less and they must address one of the featured photos. The deadline for entry is April 15. Grand prize for both Young Authors and Adult Authors is \$100. Authors may submit more than one entry.

Subject photos, criteria and entry forms can be found online at [preservationdental.com](http://preservationdental.com). Click on PD Contest Page. Photos are on display at Preservation Dental, 371 E. Main Street, at the corner of Griswold and Main Street in downtown Northville, at the Northville Public Library, 212 W. Cady Street and at the Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady Street.

"I am always surprised by the answer to 'What's the story?' in the eye of a talented writer," Demray said.

Short on Words is the literature arm of Northville's Arts & Acts Festival



val that takes place in June. The festival is a premier Michigan event that shines a spotlight on the imagination, art, talent and cultural diversity of Michigan artists. The annual writing

event has been well received across the state of Michigan, with participating authors from Northville, Novi, Livonia, Bloomfield Hills, Detroit, Gibraltar, Fraser, South Lyon and Grand Rapids.



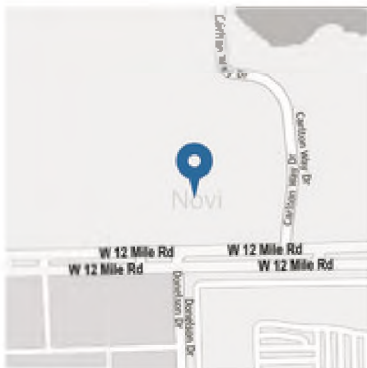
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## Website launched for I-275 construction project

**David Veselenak**  
Staff Writer

Warmer weather means it's almost time for construction season.

The Michigan Department of Transportation is prepping for major work on Interstate 275 through Livonia, Farmington Hills and Novi that will close one side of the heavily-traveled freeway. The department just announced it plans to keep residents and motorists informed of the project via a new website with information, dubbed "Revive I-275." It can be found at [revive275.com](http://revive275.com).

The website lists several aspects of the project, which will consist of replacement and repair of pavement from Five Mile to the I-696/I-96/M-5 interchange. Concrete shoulders are expected to be repaired; work on 16 bridges will also take place. There will also be sign replacement and Intelligent Transportation Systems work.

Southbound I-275 will close first, followed by northbound I-275 this summer once southbound work is complete. Other roads and bridges are expected to see work throughout the spring and summer as well. I-696 from east of Lahser in Southfield to I-275 will also be closed for two weekends during the project as well.

Work is expected to begin this spring, but no start date has been announced. Diane Cross, a spokeswoman for MDOT, said specific dates won't be determined until a contractor is officially selected.

[dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com)  
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# SPRING SENIOR EXPO

**TUESDAY,  
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9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Schoolcraft College  
Livonia Campus  
VisTaTech Center**

- **FREE Demonstrations and Workshops**
- **Local Exhibitors**
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## Featured Guest Speakers



**9:20 -10:15**  
*Maurice Cox, RN, CCE-MT-P/IC and Michelle Moccia DNP, ANP-BC, CCRN*  
**St. Mary Mercy Livonia**  
*Healthcare Decisions*



**10:30 - 11:25**  
*Rick Bloom, J.D., CPA*  
**Bloom Asset Management**  
*Everything you Need to Know about Estate Planning*



**11:40 - 12:35**  
*Dr. Sol Cogan, D.C.*  
**President and CEO**  
**HealthQuest Management, Inc.**  
*New Technology in Pain Relief*

## Demonstrations and Workshops

- 9:00 – 9:30**  
**Schoolcraft College**  
*Facts, Figures and Warning signs of Alzheimer's Disease and other Dementias*
- The Elder Care Firm**  
*How to protect yourself and loved ones from long-term care costs*
- Botsford Commons**  
*Why men don't listen and women can't read maps*

- 12: 30 - 1:00 p.m.**  
**Schoolcraft College**  
*Exercise for Easing Arthritic Pain*
- Senior Helpers**  
*Age in Place*
- Michigan Department of State**  
*Safe Drivers Smart Options: Keys to Lifelong Mobility*

**Questions?**  
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**Schoolcraft  
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# Women's history: Progress underway, but plenty more work still remains

It was not always easy for these girls, the [www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org](http://www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org) website notes; most had significant obstacles to overcome to reach their goals. Visitors will leave knowing what qualities Great Girls possess and inspired to reach

To have come to the point where a woman is on the national political stage shows progress and also reminds us of women who've yet to reach pay parity in the workforce. We need to create opportunities for all

Women's History Month is a good reminder of how far we've come — and that boys and men benefit as well when women have a public voice in the issues of the day.

**Gerald Maxey**  
Farmington Hills



# New book chronicles growing up in WWII Army life

**Diane Gale Andreassi**  
Staff Writer

Beverly Chiasson is best known as a champion of issues ranging from fighting developers to rallying against half-day classes in Livonia. Now the 86-year-old New Hudson woman is in the public eye with a new book about growing up on an Army base during World War II.

She self-published a 75-page account, “Remembering World War II with Prisoners of War — as a Teenager,” and the books rolled off the printing presses and into her apartment at Abbey Park at Mill River, where she lives with her husband Ray.

Chiasson was at an AMVET meeting at Abbey Park when she shared stories about her life at Fort Robinson Army base in Nebraska and she captured the attention of local photographer Jane Purslow, who suggested she write a book.

**Words flowed**

Using a pen and yellow note pad, Chiasson immediately started pouring out her life as a teen during World War II. The book focuses on anecdotes about German prisoners of war who were captured by the English and sent to an internment camp about three miles from Fort Robinson, where Chiasson lived with her family.

The prisoners “had the life of Riley,” Chiasson said. “If they worked, they made 80 cents a day and, if they didn’t work, they made 10 cents daily that they could spend on candy, pop and cigarettes. In those days, cigarettes were 15 cents and pop and candy bars were a nickel.

“We weren’t really supposed to fraternize with the prisoners, but no one could speak German,



Abbey Park resident Beverly Chiasson wrote the memoir “Remembering World War II with Prisoners of War — as a Teenager.”

so you couldn’t talk to them anyway,” Chiasson said.

That didn’t stop one prisoner from giving her two bottles with intricate small scale ships inside — she kept one and donated the other to the Fort Robinson Museum.

The war also brought Chiasson together with Ray, a Dearborn native, who was stationed at Fort Robinson to train dogs. Apparently, the first time Ray saw Beverly, he told a friend he was going to marry her.

**Romance begins**

He was right. They have been married 68 years, have five children, 11 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Chiasson, whose smooth skin and perfectly coiffed hair erases a couple of decades, winked and playfully laughed as she explained the book includes some of the love letters she shared with Ray while he was in the service.

Over the years, Chiasson was active politically

everywhere they lived: Livonia, Novi and Green Oak Township. Her volunteer work got the attention of city officials who named her Livonia’s Citizen of the Year in 1972, which was the same year she earned an Americanism award from a Livonia VFW group.

“I was a former grassroots political warhorse,” the longtime Livonia precinct delegate said. “My husband called me the Bull Dog.”

After business college, Chiasson worked four years as an executive secretary at Ford Motor Co., raised her children and dove into a multitude of political issues. When she launched her writing career last year, she decided against using a computer.

“I’ve always operated with a typewriter, a phone and a fax machine,” she said, adding that she can get her answers faster using a phone than email. “If I want to talk to somebody,

I call them up or they call me.”

Her first 100 books were delivered last week. They sell for \$19.99.

“This is my legacy,” she said. “Actually, I could write three books.

If I never would have gone to that AMVET meeting, it never would have happened.”

While details haven’t been decided, some of the proceeds from the book will go to AMVETS, she added.

Books will be available at a signing 1-2 p.m. March 23 at the Salem-South Lyon District Library.

dandreassi@hometownlife.com  
734-432-5974  
Twitter: @HeraldReporter

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**CITY OF NORTHVILLE**

The City of Northville Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing to receive public input on a variance requested by the property owner of 710 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville, Michigan, 48167. The applicant is seeking a variance to erect a new electronic price sign on premises zoned LCD, Local Commercial District, parcel number 48-22-34-351-020. The City’s Building Official evaluated a previous proposal, and determined that the maximum sign area allowed for this sign is 34.5 square feet. The applicant is proposing to erect a sign of 44.15 square feet. Therefore, a variance for 9.65 square feet is needed from Article 21 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow erection of the new sign.

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday April 6, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. at the City of Northville Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-449-9902. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the variance request. The variance application is available for review at the City of Northville Building Department during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, local prevailing time. Written comments pertaining to the proposed variance request will also be received at the above address.

ROLLAND STAPLETON  
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS CHAIRPERSON

Published: March 17, 2016

LC-0000275412 3x3

*Clarenceville Athletic Booster Club*

Invites you to our

**Spring Craft Show**

**Saturday, March 19, 2016**

**Come check out our Spring crafters and vendor displays**

**Time: 10:00am till 4:00pm**

\$1.00 admission fee which enters you in all raffles

Strollers are welcome

**Where: Clarenceville High School**  
**20155 Middlebelt Rd. • between 7 & 8 Mile Rds.**

*Raffles • Great Food • Wonderful Gift Ideas*

**Come out and join us!! This event helps all athletes**

Crafter and vendors are still welcome:  
Please call Brenda Uren (248) 777-6925

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# Novi Police Department offers pistol training course

The Novi Police Department will offer a pistol safety training course from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 26, at the Novi Police Department Training Center located at 45125 10 Mile Road. The course fulfills both the classroom and shooting requirements to obtain a Michigan Concealed Pistol License.

Registration forms are available online at [cityofnovi.org](http://cityofnovi.org) and at the Novi Police Department. Completed registration forms and the \$150 course fee (cash or money order), may be returned to the Novi Police Department. If you are registering two or more people, the fee is \$125 per person. Class size is limited and all participants are subject to a criminal background check.

After lunch, participants will move to the Novi Firearms Training Center to complete the course. Students must bring their own equipment, including a personal handgun, 100 rounds of ammunition,



FILE PHOTO

Novi will hold a pistol safety training course March 26.

safety glasses, shooter's earmuffs or ear plugs, a pen or pencil, a baseball cap and wear loose comfortable clothing to participate in the course. Participants must be at least 21 years old and do

not have to be a Novi resident to attend.

For more information, go to [cityofnovi.org](http://cityofnovi.org) or contact Sgt. Michael Warren at [mwarren@cityofnovi.org](mailto:mwarren@cityofnovi.org) or 248-347-0572.

# Suspect who dragged Novi police officer arrested in Georgia

**Philip Allmen**  
Staff Writer

Novi Police said the suspect who dragged a Novi police officer for a short distance before fleeing the scene of a traffic stop March 7 was arrested Friday by the U.S. Marshals Service in Georgia.

The Novi Police Department had been looking for 26-year-old Chantell Lashay Sturdivant ever since the traffic stop on Haggerty Road, near Eight Mile Road.

Novi Assistant Chief of Police Erick Zinser said Sturdivant was stopped for disobeying a traffic signal. She had multiple warrants out for her arrest, plus she was driving on a suspended license. There were two kids who appeared younger than 10 in the car with her. After Sturdivant was told she

would be arrested, she said she wanted to get her cellphone from her car to make arrangements for the kids. Then, Zinser said, she refused to get back out of the car and started to drive away. The officer grabbed her arm and ran with the vehicle before letting go.

The officer suffered minor injuries when he hit the ground.

According to a release, Novi Police worked with the U.S. Marshals and Detroit Fugitive Apprehension Team to locate Sturdivant. The Oakland County Prosecutor's office also obtained several felony warrants for her arrest.

While investigating the case, police said they learned that the Detroit woman was avoiding apprehension and would possibly flee Michigan to avoid prosecution.

She was found at about 1 a.m. inside a hotel room in Cobb County that she rented using an alias. Cobb County is northwest of Atlanta, Ga. Po-

lice said Friday she was in the Cobb County Jail awaiting an extradition hearing. The Oakland County Prosecutor's office had already issued an expedited extraditable warrant in the event Sturdivant was located out of state.

"This is a prime example of how collaboration between prosecutors with federal and local law enforcement agencies resulted in the apprehension of person who shows little regard for the safety of others," Novi Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police David E. Molloy stated in a release. "We are very thankful for our partners in the United States Marshals and Detroit Fugitive Apprehension Team for their assistance and relentless pursuit of this wanted felon."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Sgt. Scott Baetens at 248-348-7100 or remain anonymous by calling Crime Stoppers at 800-SPEAKUP.

[pallmen@hometownlife.com](mailto:pallmen@hometownlife.com)

# Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us:  
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-490-4968 • [www.mideathnotices.com](http://www.mideathnotices.com)

Deadlines: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. for Thursday papers  
Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

View Online  
[www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

## BURKMAN

**CONRAD JOHN** Age 81, a lifelong resident of Northville, passed away on March 14, 2016. He was born February 28, 1935 in Northville, Michigan; son of John and Ruth (nee Yerkes) Burkman. Conrad graduated from Northville High School; Class of 1952. He furthered his education with a Bachelor Degree from Cleary College. Conrad was united in marriage to Nina E. Freytag on August 4, 1956; they spent 59 loving years together. Conrad owned a credit bureau and published the National Billiard News; he also worked as a referee for professional pool players. He enjoyed drag racing his hot rod car. Conrad was a cinema buff; he loved watching classic movies and listening to the organ at the Redford Theater. He was passionate about photography; he often took pictures of scenery during his travels. Conrad is survived by his wife Nina E. Burkman; his nephews, Bret Oldford and Steward Oldford; and his niece Amy Oldford. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Carolyn Oldford. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Mr. Burkman will be laid to rest at Yerkes Cemetery in Northville.

## DEALEXANDRIS

**ROBERT ANTHONY** January 16, 1941 – March 4, 2016 It is with great sadness that the DeAlexandris Family announces Bob's passing on March 4th, 2016 at the age of 75. A long time Northville resident, Bob had a successful banking career spending many Michigan evenings on the Meadowbrook golf course with his family. Bob was an active participant in the Northville community for 28 years. He was truly an avid outdoorsman who had the pleasure of spending his retirement years in a glass tree house in South Carolina near his and Sharon's family. Although Bob had a life filled with joy spent at Brays Island over the past 18 years, he didn't miss an opportunity to take an adventure. He and Sharon travelled to many countries but home was his beloved Brays - "Heaven on Earth" as he described it. He loved his time with his and Sharon's children and grandchildren enjoying the amenities at Brays. He delighted in the opportunity to share his love of the outdoors introducing them to hunting, fishing, horseback riding and golf. He loved the laughter of the kids as he towed them on the tube out on the water with the occasional dolphin sighting and loved to top off holiday celebrations with a kickball game, a bonfire or the firework shows. Bob had a life well lived full of family and friends. He left a legacy for that will impact generations to come. Although many will miss him, the family has decided to do a private family celebration of the life of their husband, dad, grandfather and brother in the coming months. Sharon and their three children would like to thank you all for your continued prayers and support over the last few months as Bob fought a difficult battle with cancer. Your love and encouragement have meant the world to the entire DeAlexandris Family. They ask that you please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home, Jacksonville Beach, FL.

