



CITY OF NOVI
Administrative ePacket
May 23, 2024

Public Safety (Police/Fire)

[FBI National Academy - Zinser](#)

Infrastructure (Roads/Water/Sewer)

Economic Development (City Revenue/Job Growth)

[Our Next Energy Update](#)

Citizen-Focused Government (Shared Services/Customer Services)

[People's Express \(PEX\) Mailer](#)

[Community Relations Wins Bronze at 45th Telly Awards](#)

[YSEALI PFP 2024 Testimonial - Nhung](#)

Natural Areas & Features and Community Character (Community that Preserves)

Fiscally Responsible Government (Maintain)

[General Liability Insurance Update - Johnson](#)

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services (Enhance Services)

Capital Improvement Program

City Council Only or Confidential



MEMORANDUM

TO: VICTOR CARDENAS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: ERICK W. ZINSER
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY/CHIEF OF POLICE
SUBJECT: FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY
DATE: MAY 21, 2024

I am incredibly proud to announce Commander Kristie Gruenwald accepted an appointment to the 291st Session of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy (FBINA). She will be attending the National Academy from July 7, through September 12, 2024. Commander Gruenwald joins only four other Novi Police Department Executives who have attended the FBINA.

The FBI National Academy is a professional course of study for U.S. and international law enforcement executives nominated by their agency heads because of demonstrated leadership qualities. Each Session is made up of approximately 300 law enforcement executives, including international students.

The selection process includes a lengthy application, a nomination from the Chief of Police, background check, medical clearance, physical agility test, and final approval through the FBI-Detroit Office.

The 10-week program provides coursework in intelligence theory, terrorism and terrorist mindsets, leadership science, law, behavioral science, law enforcement communication, and forensic science. The National Academy strives to improve the administration of justice in police departments and agencies at home and abroad and to raise law enforcement standards, knowledge, and cooperation worldwide.

This selection is not only a proud moment for Commander Gruenwald but also validates the Novi Police Departments commitment to professional leadership in policing and strengthens our bond with our community and public trust.

Please join me in congratulating Commander Kristie Gruenwald on her appointment to the prestigious FBI National Academy.



Struggling Our Next Energy taps consultant to help battery maker raise funds

By Kurt Nagl

Crain's Detroit

<https://www.crainsdetroit.com/manufacturing/our-next-energy-taps-birch-lake-help-fundraising>

Electric vehicle battery startup Our Next Energy Inc. hired a Chicago-based financial consultant specializing in distressed businesses in its quest to rebound from a failed Series C fundraising round.

The Novi-based battery manufacturer recently tapped Birch Lake Partners, a merchant bank known for its work with struggling startups, two sources with knowledge of the matter told Crain's. The bank was brought on as a financial adviser but not an investor, one of the sources said.

Our Next Energy told Crain's in a statement that its fundraising pursuit "remains a critical part of ... efforts to build an American battery company."

"As part of these efforts, the company has worked with several investment consultants since ONE was founded in 2020," the company said. "These consultants help the company identify the best path forward for securing the necessary support to fully fund our business plan, build a battery cell factory in Michigan and accelerate the country's transition to electrification."

The company declined to comment further on the status of its fundraising.

Progress on that front was derailed at the end of last year when the automotive industry hit the brakes on the EV transition due to dramatically less demand than anticipated. The pullback hit suppliers hard and left ONE imperiled.

After its Series C fell apart with the withdrawal of London-based venture capital firm Just Climate, the startup demoted its founder as CEO and installed a new executive steeped in manufacturing operations and slashed costs. Since the beginning of the year, it has laid off more than 160 employees.

Newly installed CEO Paul Humphries told Crain's in January that ONE secured bridge financing from existing investors to keep it afloat at least through the year as it looks to land firm off-take agreements with OEMs.

Build-out of a planned \$1.6 billion factory in Van Buren Township remains on hold, while a line for commercial vehicle batteries at contract manufacturer Piston Automotive is also shut off.

