



The Community Crier

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Plymouth Streetscape contractor's pay will depend on performance

BY ROB KIRKBRIDE

No performance — no pay.

That's what Plymouth Downtown Development Authority Director Steve Guile is telling Peter A. Basile & Sons, contractor for the Plymouth Streetscape project following what Guile said is poor performance from Basile's subcontractors.

"We're going to be taking a serious look at where the project is," he said.

Guile said if the work is not completed according to his schedule, payment will be withheld from the contractor.

Roger Stacey, Basile's project manager for the Plymouth Streetscape project, said that right now, everyone is on site who needs to be on site.

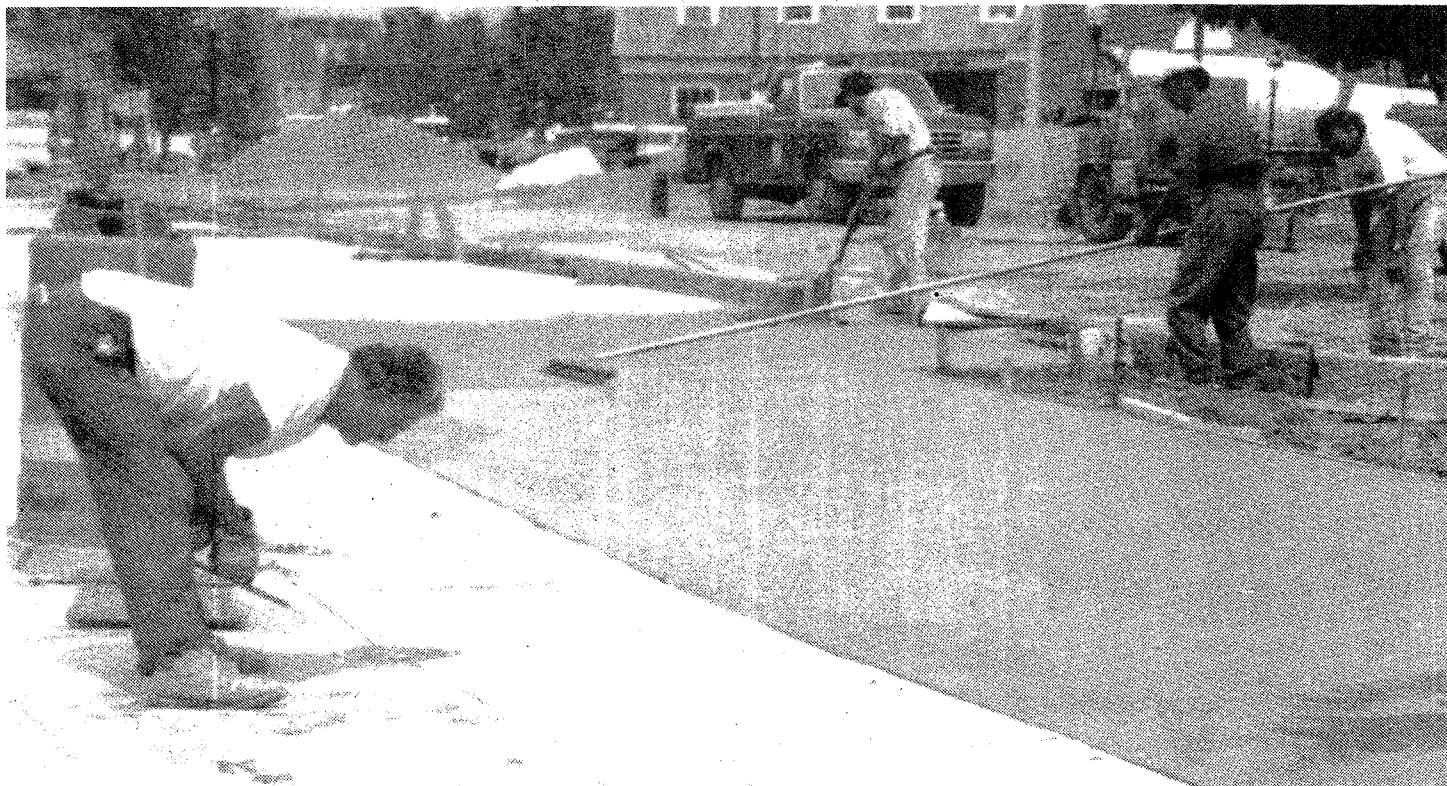
"This is one of the most technically difficult streetscape projects around," he said.

"Sometimes, dates have been pushed back because of weather and the heated sidewalks. Weather has really been a problem."

Guile said the problem stems from the subcontractors.

"We need to be putting additional pressure on the subcontractors," he said. "This is obviously not the kind of situation anyone wants to get into, but there needs to be a stick every once in a while — and a hammer too."

Guile said the DDA has had problems with the sidewalk brick paver contractor. "There is lots of work they need to get caught up on," he said.



Work crews are scrambling to get sidewalks poured and work completed on the Main Street portion of the Plymouth Streetscape project. Plymouth DDA Director Steve Guile said the project schedule will be coordinated with the contractor — and if time schedules are not met, payment to the contractor will be withheld. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

Basile is working with a total of six subcontractors. Guile said Basile needs to act as the facilitator for the streetscape.

"We awarded them the contract," he said, explaining why Basile would be penalized if the schedule were not met.

"Basile has been very cooperative,"

Guile said. "Their crews have been very good.

"This has just been a timing problem. We are trying to get certain things done by a certain date."

The Plymouth Fall Festival, scheduled for Sept. 8-10, is one of the target dates

for partial project completion according to Guile, who said Main Street should be complete by the festival.

"We know how critical the Fall Festival is to the community," said Stacey, "so we are trying to button that down right away."

Canton police search for suspect who held woman hostage for almost 2 weeks in her home

BY ROB KIRKBRIDE

What was happening on the 1600 block of Aberdeen in Canton during the last few weeks?

Canton Police spokesperson Lew Stevens said the department wants to know.

Stevens said that at 5:45 a.m. Monday morning, a 51-

year-old Canton woman arrived at the Canton Police Department and said she had been held in her home against her will by a 24-year-old, unidentified white male.

Stevens said the suspect was hired to do some work around the victim's house in exchange for living there.

The relationship turned ugly according to Stevens, when the suspect began to physically abuse the woman and hold her at the house against her will.

When police were dispatched to the home, Stevens said the suspect was gone and the name given to the woman appears to be bogus.

Dreams

Maysel Brooks turns dreams into reality

See Friends & Neighbors pg. 4

Super sales

Blackwell Ford's Len Gossman is one of the best

See Getting Down to Business pg. 6

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See Sports pgs. 20, 21

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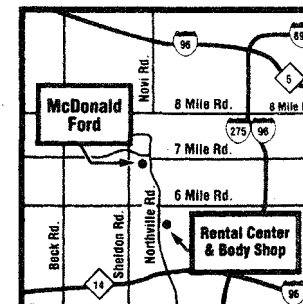
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City, not business, must cure parking ills

I have been requested by The Community Crier to jot down some of my conclusions regarding the parking problem in the Plymouth Central Business District.

Presumably I have been asked to make these comments because of the apparent confusion that seems to exist at City Hall and within the private commercial sector on how to approach the problem. It is apparent that the editor feels that I can add to the confusion.

Let me begin by saying that the parking problem is solvable. I make this comment at the outset because I am hearing various mumblings to the effect that the problem is too large, too complex, and too sticky to be resolved.

How might the problem be solved?

I should indicate how it cannot be done. It cannot be solved within the private commercial sector.

There are a number of reasons for this: (a) The lack of financial ability within the private sector; (b) the competing interests of various members of the private commercial sector—namely, the fact that some of the businesses have sufficient parking and others do not; and

(c) the long standing inability of the private commercial sector to get together and coordinate their interest on any subject.

Therefore, if the problem is to be solved at all, it must be solved through government. This does not mean that the private sector should not participate. Rather, the private commercial sector should be compelled to contribute financially for the construction and installation of various parking facilities. The idea that the private sector should be forced to contribute is not original. Nor is the idea that government should act to

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solve the problem.

However, it is an interesting question to me why the city government has not acted. The most that can be said about the city government role to date is that it has occasionally acted as a chairperson to discuss the problem - and then generally without an agenda. Why? In truth, more has been done recently since the creation of the parking committee chaired by Thomas Turner.

Plymouth city government does not see the problem as a city problem. In fact, it appears that the only continuous logic that is discernible emitting from City Hall, over a period of years, is that if the problem can be ignored long enough, the private

sector will simply be compelled to solve the problem alone. I am certain that City Hall does not see its role the way I am explaining it. Probably the non-elected personnel would say that the problem is simply too big and too expensive and that the City is an insight on the part of the city, then I believe it is shortsighted.

In addition, it is just another way of saying that the central parking district as being a government function and/or problem. Seventy five years ago, or more, a similar kind of lethargy and logic was advanced by various municipal governments about such functions as fire departments, water departments, park and recreations, and street maintenance. This may be difficult to fathom today, but at one time government said that all of these things really were not government functions.

I believe that in the not too

distant future the matter of public parking in central business districts will be clearly perceived as a governmental function. Why? Because there just is no other solution. Unless the problem is solved, central business districts, particularly in small towns with some continuing vitality such as Plymouth, cannot survive. This is nearly a truism. If the central business district does not survive, then the city government, and every city resident, will suffer because of a diminished tax base and a lack of commercial activity.

There is no reason why parking in the central business district should be treated any differently by the city government than the way the city presently treats the question of city streets and road. In brief, the cost of the initial installation of parking lots and or parking structures could be passed on to those commercial businesses which will benefit. This should be done by the creation of a special assessment district for the central business district of Plymouth. A share of that initial cost should be paid by the City of Plymouth from its general fund. However, once the facilities are in place, then the cost of maintenance, up-keep and operation should be paid out of the general fund of the City. This is no different than the present situation for streets and roads.