## FREYDL

**JERRY L.** 81 of Petoskey and formerly of Northville, died February 11, 2016. Jerry was born on January 23, 1935 in Northville, MI, the son of Frank and Elsie (Hughes) Freydl, graduating from the Northville High School with the class of 1952. Following high school, Jerry enlisted in the US Navy and proudly served his country until he received his honorable discharge and then attended Michigan State University where he graduated with honors in 1958 with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration. He then went to work for Cadillac Motor Car Division and retired after 32 years of Dedicated service as the Director of Sales and Distribution. On July 6, 1957, Jerry married the love of his life, Jacqueline Keys and together they raised their three children, Carrie (John) Krausman of Grosse Pointe, MI, Jill (Jack) McCrossin of Mt. Laurel, NJ, and Brian (Kathleen) Freydl of Northville. He was blessed by 8 grandchildren, Jacqueline, Caroline, Meaghan, Kelly, Jack, Theresa, Christian, and William. A private family memorial service will be held at a later date in Northville, MI. Arrangements are in the care of the Stone Funeral Home of Petoskey.

## GURNEY

**CHRISTINE ANN** age 66, passed away March 11, 2016. Christine is survived by her children: Lisa Ann LaPree (Robert) and Jason James Gurney; sister Kathleen Ann Phifer (Robert) and brother Curtis Milton Johnson (Renee); granddaughter Jamie Gurney and nieces and nephews: Robert and Colleen Phifer and family and Chris and Heidi Phifer and family and Nicole Johnson. A memorial service will be held at the Upper Peninsula Club on Saturday, March 19, 2:00 p.m.

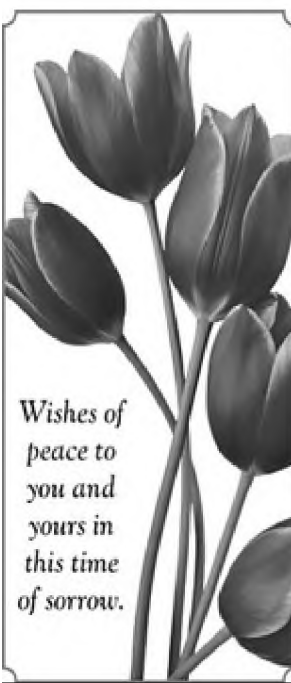
[www.phillipsfuneral.com](http://www.phillipsfuneral.com)

## MORSE

**LILLIAN J.** January 22, 1930 - March 5, 2016 [www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com](http://www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com)

## MULARONI

**E. CLARENCE** October 25, 1929 - March 6, 2016 [www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com](http://www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com)



## TORRANCE

**HELEN LENORE (KEISER)** 81, of South Lyon, Michigan, passed away on March 10, 2016. Funeral services were held at St. Joseph Church in South Lyon, Michigan. Helen was born in Pontiac, Michigan on February 23, 1935. She graduated from Milford High School and continued on to receive a Nursing Degree from Mount Carmel College of Nursing. Helen was married to David Torrance on June 29, 1957; they were married 58 years. Helen worked at Pontiac General Hospital for many years. She enjoyed family, vacationing, playing cards with her friends and golf. Helen is survived by her children Mike Torrance, Nancy (Torrance) Walsh and Carol (Torrance) Mehlberg, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and two brothers. Helen is preceded in death by her husband, mother, father and sisters. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be given to the American Lung Association at: [www.lung.org](http://www.lung.org) Or by phone: 1-800-LUNGUSA Or by mail: Send a check to: American Lung Association, Donation Processing Center, PO Box 700, Albert Lea, MN 56007-8001

## WILDER



**DAVID A.** March 5, 2016. Age 67 of Northville. Beloved husband of Dianne. Dear father of Dana (Donald) Wilder and David. Grandfather of Jack Manuel and Van Wilder. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be mailed to VA Ann Arbor, Voluntary Service, 2215 Fuller Rd., Ann Arbor, 48105. The family has entrusted care and services to the L. J. Griffin Funeral Home-Northrop Sassaman Chapel. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at [www.griffinfuneralhome.com](http://www.griffinfuneralhome.com)



## Aunt threatens pregnant niece, uses cane on windshield

An irate, drunken aunt allegedly threatened to beat her pregnant niece and then used her cane to crack her windshield, police said.

Officers were called to an apartment on Welling-ton Drive at 5:04 p.m. March 4 on the report of family trouble, where the complainant reported her aunt had been drinking and began arguing with her about money.

She told police she agreed to give her aunt money, but her aunt continued to argue. The niece prepared to leave and, as she was putting her shoes on, her aunt pushed her foot down. She told her aunt not to touch her because she is pregnant. Her aunt allegedly responded by picking up her cane and telling the complainant she would "beat her pregnant a-."

A witness apparently then stepped in and held the aunt back, asking her not to touch the pregnant woman and the aunt reportedly began to shout she would kill her. The niece left and got in her vehicle to call police. While waiting for police, her aunt came out and struck her windshield with her cane, cracking it and telling her she would kill her and blow up her car. The aunt then left the scene in her vehicle.

A short time later, police saw the suspect return to the complex, backing into a covered parking spot. As officers approached her on foot, she began pulling out of the spot. Officers ordered her to stop and she did. She stated she was in a verbal argument with her niece regarding money, but denied hitting her niece's car with a cane.

The officer smelled alcohol coming from the vehicle and, when asked if she had anything to drink, the suspect did not reply. Asked again, she said she had three or four beers. She became upset when asked to do field sobriety tests. She initially refused a preliminary breathalyzer test.

She was arrested for operating while intoxicated and her vehicle was impounded. At the station, she took a chemical test, with the initial test showing a blood-alcohol content of 0.12 percent. A BAC of 0.08 percent is considered legally drunk. The case has been forwarded to the prosecutor's office for charges pending damage estimates to the windshield.

## Counterfeit

Novi police officers confiscated \$1,050 in counterfeit bills allegedly used to purchase three pairs of tennis shoes.

The fraud was discovered March 5 when a man tried to get dinner at Zoup! in Twelve Oaks mall and was told the \$50 bill he was paying with was not real. The man told police he had just sold three pairs of Jordan shoes in the parking lot. He purchases Jordan shoes, advertises on Craigslist and then sells them.

In this case, he had just sold the shoes to a man in the northwest parking lot of the mall for \$1,050. He counted the money and left, then parked, took out \$100 and went into the mall to return a pair of shoes. He tried to return another, but didn't have the proper receipt.

He told the officer there was \$950 remaining of the money in the center console. The officer found it in a Flagstar Bank envelope and it was all counterfeit as well. The shoes "sold" were a pair of Jordan Retro 10, Jordan Retro 6, and Jordan Retro 4, sizes 10 and 10.5. He paid approximately \$700 for all three pairs.

The officer contacted the U.S. Secret Service and turned the counterfeit bills over to them. The man was released and advised to contact police with any further information about the subject who purchased the shoes and gave the counterfeit money.

## Concerned father

A father concerned about his daughter being possibly offered date rape drugs flew from Germany to Novi to be at her side at a home on Little Rapids Court.

The father reported to police March 7 that his daughter is here on a visa as a student at Schoolcraft College and he got on a flight after learning she was offered Xanax/ Ambien by a friend of a friend a few days prior. Her friend is also on a student visa from Germany and the two grew up together. The two involved subjects were persistent in offering her the pills to calm her after they learned she broke up with her boyfriend.

The father is worried there may have been intentions since he learned that the combination of Xanax and Ambien can act as a date rape drug. He said his daughter

refused the pills and the two eventually left without incident.

The daughter said she never felt threatened and did not need police assistance.

## Job fraud

A woman trying to work to earn money was instead the victim of fraud, reportedly losing almost \$3,000 in the proposition.

The victim filed a report with police March 2, stating that Feb. 25, she was contacted about an administrative assistant/data entry job through upwork.com. The person claimed to be the HR manager at Zeiss Technology and she was told she would receive a check from the company before she started work to set up her "mini office" by purchasing office equipment and accounting software.

She said she received a check via FedEx and deposited it into her credit union around 3 p.m., with funds unavailable until March 11. She offered to order the equipment with her own money to expedite the process and she was given info to the "vendor's" Bank of America account, withdrew \$2,967 from her own Chase account and deposited it into the "vendor's" account.

She was then notified the original check she deposited in her account had bounced. She received no response when she tried to notify the person who originally contacted her.

## ID fraud results in jewelry haul

An Ohio man reported he was the victim of identity fraud that resulted in a suspect applying for credit and making a purchase in his name for \$7,981.25 worth of merchandise at J.D. Robinson Jewelers in Novi.

The reported theft occurred at 5:14 p.m. Feb. 29. There is surveillance video of the suspect and Novi police are working with the Oregon, Ohio, Police Department.

## Rocks, not gunshots

A woman was sitting in her chair in her North Rockledge residence watching television at about 8:18 p.m. March 8, when she heard a loud bang that she thought was a gunshot and jumped to the floor. The sound turned out to have been two landscaping rocks someone threw at her windows, breaking them.

— By Susan Bromley

Spotlight on Youth presents ‘Enchanted Sleeping Beauty’

Spotlight on Youth will perform the musical “Enchanted Sleeping Beauty” March 17-20 at Inspire Theatre in Westland.

This “for kids, by kids” musical is about the king and queen of Never Nod who have a new baby princess: Briar Rose. The witch, Evilina, who lives with a giant

spider, sets a terrible curse on the poor young princess. Sixteen years later, it is up to Prince Alexander to come to Briar Rose’s rescue and the court’s, too, for they are all asleep. The prince must fight the Wall of Thorns, a false princess and, most frightening of all, the exalted Dark Knight.

Spotlight on Youth exists to create an extraordinary youth-centered theater experience and to advance theater as a means of educating, challenging and inspiring young people. It is comprised of youth from Westland and many surrounding communities.

Opening night is 7 p.m. Thursday, March 17,

followed by performances at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 18-19, and at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 19-20.

Call 734-751-7057 or go to spotlightyouthmi.com for tickets. The cost is \$15 for general seating.

Inspire Theatre is at 33455 Warren Road in Westland.



GARY TURNQUIST

Spotlight on Youth presents “Enchanted Sleeping Beauty,” a “for kids, by kids” musical.

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Milford

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• Nursery, Sunday School 10am  
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Bible Study: Sunday 10:45 a.m.  
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Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 p.m.  
Awana, 3 yrs old thru 5th grade (Sept.-March)  
and Youth Group for 6th grade and older  
Website: milfordbaptist.org

**MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Pastor Bryant Anderson  
238 N. Main Street, Milford MI (248) 684-2805  
www.milfordpc.org  
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School age 3 thru 5th grade @ 10 a.m.  
Youth Group 10 am - Grades 6-12  
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All are welcome at all services  
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Sunday Service: 10:30 am  
Sunday School ages 3-20; 10:30 am  
Children’s room: Wed & Sun services  
Wednesday service: 7:30 pm 248-685-7266

**Milford United Methodist Church**  
1200 Atlantic St., Milford, MI 48381  
Sunday Worship: 8:30 am and 10:30 am, 6 pm  
Children’s Church: 10:30 am  
Groups for Children, Youth and Adults  
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milfordumc.net

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Adventuredale Children’s Program Sunday 9:15 am & 11:15 am  
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707 High School Wednesday 7:00-9:00 pm  
Women, Men and Life Groups Various Schedules

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Northville

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10:30 am Fellowship/Coffee  
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Wednesday Bible Study at 7 pm  
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oursaviouralc.com

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Sunday, 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.  
Church 349-2621, School 349-3610  
Religious Education 349-2559  
Rev. Denis Theroux, Pastor

**First Presbyterian Church of Northville**  
www.fpcnorthville.org  
200 E. MAIN ST. AT HUTTON  
Worship, 9:30 am.  
Sunday School for all ages, 10:30 am.  
248-349-0911

Brighton

**HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
www.hsroc.net  
at the corner of Winans Lake & Musch Rd.  
810-231-9199  
Fr. John Rocus, Pastor  
Weekend Liturgies Saturday 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.  
Please visit our Shroud of Turin Display and Book & Gift Shop

**BRIGHTMOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
40800 W. 13 Mile Road, Novi  
on the corner of M-5 & W 13  
Sundays 9:15a & 11:15a  
www.brightmoorcc.org  
something for the entire family

**HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375  
Saturday: 4:30 p.m. (English) & 6:30 p.m. (Spanish)  
Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.  
Fr. Bob LaCroix, Pastor  
Fr. Beto Espinoza, Associate  
Parish Office: 349-8847 • www.holyfamilynovi.org

**FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
44400 W. 10 Mile., Novi, 248-349-2345  
1/2 mile west of Novi Rd.  
www.faithcommunity-novi.org  
WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10 AM  
“Children, Youth and Adult Ministries”

**HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL**  
40700 W. Ten Mile Rd. 248-427-1175  
Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm  
Good Friday Prayer Service 9:30 am  
Saturday Easter Vigil 7:30 pm  
Easter Sunday 8 am & 10 am  
www.holycrossnovi.org

**MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
21355 Meadowbrook Rd. in Novi at 8 ½ Mile  
248-348-7757 • www.mbccc.org  
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.  
Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister

**OAK POINTE CHURCH**  
50200 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi  
Saturday Worship 5:15 p.m.,  
Sunday 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.  
Casual, contemporary service  
Phone (248) 912-0043  
www.oakpointe.org

**ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI**  
46325 10 Mile Rd. • Novi, MI 48374  
Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 8, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.  
Msgr John Kasza, Pastor  
Parish Office: 347-7778

**NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
41671 W. Ten Mile Road • Novi, MI 48375  
Sunday Worship 9:45 a.m.  
Rev. June M. Smith, Pastor  
248-349-2652  
www.umcnovi.com  
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South Lyon

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205 E. Lake (10 Mile) (248) 437-2875  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Playroom available  
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Mid-Week Study Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
Rev. Michael Horlocker, Pastor  
www.fpcsouthlyon.org

**BIBLE BELIEVERS CHURCH**  
Gathering in Jesus Name  
52909 10 Mile Rd • South Lyon, MI 48178  
Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
Mike Ragan, Pastor  
734-347-1983 pastor cell  
Old fashioned preaching KJV

**The Church of Christ**  
21860 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon, MI 48178  
248-437-3585 • www.southlyoncoc.org  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School,  
10:30 a.m. Praise and Worship  
Wednesday Midweek Ministries 7 p.m.  
Troy Singleton, Minister

**CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN**  
(Missouri Synod)  
Pastor Terry Nelson  
437-8810 • 486-4335  
Griswold Rd. at 10 Mile  
Worship: 10 a.m.; Sunday School: 10 a.m.;  
Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m.