The startup must raise capital wherever it can find it, said Alex Calderone, a Birmingham-based financial consultant who has expertise in distressed businesses but is not involved with Our Next Energy.

"It is an absolutely brutal environment out there for EV startups and their suppliers," Calderone said. "The only way to survive is to procure more capital, but when you're bleeding money and

Mayor and Council –

Just an FYI on a recent article from Crain's regarding Our Next Energy (ONE), which is located on 12 Mile between West Road and Novi Road.

- Victor

the investment thesis starts becoming less attractive to folks, it's not easy to keep getting people to write checks even if you have tremendously good technology."

Birch Lake "deploys intellectual and financial capital in stressed and transitional businesses," according to its website. Its CEO is Jack Butler, regarded in the finance industry as a bankruptcy and turnaround guru.

Butler did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

The bank was a lender to EV startup Faraday Future and helped facilitate a \$100 million debt raise in 2021 as the majority notes purchaser and collateral agent on the secured financing facility, according to a news release from Birch Lake.

Calderone said startups like Our Next Energy need to find investors who believe in the long-term vision even if the payoff has been pushed out.

"What these guys have is intellectual property and probably really solid products," he said. "But they have products that are great that are not supported by the market for EVs right now."



City of Novi
45175 Ten Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48375

Mayor and Council –

FYI on the mailer being sent out to all residents on June 1st (paid for by PEX). Additionally, a website is in the works with a video that all should be completed in about two weeks.

- Victor



CITY OF NOVI MOVES TO *People's Express* **FOR TRANSIT SERVICES**



On **July 1, 2024**, Novi's Senior Transportation Service will be transitioned to **People's Express (PEX)**.

PEX has been operating curb-to-curb transportation services for over 30 years and is for everyone. **All Novi residents can take advantage - regardless of age, ability, or income.** For anything from doctor visits, rides to and from the library, grocery shopping, or even to work, residents 14 and older can schedule rides with PEX. Residents younger than 14 must be accompanied by a guardian.

See inside for additional details.

877.214.6073
CITYOFNOVI.ORG/TRANSIT



People's Express

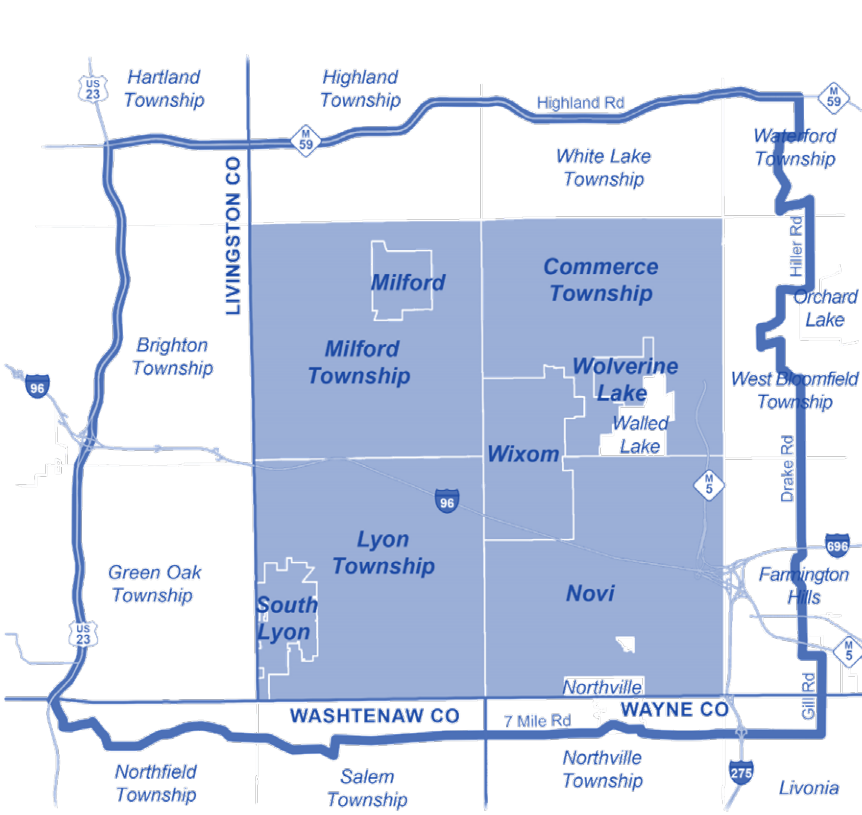
- The new service **replaces the current City of Novi Senior Transportation offerings.**
- People's Express offers **expanded service hours and range.**
- There is **no cost for those 55 and older, persons with disabilities and veterans** within the service area.