It is totally unrealistic to expect that maintenance and up-keep expenses should be paid for by the users. Would it be realistic to expect every automobile driver who uses the streets and roads of the City of Plymouth to pay for their maintenance and up-keep? The person who would answer this question affirmatively could also be expected to oppose the use of his or her tax money by the federal government for the construction of I-275 because he or she does not drive a car. No organized society can long exist with this philosophy.

The problem is philosophical. The city government and its parking committee still want to pass the full cost of installation of parking facilities and the full cost of maintenance and upkeep to the private commercial sector. This means that the city government still rejects the question of parking as a government function.

If my premise is correct, and I believe that it is, then the problem is truly insolvable until this basic change in attitude takes place. The situation is nearly like Ernest Hemingway's admonition in his book, "For Whom the Bell Tolls." I think Hemingway was saying that the reader should not ask for whom the bell tolls because the bell is in fact tolling for every one.

Plymouth City Hall is trying to make the bell toll for the private commercial sector by its refusal to accept the matter of parking as a government function. To complete the analogy, if they persist in this inflexible attitude, then the bell will also toll for them. Not even governments can long exist without financial resources.

TOM TURNER

JOHN THOMAS

Stretch city \$\$ with mutual programs

Cont. from Pg. 7

In an expanding community, it is possible to offset inflationary costs to some extent by revenues derived from a growing tax base - particularly industrial or commercial expansion where the cost of added services is likely to be less than the tax revenues generated. In the case of the City of Plymouth, however, not only is there no land available to accommodate added industrial or major commercial expansion, but our relatively high tax rates (vs. the surrounding townships) create a negative incentive for this type of development. At the present time, our tax base is comprised of 54% residential property, 25% commercial and 21% industrial.

In recent months, however, several existing commercial and industrial businesses have indicated their intentions to move out of the city. Although local taxes were not the primary reason for this exodus, the

fact remains that we will have vacant commercial and industrial property which will be difficult to re-establish as long as our tax rates are substantially higher than the adjacent townships.

As cost pressures continue to grow, it is possible that we could over the long-term lose a sizable portion of our industrial tax base to areas with lower tax rates, and more of the tax burden would be shifted to residential and local business properties. This likelihood makes it incumbent on the city to take the necessary actions to assure the viability of its local business and to attract more merchants to the area.

Will your taxes rise in the future?

Certainly - just as surely as your food, clothing and housing costs will. But how much they will rise will depend upon our ability:

(1) to attract and retain

commercial and local business, (2) to effect economies in the cost of providing city services.

In understanding our ability to achieve these two potential offsets to rising cost pressures, it is necessary to look at the make-up of the Plymouth tax rate vs. that of the surrounding townships. Our city tax rate of 16.4 mills is approximately 13 mills higher than that of Plymouth Township, representing a 25% overall tax differential based on our present total City/County/School tax rate of 67 plus mills.

What do the City's property owners receive for this added 13 mills? The major benefits include added police protection (7.1 mills), a city-provided refuse pick-up service (1.7mills), a more extensive recreation program (1.0mill) street sweeping, snow removal and other public works services (1.4mills) and a Cultural Center (2.2 mills). It is obvious that most of these added services are more important to residential property owners than to industrial or commercial enterprises. In addition, these businesses can locate in surrounding communities and still offer the advantages

of Plymouth-provided services to their employees. Ideally, the city should recognize the economic facts of life and apply a lower tax rate to commercial and industrial property to enable us to more effectively compete with surrounding communities. Although recent legislation does permit such action in the case of new industry, it is not legal to apply a differential rate to different classes of property.

A more desirable alternative - although one that cannot be implemented by the city alone - is the often-discussed consolidation of the city with Plymouth Township. A study conducted by Michigan State University in 1974 indicated that

The sun came out! Now look around the house in the new light. If you find you need new lamp shades we have lots and lots.

I must have been wishing for Spring when I ordered in the new merchandise! We seem to have quite a few vases - buy a big bunch of daffodils and pretend its April.

Julia

sideways

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Plymouth needs to have business in its future

Plymouth is one of those cities unique in today's society.

Located on the fringe of the sixth largest metropolitan area but still possessing its unique identity. The city itself has a well-balanced residential and commercial structure which conveys to the world the hometown image.

This image in itself, true or not, is perhaps the greatest asset that the city has. The image itself is under no pressure to change, but those things of which the image is created are under pressure and that pressure can be expected to increase

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rapidly in the near future.

The concept held by some that what is needed for the downtown area is one or more major department stores would be totally destructive not only to downtown itself but to the city at large.

The hometown image is due in no small part to the variety, quality and more importantly, local ownership of the city's

businesses. This variety and service available through operator ownership attracts shoppers from the entire south-eastern part of Michigan.

The commercial aspects must be expanded to create a more balanced tax base. A city of homes is a nice sounding phrase, but financially it is utterly impossible for it to exist.

The city with a population of approximately 12,000 is like an island located in the center of an ocean of rapid growth. Within the so-called prime trading area there is already well in excess of 100,000 population and all

forecasts indicate a growth of another 50,000 in the next three to five years. The strategic location of Plymouth is going to cause commercial development to take place. It is necessary that we accept this fact now and plan an orderly growth so as to preserve the hometown atmosphere of Plymouth. I stress again the importance of accepting this fact and making it work for us by broadening our

tax base and thereby lowering the cost to homeowners.

I further believe that we as a city must start thinking in terms of what is good and necessary for us to accomplish our ends and not blindly accept 'big brother's (state and federal) concept of zoning and building ordinances, which were primarily designed to cope with the problems of the big city.

TEX THOMAS

City needs a shot in the arm

The City of Plymouth is constantly changing.

Perhaps less dramatically than 20 years ago when many of its subdivisions and commercial areas were growing out of fields, but nonetheless it is changing.

It is going through middle age.

The youthful, building stages of most parts of Plymouth are over.

Now the existing buildings are changing through remodeling for different uses.

All the grocery stores serving Plymouth (and for that matter Plymouth Township and Canton) were once located in the city. One of them is now a restaurant and lounge, another is a mall of small shops and another - vacant for several years - will soon become a lumber yard.

The remaining grocery stores are fighting new, more modern, larger stores in Plymouth Township and Canton.

Similarly, the car dealerships have left town.

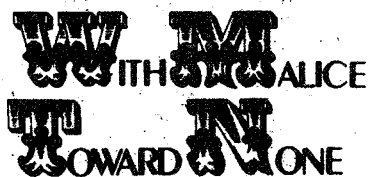
One was torn down and replaced by a municipal parking lot, another is a paneling store and an auto parts shop, a third is a struggling auto repair shop. Yet another dealership is soon leaving the city for Plymouth Township - leaving just one car dealer in the city.

The availability and cost of land (including taxes) is the primary reason behind the exodus of businesses requiring large parking lots and modernized facilities to stay competitive.

But another factor is the change in the nation's retail economy from the little ma and pa operations to mass marketing, and price slashing.

Where 20 years ago the city had many independently owned and operated businesses, they have now been completely replaced or are threatened by the chain outlets and branches. This is true of restaurants, carry-out food places, gas stations, party stores, drug stores, newspapers, banks, and general retail stores.

Many independent businesses continue, some new ones have started and although the City of Plymouth has more of them than most neighboring communities, the homogenizing trend is very real.



By W. EDWARD WENDOVER



Of course the local franchises of chain operations are sometimes owned and operated by local folks, but the trend still makes them a less distinguishable entity than the corner store they replaced.

And so the city is graying with its middle age. It is not the gay blade with downtown traffic at night that it once was. But it is still alive and well, living a sedentary existence.

Will its maturation continue? Will the city see old age and if so, when?

Plans for revitalization have come and gone.

One - the infamous Loop Road - will probably never see more than the smoke-filled commission debates it has excited these many years.

But what will be more important than such a plan, is the direction of commerce itself. If merchants do no more than continue to talk about sparking the downtown, the city's destiny as a commercial center is doomed.

At a recent city commission meeting on parking, several business leaders talked openly about downtown dying because its businesses were dying.

If, on the other hand, the business community unites (that is a key word) behind a common goal to make the downtown young again, the aging city could be given a shot of Geritol. Perhaps the merit of a plan like the Loop Road, is not that in itself it's the answer, but it will excite merchants and shoppers into taking more steps.

It is essential for the continued health of the aging City of Plymouth that its heart - commerce - continue pumping.

Equally vital, its brain - the residents - must continue in good health.

The quality of housing and living within the city can remain vibrant by continuing to offer the variety that attracts a cross section of population. This makes the city unique,

compared to the bedroom suburbs where for miles and miles, every house looks like the one next door.

Because of the attractiveness of the suburbs, the housing available in the city of Plymouth is in great demand. That has kept the brain of our city from aging as rapidly as its heart.

But one is of no use without the other. The body needs both to function well. Businesses need patrons and the patrons need convenient goods and services.

In addition, the city needs muscle - thriving industry - to stay young. Without it, the costs of governmental services drive the city into cutting back and deterioration.

When the Daisy Air Rifle Co. was closing up shop in Plymouth to move to Arkansas, many said the town would die.

They were obviously wrong. But the continued trend of industrial relocation to better weather and labor climates is hurting Plymouth like many other Michigan cities.

Each industry lost weakens the city muscles that much more.

Healthy commercial residential and industrial sectors make a city young.

Just how quickly the City of Plymouth continues to age now will depend on how healthy those three sectors remain and how quickly illness can be combatted when it sets in.