**Fellowship Evangelical Presbyterian Church**  
22200 Pontiac Trail (S of 8 Mile)  
Sunday Worship @ 9:30 am  
Sunday School @ 11 am  
Wednesday mid-week programs  
Rev. David Brown, Pastor  
248-437-2222 • www.fellowshippepc.org

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON**  
60820 Marjorie Ann St., South Lyon 48178  
Phone: 248-437-2983  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.  
Senior Pastor: Rob Freshour / Assoc. Pastor: Randy Weeks  
Website: www.fbcsouthlyon.com  
Email: fbcsouthlyon@sbglobal.net

**first united**  
methodist church  
south lyon, mi  
640 S. Lafayette  
(248) 437-0760  
Worship: 8:15am, 10:45am,  
11am & 6:30pm  
Sunday School: 9:30am  
Rev. Sandra Willobee, Lead Pastor  
southlyonfirstumc.org

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN**  
Wisconsin Synod • Reynold Sweet Pkwy.  
at Liberty St.  
Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.  
All Classes 9:00  
Pastor Scott Miller, (248) 437-1651

**Shepherd’s Way Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
59255 10 Mile Rd.  
South Lyon MI 48178  
Sunday Worship 9:30 AM  
Rev. Thomas Scherger  
248-573-7320  
www.shepherdswaysouthlyon.org

**CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
28900 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon  
248-486-0400  
www.ecrossroads.net  
Service Times  
8:45am, 10:00am & 11:30am  
Renewed Hope Counseling Center  
248-560-7507  
rhoecc.net

**SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH**  
Loving God and Loving People  
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(In Brookdale Shopping Center,  
behind Powerhouse Gym)  
SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:00 A.M.  
Reed Heckmann, Pastor/Teacher  
www.solidrocksouthlyon.com

MILFORD ROAD  
**CHRISTADELPHIAN ECCLESIA**  
“Brethren in Christ”  
Sunday 10:00 AM  
24610 Milford Road, South Lyon 48178  
248-486-4858  
www.thisisyourbible.com

For more information regarding this directory, please call  
Janice Brandon at 248-926-2204  
or email: jkbrando@michigan.com

# Games, kindness celebration mark Fox Run’s Leap Day

Fox Run retirement community residents and staff marked Leap Day by playing games and celebrating hundreds of random acts of kindness.

They played Jenga, Connect 4, checkers, ring toss, bean bag toss and Sudoku. They also did word searches and bowled.

The afternoon celebration was part of the community’s participation in the city of Novi’s month-long “Random Acts of Kindness Program.” The goal was to spread good deeds to those living and working in the community.

Throughout the festivities they feasted on chicken wings, spring rolls, fruits and vegetables, broccoli bites and cookies.



Dolores Phillips (left) and Betty Evenden enjoy a game of giant checkers.



Random acts of kindness, food and games were all part of the festivities.

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Buy tickets online at [redfordtheatre.com](http://redfordtheatre.com)

# Northville resident to perform in ‘How I Learned to Drive’

Northville resident Amy Morrissey will perform April 1-17 in the Greek Chorus during performances of *How I Learned to Drive*, by the Two Muses Theatre in its new space in 2529 Elizabeth Lake Road in Waterford.

Waterford is a new location for Two Muses. Set in the 1960s, *How I Learned to Drive* is a memory play in which Li'l Bit (Dani Cochrane of Detroit) is the ambivalent and wry narrator of her own memories. In flashbacks of her teenage years, she recounts her inappropriate relationship with her Uncle Peck (Dennis North of Grosse Pointe Farms) that includes taking driving lessons from him. Her stories are told with a remarkable lightness and humor given the subject matter and are illustrated with the help of the ancient convention of the Greek chorus, with Morrissey sharing the limelight with Melissa Beckwith (Ferndale) and Sarah Burcon (Ann Arbor) playing various members of her dysfunctional family and circle of friends.

Performances run for three weekends, April 1-17, with performances at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and matinees at 2 p.m. Sunday.

General admission tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for students and senior citizens (62 and older) in advance. All tickets are \$2 more at the door.

Discounted advance tickets are available up to four hours before the performance and may be purchased online at [www.TwoMusesTheatre.org](http://www.TwoMusesTheatre.org) or by phone at 248-850-9919 during box office hours, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Tickets may also be purchased in person one hour prior to each performance. Seating in the theater will begin 30 minutes prior to each performance.

For more information, go to [www.twomuses-theatre.org](http://www.twomuses-theatre.org).

## BEF’S BFFs help raise \$123,000

Julie Yolles  
SOCIAL SCENE

It's been an amazing 15 years that the Birmingham Education Foundation has put on its annual Unabashed Bash. And to celebrate its anniversary, the BEF held the Bash at a new venue, The Somerset Collection.

This year's Unabashed Bash theme was "Passport to Learning," which aligns with Birmingham Public Schools' goal of teaching students to be global citizens. And the party was loved by the 220 attendees who enjoyed a strolling, dancing, mingling evening of tastings by Julianne Zuchowski and the Plum Market staff; fabulous live and silent auctions; and performances by the Seaholm Orchestra and Groves' cast of "Grease."

This year's Bash grossed \$123,000. The funds raised will support

West Maple Elementary Assistant Principal Kristen Pesamoska; Northville resident Lauren Leese, a sign language interpreter; and West Maple art teacher Alex Mitevski and his wife Elizabeth recently attended the 15th annual Unabashed Bash at The Somerset Collection, a benefit for the Birmingham Education Foundation. This year's Bash grossed \$123,000. The funds raised will support Birmingham Public Schools teachers in BEF's four granting areas: arts, academics, athletics and technology/STEM.

BPS's amazing teachers in BEF's four granting areas: arts, academics, athletics and technology/STEM. This year, BEF grants have given every fourth grade student the opportunity to see the DSO perform live in Orchestra Hall and BEF will also be sending every fifth grade student to the Cranbrook Institute of Science. At the school level, BEF grants are helping students take part in a new Adventure Club at Berkshire, grow herbs in a hydroponic garden at Birmingham Covington School, experience the Ann Arbor Hands On Museum during Science Night at Beverly Elementary and more.

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Send Novi items to pall-men@hometownlife.com and Northville items to jmaliszews@hometownlife.com by 9 a.m. Monday for consideration for the Thursday edition.

**Water safety town hall**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Thursday, March 17  
**Details:** The Democrats of West Oakland County will host a town hall meeting on water safety at the Novi Public Library, 45255 W. 10 Mile Road. Guest speakers are Oakland County Resources Commissioner Jim Nash on “Preventing the next Flint crisis in our cities” and Dr. Anil Kumar, 11th District candidate for U.S. Congress, on “Medical effects of lead poisoning, treatment, and prevention.”

**Older Adult Services programs**  
Have you been diagnosed with “cabin fever?” Friends and fun are the prescription for feeling better and events hosted by Novi’s Older Adult Services are the perfect place to begin treatment.

**Time/Date:** Noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 17  
**Details:** Leaping Leprechauns Luncheon. An afternoon of toe tapping music is just what the doctor ordered. A traditional Irish meal will be on the menu along with entertainment by musician Tom Slatton. Don’t forget to wear green to prevent getting pinched by a sneaky leprechaun. This program is proudly presented in partnership with Enriched Life Home Care Service. Tickets are \$7 per resident and \$8.50 per non-resident.

Tickets for special events must be purchased in advance and are available at the Older Adult Services office, 45175 10 Mile Road, and the Meadowbrook Activity Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Road. For more information, contact city of Novi Older Adult Services at 248-347-0414.

**Easter Egg drop**  
**Time/Date:** 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 20  
**Details:** Orchard Grove Community Church will host a free Easter Egg Drop at the church, 850 Ladd Road, Building C, Walled Lake. The drop is for children birth through fifth grade and features more than 12,000 eggs filled with candy being dropped to the ground by a helicopter. Once the eggs have been dropped, kids can hunt for the eggs divided by age. Go to www.orchardgorve.org for more.

**Egg-stravaganza**  
**Time/Date:** 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 26  
**Details:** Maybury State Park, Friends of Maybury, and Northville Parks & Recreation will host a free Easter Egg Scramble. All activities will be near the Trailhead Shelter with games, face painting, and seed planting 10:30-11:30 a.m. The first scramble for ages 4 and under will be at 11:40 a.m. and a second scramble for 5 and up will be about 11:50 a.m. Prizes will include candy, toys, patches and gift certificates. Be sure to meet our park celebrities: Smokey Bear and the Easter Bunny.  
The park entrance is at 49575 Eight Mile Road. Recreation Passport required for entry. For more info, call the park office at 248-349-8390.

**Concert sneak peek**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5.  
**Details:** The Novi Choralaires announce its “Sneak Peek” spring show “Songs of Nature” at the Novi Public Library at 45255 W. 10 Mile Road. Free.

For more information about the Choralaires and its concerts, go to novichoralaires.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/novichoralaires.

**Comedy for a Cause**  
**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. April 29  
**Details:** Come show your support for deployed military troops. Big Tommy’s will host a fundraiser for Troops Need Love Too, a Michigan nonprofit supporting deployed military. The evening features 10 comedians performing; two are veterans. 50/50 and silent auction planned, as well. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Call 248-762-1151 for tickets. Big Tommy’s is at 40380 Grand River Ave. in Novi.

**Preschool registration**  
**Details:** Novi Community Education is accepting preschool registration for the 2016-17 school year at its Community Education Building at 25425 Taft Road, located in the Community Education office in Novi Meadows. Classes will begin Sept. 6 in the New Early Childhood Education Center at 25745 Taft Road.

Students who will be age 3, 4 or 5 by Dec 1 are eligible to enroll. All-day classes (meet two, three or five days a week) and half-day classes (meet five, three or two days a week) are available. Registration is ongoing until the classes are full. Bring a copy of your child’s birth certificate or passport. Class times and fees are online at www.novi.k12.mi.us/communityed/preschool/. For more information, call the Novi Community Education Preschool office at 248-449-1713.

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**\$11.99 lb**  
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Fresh All Natural  
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**Breakfast Sausage**  
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**Catfish**  
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Regular or Garlic  
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GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Northville reels in Marlins for crown

Mustangs capture first regional championship in school history

**Brad Emons**  
Staff Writer

Like the Lewis and Clark expedition, the Northville girls basketball team is discovering new territory as it traverses through the Class A state tournament.

The Mustangs saddled up once again March 10 at Novi and rode to a regional championship – the first in school history – with a convincing 46-29 win over Farmington Hills Mercy.

Northville (21-3) made its first quarterfinal appearance ever Tuesday at Southfield against Warren Cousino (20-4).

The long-armed Mustangs, despite 25 turnovers on the night, turned in a masterful defensive performance, holding Mercy scoreless with a 15-0 second-quarter run and limiting the Marlins to 21-percent shooting from the floor (8-of-39).

“We knew Mercy was going to be

really good after watching them beat Howell and we didn’t play well on Tuesday,” Northville coach Todd Gudith said, referring to a 35-28 win on March 9 over Milford.

“The girls kind of knew we were kind of down in that game, so we knew we had to give it our best effort tonight. I thought we probably played our best game of the year.”

Northville’s two junior 6-footers, Jessica Moorman and Brook Adams, led the way with 14 and 11 points, respectively. Sophomore guard Roan Haines and senior forward Lindsey Rathsburg added six apiece, sophomore point guard Kendall Dillon five.

“It’s a great feeling, knowing this is my senior year and we made it this far,” Rathsburg said. “We thought it was going to be a lot closer, but it was nice to know it wasn’t at the end.”

Although Northville trailed 10-6 after one quarter, the Mustangs quickly changed the course of the game in the second quarter as Mercy went 0-of-8 from the floor and trailed 21-10



BRAD EMONS  
The Northville girls basketball team defeated Mercy, 46-29, to win its first-ever Class A regional championship.

See REGIONAL, Page B3

BOYS HOCKEY



SCOTT CONFER  
Novi Detroit Catholic Central earned its third straight Division 1 boys hockey state title with a 3-0 win Saturday over Brighton at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

# CC title repeat is three-sweet

Shamrocks take bite out of Bulldogs for Division 1 state championship, 3-0

**Brad Emons**  
Staff Writer

Novi Detroit Catholic Central got an early jump on daylight saving time by springing forward early Saturday night for its 13th MHSAA boys hockey state championship in school history.

And the Shamrocks did it in clockwork fashion with a 3-0 victory over Brighton in the Division 1 final before 2,214 fans at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

It was the third state title in a row for CC and the first for rookie coach Brandon Kaleniecki, a 2000 CC grad who won two MHSAA state crowns himself as a player.

“To win this one is certainly a different feeling,” said Kaleniecki, who guided CC to a 24-7 record. “You’re filled with so much pride and with the amount of effort that the players give ... it’s very fulfilling as a coach, because you get to watch them, experience those same type of things you did when you were a player. You feel so much pride and you’re so happy for them because they got it done.”

CC applied heavy pressure in the Bulldogs’ zone during the first period, but Brighton junior goalie Logan Neaton was up to the task, turning away all 15 shots.

Brighton’s best scoring chance came on a CC power play, as Jake Crespi found himself all alone on a breakaway and was taken down by CC defenseman Alex Kreutzer on a short-handed effort. He was awarded a penalty shot, but CC 6-foot-4 senior goaltender Alec Calvaruso stood his ground and stopped Crespi’s attempt headed toward the five-hole.

Calvaruso had not faced a penalty shot all season and didn’t remember what exactly happened when Crespi took the shot. It was all a blur.



SCOTT CONFER  
Catholic Central senior captain Nick Macari (front) knocks home the second goal in Saturday’s win over Brighton.

“You just got to keep the team in it and do what you’ve got to do, keep it going,” Calvaruso said.

Despite being in a scoreless deadlock after one period, Kaleniecki was confident his team was in a good position.

“We were pleased with our first period, outside the penalty shot, where we had a minor breakdown on the power play,” Kaleniecki said. “Then Alec bailed us out on a great save on that. And that could have been a huge turning point, but it kept it 0-0. We felt like we had the better chances, because we had a lot of possession in their zone and, eventually, we were going to break through.

That’s kind of been our M.O. all play-offs.

“Not every game we’ve been able to score in the first five minutes and it’s taken a while, but we keep preaching, ‘Keep doing what you’re doing,’ because in the first period, I thought we were a pretty good team.”

Brighton went 0-of-2 on the power play in that first period, while CC was 0-of-1.

The Shamrocks finally broke through at 7:56 of the second period, on Glynn Robitaille’s rebound goal after Nick Macari carried the puck through on the left wing. J.P. Lafferty

See TITLE, Page B5

BOYS BASKETBALL

# Vikings end Wildcats’ run in regional

Kelser’s 33-point outburst sends Novi to 72-61 semifinal defeat

**Brad Emons**  
Staff Writer

Walled Lake Central unveiled its own version of Wile E. Coyote in Monday’s Class A boys basketball regional semifinal at West Bloomfield

Novi chased speedy and savvy point guard Walter Kelser around the court, but the senior proved to be as elusive as the Road Runner as he scored a game-high 33 points, leading the Vikings to a 72-61 win while earning a spot in the regional championship against North Farmington.