Starting July 1, 2024
People's Express will be offering door-to-door transportation services in Novi.

TRANSIT SERVICE
COMING TO NOVI



SERVICE
AREA



ABOUT THE CHANGE

In November 2022, Novi voters approved a millage to maintain and expand public transportation in Oakland County, including Novi. As a result, all residents are already being taxed for public transportation services, including two fixed SMART bus routes; one runs along 12 Mile Road and the other along Grand River Avenue.

With the transition of Novi's Senior Transportation to People's Express, the cost for the service, vehicle maintenance, and other operational overhead will now be paid by Oakland County directly to People's Express with the millage funds - except for a nominal fare per ride for each rider. It was determined this was the best way to maximize the public transportation tax dollars Novi residents are paying to Oakland County, bringing greater convenience and accessibility to current transportation users and expanding the offering to all residents.

FARES... IN AND OUT OF THE PEX SERVICE AREA

In service area

Novi Residents aged 14 - 54: **\$4 each way**

Adults aged 55 and older, persons with disabilities, and veterans ride for **FREE**

Outside of service area

Novi Residents aged 14 - 54: **\$4 each way + \$2.50 a mile out of the boundary**

Adults aged 55 and older, persons with disabilities, and veterans ride for **FREE + \$1.25 a mile out of the boundary**



WHO CAN USE PEX?

The new service is for **all Novi residents**. Anyone aged 14 and older, regardless of ability or income can ride with People's Express. Children under the age of 14 require parental supervision.

WHERE IS THE SERVICE AREA?

Riders will be able to travel anywhere in the PEX boundary area as follows: M-59 on the north, Seven Mile Road on the south, US23 on the west, and Drake Road is the eastern boundary (**see map on front**). Rides to locations outside of the boundary area are available for an additional fare for each mile driven outside of the boundary.



WHAT ARE THE HOURS OF OPERATION?

Weekdays: 5am - 9pm

Saturday: 5am - 5pm

Sunday: 8am - 5pm



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will PEX start serving Novi?

We are anticipating a **July 1, 2024** rollout of People's Express transportation services in Novi.

How do I schedule a ride?

Reservations must be made at least THREE full business days in advance by calling PEX at (877) 214-6073, Monday-Friday from 8am - 7pm, excluding holidays. *Drivers may arrive up to 15 minutes before scheduled pick-up time and will wait for five minutes after scheduled pick-up time before departing.*

Can I feel safe riding with PEX?

PEX has been operating curb-to-curb transportation services for over 30 years. They have a variety of vehicles, most of which are lift-equipped and meet ADA requirements. Their drivers go through extensive safety and customer service training and must pass rigorous background checks. In Oakland County, PEX currently operates in Wixom, South Lyon, Lyon Township, Milford Township, Commerce Township and the Villages of Milford and Wolverine Lake.

What if I have an issue with PEX?

The City of Novi Older Adult Services, People's Express, and Oakland County are all working hard to make sure we have a smooth transition. **Riders are asked to share their user experience and feedback regarding PEX directly to the City of Novi's Older Adult Services office at (248) 347-0414.**

Where can I find more information about PEX?

Please visit peoplesexpressmi.com/oakland for rider guidelines, the most current service area map, and other helpful information.