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Community deaths

Obituaries

For more information on listing a paid obituary notice in The Crier, contact your funeral director or call (313) 453-6900

JAMES HAROLD MCMULLEN

James Harold McMullen, a Canton resident, died Aug. 12, 1995, at the age of 74.

Mr. McMullen worked for Ford Motor Company as a purchasing expeditor. Mr. McMullen served in the Navy.

Mr. McMullen is survived by his wife of 51 years, Rita; daughters, Nadine (Mike) O'Malley, Dianne Theisen and Denise (Pat) Ratchford; son, James P.; sister, Gerry Brewer; grandchildren, Kimberly O'Malley, Niccole, Jaclyn and John Theisen and Matthew Ratchford.

Services for Mr. McMullen were held at St. John Neumann Catholic Church with arrangements by the Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home. Rev. George Charnley officiated. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to mass cards.

GILBERT VANDERBURG

Gilbert Vanderburg, a realtor, died Aug. 17, 1995, at the age of 81.

Mr. Vanderburg was born in Alberta, Canada, and came to Plymouth in 1976. He was a realtor for Venoy Realty of Wayne before starting Vanderburg Realty of Garden City in 1964. He was a 50-year member of Wayne Lodge #112 F. & A.M. Mr. Vanderburg was a member of the Realtors Association.

Mr. Vanderburg is survived by his spouse, Helen M. Cain; daughter, Gail J. (Dempster) Ross; sister, Marjorie (Joseph) Roza; brothers, Gordon (Mary) Vanderburg; Allen (Florence) Vanderburg and Walter (Jeanne) Vanderburg; several nieces and nephews; and grandchildren, Kurt Gilbert Ross and Amber Ross.

Services for Mr. Vanderburg were held at the Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home with Pastor Jeff Crowder officiating. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made out to the American Association of Michigan.

MARGARET "MARGIE" MCGRATH

Margaret "Margie" McGrath, a Pontiac resident, died Aug. 18, 1995, at the age of 71.

Mrs. McGrath was a tireless worker for and an ordained elder of the First Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. McGrath is survived by her sons, Timothy (Robin) McGrath, Michael (Mary) McGrath; daughters, Melissa Rose and Molly (Dale) Schaffenacker; grandchildren, Ben Jerrod, Megan, Mac Caleb, Samuel, Paul, Daniel, David, Jay and Andrew; sisters, Beatrice Myhrs and Bernice Huntoon

Mrs. McGrath was preceded in death by her husband, Harry J.; daughter, Margie Lee; brother, Jack Vance.

Services for Mrs. McGrath are scheduled to be held today, at 11 a.m. at the Oakland Avenue Chapel of the Huntoon Funeral Home. Rev. David P. Gellert will officiate.

Memorials contributions be made to the First Presbyterian Church, Pontiac, MI, or the Clarkston, MI, S.C.A.M.P. program.

Harry Eugene Mast, 80, administrator

Harry Eugene Mast, a Plymouth resident since 1972, died Aug. 5, 1995. He was a hospital administrator.

He is survived by his wife, Marie A.; four daughters; two brothers; 10 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Services were held at Resurrection Catholic Church with arrangements by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home. Fr. Richard Perfetto officiated.

John J. Sughrow, 84, inspector

John J. Sughrow, a Canton resident, died Aug. 10, 1995.

He is survived by his sister; nephew, David C. Brown and two other nephews; and five nieces.

Services were held at the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home-Canton Chapel. Burial was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Leigh Segasser, 74, automotive employee

Leigh Segasser, a Canton resident, died Aug. 14, 1995. He was an automotive employee for Millwright.

He is survived by his wife, Marian E.; daughter, Patricia (Charles) Cizewski; two sons; one brother; one sister and seven grandchildren.

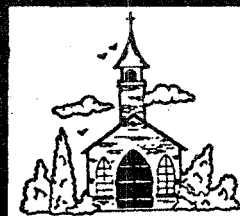
Services were held at the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home with Rev. Jerry Yarnell officiating. Burial was at Glen Eden Cemetery.

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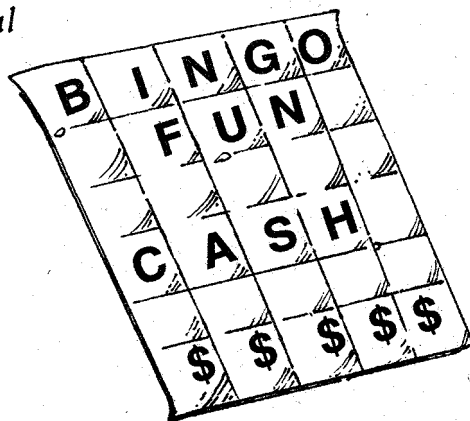
Welcome Wagon

In Plymouth
Call Kristi Davis:
313/454-1773

In N. Canton
Call Chaudet:
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P L Y M O U T H
Business & Professional Women's
10th Annual
B I N G O

Join us for our 10th annual
BPW BINGO
at the Gathering
Downtown Plymouth
Friday, Sept. 9th, 1995
Tables open at 5:30 p.m.
Games start at 6:30 p.m.
Cash Prizes
Rain or Shine



NO ADMISSION CHARGE

We are celebrating our 10th annual scholarship fund bingo and gratefully acknowledge all our business and professional women scholarship supporters past and present.

Any person or business wishing to donate to the scholarship fund:
Call Joanne Delaney (313)455-5171



What's Happening

To list your group's event in this calendar, send or deliver the notice IN WRITING to: The Crier, 821 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI 48170. Information received BY NOON FRIDAY will be used for Wednesday's calendar (space permitting).

SMITH ELEMENTARY WELCOME BACK COFFEE

Smith Elementary parents are invited to attend Aug. 29 at 9 a.m. to introduce school parent faculty organization, and to pass on information about PFO functions.

"FRESH START"

Today at the Plymouth Cultural Center a two-hour presentation entitled "Fresh Start", which will teach techniques to help students succeed. Call 459-8990.

KIWANIS CLUB FALL FESTIVAL

Sept. 9 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. the Kiwanis will hold a pancake breakfast. Advance tickets are \$4.50 and are available at Wiltse's, Beitner's Jewelry, sideways, and Penniman Deli, at the door \$5. All proceeds to local charities. Sept. 8-10 the Kiwanis will hold a popcorn and onion ring sale during Fall Festival hours. All proceeds go to local charities.

PLYMOUTH NEWCOMERS COFFEE

Thursday, Aug. 31, any Plymouth resident is welcome. Call Kathy at 455-8336 for information.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OX ROAST

Sept. 4, dinner served at 1 p.m. and continue until 6 p.m. The price for a meal, which includes roast beef and side dishes, is \$6 and \$3 for children. There will be a clown with games and prizes throughout the day. Call 453-9833.

YMCA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Plymouth YMCA needs volunteers (cooks, prep, waiters) for the Fall Festival. Call 453-2904 for further information.

DETROIT TIGERS LABOR DAY BLOOD DRIVE

Donate blood in Canton at Westgate Plaza, 6700 Canton Center Rd., between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. To make an appointment call 1-800-582-4383.

OAKWOOD HOSPITAL LACTATION CENTER

Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center has opened a lactation center to help breast feeding mothers adjust to their new and intricate role. Office hours on Monday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (313) 593-5929.

GARAGE SALE TO BENEFIT DOMESTIC ABUSE SURVIVORS

First Step/The Western Wayne County Project on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be holding its First Annual Garage Sale, open to the public, on Aug. 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Aug. 26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 453-9595 to make donations and for more information.

PRESCHOOL AND TODDLER STORYTIMES

The Plymouth District Library offers storytime for ages 2 to 3 1/2 and 3 1/2 to 5. There are daytime and evening sessions and other family members are welcome. Call 453-0750 for more information.

VFW ANTIQUES/FLEA MARKET

An antique/flea market will be held at the V.F.W. Hall, 1426 S. Mill St. on Aug. 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary to the V.F.W. Post #6695. To set up a table or for more information call 728-7619.

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHORUS AUDITIONS

The PCC will be holding auditions for singers on Tuesday and Aug. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Rd. Auditions by appointment will be held Sept. 5, 12 and 19 at 7 p.m. at the same location. Tenors are in the greatest need, opening for baritones and basses too.

HOSPICE OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

The hospice is seeking patient care, patient companion and team support volunteers in The Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community. Call (313) 291-9700.

PLYMOUTH OLDTIMER'S PICNIC

The Oldtimer's annual picnic will be held at noon, Thursday, Aug. 31 at Plymouth Township Park. Call Russ Ash at 453-2649 or Howdy Schryer 453-0114 for reservations.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION OF WAYNE COUNTY

The Child Abuse Prevention Council of Out-Wayne County is seeking exhibitors to participate in their fourth annual "Celebrate Families" fair on Oct. 21, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call (313) 721-5901.

FESTIVAL OF INNER LIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA

Readers, crystals, acupuncture, jewelry, angel books, tapes, body workers, aura photography and free lectures all day at the Mayflower Meeting House on Aug. 27, \$5 for admission and \$10 for readings. Call (313) 532-8584 for more information.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Any families interested in sharing their lives with an international student should call 1-800-210-6080.

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is looking for volunteers in the Canton area to help children needing tutoring with basic math and reading skills. Training is free. For more information, call Joy Graves at 883-2100 ext. 368.

20-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

The 20-year high school reunion of the Plymouth Canton and Plymouth Salem classes of 1975 will be held on Oct. 7 at the Holiday Inn - Livonia West. Call to update your address For more information, call Robin at 459-6950 or Mark at 459-9896.

ADOPT-A-MAGAZINE

The Plymouth District Library is looking for individuals, businesses and community groups to donate the cost of a magazine subscription to one of the over 300 periodicals the library keeps in stock. The sponsor's name will appear on the label and the donation is federal and state tax deductible. For more information, call the library at 453-0750.