The 5-foot-10 Kelser proved to be a handful for the Wildcats, who had their seven-game winning streak snapped, coming off the heels of a 51-39 upset win over Northville (21-1) in the district final Friday at Salem.

Kelser, who missed five games with an ankle injury before coming back for the final regular season game, appears to be completely healthy again and it showed as he made 10-of-21 shots from the floor, including three triples, to go along with 10-of-13 free-throw shooting.

“I’m feeling way better,” Kelser said. “I was working hard, that’s it. I wanted to get to the basket, draw some fouls and get the big men in trouble, because they have a lot of size.”

Central (20-4) jumped out to a 17-8 lead in the first quarter as Kelser nailed a 3-pointer with 3:09 left before Novi scored the next nine points, capped by sophomore Traveon Maddox Jr.’s twisting banker from 40 feet out as the buzzer sounded to pull the Wildcats even at 17-17.

Central then made another run in the second quarter, outscoring the Wildcats, 20-11, as Rami Romaya’s put-

See WILDCATS, Page B3



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Novi’s Jay Duarte (left) blocks Walled Lake Central’s Malik Abiola’s shot.

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BOYS BASKETBALL

# Novi corrals Mustangs to win district title

Wildcats use stingy defense to shut down Northville, 59-49

**Brad Emons**  
Staff Writer

The motto these days for the Novi boys basketball team might read: “It’s not how you start, but how you finish.”

Since losing Feb. 12 to Northville, 61-44, that left them with an unimpressive 7-9 record, the resurgent Wildcats have reeled off seven straight victories, the latest Friday night in the Class A district final, a stunning 59-49 win over their arch-rival at Salem.

Novi capped an eye-opening 3-0 district week by getting contributions from a number of players while ending the best season in Northville history as the Mustangs finished 21-2.

Novi (14-9) did it on the defensive end by limiting the usually strong shooting Mustangs to 15-of-62 shooting from the floor (24.1 percent).

“Our focus was to focus on their shooters,” said Novi junior forward Alec Bageris, who continued his solid late-season play with 11 points. “They really have four or five guys in their starting lineup that can really light it up from three. Really, our plan was to not leave our guy too much tonight, hopefully just keep them in front of us, so we eliminate the dribble and penetrating kick. Just stay on their shooters and stay on the perimeter and stop them from doing that.”

Jumping out to an 8-0 lead to start, Novi signaled the third meeting between the two teams was going to be somewhat different, although Northville stayed close at the half, trailing 22-21 as both teams struggled shooting.

But the third quarter proved to be Novi’s best of the four as it outscored the Mustangs, 19-10, to take a 40-34 advantage as five different Wildcats got points.

And when sophomore guard Traveon Maddox Jr.’s two free throws with 4:56 left in the game made it a double-digit lead, 48-36, the Wildcats could smell the district trophy.

Maddox, who finished with 10 points, made 8-of-8 free throws in the fourth to seal the victory and give the Wildcats their first district crown



DAVE DONOHER

Novi earned its first Class A boys basketball district title since 2010 with a 59-49 win Friday at Salem.

since 2010.

“We believed that we could stop them. That’s the biggest difference between our previous two games against them,” Novi coach Brandon Sinawi said. “We had a belief. We know that they can shoot the ball, they can get to the basket. It’s a special team that we just beat, no question. But we’ve been preparing for this game for about four weeks now, in terms of just picking up the defensive pressure, the intensity we brought to practice, just the film that we watch and all the time the kids to get better defensively ... this whole week proved it.”

Northville, despite getting late triples from Justin Zimbo (13 points) and Justin Gibbons (12 points), went just 2-of-14 from the field in the fourth.

“Who knows? It could be a lot of

things,” Northville coach Todd Sander said of his team’s shooting woes. “Three games in a week is tough, not that we’re making excuses. (Novi) had to do the exact same thing, so credit to Novi. It was one of those nights. They made us go a little bit fast, might have been little tight. But we were a little off, a little bit out of sync. But we’re so proud of what we did, how we ran back at them and for everything our guys did this year. But Novi won it.”

The Mustangs, known this season for their second-half mini-s spurts to put away opponents, did it in Wednesday night’s 51-39 victory over previously unbeaten Canton, but couldn’t duplicate it against Novi.

“We kept waiting. That’s what we kept talking about at halftime and the third quarter, that our run was coming,

but the cards weren’t aligned that way tonight,” Sander said.

Naji Ozeir, a 6-foot-7 senior, continued to be active on the boards and led Novi with 13 points. Bageris and Maddox contributed 11 and 10, respectively, while sophomore point guard Trendon Hankerson and 6-7 senior forward Jay Duarte added nine and seven.

Senior forward Johnny Davis also came off the bench to score six.

“Both of their bigs have really come on in the last few weeks,” Sander said of Ozeir and Duarte. “They hurt us around the blocks a little bit. They hurt us off the glass. They played really hard.”

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BOYS BASKETBALL

# Mustangs deliver knockout punch vs. unbeaten Canton

Northville pulls off 51-39 district semifinal win in Chiefs’ first loss

**Tim Smith**  
Staff Writer

Northville cranked up its relentless defense to a fever pitch March 9 against Canton.

And when the Class A boys basketball district semifinal ended at Salem High School, it was the Chiefs feeling sick, losing 51-39 to the swarming Mustangs.

The Mustangs (21-1 to set a new school record) chipped away after falling behind early and then took control in the fourth quarter – stopping the KLAA champions cold in their tracks, not giving up a point for the first seven minutes as Northville went on a 12-0 run.

That turned a 33-33 game into a double-digit lead with time running out for Canton.

“Guys were flying all over, recovering, guarding multiple defenders and then we were rebounding as they missed, which was the best part,” said Northville coach Todd Sander, whose team enjoyed a 26-19 rebounding edge.

Leading that charge with 14 points was senior Nick Wilds, with junior Jake Justice scoring 12 off the bench while shadowing Canton big man Logan Ryan. Chipping in 12 points and a game-high 13 rebounds was senior Justin Gibbons.

“Key was energy; we come ready to play every day,” Wilds said. “We were a little flat. It was a close game and then we got a good run going and energy’s the key for us, I think.”

According to Gibbons, the focus on defense has been crucial to Northville’s season-long success and that continued against Canton.

“That’s how we play the whole year. Defense first, (then) we let the offense come,” Gibbons said. “You know, I personally threw up some shots in the first half that weren’t good.”

Canton entered the night sporting a 20-0 record, but could not get its collective offense out of the mud – especially in the fourth quarter, when Northville’s defense opened the quarter on a 12-0 run to put the game away.

“Tonight, was 20-0 versus 20-1,” Canton coach Jimmy Reddy said. “I’m pretty sure this area’s never seen anything like that this late in a year. Hats off to Northville, they were better than us tonight, especially in the fourth quarter. They played well defensively. I think we had good looks, especially in the first half the whole time and in stretches of the second half. But we couldn’t make anything tonight.”

To that end, Canton connected on



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Shooting over Canton senior Obi Okoli (left) is Northville senior Justin Gibbons.

just 15-of-42 (35 percent) from the floor, including 2-of-19 from 3-point range.

Leading the Chiefs with 11 points each were senior forward Jalen Cochran and senior guard Obi Okoli.

All of Cochran’s points came in the first half as the Chiefs built leads of 14-9 after one quarter and 24-22 at halftime. He was strong driving to the basket and making tough inside shots, especially in the opening quarter.

Unfortunately for the Chiefs, 6-7 senior forward Ryan – who has been an offensive standout all season – could not play his usual dominant game. He managed seven points, but did not hit a field goal until the final 30 seconds.

“You know, he’s such a special player, that we guarded him with somebody a little smaller than we thought he would be used to,” Sander said. “(Justice) is really tough and really physical, but we had to get it out of (Ryan’s) hands when he caught it down deep.

“So we were doubling off a few different guys. But the guys did a tremendous job of executing the game plan.”

Wilds was a big reason for his team’s energy level to skyrocket, as he sank a put-back in the final seconds of the third quarter to even things up at 33-33 going into the fourth.

That started his personal 7-0 run, as he got the final quarter started with a trey from beyond the top of the arc and then connected on another field goal. With six minutes to play, the Chiefs suddenly were behind 38-33.

Following up with a steal and driving layup was junior Kevin Morrissey (five points). Canton did not score in the quarter until Okoli’s basket with one minute left; by that time it was 45-35.

Closing it out with three free throws each were Gibbons and senior Justin Zimbo (eight points).

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BOYS BASKETBALL

# Novi ousts Catholic Central from district with sixth straight win

Wildcats set up third game against Northville in title game

**Brad Emons**  
Staff Writer

A team missing its standout starting point guard due to a season-ending injury while also failing to make the KLAA playoffs found its mojo just at the right time.

Novi captured its sixth straight March 9 with a 57-46 triumph over Novi Detroit Catholic Central in the Class A district semifinal at Salem to advance to the championship game against Northville. (See related story.)

The win by the Wildcats (13-9) set up a third meeting this season against rival Northville (21-1), which handed previously unbeaten Canton (20-1) its first setback of the season, 51-39, in the first game of the district doubleheader.

The Wildcats controlled play in the paint and got strong offensive performances from junior forward Alec Bageris (17 points), senior center Naji Ozeir (16) and sophomore guard Traveon Maddox Jr. (16).

“The other night, we had Traveon come out and carry us in the fourth quarter,” Novi coach Brandon Sinawi said of the 59-56 first-round win over host Salem. “Tonight, we had to have other guys playing. And we knew they were going to lock in on him, so it wasn’t going to be easy for him to get off tonight.”

The 6-foot-3 Maddox still got his points, but the Wildcats’ 6-7 tandem of Ozeir and Jay Duarte did a workman-like effort inside to frustrate the Shamrocks.

“They beat us on the glass tonight,” CC coach Bill Dyer said. “The difference tonight is that (Novi) got to those 50/50 balls. When we got down, we had to play a smaller to try to chase a little bit, then we got hurt on the boards when the ball came off the glass.”

Novi led 13-8 after one quarter and 24-21 at halftime, but the Wildcats stretched their lead to as many as 11 points in the third and led 41-34 heading into the fourth after CC freshman Austin Brown nailed an NBA-range triple outside the top of the key.

CC maintained contact hitting seven triples on the night, but never got closer than six in the final quarter as Bageris nailed one of his three triples with 4:08 remaining to give Novi a nine-point cushion, 50-41.

The 6-3 Bageris was an efficient 6-of-9 shooting from the floor and made both his free throws.

“Unbelievable; he played great,” Ozeir said of his teammate. “He’s been able to do that. They’re finally falling for him now.”

Ozeir, whose forte is shooting triples, also got garbage points as well,



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Novi’s Trendon Hankerson goes against CC’s C.J. Baird (left) and Tom Smulsky.

teaming with Duarte to control the paint.

“I think as seniors, we have to take the role upon ourselves,” said Ozeir, who grabbed 11 rebounds. “Any game can be your last game, so you have to perform and go as hard as you can on the court.

“Sometimes, when my 3-point shot and my long shot isn’t falling, I just know I have to get in there and grind. It would help if my three was going in, but you have to do what you have to do and help your team out and score ... just hustle points.”

Novi, meanwhile, held the Shamrocks to 33.3 percent shooting from the floor (16-of-48). And CC didn’t help its cause going just 5-of-12 from the foul line.

“We knew they had a couple of kids who can score,” Sinawi said. “We knew they’re a good team and they’re well-coached and there’s no question they’re going to get their points, but we just had to control and contain it and we did that. We managed the game.”

Novi was 22-of-49 from the field (44.8 percent) and 9-of-13 from the stripe.

The Shamrocks (11-10) got 13 points from Brown and 11 from junior guard Gio Genrich.

“I just know we need more commitment in the summer,” Dyer said. “We just have to keep grinding and get over this 11-win hump. Get back to playing on Friday and winning district championships like we did for a long stretch there.”

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## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Mustangs top Milford, break new ground

Northville overcomes stubborn Mavericks, heads to regional

**Brad Emons**  
Staff Writer

Even though they were heavily favored going, it was a landmark victory March 8 for the Northville girls basketball program.

The Mustangs overcame a determined Milford squad, 35-28, to earn their first-ever berth in a Class A regional final against Farmington Hills Mercy. (See related story.)

"To get to 20 wins ... that's hard to do in girls basketball when the most you're going to play is 28 and that's only if you get all the way to the state championship," Northville coach Todd Gudith said. "Twenty wins is obviously a new record for us. The previous record was 17, so we broke the record. It's a great milestone for our kids. It's a huge boost for our program. Hopefully, it elevates our program to a new level."

The Mustangs (20-3), however, maybe got more than they bargained for against a scrappy Milford squad (10-12), which trailed by as many as 13 points in the second half before make it a two-possession game, 32-26, on a 3-point basket by freshman forward Allison Smith with 3:18 remaining.

But Northville, getting a game-high

10 points from sophomore guard Kendall Dillon, held off the Mavericks' late bid despite committing three turnovers during the final 1:34.



Dillon

"I think it was a struggle mostly because of the pressure at the end," Dillon said. "We just really tried to get the ball in and try to get fouled and hold it, so I think that's where they got us a little bit."

What helped the Mustangs the most was that Milford had six fouls to give in the final 2:03. And because of that, Northville was able to milk the clock down the stretch and hold on.

Dillon's two free throws with 19.6 seconds remaining made it an eight-point cushion, 34-26, to secure the win.

"Don't judge a team by their record," Gudith said of Mavericks. "That's basically the moral of the story there. It's tournament time and they won the same district trophy that we got on Friday, so we knew they were going to play hard and bring a lot of effort. I don't think our kids played down to their record, but it definitely wasn't our best game of the year, for sure. We struggled."

Milford got a team-high nine points from junior guard Mallory Barrett, while sophomore forward Megan Wal-

lace contributed seven points and six rebounds. Smith chipped in six points.

"We've had this problem all year where we've been the second half team in a lot of our games this season," said Milford coach David Browne, whose team trailed 23-13 at intermission. "It really felt like if we just woke up and kind of played ... we were a step slow in the first half. We played with a lot more energy and I'm proud of the way we came out and played in the second half. If maybe we had tied two halves together, we'd get something going there."

The Mavericks did a marvelous job defensively keeping Northville sealed off from the basket. They also caused 18 turnovers.

"I think that we all put a lot of effort into it," said Barrett, who was a demon on the defensive end with four steals. "We all knew it could be our last game, so I think we all wanted it pretty bad, we were working together."

"We were trying to do good team defense, like if they passed one girl, get good team help on the inside. That was our goal and be there to box out and get some boards."

Northville's leading scorer, junior forward Jessica Moorman, finished with eight points., but no other player had more than four other than Dillon and Moorman.

"I just think they kind of clogged up

the middle of the floor and made it hard for us to drive and attack the basket, which is our strength," Gudith said. "They made us settle for outside shots early on. We didn't make much early on, missed a few at the rim when we did have a chance inside. That was probably the biggest factor."