PEX HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

HOLIDAYS OBSERVED:

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| • New Years Eve | • Independence Day | • Friday after Thanksgiving |
| • New Years Day | • Labor Day | • Christmas Eve |
| • Memorial Day | • Thanksgiving Day | • Christmas Day |

MORE QUESTIONS?

Visit cityofnovi.org/transit or call PEX at 877.214.6073
(8am - 7pm, Monday through Friday).

Mayor and Council –

We are rather excited to share some great news concerning the efforts of the Community Relations Department. Sheryl and her team have been recognized for the Police Recruitment Video and the best Podcast in Novi, Now you Know (VI)

- Victor



BRONZE WINNER: RECRUITMENT — ONLINE

Information		Credits	
Title		Director	
	Novi Police Department Recruitment Video		Josh Buscher, City of Novi
Entrants		Production Assistant	
	City of Novi		Trevor Walega, City of Novi
Year			
	2024		

[EMMY AWARDS](#)[MEMBERSHIP](#)[GOLD & SILVER CIRCLE](#)[STUDENTS](#)[ABOUT](#)

46th ANNUAL MICHIGAN CHAPTER EMMY® AWARDS

Saturday, June 15, 2024

SCHEDULE

5:00 PM – Cocktails
6:00 PM – Dinner
7:00 PM – Emmy® Awards

Black tie preferred.
Accessorize with gym shoes.

LOCATION

Little Caesars Arena
2645 Woodward Ave
Detroit, MI 48201

HOTEL

Rooms are available at the Godfrey Hotel
Registration deadline: May 31, 2024

[BOOK A ROOM](#)

TICKETS

Members: \$175
Non-Members: \$275
Table for 10: \$2000

Tables have premium preferred seating with champagne

DEADLINE

Deadline to purchase tickets: Sunday, June 9

[NOMINEES & GALA TICKETS](#)

CATEGORY #508

BRANDED CONTENT

NeighborHUB Stories

Robin Schwartz PR

- **Robin Schwartz**, Producer
- **Grayson Peras**, Director

Novi Police Department Recruitment Video

City Of Novi

- **Josh Buscher**, Director
- **Trevor Walega**, Producer
- **Sheryl Walsh**, Producer

I Am Henry Stories

Henry Ford Health

- **Rich Padgen**, Producer
- **Ara Telbelian**, Producer
- **Jim TerMarsch**, Director
- **Shawn Hamer**, Director
- **Patrick Neff**, Director

Rock Steady Boxing - Fighting Back Against Parkinson's

Michigan Medicine

- **Robert Felts**, Producer
- **Siani Johnson**, Producer
- **Daniel Ellman**, Producer

