

# Murder victim has ties to Sheldon Road plant

Police question if possible link existed with work-related problem

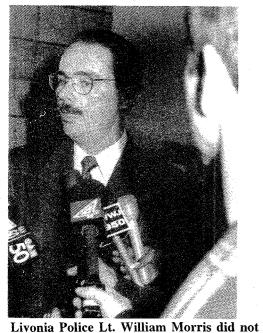
BY THE CRIER STAFF

A Ford Sheldon Road plant production supervisor was killed and his wife critically wounded at their Livonia home yesterday.

At press time, police were examining whether the homicide was work related. He was the fifth Sheldon Road Plant employee shot and killed in less than two years.

Francisco Portillo, 54 and a production supervisor at the Automotive Components Division facility, was dead at the scene after a man posing as a delivery person entered Division facility, was dead at the scene after a man poons as a control of through the couple's front door and opened fire, according to Livonia Police Lt. William Morris.

Francisco's wife, Judy, was shot in the eye but escaped to a neighbor's house across the street, where she called police, Morris said.



discount the possibility of a link between the

murder and Portillo's employment at the

Ford Sheldon Road Plant. (Crier photo by

R. Alwood Jr.)

She was taken to St. Mary Hospital in Livonia and later transferred to the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor where she underwent surgery. At press time, she was in critical condition in the intensive care unit.

Morris said Judy told police that just before 8 a.m. yesterday "a black male of medium height was at her front door and he stated he was delivering a Christmas gift."

There was neither evidence of a work-related crime nor any sign of forced entry to the house, police said

At press time, police were still searching for the suspect.

According to Morris, robbery is not a likely motive and police have no physical evidence regarding possible connections between the suspect and the Portillos

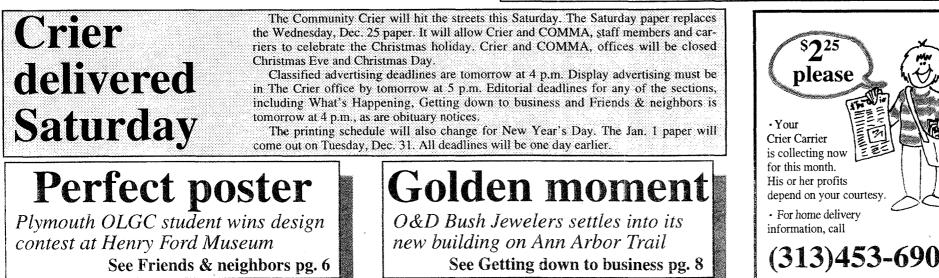
However, Morris did indicate police are investigating the possibility Francisco was shot by a fellow worker. 'We are checking into every possible answer," he said. "Are we checking to

Please see pg. 9

# I made this!



Sara Schmidt shows her mom Suzanne the ornament she made for the Allen Elementary School Girl Scouts' tree in Kellogg Park. (Crier photo by R. Alwood





Page 2 THE COMMUNITY CRIER: December 18, 1996



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## Canton has grown, salaries included

#### BY ROB KIRKBRIDE

Canton has changed drastically over the past 10 years including the salary levels for the 20 highest paid municipal employees

Salaries have nearly doubled since 1986, as has the population of Canton. As Canton changed from a sleepy farming township to the bustling suburban sprawl it is today, government employee salaries grew along with the community.

Employee responsibilities grew too, according to Canton Supervisor Tom Yack.

'What's happened to us because we've grown so much is that the complexity of our organization has increased," he said.

Yack points to the millage rate as a gauge. In 1986, Canton's millage rate was 9.89 mills. Today that rate is 9.35 mills.

"It's less today than it was then," he said. "We also have more services, many of which are enterprise funds such as the Summit on the Park community center and Pheasant Run Golf Course where the dollars generated pay for the service.<sup>3</sup>

The millage rate has dropped slightly, but salaries have tremendously increased.