Milford limited Northville to 30 percent shooting from the field (12-of-40), including just one 3-pointer.

"They're pretty relentless in trying to get to the basket and we kind packed away and kept them in front of us, did a nice job," Browne said. "(Northville) still hit a couple really nice shots with hands in their face. That's what teams do at this level."

But Northville was able to make 10-of-15 free throws (66.6 percent) on the night to keep Milford at arm's length.

"We definitely had to move the ball around more to get open looks on the inside," Dillon said. "Our biggs definitely didn't touch the ball as much as we had liked them to, and we really didn't get those outside shots that we were looking for. I guess it was just a game of moving the ball around tonight. But I'm just happy we came out with the win and we're moving on in the tournament."

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## BOYS BASKETBALL

# Warriors fall to Lansing Christian in 'D' regional

**Dennis Schwarze**  
Michigan.com

Lansing Christian coach Peter Bunn was quick to mention the defensive efforts of junior Nick Jamieson, who helped hold 1,000-point scorer Austin Hearn's of Novi Franklin Road Christian to just eight points Monday night.

But Jamieson provided some offense for the Pilgrims, as well, with 16 points, while junior Preston Granger also had 16 and junior Matt Havey led all scorers with 26 as host Lansing Christian advanced on with a 71-55 in a Class D boys basketball regional semifinal.

"He's done a great job stepping up offensively for us," Bunn said of Jamieson. "About halfway through the year, he really took a lot of initiative offensively. He's a great defender. What we can get out of him offensively is huge. He did a great job on both ends. ... He makes guys really work for what they

get."

The Pilgrims (14-9), who advanced to the regional final against Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes (19-4), led by 10 toward the end of the third quarter, but Franklin Road Christian began to close before Jamieson helped re-establish the lead.

A 3-pointer from the junior right before the horn sounded to end the third put Lansing Christian up, 43-37. Jamieson then rattled home another three as part of a 9-0 run to begin the fourth quarter and the Pilgrims increased their lead from six points to 15 in just 1:49.

"I wasn't really expecting to shoot it, but I just pulled the trigger and it worked out," Jamieson said. "We were up, so I didn't want to shoot unless I had a really open three."

Of Jamieson's 16 points, 12 came in the second half. Havey scored 16 of his 26 during first half, giving the Pilgrims a seven-point lead.

Senior center Joshua Bause scored 15 points to lead Franklin Road Christian (16-7), including nine during the Warriors' run in the third quarter.

## First district title

The Warriors, getting a game-high 29 points from Hearn's, claimed the first Class D district crown in school history Friday with a 76-65 victory over host Detroit Public Safety Academy.

Hearn's was one of four Warriors to score in double figures as junior Max Holleman and Bause contributed 14 apiece, while senior Rahsaan Scruggs added 12.

"It's real exciting," Franklin Road first-year coach Matt Mikel said. "The guys played their butts off tonight. You could tell they had some determination to get the districts."

McKinney Vincent scored 17 points for Detroit Public Safety, which went 17-of-31 from the free-throw line (54.8

percent).

Franklin Road went 26-of-46 from the foul line (56.5 percent) with the 6-foot-1 Hearn's getting a majority of the attempts.

"He was sensational, very, very aggressive offensively going to the hole, getting himself to the foul line 23 times," Mikel said. "He was 13-of-23; didn't shoot it real well, but he got himself to the foul line, very aggressive going to hole and making things happen."

**FRANKLIN ROAD 58, DETROIT DAVIS 46:** Novi Franklin Road Christian (15-6) jumped out to an 18-8 first-quarter lead and never looked back March 9 en route to a district semifinal win over Detroit Davis Aerospace Technical (6-9) at Detroit Public Safety Academy.

Senior guard Austin Hearn's paced the Warriors with 17 points and seven assists, while 6-foot-7 senior center Joshua Bause added a double-double with 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Senior forward Joshua Bether chipped in 13 points as Franklin Road made 21-of-28 free throws (75 percent) to advance to the district final.

Marquise Hudson paced Davis Aerospace with a game-high 18 points. The Aviators made 6-of-8 free throws

## WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

back at the halftime horn gave the Vikings a nine-point cushion, 37-28

"We shot way too many threes," Novi coach Brandon Sinawi said. "We talked about that at the half. It was one of those games where (Central) made one and our kids would get hyped up. I think they felt they had to knock one down to please the crowd. But it's a young team and the core is still really young. That was the biggest thing, the 3-point shooting. It was ill-timed and, even though we hit a couple, it's not our calling card that has been our last three games."

During that second quarter, Central went on an 11-0 run as Novi went scoreless for 5:04 before Maddox's basket broke the drought with 2:56 left in the half.

"We wanted to get out and run tonight," Central coach Chuck Spolsky said. "They were big, so we thought if we get a board, get them to a quick shot and push the ball, we thought we'd have an advantage in the open court and we did."

With 4:13 left in the third quarter, a basket by Runako Ziegler pushed Central's lead to 50-32. The Vikings took a 55-41 advantage into the final quarter and never let Wildcats get closer than eight the rest of the way.

"After the week we went through last week, we knew that we were going to be missing a little bit of energy, a little bit of fight, in the beginning of the game," Sinawi said. "After that first quarter, we didn't score until almost three minutes left. But hey, that's the team we've got. We had two seniors that really stepped up last week and again tonight. We got a lot of young kids coming back and it's a good learning experience for them."

Kelser, meanwhile, helped secure the win by scoring 18 of his 33 during the second half.

"We knew he was going to be a match-up problem with our young guards," Sinawi said. "Trendon (Hankerson) picking up two quick fouls in that first quarter made us go zone and we didn't want to go zone that early. But at the same time (Kelser) is a special player. He did a great job getting to the basket. He finishes really strong, he's crafty and he gave us some fits tonight, no question."

Kelser was not only a scorer, but also a distributor as Ziegler and senior forward Anton Lucaj contributed 13 and 10 points, respectively, while senior center Malik Abiola added eight.

"We were just trying to get them to play our style of play," Kelser said.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Novi's Traveon Maddox Jr. (left) tries to get past and retain possession of the ball against Walled Lake Central's Runako Ziegler.**

"They like to go big and we like to go small. We wanted to go small against their bigs and make them adjust to us."

Senior foward Naji Ozeir led the Wildcats in scoring with 16 points, while Maddox added 14. Senior forward Jay Durate chipped in seven and played another strong game inside.

Novi shot 50 percent from the floor (23-of-46) with a total of nine triples, but committed 17 turnovers.

Central connected on 41.9 percent from the floor (26-of-62), but turned it over only five times.

"You can't run when they're making (shots) and they made a lot of threes, so when they were making shots, we were having trouble executing on the offensive end because they play good defense," Spolsky said of Novi. "They really clog the paint up. That was the game plan. If we could force them into some quick shots and play some good perimeter defense, we could get out and run with them a little bit."

Following a 7-9 start, missing the KLAA playoffs and going without starting senior point guard Kam Hankerson for 12 games after the Wisconsin-Green Bay signee suffered a knee injury in late January, Novi rebounded to finish 14-10 overall.

"That's been our calling card the last eight games; our team just doesn't quit," Sinawi said. "We missed some timely shots and (Central) made some timely shots. We didn't make enough plays in the end. But the kids didn't give up."

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## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Franklin Road's tournament run hits pothole in loss to Morrice

**Brad Emons**  
Staff Writer

Taylor Hewitt's game-high 21 points proved to be the difference as Morrice rolled to a 45-24 girls basketball victory over Novi Franklin Road Christian in the Class D regional semifinals March 8 at Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes.

The Orioles, who improved to 15-7, jumped out to a 26-11 halftime lead and put away the game with a 12-6 third-quarter run.

Reagan Mumford scored seven points in a losing cause for Warriors (9-13), who made 8-of-10 free throws.

Morrice made 12-of-20 free throws on the night.

Host Waterford Our Lady, which also advanced with a 51-42 semifinal win over Taylor Baptist Park, went on to win the regional championship with 47-35 triumph March 10 over Morrice.

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## REGIONAL

Continued from Page B1

at halftime.

"Pretty much the whole first quarter, I thought we were pretty patient; we hit some shots and defended well," Mercy coach Gary Morris said. "Then came the second quarter and it's just the way things work."

"We started missing shots; we started forcing shots, which weren't good shots, which led to scoring opportunities for them. That second quarter couldn't get over soon enough for us, so we could go in and talk about some adjustments."

The Marlins, however, came out in a trapping, full-court press and quickly cut the lead to 23-21 with 4:37 left in the third after senior guard Zora Pullen converted an old-fashioned three-point play.

But Haines answered for Northville with a basket 12 seconds later and Northville closed the quarter with a 12-3 run to maintain its 11-point advantage going into the fourth, 35-24.

There were a few anxious moments during Mercy's third-quarter spurt, so Gudith burned a couple of timeouts to help his team refocus.

"Even though we had the lead at the half, we told the kids, 'Look, they're going to make a run; you got to be ready for it' and, sure enough, they came out of the gate in the second half and took it to us," Gudith said. "But our girls weathered the storm. Our goal was to 'Let's bring it even in the third quarter' and I thought we did that."

Gudith also employed more players to help break Mercy's press.

"I thought we struggled with the two players we had," he said. "Mercy was bringing everybody. They were throwing everything at us. Bringing four players up helped. A couple of timeouts settled them down and calmed their nerves."

By the fourth quarter, Mercy went stone cold again from the field (0-of-10). Northville gradually stretched its lead to 18 points as Moorman scored eight of her 14.

"A lot of our struggles on the offensive end led to easy shots for them," Morris said. "But give a lot of credit to Northville. It's the first time they've been on this stage, so to speak, and their kids responded well."

While the Mustangs shot an impressive 60 percent from the floor (15-of-25) to go with 15-of-23 foul shooting, the turnovers were a concern.

"I know we had a lot and a lot of that is because of Mercy's defense," Gudith said. "A lot of that was nerves. We had some open looks, had open players, but we just overshot them with passes. If we connect on a couple of those, maybe it's not so much of a game in the third quarter."

Junior guard Jackie Bauer paced the Marlins with 14 points. Pullen added seven, but there was little offensive production from the remaining cast.

"This is not a typical Mercy team," Gudith said. "Usually, they have a couple of post kids. They spread the floor a lot and they're just good shooters. We saw them hit a bunch of triples the other night, so we knew we had to force them to take tough shots. And when they drove inside, they saw our length."

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BOYS SWIMMING

# Wildcats post best ever state meet finish

Novi places seventh in Division 1 finals thanks to big relay finishes

**Brad Emons**  
Staff Writer

After a 21st-place finish in last year's MHSAA Division 1 boys swim state finals, Novi made quantum leap Saturday to earn a top 10 finish at the Holland Aquatics Center.

The Wildcats, posting six all-state (top eight) performances, placed seventh in the team standings with 134. Birmingham Brother Rice repeated as champion for the third consecutive year with 313.

"It was a great weekend for us," Novi coach Brent Pohlonski said. "For our team, we took a huge step forward. As far as we know, that's the highest state meet finish ever for a Novi team. We did everything we set out to do on Friday. All three of our relays were in the top eight and only five other teams were able to do that. So we felt that was huge for us and we got a number of guys in the championship finals."

Individually, Novi senior Ryan Katulski posted two all-state efforts with third in the 50-yard freestyle (20.97) and eighth in the 100 freestyle (46.66) after posting a school-record 46.48 in



HEJU HUANG

Nayaran Manivannan, swimming the breaststroke, was a member of the Wildcats' sixth-place 200-yard medley relay team at the MHSAA Division 1 state finals in Holland.

the prelims.

"We were a little flat on Saturday," Pohlonski said. "We kind of did our job on Friday. Ryan Katulski had All-American cut in the 50 free. That was probably the highlight on Saturday." Junior Siddhardha Kareddy was

seventh in the 100 butterfly (51.15) after posting a school record 50.81 in the prelims.

The foursome of Joey Berman, Narayan Manivannan, Kareddy, Phillips Billiu also took sixth in the 200 medley relay (1:35.90) after clocking a school

record 1:35.21 in the prelims.

"Our (200) medley (relay) got the All-American consideration cut," Pohlonski said. "To cap off the day, our two senior divers, James Ciolli (10th) and Nathan Pellerito (12th), made finals for the first time in their careers, so that was really a great end to great Friday."

Novi's 200 freestyle relay quartet of Billiu, Alexander Yuan, Manivannan and Katulski placed seventh (1:27.21), while the Wildcats' 400 freestyle relay team of Billiu, Kareddy, Berman, Katulski went 3:13.11 to earn eighth place.

Both freestyle relay times established new school records, while Berman also eclipsed his own school mark with ninth in the 100 backstroke (52.16).

Among the state meet scorers that will be lost to graduation are Katulski, Manivannan, Ciolli and Pellerito.

"We really had so many great swims," Pohlonski said. "We had 100-percent best times on Friday, which is pretty rare at the state meet. We were thrilled with that and we took a huge step forward. We have to learn how to be great two days at the state meet now. Hopefully, the guys returning will take that next step and be able to get through Friday and have some emotion and some gas to compete on Saturday with the big boys there."

BOYS SWIMMING



ANNE XUE

Northville sophomore Kirk Maibach was 10th in the 100-yard backstroke in a school record 52.33 at the MHSAA Division 1 finals in Holland.

# Catholic Central, Northville make waves at D1 finals

**Brad Emons**  
Staff Writer

Novi Detroit Catholic Central and Northville found themselves just out of the top 10 team finishers at Saturday's MHSAA Division 1 Boys Swimming and Diving Finals at the Holland Aquatics Center.

Birmingham Brother Rice earned its third consecutive team title with 313 points, while Saline was runner-up with 234.

Rounding out the top 10 were Zeeland (211), Ann Arbor Skyline (193), Ann Arbor Pioneer (182), Holland West Ottawa (157), Novi (134), Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central (100), Rockford (90) and Ann Arbor Huron (74).

Catholic Central, eighth a year ago, was just 5.5 points out of 10th after scoring 68.5, while Northville finished 12th overall with 64.

Jonathan Lee paced the 11th-place Shamrocks individually with a pair of (top eight) all-state performances, including fourth in the 100-yard breaststroke (58.14) and sixth in the 200 individual medley (1:55.15).

Senior Matt Loniewski also garnered all-state with sixth in the 100 breaststroke (58.31).

The Shamrocks' 200 medley relay team of Loniewski, Lee, Kyle Tschannen and Tommy Wiacuk also made the 'A' heat finals and placed eighth in 1:36.71.

"I'm very proud of our CC boys as we continue to work at standards we're bound to uphold," coach Shannon Dunworth said. "Although we'll be saying goodbye to several outstanding seniors – Matt Loniewski being the most decorated – it's exciting to have such a prom-

ising group of underclassmen. Led by Jonathon Lee and his three all-state performances, we return more state qualifiers to next year's team than have in recent memory."