CLOTHING BANK

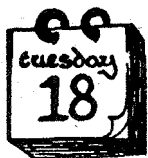
The Clothing Bank will be open to distribute donations of clothing to families in need on Tuesdays only from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. during the school year. To make an appointment or for more information, call 416-6179.

PCAC ART RENTAL GALLERY

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will hold a sale before moving to their new location. The gallery on the 2nd floor of the Plymouth District Library will be open from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays only, for more information, call Therese at 459-6896.

BABYSITTING CLASS

Last class for students 12-15 years old at the Arbor Health Building is tomorrow. The cost is \$25 and is from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call 455-0405.



What's Happening

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KIWANIS \$1,000 RAFFLE

The Kiwanis Breakfast Club of Plymouth will conduct its second annual \$1,000 a month raffle for \$100 a ticket to win \$1,000 a month for every month of 1995. Winners will be placed back in the pool for future drawings. For more information, call 453-7091.

PLYMOUTH FARMER'S MARKET

The Plymouth Chamber of Commerce will hold their Farmer's Market at the Gathering in downtown Plymouth on Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. through Oct. 21. For more information, call the chamber at 453-1540.

WILLOW CREEK PRESCHOOL

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool will offer classes for three and four-year-olds on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. For more information, call Kayelynn at 981-1305.

SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

Registration for students new to the Plymouth-Canton Community School District has begun. Child's birth certificate, immunization record, proof of residency, social security number are needed. Call 416-4842.

PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1940 REUNION

Plymouth High School Class of 1940 is having its 55-year reunion on Sept. 23 at the Plymouth Elks Club. The Class of 1939 is welcome too. Call Bill Thomas 453-1925 for reservations and more information

C.H.A.D.D MEETING

C.H.A.D.D. of Northwest Wayne County (an attention-based disorder parent's organization) meets on the first Thursday of each month at the Livonia Civic Center Library. For more information about the group and the meeting, call Roberta Zarea at 344-8216.

GOSPEL MUSIC CONCERT

The First Baptist Church of Canton is holding a southern gospel music concert featuring the Chapels on Sept. 15. Call 981-6460.

MEALS ON WHEELS

The Meals on Wheels program serves a hot nutritious lunch five days a week at Tonquish Manor. A donation is requested for the meal, but not required. Call 453-9703 weekdays between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for more information.

DISABILITY FITNESS CLASSES

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park is looking for used fitness equipment (steppers, fitness tapes, stationary bikes, treadmills) for a new fitness program for students with disabilities. For more information and to make a donation, call David Gerlach at 416-7708.

348TH STATION ARMY HOSPITAL CO. REUNION

The 348th Station Army Company will be holding their annual reunion at the Mayflower Hotel Oct. 5, 6 and 7. Members of the 384th are encouraged to come attend. For more information, call either William Burke at (810) 476-0729 or Joe Zmudka at 278-0913.

EMERGENCY PHARMACEUTICAL PROGRAM

Qualified Plymouth seniors can receive a month's supply of medication, available at the township hall the second and third Fridays of each month. Call 455-7526 for an appointment.

THREE CITIES FINE ART CLUB

The club will hold its first fall meeting Aug. 28, 1995 at 7 p.m. at the Plymouth Township Clerk's Office. The Fall Festival will be discussed. Subsequent meetings will be held the first Monday of each month, starting Oct. 2. All are welcome.

PREMARITAL HEALTH EDUCATION CERTIFICATE CLASSES

The Wedding Chapel on Main Street will be offering counseling on transmission and prevention of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. The classes are open to the public and will run every month this year. For information about the classes and dates and times, call the Wedding Chapel at 455-4800.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Plymouth Court Nursing Center in Plymouth is looking for volunteers to help with activity programs for residents. For more information, call Maralena Howard at 455-0510.

TUESDAY NIGHT LIVE

Horizon Counseling Centre and Associates will be hosting a series of free seminars on the second Tuesday of every month. For more information about the series, call the Horizon Counseling at 451-7577.

ARMED SERVICE ACADEMY APPLICATIONS

U.S. Rep Lynn Rivers has announced Nov. 1 as her deadline for accepting applications for armed service academy applications. Those interested can get information by writing her Wayne office at 3716 Newberry, Wayne, MI, 48184.

HERSTORY: THE MOTHER'S TALE

St. John Neumann Parish will be hosting "Herstory: The Mother's Tale" on Oct. 27 and 29. Call 981-4512 for more information.

FIFE AND DRUM REUNION

The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps is planning their 25th anniversary and are looking for former members to participate. Former members and their families should contact the corps at 981-3688.

SMOKERS' RIGHTS MEETING

People supportive of smokers' rights can meet on the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at Jenny's. For more information, call Marc at 455-1635.

TINY TOTS PRESCHOOL

The Salvation Army's Tiny Tots preschool program is currently taking applications for the 1995-96 school year. Children who will be four years old by Dec. 1, 1995 or three years old by Sept. 1, 1995 are eligible for the classes. For more information, call Peggy at 453-5464.

FITNESS FACTORY

The City of Plymouth Parks and Recreation department will hold aerobics classes weekly. There are low-impact and body sculpting classes offered. For more information and fee information, call Kathi at (810) 349-7928.

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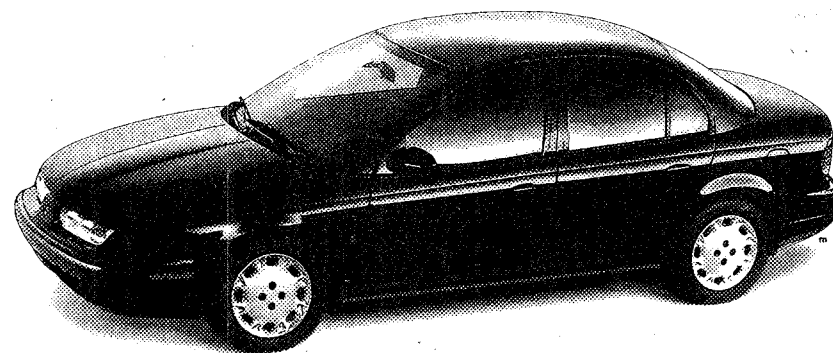
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40th

FALL FESTIVAL

A number of new events and new 'old' events are planned for this year's Fall Festival - the grand-daddy of Southeast Michigan Festivals.

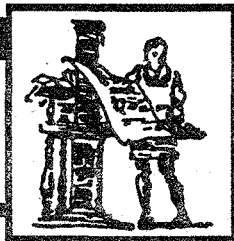
Once again, the most complete, colorful, coverage of the Fest is already being planned by the staff at The Community Crier. This annual "coffee table" showpiece edition is distributed to many other points outside The Plymouth-Canton Community including Northville, Novi, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Westland, Farmington and at the Fall Festival itself.

The Fall Festival Edition includes "A Salute to Industry and Commerce" - a great place to let the community know about your business.

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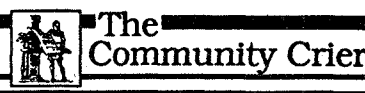
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ANTIQUA FLEA MARKET SALE ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 1995, VFW Hall, 1426 South Mill, Plymouth, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE - 40671 Jay Road, Canton, MI. Will sell contents of the following units for unpaid rent to highest sealed bid on Aug. 31, 1995 at 12:01. E32-Taylor, Desk, chairs, bed, boxes. G15 - Anderson speakers, table, chairs, dresser. Microwaves, lamps, boxes. Call 459-6444.

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Curiosities

ATTENTION CRIER READERS Are you without a carrier in your neighborhood? It is now possible to receive The Paper With Its Heart In The Plymouth-Canton Community, by mail, at a SAVINGS. Call now! 313-453-6900

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Can't wait for Ribar's Antique Sale! in the barn, at 655 Forest Avenue—It's the best!

Curiosities

IF YOUR CRIER CARRIER

does a good job, reward him or her with a tip or a cool glass of lemonade. Thanks!

Possible alternate spellings for "CANDIDATE" CANDADATE-used if your Father is running CANDYDATE-for hopefuls in Hershey, PA CANADATE-those running in Windsor, Ont. KATIDIDATE-for candidates who really bug you!

BLINDIDATE-unknown men/women office seekers.

CANDADITE-Aulde English spelling. From Old Weir Harold's Corrective Spelling Dictionary.

ERICA MANSFIED tried to turn 21 without anyone knowing.

Miss Lisa is getting out of town so we don't make a big deal of her birthday! Hope you have a great time!

Kathryn Ruth Hollenstine is another year older —Happy Birthday!!

INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW:

Are Rob and Steph registered at Big Lots??

Company Coming? Don't heat up your kitchen. Let Aunt Clara do your baking, 455-8338.

See "HOODED MERGANSER WITH LUNCH" and its artist HEID MARIE FINLEY at PCAC's Artists and Craftsmen Show during Fall Festival!!

Thanks Jack for bringing donuts on Sunday!

BEAUREGARD eats Lisa Lepping Tootsie Rolls.

Thank you St. Jude the situation is improving. I still need your help. Will continue to pray.

METTETAL AIRPORT'S RUNWAY is NOT moving to the front of Wild Wings, Little Professor, Steve Petix, Memory Lane, Wiltse's and Gabriela's. That's just new Streetscape sidewalk.

A BIG THANKS to all my friends in The Crier Ad Dept—my party would not have been the same without you! The gift fits perfectly in our home. Again, many thanks., Steph.

WE WELCOME Bob and Bonnie Kirkbride to Plymouth—YAY!

DOREEN AND TOM KEPHART enjoy "reds" and "blues" at Mr "B's."