In 1986 the highest paid Canton employee was Canton Police Chief John Santomauro. His salary was \$38,000. A decade later, Santomauro - now the head of the Public Safety Department still tops the list of highest paid. His base salary now stands at \$73,700.

Yack is the highest paid elected official in Canton with a salary of \$72,100. His predecessor James E. Poole made \$36,000 in 1986.

The gap between pay for elected officials has risen. In 1986 Canton Treasurer Gerald Brown and Canton Clerk Linda Chuhran made \$33,000 each - just \$3,000 less than Poole. Today, Canton Treasurer Elaine Kirchgatter and Canton Clerk Terry Bennett make \$58,800 each — \$13,300 less than Yack.

Yack said the salaries are set by the Merit Commission, a group who conducts market studies to equate pay rates with similar civilian jobs.

"It's easy to do at the managerial level," he said, "but how do you find a comparable salary level for a job like community planner?

"What we do is rely on comparing ourselves with other communities. Based on that, our salaries have risen about the same amount.'

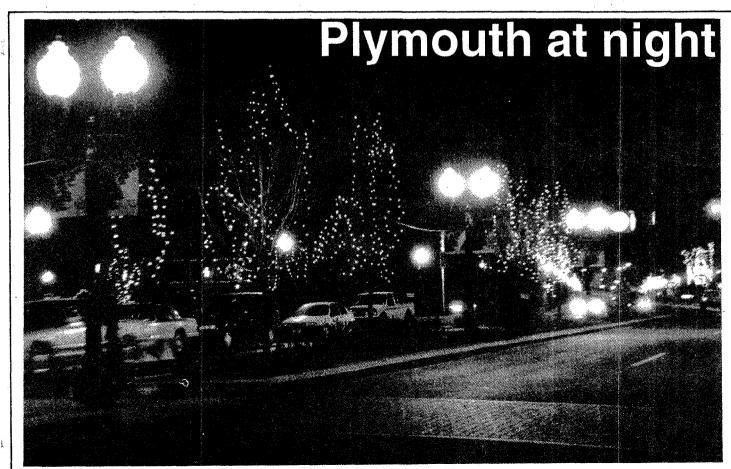
#### Canton's highest paid employees (1996, 1986) **1996** salaries:

Name, Title	Base salary
John Santomauro, Director of Public Safety	\$73,700
Thomas Yack, Canton Supervisor	
Aaron Machnik, Municipal Services Director	
Daniel Durack, Adm. & Community Srvs. Dir	
Anthony Minghine, Director of Finance & Budg	et\$67,000
John Spencer, Finance & Budget Accountant	\$64,000
Laura MacDiarmid, Police Captain	\$60,932
Alex Wilson, Police Captain	
Michael Rorabacher, Fire Chief	
Thomas Casari, Canton Engineer	
Terry Bennett, Canton Clerk	
Elaine Kirchgatter, Canton Treasurer	\$58,800
David Medley, Personnel Manager	
Michael Ager, Resource Development Manager	
Brad Thompson, MIS Manager	\$56,500
John Weyer, Building Official	\$56,500
Michael Gouin, Parks & Rec. Superintendent	\$56,500
Jeffrey Goulet, Community Planner	\$56,500
Jake Dingeldey, Public Works Superintendent	
Kevin Mill, Operations Manager	\$54,900
1086 calarias	

#### <u>1986 salaries:</u>

Name, Title	Salary
John Santomauro, Police Chief	\$38,000
James E. Poole, Canton Supervisor	
Mel Paulun, Fire Chief	
David Nicholson, CED Director	
Aaron Machnik, Building Official	\$34,776
Michael Gouin, Parks & Rec. Superintendent	
Danial Durack, Personnel Director	
Jake Dingeldey, Public Works Superintendent	
John Spencer, Finance Director	
Tom Casari, Engineer	
Joe Teramino, DPW Foreman	
Gary Barnett, Inventory Control Supervisor	\$27,242
Dennis Weberlien, Deputy Building Official	
Bob Dates, Recreation Supervisor	

Fringe benefits are estimated at 31 % of salary



Plymouth is a winter wonderland at night with the Christmas lights on. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)



#### THIS WEEK

- The Community Federal Credit Union is collecting hats, gloves, socks, scarves and canned goods under their "Woolly Trees," located at each of the credit union offices.
- The Canton wrestling team faces Franklin at home tomorrow at 6:30 p.m.
- The Salem basketball team heads to Brighton tomorrow for a 6 p.m. tipoff. Their next home game is Jan. 7.