Northville, meanwhile, duplicated its 12th-place finish of a year ago as sophomore Kirk Maibach led the way with sixth in the 50 freestyle (21.30) en route to all-state honors, while also setting a school record with 10th in the 100 backstroke (52.33).

"We were hoping for a top 10 finish, but came up a little short," Northville coach Rich Bennetts said. "We have a lot of work to do in the off-season as coaches to figure out why we can't seem to swim very well on Saturdays. Also, as swimmers, they need to make sure that they are in much better shape come the third week of November than what they were this past season. Twelfth place is not an acceptable finish for this team. We will work as hard as we can to make sure we figure this thing out."

Northville's 200 medley relay team of Larry Zhao, Nikolai Artton, James Xue and Maibach also established a new school record with a seventh-place time of 1:36.65.

"It was nice to see some good swims from the boys and there are some positives to build on for next year," Bennetts said. "It is going to be a lot of hard work, but we will get this thing back to where it should be. We have great kids, great parents, great administrators. We will be fine. We just have to understand that you only get better with hard work and then, most important, go get to work."

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PREP ATHLETICS

# Latest realignment Proposal B for KLAA goes down to defeat

Principals scheduled to meet in April to consider alternate plan

**Brad Emons**  
Staff Writer

It's back to the drawing board for any possible realignment plans for the 24-member Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

KLAA principals, by a 17-6 margin (with one school absent), voted down a competitive balance proposal plan March 7 to realign schools into six different divisions instead of the current four while maintaining 12 teams in both the Kensington and Lakes conferences.

Proposal B essentially provided a swap, with KLAA West Division members Pinckney and Milford moving to the Kensington Conference from the Lakes and KLAA Central Division schools Novi and Northville moving from to the Lakes from the Kensington.

A 75-percent majority, or 18 schools, was needed to approve the change, which tried to address the discrepancy between the largest schools in the KLAA, such as Grand Blanc (enrollment 2,727), and the smallest in South Lyon East (923).

Proposal B was initiated by an executive committee of KLAA athletic directors, who mulled over four different proposals for possible realignment.

The KLAA, which came into existence during the 2007-08 school year when schools from the Western Lakes and Kensington Valley Conference joined forces, is now in the process coming up with another proposal that can be taken to its 24 members at the next principals meeting for a possible vote April 18.

Any new realignment plan adopted will not go into effect until the 2017-18 school year.

Meanwhile, KLAA athletic directors are looking into a possible four-year past performance based formula plan that has been used by the Oakland Activities Association, which consists of 23 member schools.

"What was brought forth was a strength of schedule-type proposal that will hopefully address some of the variables that the KLAA has already had," Milford Principal Kevin McKenna said. "It's similar to it, but it's not the same exact plan. It's taking some of the ideas of the positives of what they have, maybe some positives of other things and trying to look at that a little bit."

In the OAA, divisions are broken down by a past performance based formula for each of the fall, winter and spring seasons. For example, two rival schools that may be in the same football division would not necessarily be aligned in the same division in another sport.

Travel concerns, particularly for Tuesday night conference events, along with maintaining rivalries and aligning schools with similar enrollments are some of the concerns that will still play into the next KLAA proposal.

"It's one of the variables (geographic) that we're trying to keep intact," McKenna said. "Does it do it 100 percent? No. But we're trying to keep one of those variables together. Our next time line is March 21 to



KLAA

## KENSINGTON LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

### KENSINGTON CONFERENCE

**South Division:** Canton (2,076), Plymouth (2,057), Westland John Glenn (1,817), Wayne Memorial (1,643), Livonia Churchill (1,620), Livonia Franklin (1,615).

**Central Division:** Northville (2,281), Salem (2,068), Novi (2,017), Livonia Stevenson (1,831), South Lyon (1,224), South Lyon East (923).

### LAKES CONFERENCE

**West Division:** Grand Blanc (2,727), Howell (2,567), Brighton (2,221), Hartland (2,017), Milford (1,484), Pinckney (1,326).

**North Division:** White Lake Lakeland (1,770), Walled Lake Central (1,766), Waterford Mott (1,651), Walled Lake Northern (1,611), Waterford Kettering (1,512), Walled Lake Western (1,462).

see some of those proposals. And if we don't see those proposals, we'll have to see what's next for the KLAA."

According to McKenna, the KLAA schools that voted for Proposal B were Milford (enrollment 1,484), South Lyon (1,224), South Lyon East (923), Pinckney (1,326), Waterford Mott (1,651) and Waterford Kettering (1,512).

Ironically, Milford's sister school from the Huron Valley district, White Lake Lakeland, voted no on Proposal B.

"I don't want to answer from a Milford standpoint just because I'm kind of representing the KLAA as a secretary," McKenna said. "I'd rather not put the Milford variable scenario in place. I have to be respectful to the KLAA."

Speculation has run rampant within the past week that as many as 10 schools from the KLAA, primarily from the Lakes Conference, have already been in preliminary discussions to form their own conference or league.

If a new OAA-type proposal does gain traction before next month's KLAA principals meeting, McKenna said the possibility still exists that some schools may have to sacrifice moving to another division or perhaps conference.

"I think so, absolutely, but we'll see what that proposal brings forward. There's are a few options with it, so we're willing to look at that," he said. "We could keep the league intact, absolutely, but it's going to take a majority of the KLAA buildings to keep it together and we'll see where it takes us."

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## BOYS SWIM RESULTS

### MHSAA DIVISION 1 BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING CHAMPIONSHIP MEET

#### March 12-13 at Holland Aquatic Center

**BOYS TEAM STANDINGS:** 1. Birmingham Brother Rice, 313 points; 2. Saline, 234; 3. Zeeland, 211; 4. Ann Arbor Skyline, 193; 5. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 182; 6. Holland West Ottawa, 157; 7. Novi, 134; 8. Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central, 100; 9. Rockford 90; 10. Ann Arbor Huron, 74; 11. Novi Detroit Catholic Central, 68.5; 12. Northville, 64; 23. South Lyon Unified, 20; 27. White Lake Lakeland, 11 (37 schools).

#### FINAL EVENT RESULTS (top eight make all-state)

**200-yard medley relay:** 1. Brother Rice (Alex Margherio, Drew Grady, Jake Zalinski, Jack Grady), 1:31.55; 6. Novi (Joey Berman, Narayan Manivannan, Siddhardha Kareddy, Phillip Billiu), 1:35.9; 7. Northville (Larry Zhao, Nikolai Artton, James Xue, Kirk Maibach), 1:36.65; 8. Detroit CC (Matt Loniewski, Jonathan Lee, Kyle Tschannen, Tommy Wiaduck), 1:36.71.

**200 freestyle:** 1. Carl Spencer (West Ottawa), 1:37.15; 16. Tschannen (Detroit CC), 1:46.39; **prelims:** 19. Trevor Degroot (Northville), 1:45.66; 31. Alexander Yuan (Novi), 1:47.50; 38. Bennett Loniewski (Detroit CC), 1:48.26.

**200 individual medley:** 1. Cameron Craig (Monroe), 1:45.42 (all class record); 6. Lee (Detroit CC), 1:55.15; 15. Kareddy (Novi), 1:57.77; **prelims:** 17. Charlie Walsh (Detroit CC), 1:57.54; 20. Xue (Northville), 1:58.82; 21. Joel Kotyk (Novi), 1:58.89; 27. Billiu (Novi), 1:59.45; 35. Travis Nitkiewicz (Northville), 2:00.20.

**50 freestyle:** 1. Jackson O'Dowd (Livonia Stevenson), 20.70; 3. Ryan Katulski (Novi), 20.97; 6. Maibach (Northville), 21.30.

**1-meter diving:** 1. Dakota Nubris (Saline), 516.80 points; 10. James Ciolli (Novi), 375.25; 12. Nathan Pellerito (Novi), 349.00; **semifinals:** 17. David Debaecker (Detroit CC), 243.85; **prelims:** 29. Brendon Connolly (Detroit CC), 134.75;

36. Robert Vance (Detroit CC), 97.30.

**100 butterfly:** 1. Spencer (West Ottawa), 48.12 (Division 1 record); 7. Kareddy (Novi), 51.15; 12. (tie) Tschannen (Detroit CC), 52.49; **prelims:** 17. M. Loniewski (Detroit CC), 52.75; 23. Xue (Northville), 53.61; 25. Preston Harrell (Novi), 53.89; 27. Walsh (Detroit CC), 53.97.

**100 freestyle:** 1. Ryan Vander Meulen (Skyline), 45.75; 8. Katulski (Novi), 46.66; **prelims:** 29. Andrew Campbell (Detroit CC), 49.05; 38. Wiaduck (Detroit), 50.20;

**500 freestyle:** 1. Vander Meulen (Skyline), 45.75; 15. Degroot (Northville), 4:49.02; **prelims:** 17. B. Loniewski (Detroit CC), 4:48.94; 20. Dan Vela (Detroit CC), 4:50.47; 21. 4:50.61; 24. Ethan Bezzina (Detroit), 4:53.42; 29. Jack Breuch (Northville), 4:57.79; 31. David Alameddine (Northville), 4:58.26.

**200 freestyle relay:** 1. Pioneer (Andrew Heise, Joe Riggs, Noah Frassrand, Jason Orringer-Hau), 1:24.41; 7. Novi (Billiu, Yuan, Manivannan, Katulski), 1:27.21; **prelims:** 30. Detroit CC (Logan Mills, Wiaduck, Campbell, Jimmy Connor), 1:31.11; 31. Northville (Troy Stacer, Jacob Tebbe, Shane Boran, Cameron Heaven), 1:31.12.

**100 backstroke:** 1. Craig (Saline), 47.33 (all class record); 9. Berman (Novi), 52.16; 10. Maibach (Northville), 52.33; **prelims:** 20. Maxwell Williams (Novi), 54.16; 24. Chris Barron (Detroit CC), 55.02; 28. Zhao (Northville), 55.51;

**100 breaststroke:** 1. Grady (Rice), 55.18; 4. Lee (Detroit CC), 58.14; 6. M. Loniewski (Detroit CC), 58.31; 11. Artton (Northville), 59.54; **prelims:** 17. Manivannan (Novi), 1:00.25; 21. Chris Geng (Northville), 1:00.65; 28. Nitkiewicz (Northville), 1:01.36; 31. Mills (Detroit CC), 1:01.53;

**400 freestyle relay:** 1. Brother Rice (Zalinski, Bobby Powrie, Margherio, Patrick Olmsted), 3:05.94; 8. Novi (Billiu, Kareddy, Berman, Katulski), 3:13.11; 11. Northville (Xue, Degroot, Zhao, Maibach), 3:12.45; **prelims:** 17. Detroit CC (Tschannen, Wiaduck, Lee, M. Loniewski), 3:15.84.

BOYS HOCKEY

# Catholic Central holds off late U-D rally

Shamrocks move one step closer to third straight state crown

**Tim Smith**  
Staff Writer

Whatever momentum University of Detroit-Jesuit had when Austin Evans tied the game 1-1 on a tap-in with 1:29 left in the opening period went “poof” went Novi Detroit Catholic Central scored two goals 24 seconds apart in that period’s final minute.

First it was senior Kyle Mulka ripping a high shot past Cubs goalie Jacob Robinson, taking a feed from senior linemate Joseph Mancinelli. That put CC back in front.

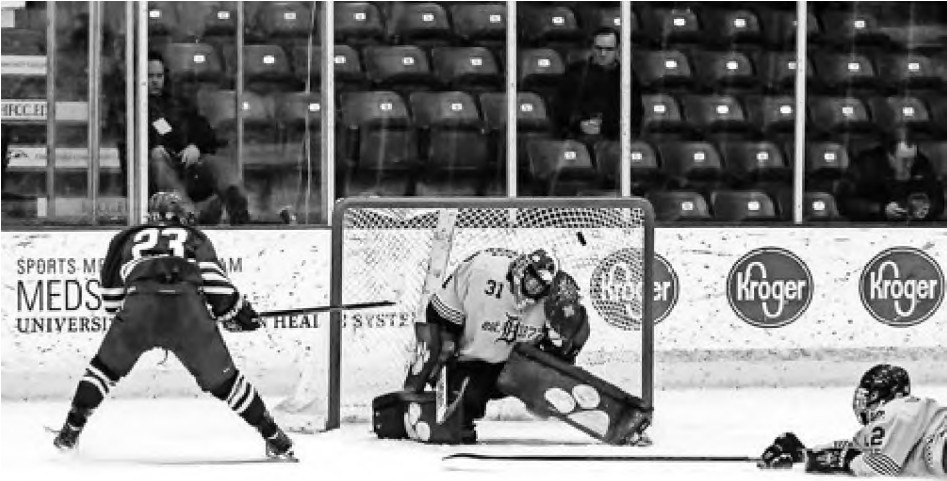
Just 14 seconds later, junior defenseman Zachary Sprys-Tellner and senior forward Nick Macari teamed for a scoring play right on the doorstep in front of Robinson.

The Shamrocks (23-7) went on to win 4-3 in the Division 1 boys hockey state semifinal at USA Hockey Arena, managing to stem the U-D Jesuit tide late in the third with some smart, unselfish play.

“Certainly it makes it a lot easier when you got a two-goal cushion,” CC first-year head coach Brandon Kaleniecki said. “And to be honest, I didn’t really feel like it was a 3-1 hockey game at that point. It was a very tight game, they were coming at us pretty good for long stretches in that first.

“The swing back to our favor to not only get one, but two right at the end of the period, those goals are a killer. We pretty much held that until the very end.”

Cubs coach Rick Bennetts, whose team (16-8-5) has lost the semifinal game four years in a row, shook his



SCOTT CONFER

Lifting a shot past University of Detroit Jesuit goalie Jacob Robinson is Kyle Mulka (No. 23) of the Shamrocks.

head about the way the Shamrocks answered right after the Evans goal.

“Two mental lapses,” he said. “You score a goal to claw our way back in and then get caught on the offensive side of the puck two times. Failure to pick up your guys; you can’t do that against a program like that. They’re dynamic, they’re deep, they’re well-coached, they’re skilled.”

According to Macari, one of 16 CC seniors who are trying to three-peat, it was crucial to respond right away following the U-D goal and that’s what happened.

“Once they got the goal, we knew we had to get it back right away, as soon as possible so we could get that momentum back in our favor,” the captain said. “We kind of just buckled down

and worked hard that last couple minutes of the period.”

The Shamrocks dominated the second period, holding a 15-5 edge in shots on goal. And junior forward Michael Considine padded the advantage to 4-1 with a goal at 13:37.

Senior winger Glynn Robitaille centered the puck from the right corner on to Considine’s stick and he blasted a low shot from between the circles.

But Bennetts talked to his team after the second period to not give up, to remember that games don’t take much to swing back the other way.