MATT NORRIS does his birthdays backwards - he gives out GREAT gifts to his friends.

Thanks to Aunt Mid, John, Buffa, Blanche and the Roscum--oh yeah, and Ed & Sally—for the relaxing bit in the country. Rob and Steph

STEFF got older at The Box Bar

MICHELLE WILSON'S bannana bread is great!—Beauregard.(Those lucky G.C. High School English students)

MICHELLE-ditto, to what was said above- Congratulations!! How exciting!

NICK OLSON-You made it! You stayed with your Grandma and Grandpa for a whole week—that's pretty special, particularly if you are six years old. Now you are even with your brothers, Markus, 10, and Kevin, 9. Good for you!

WHEN WE WERE VERY YOUNG, you were heard to say that you never had any ambition except to be the wife of your special friend. You certainly have made that goal the epitome of all that is good. With all the facets, wife, mother, grandmother, a talent for writing, and "being there" for relatives and friends alike. I can well remember, when we had a major crisis in our family at holiday time and you and Emmeline addressed Christmas cards, wrapped presents and made the Holiday for four little boys and their parents. That was a long time ago, but still a vivid memory. Thank you for "being".

Crier Classifieds

\$4.50 for the first 10 words, 20¢ each additional word. Deadline: Monday, 4pm. Call (313) 453-6900

Curiosities

ASHLEY AND TIM- It was nice to see you and your Mom Karen enjoying the summer day. Great to have your Mom home all the time, isn't it?

ZAK-DID YOU EVER FIND YOU UMBRELLA? We looked and looked that wasn't a nice thing to happen to a special boy like you. Love seeing you and your Mom.

RITA MONTAGUE AND FAMILY FROM CHICAGO. We hope you found a place to rent we'd like to have you make Plymouth your "Home Town".

EVAN CURRIE has great "telephone presence"

CHASADY ELISE AINSLEE, a seven pound twelve ounce girl chose to be born August 18, in Chatanooga, TN. Her mother is Natalie and her father is Brian Ainslie.

ARCHIE BUNCH shared his eightieth "Birthday-date" with his new "Great-grand-daughter," Chasady Elise Ainslee. However, she wasn't there for his celebration on Sunday when his many friends gathered and ate birthday cake. Sorry, Chasady, that's the way it is when you are eighty.

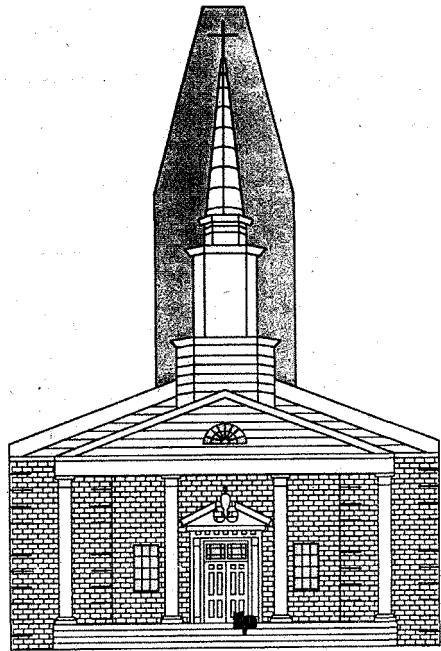
ARCHIE AND CHASADY. What a bargain! One birthday present for 2 people.

MARTHA DAVIS- Sorry I wasn't home when you called. Wish you could have been there. Saw "The Gondoliers" at The Stratford Festival. Everyone should have an opportunity to go "first class" once in a while, and this certainly was. Bless your heart!

THERE'S A NEW LION'S CLUB ROARING IN NORTHVILLE.

JOHN Did you go by The Crier door holding the hands of two more dear little people? **WHAT A SHOW-OFF!**

Curiosities



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Own a piece of Plymouth History. 15 Buildings to choose from including the Penn Theatre, Mayflower Hotel, Wilcox House, & Post Office. Stop in today or call for a complete list.

GABRIELA'S,
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NOTHING MUST MAKE YOU LESS THAN YOU ARE. ANGER WILL DO IT EVERY TIME

Curiosities

FRIEND ROWLAND- Haven't seen you for many a day. Where are you?

WALTER YOU ARE THE BEST! I have not been so pleasantly surprised as I was on Friday. Thanks for being so thoughtful, I love you, LUPE.

John Paul St. Peter—The only "KID" I know who had a pilot's license before he had his driver's license—Now he has both **WHEELS & WINGS.**



HOPPIEE Burrday. Boo **EMMA!** "Boy it sure it sure is hard to sing the birthday song when you're eating" Josh, Right Mommy.



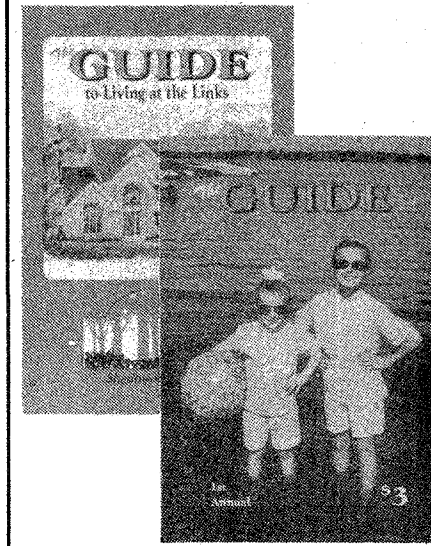
ROBBIE-JOE IS A TERRIFIC CHEF
—HAPPY SHOWER DAY!

The CRIERNEWSSTAND
is LOCATED in front of
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DowntownPlymouth
during Streetscape.

2 MORE EXCITING COMMA, PUBLICATIONS

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The **GUIDE** to Whitmore Lake & Living at the Links for Shadowood Farm



WHERE: is Canton's Downtown?

Answer: See pgs. 28-30 of **The '95 GUIDE!**

WHEN: is the 40th annual Plymouth Fall Festival?

Answer: See pgs. 57-65 of **The '95 GUIDE!**

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COMMA,
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Crier Classifieds Employment Market

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\$35,000/YR. INCOME potential. Reading books. Toll Free (1) 800-898-9778 Ext. R-5746 for details.

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For roofing contractor. Full-time. Responsibilities include: invoicing/collections, deliveries/errands, answering multi-line telephone, typing, assisting estimating department. Computer literacy a must. Knowledge in Lotus 1-2-3 and AmiPro preferred. Must have good driving record and valid driver's license. Send resume to: 4180 Packard Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

ADVERTISING SALES CONSULTANT for The Community Crier. We're looking for a confident, self-starter... we'll train the right attitude person. Age is not a factor- but attitude is. Reply in writing only: The Publisher, The Crier, 821 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI. 48170

Alternate drivers for The Community Crier. Must be available Wednesday morning and have own transportation. Contact The Community Crier Circulation Department, M-F between 9a.m. & 5p.m. (313)453-6900.

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Seeking a loving, reliable nanny/caregiver for our happy one-year old daughter in our Plymouth home (preferred) or yours. 3 to 5 days per week. Hours approx. 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Call Days: 416-2516, Evenings: 451-1478.

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CASHIERS/STOCK PERSON \$5.50 PER HR. TO START Positions open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday-Flexible schedule Beyer Friendly Drugs. 1110 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170, 453-4400

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Customer Service Positions Available Immediately. Troy-Evening Positions, Farmington Hills. Evening Positions, Livonia-Day Positions. Must type 30 wpm. Please call (810)619-9130 (Office Services) (313) 591-3425 (Livonia)

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HELP CHILDREN SUCCEED- consultant needed, work 20-30 hrs./wk., income \$20,000. Training allowance, commissions, plus bonus. Homemakers, teachers and community volunteers do well in our work. Call C. Knapp (313) 464-0931. EOE

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Permanent part-time graphic artist/production person to work at a weekly newspaper / ad agency. Students welcome, Quark X'Press proficiency preferred, Stat Camera knowledge a plus. Pay rate dependent on experience. Call Steph for more information (313)453-6900; mail resumes to 821 Penniman Ave, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Plymouth Financial services firm has an opening for a client service representative. Requirements include: Typing 45 WPM, Ability to work under pressure and time constraints, excellent communication & organizational skills, detail oriented, able to handle extensive telephone traffic, and computer literacy including knowledge of Lotus and Word Perfect 5.1. Send resume with salary requirements in confidence to: P.O. Box 700675 Plymouth, Michigan 48170

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Now hiring part-time casual help for carrying. Please call 453-6110. Between 9 a.m. & 5 p.m.

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We need someone to watch over our 2 year old daughter with love, guidance and encouragement. We offer flexibility/part-time in our Plymouth home. Call (313)416-1972

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FALL FEST.
is just around
the corner!

SEPT. 8, 9
and 10!

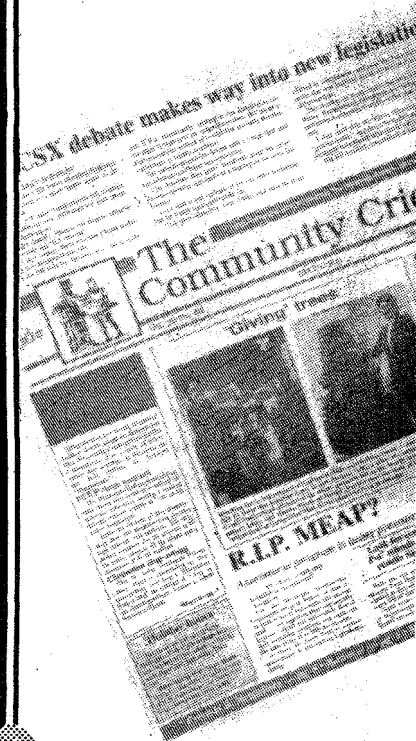


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See photo below...