#### WEEKEND

- Don Schneider's York Street Glass Studio will be open to the public Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Follow Liberty Street east to York Street and head one block north. Look for the weathered sign that reads, "York Street Glass"
- The Canton and Salem boys swimming teams will face their foes Saturday at the conference relays. The conference relays are set for Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Salem pool.

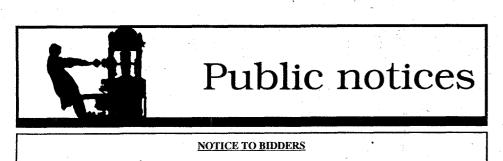
#### **NEXT WEEK**

• The regularly scheduled Canton Board of Trustees meeting on Dec. 24 has been canceled.

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What will all the good little girls and boys have stuffed in their stockings this year? Find out on pg. 7 of this week's Community Crier!



The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a BID for the purchase of equipment and installation of a Wide Area Data Network. Specifications and Bid Forms can be obtained from David Rodwell in the Office of Research and Technology, Board of Education Building, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, MI during normal business hours. Bids are due on or before 10:00 A.M. Friday, December 20, 1996. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the School District.

BOARD OF EDUCATION Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

Susan E. Davis, Secretary

Publish 12-11-96 and 12-18-96

# Special Paper Dates Special Paper Dates Saturday, Dec. 21ST, 1996 (replaces Wed,. Dec. 25th paper) AD DEADLINES Classified Thur., 12-19 4pm: Display Thur, 12-19 5pm EDITORIAL What's Happening, Obituaries, Letters to the Editor Thurs, 12-19 4pm

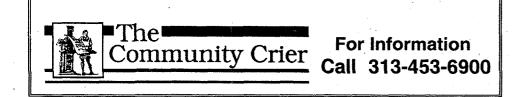
TUESDAY, DEC. 31st, 1996 (replaces Jan. 1st paper)

<u>AD DEADLINES</u> • Classified Fri., 12-27 4pm • Display Fri, 12-27 5pm <u>EDITORIAL</u> • What's Happening, Obituaries, Letters to the Editor Thurs., 12-27 4pm

> Carrier Collection turn in THURSDAY & FRIDAY, DEC. 19th &20th 9am-Noon & 2pm-5pm each day

> SPECIAL CARRIER Delivery Dates Saturday, 12-21-96 & Tuesday, 12-31-96

Wednesday, January 8th, 1997 The Crier will be back to normal



## New buses on road soon

BY BRIAN CORBETT Better late than never.

The Plymouth-Canton School Board was expected to approve the expenditure of \$531,949 in 1991 bond money to purchase 11 buses from Hoekstra Truck Equipment Company during last night's meeting at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

If approved, the seven new and four used buses would help defray repair costs to an aging bus fleet.

Since July 1 of this year the school district has spent \$202,735 in maintenance work on buses that date to 1983.

According to John Birchler, the executive director for business and operations for the P-C School District, five of the seven new buses were included in the Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO) bus bid, and all five have been offered at a price lower than the MSBO bid.

"The four used vehicles have been thoroughly inspected and driven by Transportation Department staff and have passed state inspections," Birchler wrote in a memo to the P-C School Board.

Last month, the board restored \$550,000 in 1991 bond money for bus purchases, three years after the budget had been reduced to re-establish the district's construction contingency fund.

Another \$200,000 for high school furniture was also captured because of savings in the technology budget and increased interest savings accumulated during the life of the project.

Since the district received the money in the middle of the school year, Superintendent Charles Little expected paying higher than average price tags for the buses because the state bid deadline had passed. That wasn't the case.