Tap In

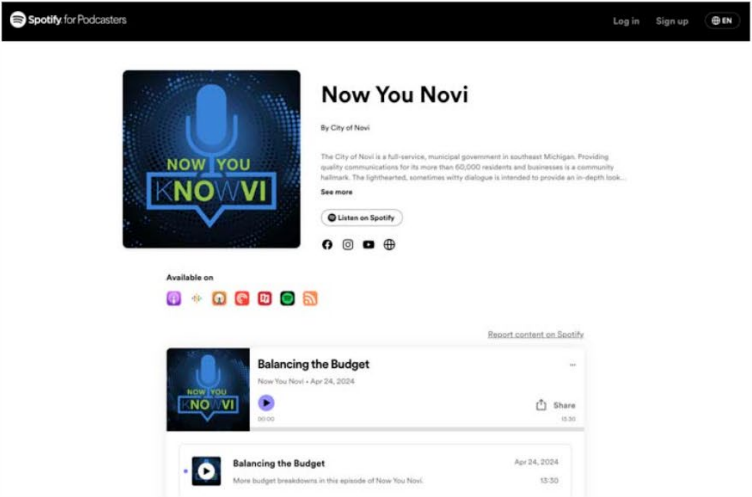
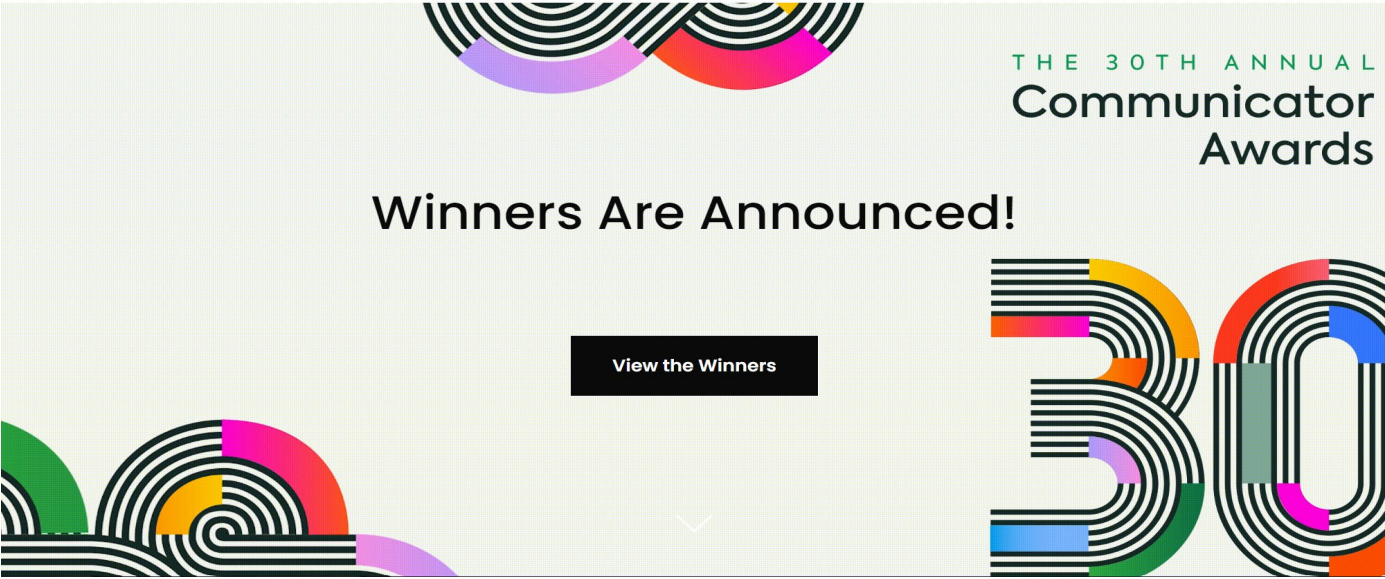
Great Lakes Water Authority

- **Curtis Burris-White**, Producer
- **Jason Matthews**, Producer
- **Brett McDonald**, Producer
- **Stefanie Haapala Burns**, Producer

Women's History Month with the Lions

Detroit Lions

- **Erin Gibson**, Producer



Now You Novi Podcast
City of Novi

Entrant
City of Novi

Award(s):
Individual Episodes-Government, Excellence
2024

Credits:



[View Project](#) →

[Share](#)  

MEMORANDUM



TO: VICTOR CARDENAS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: SONDAVY NHONG, YSEALI FELLOW
SUBJECT: YSEALI PFP 2024 TESTIMONIAL
DATE: MAY 23, 2024

The Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) fellowship in Novi, Michigan, offered me a comprehensive understanding of the structure and functioning of local government in the United States.