Can visit your home weekly

313/453-6900

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!



Sports

Sports shorts

Trader Jack's, 585 Forest Ave. in downtown Plymouth, will host a free autographing session with Red Wings goalie Chris Osgood on Sunday, Aug. 27 from 1-3 p.m. One autograph per person.

Two 3v3 teams from Canton were champs at the Ann Arbor Concordia College soccer event on July 30th. Under 16 Division 1 players Brent Mullin, Rob Krass, Mike Riemma, and Andy Power from the Canton Express club team were victorious, along with Under 13 Division 1 players Kellee Mullin, Amanda Lentz, Ashley Williams, and Lacey Catarino from the Canton Quest club team.

Canton Parks and Recreation Services sponsored its Annual Jr. Golf Tournament at Fellows Creek Golf Course on Monday, August 7. The 41 participating young golfers shot nine holes with the top 3 in each age group winning prizes.

In the 15-18 year old group, Brad Volas was first place with a score of 35, Adam Allen second with a 47, and Tim Lueck and Matt Heiss tied for third with a 48.

In the 12-14 year old group, Aaron Nephew was first with a 41, Steven Lueck and Matt Leon second with a 42, and Ryan Nimmergath third with a 46.

In the 11-under group, Brian Germain was first with a 42, Alex Stojek second with a 47, and Branden Volas, Bobby Groat, and Brian Chiesa third with a 49.

Canton Parks and Recreation is providing a men's fall softball league which will start Tuesday, September 5. The five week league, every team plays a double-header once a week for a total of 10 games, will cost \$210 per team (includes a \$30 forfeit fee to be refunded if your team does not forfeit). Teams that played in Canton Parks and Recreation summer leagues may sign-up Monday, August 21 through Thursday, August 24. New team sign-up starts Friday, August 25. Call 397-5110 for further information.

Mexican Fiesta swept through the Canton Parks and Recreation men's softball playoffs two weekends ago by defeating Canton Sports in the final by a 7-2 score and ending up undefeated.

Salem golf swings into new season...

BY MATT HUCAL

Fore!

The golf season is about to swing into full gear, and the Salem boys golf team looks and feels as if this may be their most promising season to date.

After winning the Western Lakes Conference Tournament and qualifying for the state finals last season, they have many returning players who were contributors to last year's successful team and who should provide the leadership it takes to reach that level again.

Coach Rick Wilson feels this year's team is very strong, especially with senior returnees and captains Mike Hjelmstad and Ryan Andrzejewski leading the way. This being their fourth year on the team, the experience they've received and their many strengths leads Wilson to believe that these two guys should be the top performers this season.

"We have high expectations, and Mike and Ryan will be a major part of it if we reach them," Wilson said. "They came to the team as freshman a little intimidated by how hard and far the seniors were hitting the ball, so now this year I'm hoping they'll remember that and help the younger players if they're struggling."

Other returning players who figure to make an impression themselves are seniors Nick Macy and David Popeney, and juniors Ryan Deschaw and Aaron Pawlowski. Juniors Jeff Lear and Brian Fox are also returning but may miss some action due to medical problems.

The rest of the squad is made up of sophomores Pat Belvitch and Mike Runchay, and freshmen Adam Wilson, Matt Hosch, Erik Krueger, and Mike Deschaw.

The usual number of players picked for the golf team are 12, with six on varsity who in competition usually play the front nine holes and six on junior varsity who usually play the back nine in competition.

But with some players not healthy enough to play right away, Wilson decided to choose 14 to make it safe.

The past week the team had been preparing at their home course, Hilltop in Plymouth, for one of the biggest tournaments of the year on Monday. It was the East Lansing Fall Boys Classic Invitational at MSU's Forest Acres in which 44 high school teams from all over participated in. The 36 holes in one day tournament was well represented by Salem with Hjelmstad, Andrzejewski, Ryan Deschaw, Macy, and Wilson challenging the course.

Their next tournament will be the Sandman Best Ball at Brae Burn Golf Club tomorrow and to keep with a tradition of past years only the seniors will be competing in it. After that, the Brighton Invitational is on Monday, August 28 at Oak Pointe. Then it's time for the season and the competition that counts in order to get to the state finals begins.

"We believe we'll not only meet our accomplishments from last year but that we'll exceed them," Wilson said.

"With all our experience and if we stay healthy we can be a very strong team."

...Canton linksters drive toward top

BY MATT HUCAL

Improvement is definite.

That's what this year's Canton boys golf team should be thinking of with the way they are built around their seniors this season.

Last season, Tom Alles's first as coach of the team, was somewhat disappointing even though they only had one senior on the team. This season should be a complete turnaround according to Alles.

"We have seven returning lettermen, including four seniors and three juniors, which I expect a lot out of this year," Alles said. "They've all worked very hard on their games over the summer and look ready for the season ahead."

Senior captain Brian Carlson heads the group of returning lettermen which also includes seniors Scott Belisle, Jason Bricker, and Chris Wilson, and juniors Adam Allen, Dave Dismondy, and Miles Meibars.

The rest of the team is composed of a junior, two sophomores, and two freshmen.

Alles has let it be known that all the players will have a fair opportunity to participate on the varsity level.

On Monday the team competed in the 36 holes in one day East Lansing Fall Boys Classic Invitational at MSU's Forest Acres where 44 of the best teams around converged to play in the first tournament of the season. They've also entered the Sandman Best Ball at Brae Burn Golf Club tomorrow and then the Brighton Invitational at Oak Pointe on Monday, August 28.

"I'd like our team to improve every



Senior Chief golfer Jason Bricker gets ready to drive the ball at a recent practice. The Canton golf team is expected to improve, building their team around seniors. (Crier photo by Matt Hucal)

year that I'm coach, and this year's group looks like it will exceed our 4-7 record last season," Alles said.

Canton's home course is Brae Burn Golf Club, and their first duel meet is against Northville on September 8.



Sports

Rock runners race for title...

BY MATT HUCAL

This year's Salem boys cross country team has many things to look forward to once the season comes along. They can look at a few runners and become really excited.

But remember, that's only a few runners. It takes at least seven good runners to make up a decent team. So coach Geoff Baker has good news and bad news while entering the upcoming 1995 season.

He has an all-American runner in captain Scott Pengelli, another runner who missed being on the all-state team by a few places last year in the other captain Jared Biniacky, and a track and field member who just recently qualified for the Junior Olympics in Jason Barylski.

Pengelli and Biniacky will be the two front runners this season, not only carrying the burden of winning their share of races but as captains keeping the 10 members of the team in line, having both qualified for the state meet last year.

Since the team didn't qualify to race in the state meet last year, these two qualified for the individual race. Pengelli finished second in the state, and Biniacky finished 32nd in the state. After the state meet Pengelli traveled to Reno, NV to compete in the U.S. Track and Field Nationals and raced well enough to achieve all-American status.

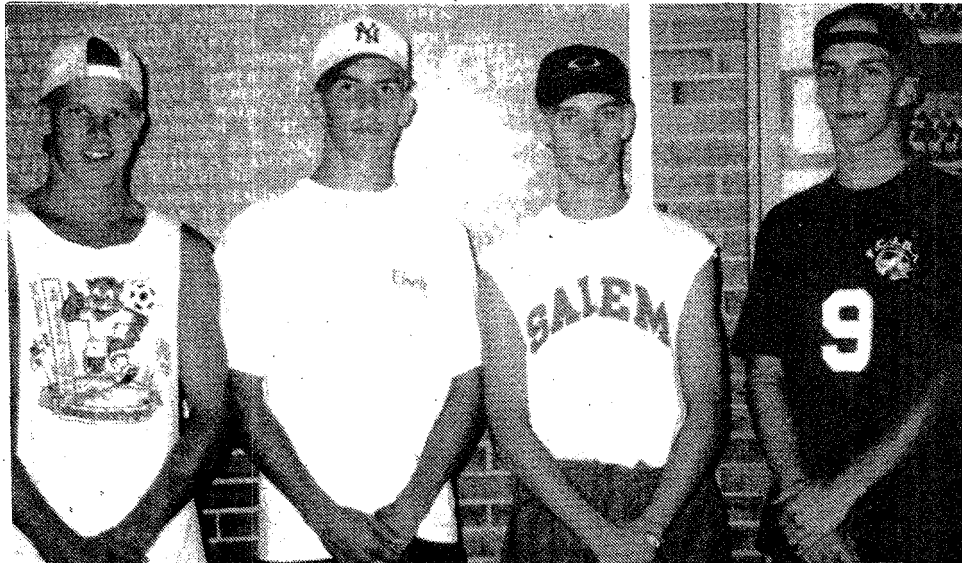
As a track and field star the past few years for Salem, Barylski had his chance to go national when he qualified for the Junior Olympics in San Jose, CA in the 800 meter run. Junior Greg Mitchell, a second year member of the team, rounds out the formidable four who will be counted on to carry a huge amount of the load this season.

"We have some question marks, but our top four runners are pretty strong," Baker said. "But we will still need three or four more runners of quality to give us seven quality runners."

In every five kilometer race, the runners with the top seven times remain on the varsity team for the next race. So with the top four runners mostly set, there are many runners who will compete and could rotate week in and week out with each other. Those who

aren't in the top seven will be put on the junior varsity team.

The Salem cross country team's first competition will take place on September 6 at Cass Benton Park in Northville in the Plymouth Invitational. Their second race will be on September 9 at the West Bloomfield Invitational.



(left to right) Salem seniors Jason Barylski, Jared Biniacky and Scott Pengelli, along with junior Greg Mitchell are expected to be the backbone of the Rock cross country squad. (Crier photo by Matt Hucal)

...Chief team enters rebuilding year

BY MATT HUCAL

As coach of the Canton boys cross country team the last four years, Mike Spitz has proved to be one of the most consistently successful coaches in any of the high school athletics. His team has been league champions the last two years and three years ago they were second. Last year they reached the state finals as a team.