“We had four games this year where we squandered two-goal leads and lost in overtime or ended up with an overtime tie,” Bennetts said. “We talked about how the momentum will change,

BOYS HOCKEY

# Shamrocks storm past Tri-Valley, 9-1

**Brad Emons**  
Staff Writer

A 53-7 shot advantage led to another convincing win March 9 for two-time defending MHSAA Division 1 boys hockey state champion Novi Detroit Catholic Central.

Sophomore forward Brendan West scored a pair of goals as eight differ-

ent Shamrocks scored in a 9-1 quarter-final victory over the Tri-Valley Titans at the Dort Federal Event Center in Flint.

Other CC goal scorers included Brian Kearns, Kyle Mulka, Jared Lee, Sheldon Wasik, Glynn Robitaille, Cody Borke and Zachary Sprys-Tellner.

Shamrocks goaltender Alec Calvaruso had to make only six saves as CC

improved to 22-7 overall.

Tri-Valley, a unified team made up of Saginaw Swan Valley, Hemlock, Midland Bullock Creek and Sanford Meridian high schools, bowed out with a 16-12 overall record.

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## Gymnasts at state finals



ERIN MCWATT

Freshman Maddy Lewis (left) and sophomore Erin McCallum represented Northville at the 2016 MHSAA Gymnastics Division 1 individual finals held Saturday at Rockford. McCallum earned all-state honors in the vault with a 10th-place finish, scoring 9.35. She was 19th overall in all-around with a total of 34.975. She also had 9.05 on floor exercise (tied for 17th), her second high score of the season, along with 8.5 on the uneven parallel bars (tied for 18th) and 8.065 on balance beam (tied for 27th). Lewis, competing in her first state meet, added 8.175 on the uneven bars for 27th. “These ladies peaked at the right time and were ready to take on the best of the best on Saturday,” Northville coach Erin McWatt said. “Both were so poised and confident and I couldn’t be more pleased with their veteran attitudes and approach to this very intense competitive experience, especially being as young as they are.”

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Softball leagues

Registration is open for the Northville Parks and Recreation adult morning, afternoon and evening softball leagues (free agents included).

Among the leagues offered are Sunday afternoon (co-ed); Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday (men’s); Wednesday morning (men’s); Tuesday 55-and-over (senior men’s); and Thursday 52-and-over (senior men’s).

For more information, call Charlie Gabbeart at 248-449-9947 or email cgabbeart@ci.northville.mi.us.

### Novi baseball registration open

Registration is open for the 2016 Novi Youth Baseball League, which offers six divisions for players ages 7-18.

There is no Novi residency requirement for the NYBL’s house league baseball divisions, but registration closes March 17 for players 14 and under.

Teams will be selected in late March, with the NYBL’s opening day scheduled for Saturday, May 14.

Registration is available online at [www.noviyouthbaseball.com](http://www.noviyouthbaseball.com)

### Northville spring baseball

The ninth annual Northville Mustang Spring Training Baseball camp for boys and girls ages 7-14 will be Saturday and Sunday, March 19-20, at the high school gymnasium.

The cost for each camp is \$50 at the door. Included in the cost is a camp T-shirt.

For more information, email Kris Yanagi at [KristineYanagi@gmail.com](mailto:KristineYanagi@gmail.com) or baseball coach John Kostrzewa at [kostrzjo@northvilleschools.org](mailto:kostrzjo@northvilleschools.org).

### Inferno drop-in

Registration is available for Novi Youth Baseball Inferno drop-in practices, 7:35-9:15 p.m. each Friday during March and April, at the Strike Zone, 48155 West Road, Wixom.

The cost is \$35 for eight practices or \$10 per drop-in session at the door.

For more information, go to [www.noviyouthbaseball.com](http://www.noviyouthbaseball.com).

## TITLE

Continued from Page B1

also drew an assist to make it 1-0.

“Coach Kaleniecki always tells me I need to drive the net more often and I need to shoot more often,” Macari said. “I just kind of listened to what he said and I drove to the net and it worked. It ended up on my player’s stick and it went in the net.”

Macari then busted down the left wing again and went top-shelf to beat Neaton to make it 2-0 at 14:22 of the second. Brian Galvin and Lafferty drew assists.

And just 1:44 into the third period, Cody Borke’s tip-in goal off a shot from just inside the blue line from Austin Roell gave the Shamrocks a 3-0 cushion.

The Bulldogs, who were outshot 29-15, couldn’t get the puck past Calvaruso, who survived a six-on-three disadvantage during the final two minutes after two of his teammates were sent to the box.

And there was nothing better than the senior goalie posting a shutout in the state final.

“They made it easy for me,” Calvaruso said. “I saw everything and they didn’t get many shots. They played the way they knew how. It means a lot. I



SCOTT CONFER

Catholic Central goalie Alec Calvaruso (right) makes a pad save on the first-period penalty shot taken by Brighton’s Jake Crespi.

didn’t play the last two (state finals), so it means everything.”

CC played a strong game defensively en route to winning the title. During its six-game tourney run, the Shamrocks had three shutouts and gave up only four goals.

“We just had to limit their odd-man chances,” Kaleniecki said. “You make sure your third forward is high and make them play in the defensive zone, because if they do get possession at

that point, it’s a long way to go. The best way to stop the best offensive player or players is make them play in the ‘D’ zone, because even if they get possession, it’s a long way to go.

Brighton, meanwhile, went 0-of-5 on the power play and it always seemed the Shamrocks were an hour ahead.

“From the beginning, I don’t think we got totally into our game, because Catholic Central didn’t want us to,” said Brighton coach Paul Moggoch,

whose team finished 22-9. “I think they played a great game on both sides of the puck, offensively and defensively. We just didn’t find a rhythm and didn’t find a way to get to them. I think if we had scored on that penalty shot, we might have had a little bit of a chance, but they outshot us, outplayed us.”

For the Shamrocks, it was a culmination of another stellar state championship run.

“It’s really hard to explain. I’m on top of the world right now,” said Macari, a captain who had a goal and assist. “I’ve been on the team for three years and we’re fortunate to win all three years. We just got better and better each year. Knowing I went out on top as a senior ... nothing better.”

And the feeling was mutual for Macari’s fellow senior captain Brian Kearns.

“There’s no better feeling than winning your last game,” he said. “At CC, I think it’s been such a ride for us. I don’t think there’s a better feeling in the world than going out with a win.”

Kaleniecki is the third different CC coach to claim a state title in the last three years. Doug Itami was the coach in 2014 and Danny Veri did it as an interim coach in 2015.

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bemons1@twitter.com

## Income tax refund fraud a \$21 billion problem

It's tax time, which means that the fraudsters and lowlifes are out in force.

One type of tax fraud that has soared over the last few years is tax refund fraud. This is where someone using your Social Security number and birthday files a bogus tax return seeking a refund. Two years ago, the Internal Revenue Service estimated this type of fraud cost taxpayers about \$6.5 billion. This tax season, the IRS is estimating it will cost taxpayers more than \$21 billion. You may ask how this could happen. There are a couple reasons, including the IRS's out-of-date fraud detection system and the fact that it takes so little personal information to file a tax return. Basically, all you need is name, date of birth and Social Security number. This is why protecting sensitive information is so important. Unfortunately, the IRS doesn't have the means to stop tax fraud and most of us won't find out we are subject to one until we hear from the IRS that our tax return has been rejected.

If you find you've been subject to tax refund fraud either because the IRS would not accept your tax return or you received a notice from the IRS about a suspicious tax filing, there are some things that you should do. The first is to notify the IRS. The IRS has an identity protection unit that you should immediately notify. Its toll-free number is 800-908-4490. After you have notified the IRS, you should ob-



**Rick Bloom**

MONEY MATTERS

***If someone has filed a fraudulent tax return on your behalf, you need to do more than just contact the IRS.***

tain Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit, from [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and complete the form. This form should then be mailed in to the IRS, along with your tax return. You should know that even if your tax return was fraudulently paid to another individual, the IRS will still honor your return and you will get your refund, although it may take a while.

If someone has filed a fraudulent tax return on your behalf, you need to do more than just contact the IRS. I also recommend that you file a police report with your local police department and a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission. Its website is [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov).

It is also important that you contact the three main credit bureaus, Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. You should notify them that you have been a victim of identity theft and they should put a fraud alert on your account. In addition, it's not a bad idea to pull your credit report

from the three agencies. One thing that you sometimes see is these thieves will apply for credit in your name. By pulling out a credit report and putting a fraud alert, you can do your best to minimize any harm to you.

For those who have been subject to some sort of identity theft, it is important that you regularly change your passwords. I know it's a hassle and I hate to do it myself, but we all have to recognize that technology has changed the world and we have to change along with it.

I guess I will analogize to when I was a kid. I grew up in Oak Park and our door, particularly during the day, was unlocked. In fact, I think most of the houses on the block weren't locked. Today, I think the first thing most of us do when we come home is make sure the doors are locked. Times have changed and we have to change with it. My recommendation for all of us is to make sure that we regularly change our passwords and to never let our guard down.

Identity thieves are out in force and they can do us tremendous harm. We may not be able to 100 percent protect ourselves, but by being diligent and taking some precautions, we can greatly reduce the chances that we will be victims.

*Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like him to respond to questions, email [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).*



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

David Lawrence, vice president and CAO of AlphaUSA, talks about the restoration of the SS United States.

## Company helps raise funds for ocean liner SS United States

**David Veselenak**  
Staff Writer

AlphaUSA's involvement in helping the SS United States' fundraising efforts started with a phone call looking for Lee Iacocca.

A call from the SS United States Conservancy, an organization looking to restore the famed ocean liner that has fallen into disrepair, was taken at the Livonia company when it was looking for someone to assist with restoration efforts, AlphaUSA CAO David Lawrence said.

"They were remembering when Lee Iacocca headed up efforts to restore the Statue of Liberty," Lawrence said. "They saw this as something that was on as large of a scale and as patriotic of a scale, so one of the people working on that said he knew someone in Detroit. And that was AlphaUSA."

From that call, the company became intrigued with the ship and helped with fundraising efforts to restore it and get it back up to speed. It was announced earlier this month that Crystal Cruises intends to use the 990-foot-long passenger ship and restore it for transporting passengers across the ocean once again.

"When the conservancy purchased the ship back in 2011, it was going to be scrapped," Lawrence said. "They were immediately trying to

figure out how to make a national campaign."

Lawrence said the project became somewhat personal, with AlphaUSA CEO Chuck Dardas growing up admiring the ship when he was younger.

"He had a model of the ship when he was a young boy," Lawrence said.

Susan Gibbs, executive director of the SS United States Conservancy, said the role AlphaUSA has played over the last few years has been an important one to help the fundraising efforts with the liner.

She said while the innovative website, [savetheunitedstates.org](http://savetheunitedstates.org), with the two-dimensional model of the ship is attractive, officials have begun looking closely how to evolve the website as design advances.

"AlphaUSA has been a valuable partner in those efforts," she said. "We're beginning to think about trying to convert it to a three-dimensional exploration. We're excited for the partnership to continue."

### Set speed records

The SS United States, currently docked in Philadelphia, began its service as a passenger liner in 1952 and made 800 transatlantic crossings, cruising at 38 knots (44 mph) at top speed and setting speed records that hold to this day. Compared to perhaps the most-famous ocean liner, the Titanic, the SS United

States was larger than the 1912 liner and weighed nearly 10,000 tons more. It was also funded partially by the U.S. government and could have been used to transport soldiers during the Cold War, if needed.

The interest AlphaUSA had, Lawrence said, was in the technological aspects used to construct the ship during the 1950s.

"The ship's an amazing example of technology, engineering and, really, industrial superiority, built at a time when the United States was a leader of that in the world," Lawrence said.

Efforts to solicit donations to restore the ship are ongoing. Those interested can donate to the SS United States Conservancy online at [savetheunitedstates.org](http://savetheunitedstates.org). The hope is to relaunch the ship for passengers by 2018.

"She was the last and greatest of her kind," Lawrence said. "There was a time when people traveled the ocean via passenger liner. The whole idea was that it was a bus that could get people across the ocean quickly."

"Speed was king. This ship beat the speed record on its maiden voyage and it's a speed record that hasn't been conquered since and probably never will."

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## Medical Care Alert nabs Super Service award

Medical Care Alert in Northville has once again earned the industry's coveted Angie's List Super Service Award for 2015, reflecting another exemplary year of service provided to members of the consumer review site.

"We are very excited to receive this award for the fourth year in a row," said Bryan Stapp, president of Medical Care Alert. "Our team members love making things

easy for our clients' elderly family members and caregivers who use our service."

Medical Care Alert is a national provider of personal emergency medical alert systems for senior citizens, providing 24/7 monitoring and protection in the event of a fall or other emergency situation.

"Only about 5 percent of companies have performed well enough to earn our Super Service

Award," said Angie's List founder Angie Hicks.

Stapp also noted Medical Care Alert has an overall 'A' rating with Angie's List and an 'A-plus' rating as an accredited member of the Better Business Bureau. "Our annual Net Promoter Score survey ranks our customer satisfaction in the same league as great companies like USAA, Nordstrom and Costco," Stapp said.

## OAKLAND COUNTY BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars offered by the Oakland County One Stop Shop Business Center.

Unless otherwise noted, all programs take place at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford. For pre-registration and location specifics, go to [www.advantageoakland.com/businessworkshops](http://www.advantageoakland.com/businessworkshops) or call 248-858-0783.

### Start-Up Thursdays Free Business Counseling

9:30 a.m. to noon and  
1:30-4:30 p.m. Thursday

Entrepreneurs who want to start a business but do not know where to begin can receive confidential, one-on-one advice from an experienced business counselor with no appointment necessary. Sessions will be limited to 15 minutes and available on a first come, first served basis. No fee.

### Capital Raise

9:30-11 a.m. Tuesday,  
March 22

If you are a start-up or early-stage growth-based business looking for funding, we invite you to attend a 90-minute presentation by our capital strategist, Mike Brennan. He will detail the various capital sources in Michigan and talk about how to position your company to

qualify for various funding sources, including private/angel, SBA, short-term private lending, private equity, venture capital and angel network. He will also discuss state and federally supported grant, loan, and matching programs. Free.

### Women's Business Enterprise Certification Orientation

9-11 a.m. Wednesday,  
March 30

Learn about the benefits and process of becoming a Women's Business Enterprise. To register, call 248-858-0783 or email [smallbusiness@oakgov.com](mailto:smallbusiness@oakgov.com). \$25 per person.

## Time to build: Home Expo in Canton offers ideas, expertise



John Sarnecky of Canton owns Canton Construction with his wife, Marissa.

**Julie Brown**  
Staff Writer

John and Marissa Sarnecky own Canton Construction, among some 70 vendors at the Canton Home Improvement Expo March 5-6.

"Last year was outstanding for us," Canton resident John Sarnecky said of the Expo. "We've been here from Day One," some 15 years ago. "They've expanded to just about every nook and cranny."

Indeed, the Summit on the Park was busy with vendors and people seeking home improvement ideas. Sarnecky said when the economy slowed people backed off on upgrades, and that's gotten a lot better.