"We did okay on the price," said P-C School Board Trustee David Artley, who planned on voting for the recommendation. "I think what we found was people were going to sell the buses because they had an inventory."

School board members, who discussed the topic at length during the Nov. 26 meeting before voting for it unanimously, said another question and answer session would likely precede the anticipated bus purchase approval.

"I have some concerns about buying used buses, but they were fully inspected," said Artley, who said his worries are "the same ones I have when I buy a used car."

P-C School Board Secretary Sue Davis was also supportive of the bus purchasing plan. "I think we've done the best with what we have. Is it ideal? No, it's not. It's ideal to know we need buses in June or July, but we didn't know we'd have the money then," she said.

"I have some questions about the process we followed," said P-C School Board President Mark Horvath, "but I am pleased to see we got a price under the state bid price."

With 25 buses listed in "poor condition" and/or "a major expense to repair" in a list compiled by Director of Transportation and Safety LuAnn Grech, the 11 buses should save the district money on repair expenditures. "We've got some buses over there that are just killing us in maintenance costs," said Horvath.



# Public input shaped school bond decision

BY BRYON MARTIN If money wasn't an issue, what would you do for your schools?

Participants in public forums organized by the Plymouth-Canton School Board were asked questions like this, according to Ted Bohlen, Plymouth resident and member of the Citizens' Financial Advisory Committee.

Convened once in October and twice in November 1996, the forums gathered school employees, area business owners and residents with and without children to discuss the present and future needs of the community's schools.

Of top priority among participants was a desire to remedy district overcrowding, particularly at the high schools and in Canton elementary schools.

These concerns helped shape the school board's bond issue proposal, Susan Kopinski, chairperson of the Bond Issue Steering Committee, said.

"These decisions to build were not made in a vacuum," Judy Evola, director of community relations for the Plymouth-Canton Schools, said. "This wasn't a board decision. We wanted to incorporate into the plan as many of the community's needs and wants as we could."

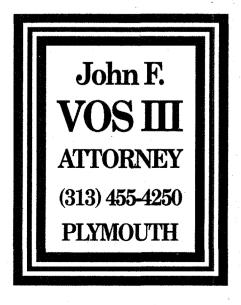
According to Bohlen, small-group discussions held at the forum meetings were guided by facilitators — members of the Bond Issue Steering Committee and representitives of Roy G. French, Inc., in association with Perkins & Will, the architectural firms collaborating on the proposed construction projects.

Bohlen said that initially, facilitators encouraged participants to express their school desires "without any concern for money."

Those desires were then collected into a list of key issues and recommended solutions. The list then guided the board as they drafted the bond proposal.

"Of course we took feasibility into





account when we made our recommendation to the school board. We were thinking about real-world solutions," Kopinski said.

Forum issues and recommendations include:

**Quality of Education** 

Participants cited the availability of computers as integral to a quality education. The forum recommended a districtwide standard of two computers in every classroom, allocating \$12.6 million in the bond proposal for spending on computers and technology.

**Community Orientation** 

To deal with overcrowding, the forum

recommended building new schools rather than expanding existent facilities.

A third high school, with a projected cost of about \$48 million, would be built at Beck and Joy roads on Plymouth-Canton Educational Park property.

Participants, about half of whom were Canton residents, also suggested a new elementary school be built in southwest Canton.

The rapid growth of neighborhoods in that area has left Bentley Elementary, one of the district's newest schools, so overcrowded that the teachers' lounge now serves as a classroom, and overflow students are bused to Hulsing Elementary. The cost of the new school would be about \$10 million. This estimate includes the cost of a site for the school, although the forum suggested utilizing property the district already owns. No site has yet been selected.

The forum suggested that the design of the elementary facility be flexible enough that, as students get older, it could be converted into a middle school if necessary.

According to Evola, the design of the elementary school will likely be similar to Bentley and Tonda.

Please see pg. 12

# New center 1997 My Health. My Needs. My Hospital.

"The women's programs at St. Mary Hospital meet all my needs."