- The city's council-manager system illustrated the balance between elected officials and appointed administrators, ensuring effective governance. Practical insights into policy implementation revealed systematic stakeholder engagement, resource allocation, and continuous evaluation.
- The city's commitment to its diverse community was evident through inclusive policies, regular outreach, and cultural events. Efforts included public assistance services, multicultural festivals, and forums aimed at understanding and addressing the needs of various demographic groups for both residents and businesses. These initiatives fostered a sense of belonging and ensured that everyone, regardless of background, felt valued and represented.
- Effective communication with businesses and residents was facilitated through city council meetings, visitation to businesses, social media, and a comprehensive city website. These platforms provided regular updates, solicited feedback, and encouraged active participation in governance, thereby fostering economic development and community engagement.
- Novi's investment plan prioritized long-term sustainability with a focus on upgrading infrastructure, enhancing public services, expanding educational opportunities, and implementing green initiatives.
- The city's integrated recycling program exemplified its commitment to environmental stewardship by connecting the circularity pre- and post-consumption processes with relevant stakeholders. This program promoted waste reduction through public education campaigns, accessible recycling facilities, and partnerships with local businesses to adopt sustainable practices.

From these first-hand experiences, I gained invaluable insights into effective governance practices that can significantly contribute to my career development. The emphasis on transparency, stakeholder engagement, and sustainable development are some of the

best practices principles that I intend to incorporate into my future involvement of project proposals, aiming to promote inclusive policies, open communication, and sustainable investment for positive change in Cambodian communities and the region. Implementing systematic policy frameworks, akin to those observed in Novi, will help in efficient resource management and community-focused development.

Additionally, on a personal level, I also gained enriching cultural exposure in the workplace, through volunteer activities, and out-of-work activities, thanks to the support of Danielle, Victor, and many others. This experience provided valuable insights into American customs, workplace etiquette, and community engagement, fostering a deeper understanding of diversity and inclusivity. This fellowship has not only broadened my understanding of local government operations but also inspired me to foster innovation and continuous improvement in my professional endeavors and projects in my home country.

MEMORANDUM



TO: VICTOR CARDENAS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: CARL JOHNSON, FINANCE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE UPDATE
DATE: MAY 23, 2024

In 2022 the contract the City had with its City's General Liability and Property Insurance broker and provider/carrier, Tokio Marine, expired. In April of 2022, the City submitted a Request for Proposals (RFP) for General and Property Insurance. At that time, the City received only three proposals: (1) Kapnick Insurance Group was the only firm to provide a full and complete proposal with an insurance carrier, (2) Gallagher proposed being the City's insurance broker, but stated they did not have enough information to provide a proposal with an insurance carrier, and (3), Nickel & Saph, declined to cover due to a lack of information. The City learned that the former broker had not been maintaining the proper records on behalf of the City, which is essential information needed by other insurance companies to provide a quote for coverage. Without these records, the other insurance brokers felt they did not have a good representation of the City's coverage needs.

On June 20, 2022, the Consultant Review Committee recommended to council to appoint Kapnick as the City's authorized broker for property and liability insurance coverage for 2022-2023 fiscal year. Kapnick worked with Tokio Marine to continue coverage for the next year. Similar to other insurance brokers, the City does not pay a fee directly to the broker, they are compensated through commissions on each policy and are evaluated by the City on the overall cost of the insurance.

During January 2023, the City worked with Kapnick to establish the proper documentation to shop the City's general liability coverage to various insurance companies. During fiscal year 2023-2024, Kapnick was unable to locate a provider who would provide coverage for the City, other than Tokio Marine. The City renewed with Tokio Marine for the fiscal year 2023-2024.

In December 2023, the City met with Kapnick to discuss the upcoming fiscal year 2024-2025 insurance coverage. Kapnick stated they felt the City was in a good position to shop the City's coverage, again, to various providers and felt several would be interested. Kapnick and the City now have the proper documentation in place and will be meeting with the City at the end of May 2024 to review the proposals they receive. City staff have been satisfied with the services provided by Kapnick and recommend the City maintain them as the City's insurance broker for Fiscal Years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. An RFP for insurance brokerage services will be prepared for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The purchasing policy states professional services (such as attorneys, engineers, consultants, accountants, and

other similar professions) may be appointed by the City Council upon the recommendation of the City Manager.

The Finance Department expects to present the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 insurance provider quote at the June 3rd council meeting.