But this year has Spitz feeling a little different from what he's felt going into the season in the past.

"The team lost many kids to graduation last year," Spitz said. "I'm sure we'll do pretty good, but this may end up being a rebuilding year."

Even with a rebuilding year in mind, Spitz still has a cast of characters which he will be able to count on.

Those heading up the team will be returning lettermen and senior captains Ian Bedford, Andy Housington, and Ryan Portrey. They will be looked upon and expected to lead the team through the good and the bad times of what is sure to be a rollercoaster of a season.

Others expecting to contribute in a fair amount of races are juniors Sanjay Sharma, Bobby Majer, Jason Diamond, Jason Vergari, and Vishay Sharma.

"I'm sure we'll win our share of dual meets and a lot can happen over the course of a season, but I don't feel we're strong enough to go after the title," Spitz said.

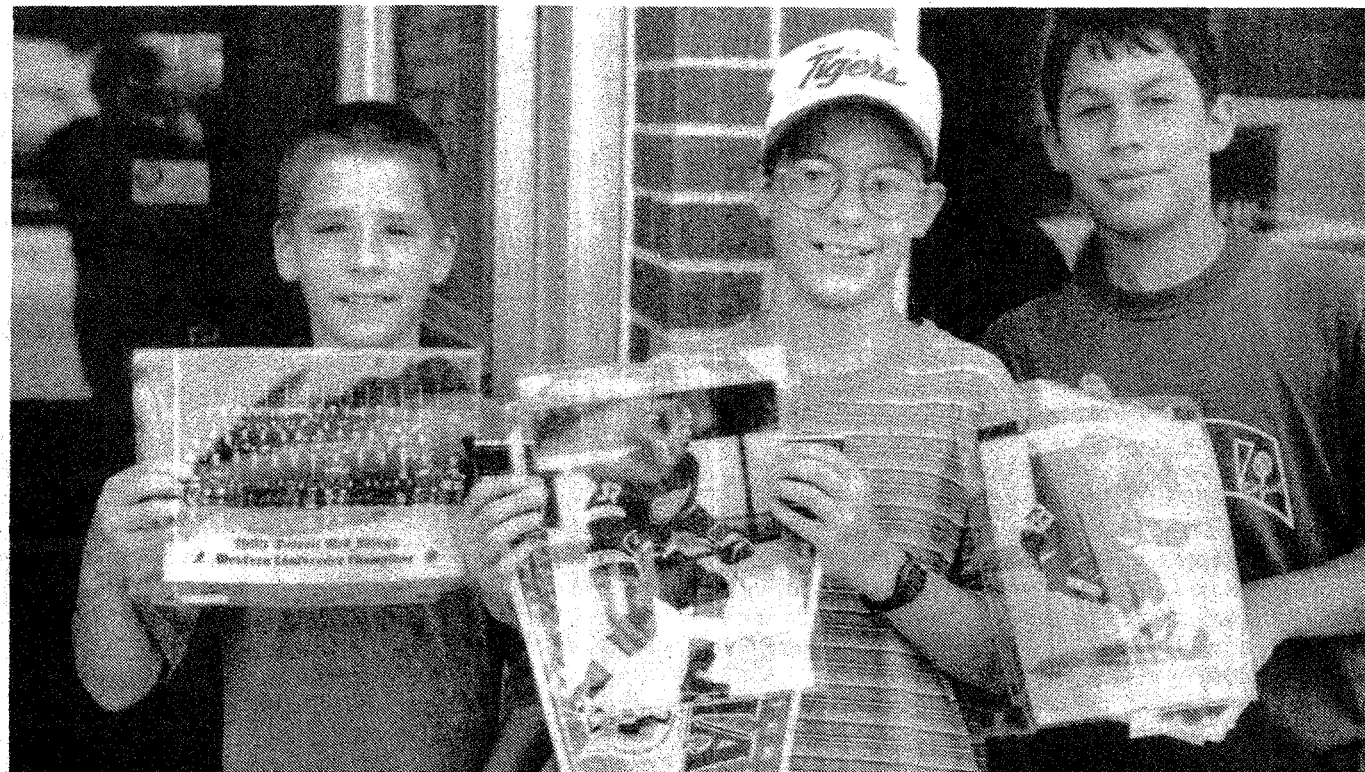
Spitz also said, "What we have coming back is not as strong as last year's team, but we'll continue to learn. We

hope to have a winning record and end up in the top half at the league meet."

The Canton cross country team's first

competition will be on September 6 at Cass Benton Park in Northville at the Plymouth Invitational.

Fantastic fans



Joe and Jordan Knight of Plymouth and Mike Damato of Linden are the proud owners of autographed pictures of Detroit Red Wing star Kris Draper. The hockey fans waited to meet their hero at Trader Jack's in downtown Plymouth. (Crier photo by Rob Kirkbride)



Community opinions

Auto reform worst example of partisan politics

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter from Plymouth attorney Michael Gerou was sent to State Sen. Robert Geake, who represents Plymouth.

Dear Senator Geake:

As a member of the Canton Chamber of Commerce Government Relations Committee, I received your Aug. 1, 1995 Legislative Update.

In the past I have applauded your efforts concerning the Friend of The Court and your Anti-Stalking legislation. I pride myself in being fiercely non-partisan, hence this letter.

The auto insurance reform debate is the worst example of partisan politics catering to their own vested interests that I have seen in some time.

I have represented injured parties in auto-negligence cases for 10 years. The Democrats and the Trial Lawyers Association protect the interest of the high profile plaintiff law firms. The Republicans protect the insurance industry. From the perspective of someone who represents the little guy, I see neither side really working to help the

"Please rise above the partisan vested interests and only support reform that promises real relief to the consumer without further gutting their rights and protection."

— Plymouth attorney Mike Gerou

consumer.

I would like to address your update on a point by point basis then follow with real life examples of how this system works or fails to work.

1. The piecemeal approach, is a good idea. Past proposals have encompassed a few good ideas with some horrible provisions for consumers and have been soundly defeated, by the voters.

2. I agree with modifying our comparative liability system so that a person who is more than 50 percent at fault should not collect pain and suffering damages. This, I believe, reflects the public's attitude that people should accept more responsibility for their own actions. Under the present system, if a driver is 90 percent at fault and suffers \$100,000.00 in damages, his award is reduced by 90 percent and he collects \$10,000. I, personally, have never accepted a case where my driver was more than 50 percent at fault and doubt there is really much to be saved here. The rare cases where a drunk driver gets a large verdict for their own injuries typically make the news because they are unusual and offensive to most of the public, hence newsworthy.

3. Your characterization that insurance companies "are forced by the State to insure individuals for unlimited PIP coverage ... whether the driver wants it or not" is very misleading. Let us not forget that AAA was one of the most vocal proponents of no-fault when it was sold to the public in the early 1970s. In exchange for giving up their right to sue an at-fault party for pain and suffering damages, the public was promised unlimited medical coverage and reduced rates. The latter never happened.

4. Everyone wants lower premiums. I have no objection to capping the PIP benefits if additional coverage is available and the consumer can save money, however, Federal programs as a backup, such as Social Security Disability are nearly non-existent.

Why are insurance companies not required to offer "under insured" coverage as well? You or I as a consumer, cannot purchase underinsured coverage to protect ourselves from most of the major auto insurers in our state, (AAA, Allstate, State Farm, etc.) even though they offer it in other states. If you are seriously injured or killed by a drunk driver who is carrying minimum policy limits, the extent of your recovery for pain and suffering will be limited to \$20,000.

The insurance industry is a State regulated industry that takes risks or "gambles" for its customers for a fee, (a premium). They exist and operate by the grace of the citizens of this state who allow it. If they are claiming our present laws are creating an undue hardship that requires them to charge consumers higher premiums, then make them open their books and prove it. This argument is analogous to the arguments made to support the Detroit Newspaper JOA travesty.

5. The current no-fault law denies the vast majority of injured persons the right to collect compensation from the at fault driver due to the thresholds of "serious impairment of a bodily function" or "permanent disfigurement". These thresholds can currently be decided by a Judge or a jury.

The argument to deny a jury decision on this issue, to save the consumer money and create consistency, is hollow. Judges need a lot of money to run their campaigns and the insurance industry has struck out twice with the voters so now they feel they can "persuade" judges to their way of thinking.

AAA has become the tail wagging the dog. They control 25 percent of the Michigan

auto insurance market. They have adopted policies whereby all soft tissue injuries except substantial brain injuries are denied as failing to meet their definition of the threshold which shows an ignorance of the human anatomy.

By denying pre-litigation settlement claim offers to settle, which I always submit before filing a lawsuit, they force seriously injured parties to sue them, which also benefits AAA by creating a scapegoat to blame the volume of litigation on. They win both ways.

The practical effect of the threshold is a serious reduction in settlement values. Today, I am submitting a claim pre-litigation. My client was struck by a drunk driver who fled the scene, one year ago. My client has suffered a severe, but typical, whiplash soft tissue injury to his neck, mid-back, lower back, with headaches, jaw pain and ringing in his ear. He underwent more than 60 visits in the past year to medical doctors, chiropractors, physical therapists, etc. at an expense of more than \$10,000. He missed three weeks of work and has not yet been able to resume golfing, swimming, heavy lifting, etc.