My doctor said I needed a few tests, and told me about St. Mary Hospital's new Marian Women's Center. It's close to home, and the staff is committed to keeping women bealthy. I found a warm, caring atmosphere designed to belp women feel comfortable.

The Center provides education and support programs for women of all ages. Diagnostic testing like mammography, radiology, and ultrasound are also available, as well as a complete breast health clinic. The Marian Women's Center,

adjacent to the new Miracle of Life Maternity Center, provides family

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Visit St. Mary via Internet http://www.stmaryhospital.org services like childbirth education, a breastfeeding program, and even pre- and postnatal exercise classes. We're planning to start a family soon, and all the programs I need are now available

My mother was interested in the Marian Women's Center menopause support group, which educates women and removes some of the mystery about this time of life.

close to home

And, if I want more information about health topics concerning women, I can attend specialized seminars throughout the year. The Marian Women's Center cares about women. **That's wby St. Mary Hospital is my hospital**.



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# Friends & neighbors

## Neighbors in the news

WSDP, 88.1 FM, will air "People and Policy," an interview program hosted by State Sen. Loren Bennett on tomorrow at 11 a.m. The show will feature an interview with Darnell Jackson, director of the Office of Drug Control.

Financial Aid Forms are now available from the Canton and Salem high schools' counseling offices. According to Eastern Michigan University Director of Financial Aid Bernice Lindke, the forms should be mailed in January. More than 300 people attended Lindke's presentation at the Salem High School Auditorium. Another meeting will be held at Schoolcraft College at 7 p.m. on Jan. 22.

Marine Lance Cpl. David C. Smith, son of Linda Drury of Canton, recently returned from a sixmonth overseas deployment to the western Pacific and Indian oceans, and Persian 'Gulf with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, embarked aboard the ships of the USS Tarawa Amphibious Ready Group. He is a 1993 graduate of Canton High School.

West Middle School students in the eighth-grade "Skills for Living" class performed a community service project with children in mind. Students in Susan Kolbas' class made stuffed animals to donate to the "First Step" shelter during the holiday.

Army Pvt. Samuel C. Stafford, son of Agatha and Steve Pope of Canton, recently began basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, GA.

Harold Phipps, a parent volunteer who shares his computer expertise with hundreds of children at Bentley, Field and Fiegel elementary schools, recently received a "Volunteer in Public Schools (VIPS) Award" from the Plymouth-Canton School Board.

Marine Lance Cpl. James P. Altmann, son of Ruth A. Altmann of Canton, has departed on a sixmonth deployment to the Mediterranean Sea with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), embarked aboard the ships of the USS Nassau Amphibious Readiness Group (ARG). He is a 1993 graduate of Canton High School.



Breanne Hoernschemeyer (second from left), a fifth-grader at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth, was chosen the winner of the second annual Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village holiday poster contest. Hoernschemeyer is shown here with her family and her winning poster design, and Henry Ford Museumn & Greenfield **Village Board of Trustees** member Richard P. Kughn (far left), who unveiled Hoernschemeyer's winning design at a Nov. 25 ceremony at the museum.



## Ice Spectacular begins with student demonstrations

The amazing art of ice carving was demonstrated to students at Smith Elementary School by Chef Richard Teeple, executive chef instructor at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn and students from the college's Ice and Snow Carving Club yesterday. It's just the beginning of the 15th annual Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular, which will be held Jan. 15-20

Teeple and students transformed three 300-pound blocks of ice into favorite characters for the students. Teeple and students demonstrated the several steps involved in the process of ice carving, from preliminary drawings to the many tools that are used. The history and evolution of ice carving was also explained as Teeple and his students carved icy creations.

Teeple and the Henry Ford Community College Ice and Snow Carving Club will be carving 50 of the single block street pedestal sculptures for the Plymouth Ice Spectacular. This project is both a learning experience for the students and a fund-raiser for the club which is an extra curricular activity associated with the HFCC culinary arts program that the students are seeking a degree in. The charter of the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular, Inc., dictates that the event perpetuate, nurture, and enhance the art of ice carving in America. Funds donated by the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular, Inc., go to buy ice carving tools and blocks of ice for the use and benefit of the club.