"Additions," he said. "A lot of exterior work. The more important items they were holding off on I think they're addressing now."

He noted the auto industry's bonuses and profit sharing help Canton Construction's business. Rental inspections started by Canton building officials have been a factor he's seen as well.

"That had an impact on us as well as the community, keeping things up to par," Sarnecky said. "They're up to snuff now."

Nearby at Mans Lumber and Millwork was Jim Trudeau, installation sales manager for the firm dating back to 1900. Mans has locations in Canton and Trenton.

"Decks are really big and also kitchen remodels," said Riverview resident Trudeau. "We're seeing a really big jump in window replacement. People are really going up the next level. They really seem to want to improve their homes."

Trudeau agreed March is ideal to start such projects. He was helped that Saturday by colleague Dottie Kelly of Canton, facilitator for sales support.

Trudeau noted the Expo helps boost awareness of their Canton site at the Michigan Avenue-Beck Road area. "We get a lot of response," he said.

His own home isn't neglected either. "My wife makes sure I keep it up," Trudeau said of their home, which has recently had two bedrooms remodeled with new doors, molding and flooring.

### Canton policewoman has tips on vacation home security

**Julie Brown**  
Staff Writer

Canton police Officer Patty Esselink was happy to answer questions about home safety when you're away on vacation. She and other Public Safety personnel, police and fire, were staffing the booth at the Canton Home Improvement Expo March 5-6.

"The biggest thing is letting your neighbors know you're going to be away, a trusted neighbor," said Esselink. Other key tips she offered are:

- » Maintain snow removal in winter;
- » Make sure grass is mowed in warm weather;
- » Make arrangements for your mail and newspapers, so they don't pile up and advertise you're away.

Letting a family member or trusted neighbor know your travel plans allows him or her to check and see if, for example, a garage door is open, she said.

"Then the neighbor can call us, or a family member" if something's not right, Esselink said. "Encourage them to call the police. We will come out and check the situation."

Lighting indoors and outside can also help make your home more secure.

deau said of their home, which has recently had two bedrooms remodeled with new doors, molding and flooring.

Visiting the Expo on March 5 from Madison, Wis., was Vanessa Mattsson-Boze, with sons Eli Mattsson-Boze, 4, and brother Soren, 3. Vanessa's husband and her parents came to the Expo, as the family was visiting in Canton.

"It's been large," she said. "We didn't really expect it to be this many vendors. The kids have had fun."



Julie Brown  
Vanessa Mattsson-Boze traveled with sons Eli, 4, and Soren, 3, from Madison, Wis., and stopped by the Expo while visiting family here. The boys liked the Home Depot building projects for kids and meeting Canton police officers.



Julie Brown  
Representing Mans Lumber and Millwork at the Expo are staffers Jim Trudeau of Riverview and Dottie Kelly of Canton. Mans, in business since 1900, has Canton and Trenton locations.

## Easement case could be thorny, based on Kentucky court ruling

**Q: Our developer has retained an easement access through our condominium to another project but we are thinking about amending our documents to eliminate that easement. What do you think the chances are of that being successful?**

A: That is a tough task to accomplish particularly based upon a Kentucky Court of Appeals decision which stated that easements and restrictive covenants are entirely different and are not an interchangeable concept of property law. The court indicated that a covenant only restricts the use of property, while an easement confers the right to enter the property upon which the easement is held. In your case, the owner of the property burdened by an easement (i.e. the association) even with the vote of the members does not have the authority to alter or terminate the easement without the easement holders consent. Thus the easement cannot be extinguished without the developer's consent. Therefore, you may have a problem getting that easement extinguished. Majestic Oaks Home Owners Association, Inc. v. Majestic Oaks Farms, Inc., No. 2014-CA-000492-MR (Ky. Ct. App. Nov. 20, 2015)

**Q: We are in a football college town and we want our association to eliminate renting a unit to a student enrolled in a two- or four-year college, institution or university. I understand that it could be argued that this type of provision is a restriction discriminating against a class of persons. What do you think?**

A: Based upon a recent decision out of South Carolina, the Supreme Court of that state upheld a restriction prohibiting rentals to college students. The court basically stated that college students are not of a class of citizens normally suspect for discrimination. They aren't faced with a long history of discrimination, are not a distinct minority and have not been classified according to an imputable trait acquired at birth. The court in that case found that the leasing restriction to be rationally related to protecting the safety, comfort, and investment of owners. The restriction minimized the risk of creating a dormitory like atmosphere by barring those who have a tendency to engage in disruptive conduct. The court basically said that state and federal housing laws prohibit discrimination in housing sales or rentals based on a persons of race, color, religion, sex, family status or national origin and that under both state and federal law, familial status refers to persons under the age of 18 who live with a parent or guardian. In that case since the restriction did not involve any of those criteria, the court found no housing violation. It is important to understand the full context of that case as it relates to your possible situation.

**Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.**



**Robert Meisner**

### Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-11, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

### Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m.

each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email [june.quantum@gmail.com](mailto:june.quantum@gmail.com) for your reservation or additional information.

### Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

Email [Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com](mailto:Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com) or visit [FreeForeclosureTour.com](http://FreeForeclosureTour.com).

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# Get informed about informational interviews

BY DEBRA AUERBACH  
CAREERBUILDER

When job seekers hear the word "interview," they usually associate it with the chance to score a job. Yet when it comes to informational interviews, that's not quite the case. Informational interviews are much more about making connections and learning about a particular industry or occupation than they are about finding employment. They can be incredibly valuable — if they're handled the right way.

Here's what job seekers should know about informational interviews and how they can get the most out of their meetings.

Why they're helpful

John Paul Engel, president of the executive recruiting firm Knowledge Capital Consulting, says that these interviews give job seekers the chance to learn from those whose professional life they'd like to emulate. "There is someone out there that has exactly the job, business (and) life you want. Who better to help you build a road map to that place than someone who already covered the territory?" Beyond helping job seekers discover more about their desired careers, informational interviews can also build im-



THINKSTOCK

portant business skills. Erica B. McCurdy, a business strategist and life coach, says, "Informational interviews help someone just starting their career learn from those who are already well-established. During this process, the (job seeker) also gets practical experience in the art of having business conversations with a stranger, asking solid questions, managing time and learning to follow up."

How to get one

Job seekers interested in setting up informational interviews should first tap their connections, Engel advises. "Alumni are an excellent source," he says. "Ask your friends and family if they know

someone that does what you want to do. Worst case, just cold-call."

If it comes down to contacting strangers, Engel suggests a creative way to get their attention — and get them to commit: "Send a note offering to do one hour of volunteer work for their favorite charity in exchange for each minute of their time."

Questions to ask

Standard questions for an informational interview include, "How did you get into this field?" and "What advice would you give someone like me just starting out?" Sara Ferraioli, a partner and managing director in Winter-Wyman Contract Staffing's hu-

man resources division, says these types of meetings also give job seekers an opportunity to ask questions that they may be afraid to ask during a normal interview — but that can help them prepare for the real thing.

"During an informational interview, it's OK to ask questions that might seem taboo or inappropriate for certain job interviews. Asking these questions during informational interviews will prepare you for topics that arise in the job interview," she says.

"For example, some younger job seekers may not have insight into what typical entry-level salaries look like," Ferraioli continues. "Having conversations with hiring

managers will often provide accurate information about money. When you are eventually offered a job, you will be knowledgeable about the salary you are being offered and can gauge whether it's in line with current industry standards."

What you can get out of it

It's not about getting a job — but it could lead to one. "When you go to an informational interview, one of the most important questions you can ask toward the end is, 'Who else should I be talking to?'" says Lidia Arshavsky, a career strategist and certified professional résumé writer. "Especially if you are new to an industry, introductions to new people who can provide insights and connections are invaluable. And if you prove yourself to be a motivated, self-starting top performer as you follow this chain of connections, you are highly likely to ultimately have someone mention your name when their friend or colleague tells them they are looking to fill an opening."

Debra Auerbach is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder.com. She researches and writes about job-search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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General

Executive Housekeeper - Island House, Mackinac Island, MI. 5 years accommodations management experience required. Overseas staff of 13. \$650-\$800 per week DOE, housing provided 401(k). Seasonal position May-October. [www.theislandhouse.com](http://www.theislandhouse.com) 1 (906) 847-7196

General

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General

JANITORIAL Howell, Brighton, Wixom, Novi, Farmington. Mon-Fri, wkend avail. 20-25 hrs/wk. \$8.50/hr. EOE [www.uservice.com](http://www.uservice.com) or fax resume to: 248-926-9595

General

Landscape Co looking for Landscape Foreman and Landscape & Lawn Care Laborers Applicants can come in to fill out an application. Cut-N-Care 48090 West Road Wixom, MI 48393 248-668-0070 [cmccandrews@cutncare.com](mailto:cmccandrews@cutncare.com)

General

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General

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General

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General

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General

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General

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Healthcare-Dental

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Healthcare-Dental

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST Full time for Highland Family Practice. Must be energetic and ability to multi-task. Email resume to: [shukairy@comcast.net](mailto:shukairy@comcast.net)

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3 year Rabies, \$14 Heartworm test, \$19 Skin, Ear, Eye exams avail. Questions: 313-686-5701

LOW COST VACCINE WELLNESS CLINIC TSC - New Hudson Sun., April 3rd 2-5PM

3 year Rabies, \$14 Heartworm test, \$19 Skin, Ear, Eye exams avail. Questions: 313-686-5701

LOW COST VET VACCINE WELLNESS CLINIC TSC - (HOWELL) Sat. March 19th, 10AM-2PM TSC (WHITMORE LAKE) 6850 Whitmore Lake Fri., March 25th 10am-1pm 3year Rabies, \$16, Heartworm Test, \$19. Skin, Ear & Eye exams avail. 313-686-5701

LOW COST VET VACCINE WELLNESS CLINIC TSC - WHITE LAKE 10150 Highland Rd.Sun. April 10th, 4PM-6:30PM 3year Rabies, \$16, Heartworm Test, \$19. Skin, Ear & Eye exams avail. 313-686-5701

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# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

1 Kitchie

Valens hit

8 Store up

13 Credit (to)

20 Black keys.

21 Air raid alert

22 Percussion pair

23 Very tidy sort

24 Musical page

25 Airplane trips

26 Viola or cello

29 Tulip chair designer

30 Always, in an ode

31 Eucalyptus-eating "bear"

35 "Duck Ina Halls," e.g.

39 Quilt insert

45 "Anne of Green Gables" town

48 Sounds of wonder-mant

49 London brew

50 Mils. who's canonized

51 Where a ball rolls in an alley

53 Hero's 251

55 Luau dish

56 Swing in the breeze, say

57 Round bread of India

58 Place to par informally

61 Lyricist Lorenz

62 Jeweled crown

64 Misprint list

65 Gracefully limber

68 It may include spoons and thimbles

72 Dada artist Max

73 Teeming, as with bees

75 Makes mad ore

76 Title for a lady

78 Figure in black magic

80 Dollar bit

81 Irishwoman, e.g.

85 Cubs' and Eagles' org.

86 Vehicle ding

87 Warlike "pineapple"

90 Rat-a-

91 Wiggling fish

92 Balkan native

93 Some pianos and motorcycles

94 Contest on a mat

99 Door knocker's response

100 Gelatin dish

101 Winning line in tic-tac-too

102 Abba of Israel

105 Theme of this puzzle

115 Hard to catch

116 "Pal Joey" novelist John

119 Red apple variety

120 Purities, as ore

121 Wild, as an animal

122 Secrets mother's milk

123 In a group of

124 Ole or Ole

125 Moved stealthily

5 Actress Liza

6 Light brown

7 Questioner

8 Bubbly wine

9 Personal manner

10 Weaponry

11 Octets minus one

12 Loud sleeper

13 Like most radios

14 Shop lure

15 Crease

16 Convertible auto

17 Einstein's "I"

18 Slugging club

19 Ending for lion

27 Female gerbil

28 Mystifying Mr. Geller

32 Race loser

33 Many troubadours

34 Grow mature

35 Hailed rides

36 State frankly

37 Line of seats closest to the stage

38 Part of SRO

40 Bank offer

41 Myriad years

42 Friend of Fidel

43 Wee cow

44 Faye of film

46 City in Sicily

47 Petri dish

52 Not right now

53 Wine stopper

54 Declared

55 Cal sound

58 Comic's bits

59 Cilly east of Utah Lake

60 Break a fast

61 Lionhearted type

62 Money tray

63 Suffix with 81-Down

65 Water closet

66 Some weather lines

67 Polka relative

68 —cow (tipped out)

70 Droop, as from heat

71 Piquant

74 Catwalk user

77 Big name in razors

79 Sub shop

80 "Squawk Box" network

81 Annoying fly

82 Partners of 48-Across

83 Mild cheese

84 — majesty

87 "... made — woman": Genesis 2:22

88 Gallery work

89 High rank

90 Old Delta rival

91 Drawing with acid

92 Cover thickly

95 Acts as a sub (for)

96 Vulture drink

97 Gal musty

98 Sly laugh part

103 Really cries

104 Of birds

106 Burl of song

107 104-Down hangout

108 Spy Mela —

109 Bahrain, e.g.

110 Folklore bit

111 And/or gp.

112 Writer Dinesen

113 Rep's Dogg

114 Zipped along

115 Timeline part

116 Old NASA moon lander

117 ET's craft

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

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115	116	117								118							119				
120										121							122				
123										124							125				

For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702/4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

## SUDOKU

2				6				9
						1		
			4	8	7		3	
		4	2			7		
6		1		9		4		3
		2			4	5		
	9		8	2	3			
		3						
8				1				5

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

9	7	8	6	1	2	9	2	8
2	8	6	9	7	9	8	1	2
2	1	9	8	2	8	9	6	7
8	9	9	7	2	1	2	8	6
8	2	7	8	6	9	1	2	9
1	6	2	9	8	7	6	8	9
9	8	2	2	8	7	6	9	1
7	2	1	2	9	6	8	9	8
6	9	8	1	9	8	2	7	2

MUSICAL WORD SEARCH

WORDS

ACCORDION MARIMBA

BAGPIPE MUSICAL

BASS OBOE

BONGO ORGAN

BRASS PIANO

BUGLE PICCOLO

CELLO RECORDER

CLARINET SAXOPHONE

CLAVICHORD SNARE

FIDDLE TAMBOURINE

FIFE TRIANGLE

FLUTE TROMBONE

FRENCH HORN TRUMPET

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HARMONICA VIOLA

HARP VIOLIN

INSTRUMENT WHISTLE

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**Peaceful & Private!**

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- \* Two car detached garage
- \* Gas fireplace

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- \* Move in Ready!

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**Welcome Home!**

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- \* Two story ceramic foyer with vaulted ceiling
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- \* Beautiful hardwood throughout, gorgeous fireplace
- \* Fully fenced in back yard

**MLS 216002092 248.684.1065 \$255,000**

**Beautiful Updated Ranch!**

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