I assess his claim as being perhaps \$50,000 in total likely damages awarded by a jury, should he win. Liability is clear. Proximate cause is clear. There is probably a 50 percent risk of failing to meet the threshold, hence his settlement offer is maybe \$25,000 - \$30,000. The insurer will argue the threshold issue and he will be lucky to get \$15,000 or perhaps will have to sue for any recovery, when he may have a permanent injury that has greatly affected his life. My clients are shocked when they discover how limited their rights of recovery are for serious injuries. Then if they sue and perhaps are fortunate to receive an award for \$100,000, the system suddenly needs to be reformed.

6. The unlimited PIP benefits are illusory in most cases. Typically, insurers will exercise their right to have the injured person "independently" examined by a doctor the insurer pays to write a report denying future benefits. Most people do not contest the cut-off and there is little profit in these claims to motivate an attorney to accept them. They are typically handled as a service for the third party claim. In 10 years, I have seen two "independent" medical reports which have allowed the insured person to continue receiving benefits, both cases required spinal surgery.

Please rise above the partisan vested interests and only support reform that promises real relief to the consumer without further gutting their rights and protection.

MICHAEL J. GEROU

Swim test-out is not as easy as some may say

EDITOR:

I am responding to the letter written by William Bracht in the Aug. 2 issue of The Crier on the swim test-out program. I don't believe Mr. Bracht was even at any of the school board meetings when the issue of the test-out program was brought up. Had he attended, he would have heard parents speaking out about the process of the test, the scoring, and why experienced and competitive swimmers did not pass this test.

Not one parent complained about the difficulty of the test; although it was a rather extensive test for a high school entry level swim class or as past students of this class refer to it as a "blow off class." Superintendent Charles Little stated how hard the test was and felt that "maybe the test was way beyond what it needed to be." For experienced or competitive swimmers this test is not very hard, but I would say that for your average, recreational swimmer, it would be. In the case of all the kids appealing this test, these kids were experienced swimmers and have been competing for a number of years. I find that rather strange for them not to pass.

Mr. Bracht referred to this test that "his son David passed so easily and that

his 13 year old and himself could probably pass" as a proficiency test. Well, Mr. Bracht, get your facts straight. This was not a proficiency test. Had this been a proficiency test, as swim coach Chuck Olson told me, my daughter would have passed it with flying colors. Also Mr. Bracht, I'm sure that your son David did not have to go through what these kids went through before they even got to the three day water test. There was a lot of time invested in getting all the information for their portfolios, then they had to sit through an interview, then if they passed those two steps they got to take a three day water test. 150 kids submitted portfolios and only 13 made it to the water. Yes, Mr. Bracht, we parents felt compelled to intercede when our kids didn't pass the test-out (not proficiency).

No one can give us any legitimate reason why it was set up the way it was. Why an 85 percent was needed to pass when in the classroom it only takes a 60 to 65 percent, or why kids that know how to swim well have to take the class at all. The board members all jumped on this issue and frankly thought it needed looking into, but they really did nothing to help the kids that were left hanging,

Please see pg. 23



Community opinions

The right to question

Buzz Bozell's questioning raised important questions

Don't believe folks who say, "Never argue with a guy or gal who buys ink by the barrel."

It just isn't true.

Ask Dr. Ralph R. "Buzz" Bozell.

Let's begin at the beginning.

Whenever the Plymouth Kiwanis noon club needs a last minute speaker, they put Tom Caviston on the project. On especially slow news days, he's called me.

A couple Tuesdays ago Caviston called with an hour and a half to go before showtime and asked whether I'd share thoughts on the Detroit Newspapers strike. Since we'd fought to a toe-to-toe standoff against the Joint Operating Agreement in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, the Detroit newspapers are always a topic near to my heart and I said I'd show up.

Understand here that The Crier folks know newspapermen and women on both

PTO Council could gain support if mission was better defined

EDITOR:

The recent Community Crier article "Community Involvement Committee put on hold by P-C School Board" (Aug. 16, 1995), detailed a discussion at the Aug. 14 board meeting surrounding the Plymouth-Canton Parent Teacher (PTO) Council, and the way that the school district mobilizes citizen support for special projects.

In the article, my comments were paraphrased incorrectly. The point I was trying to make was that the PTO Council, as the umbrella organization for all the individual school level Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs), could gain a significant level of additional support for district wide initiatives if the council's

Swim test-out program not easy for students

Continued from pg. 22

wondering why they weren't good enough to pass, yet four or possibly five out of the six that didn't pass are going to be on the swim team for Canton or Salem.

As for anyone making any statement concerning Olson and his coaching abilities, again Mr. Bracht, if you would have been at the meetings, you would have known that Barbara Graham did not target Olson. Olson's coaching abilities

With malice toward none

By W. Edward WENDOVER



sides of the strike issue — some are very good friends.

One of those is Lou Mleczko, Detroit News reporter and president of the Newspaper Guild which represents the writers and editors at Detroit's two (we hope) dailies.

As part of my talk with the Kiwanis Club, I criticized the "news" stories written about the strike by the editors who have continued working. (The coverage has gotten somewhat better, but it's still less than fair.)

In particular, I told the Kiwanis Club guys (except the one who rudely watches

mission was better defined and communicated to the individual school PTOs were less than effective. My most recent experience with the Allen School PTO has been outstanding. Parents and teachers who participate in that organization are truly dedicated to both our children and our community, and have done a great job in improving Allen School.

The thought I was trying to convey at the meeting was that building level PTO organizations stand ready and willing to help with district wide projects, assuming we are more successful in communicating priorities, and providing clear opportunities for them to participate.

MICHAEL J. MALONEY

were not even mentioned by anyone in the room. The test-out program was being attacked. Olson's accomplishments speak for themselves.

Frankly, Mr. Bracht, I feel you are way off base in the mudslinging comments you have made about the parents and Graham.

I am still not satisfied with the handling of this problem.

I feel that the board did not stand up for the kids that got a raw deal. The

O.J. on his personal TV when others are listening to him) that a Detroit News-Free Press story on Sunday, July 16 was way off base by printing the salary and recent medical leave details of Mleczko.

"Wait a minute," said Bozell.

"How come they print my salary at the University of Michigan?" asked the dentist who serves one day a week as a dentistry professor at that sub-standard college to the south of that educational Mecca of the Midwest in East Lansing.

Bozell, like many who receive public funds, question why those salaries are public information.

In essence, he was asking, why is it that I was upset the News-Press/Free News printed Mleczko's salary details when we defend printing the salaries of Steve Walters or Mike Gardner (both of them were in the Kiwanis audience)?

I had no reply ready...

A point Ron Jones noted when he leaned over to Buzz and said, "You know you got him if he didn't have a reply."

Obviously it can be argued that a public government employe is different than a private company's employe. But that doesn't completely answer it either.

Buzz's successful question raised the issue of the pro and con arguments in airing public salaries. There ARE two sides to the issue, and newspaperfolks are sensitive to that.

But I was glad for Buzz's question — even if temporarily tongue-tied. It proves that you can argue with the folks who buy ink by the barrel.

A simple straightforward opinion or question is not only everyone's right, but effective too.

Thanks Buzz.

recommendation made by Little isn't going to help these kids this year. They still don't get their 1/2 credit this year, but can try again next year. Is that a fair outcome for these kids?

One more thing, Mr. Bracht, I hardly think that anyone is going to sue the P-C School District for any water tragedy simply because their kids were not equal to Olympic swimmers when they graduated.

CONNIE REEDER

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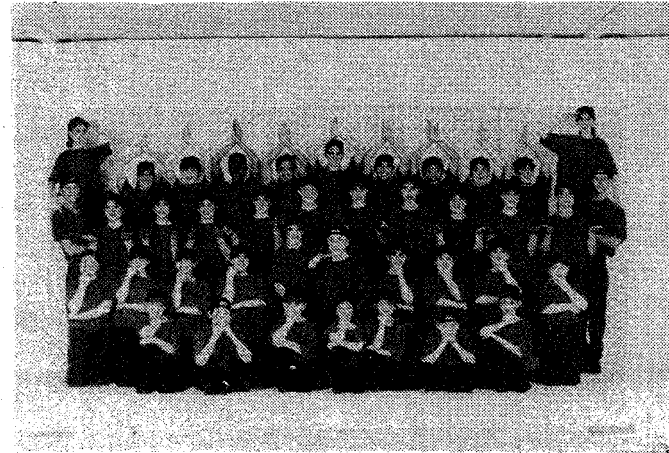
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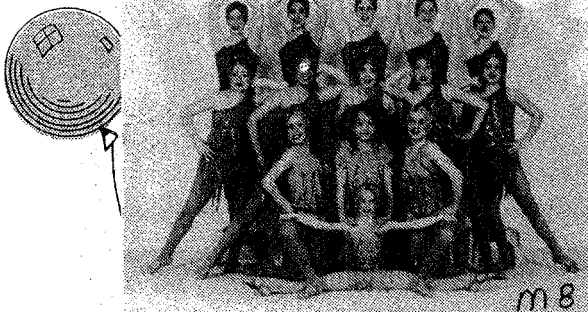


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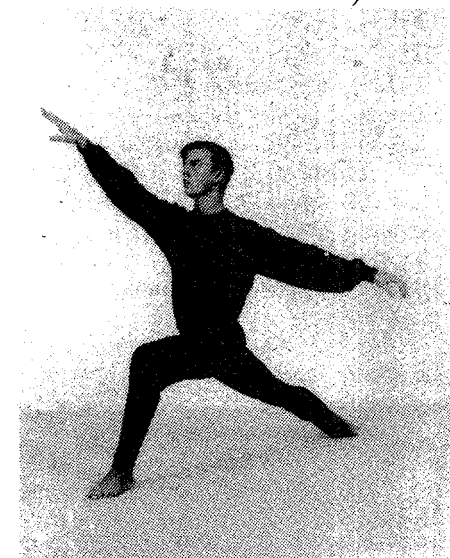
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