The HFCC students will be carving these blocks of ice on the campus of the college in Dearborn throughout the month. Teeple is one of the original founders of the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular and has remained involved in the Spectacular for the past 14 years. He has been an integral part in helping the event reach its current level of success. Teeple is the educational coordinator for the Ice Spectacular by working closely with college, high school and junior high school students.

#### Schools' Bilingual Program, Community Literacy Council awarded Japan Business Society of Detroit Foundation grants

Out of only 40 local organizations selected to receive grants courtesy of the Japan Business Society of Detroit Foundation, it was announced by Kiyotaka Watanabe, president of the foundation, that the Plymouth-Canton Schools' Bilingual Program and Community Literacy Council would each receive one.

The foundation presents awards to various cultural, educational, artistic, youth and school non-profit groups.

The grants award ceremony was held at the Detroit Opera House last week. Superintendent Charles Little, P-C School Board President Mark Horvath, Director of Adult and Continuing Education Larry Masteller, Adult Education Coordinator Carol Saunders and Bilingual Project Director Susan Shepard attended the ceremony to receive the grant. The P-C Schools Bilingual Program received a grant of \$2,000 from the foundation. The bilingual grant was co-written by Carol Saunders and Sue Shepard.

"We believe it is important to become active in the community in which we live and work," said Watanabe. "This grant program serves a wide range of recipients in the Detroit area and is our way of promoting understanding and unity with our friends, neighbors and business associates."

Also receiving a grant from the Japan Business Society of Detroit was the Community Literacy Council. Carol Saunders accepted the award on behalf of Jean Calabrese.





## Neighbors in business

**Pilgrim Party Shoppe** in Plymouth donated all of its grocery items last week to The Salvation Army for use this holiday season.

Johnson Controls, Inc. recently announced the election of Stacy L. Fox as an assistant secretary and corporate officer.

Fox, 43, is vice president and division general counsel of the Johnson Controls Automotive Systems Group, located in Plymouth Township. She joined the company in 1989 after serving as an associate with the Boston law firm of Mintz, Levin, Cohn and Ferris. Fox holds a bachelor's degree and a law degree from the University of Michigan.

Matt Greenough of Plymouth was recently named vice president of Franchise Services/Midwest region for Little Caesar Enterprises, Inc. based in Detroit.

In his new position, Greenough will oversee all facets of franchise operations for the Midwest states. Greenough has been with the company for more than nine years, and has held a variety of positions during his Little Caesars career including systems coordinator, regional financial analyst and most recently, director of accounting services for national Franchise Services.

He was honored by the pizza chain as the company's "Team Member of the Year" for 1995 recognizing his hard work and dedication to Little Caesars.

**Maura Cady** of Superior Township was recently named producer of the nationally syndicated home radio show, "Ask the Handyman" on Westwood One Radio in conjunction with WXYT -AM.

The show is currently broadcast each weekend on more than 70 radio stations coast to coast, with affiliates expected to increase. Cady has produced "Ask the Handyman" since 1986.

Cady is also the circulation director for The Community Crier and periodically appears as a columnist. She holds a bachelor's degree in theatre and speech communications from Siena Heights College and has been a resident of the Plymouth community since 1977.

# Glittering like Gold O&D Bush Jewelers

moves historic business to new Plymouth building

Barb and Don Bush show off their new jewelry display cases, which Don created himself. They're all part of the new O&D Bush Jewelers store on Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

BY BRIAN CORBETT Don and Barb Bush think they have a jewel of a building for their long time business — O&D Bush Jewelers.

The Plymouth residents and downtown jewelers moved into their new showcase gallery at 509 W. Ann Arbor Trail last month after spending the last 20 years in the aging red house next door.

"We've been in the business for 52 years," said Don. "My wife and I are both owners of the business. We had really outgrown the other building, which was



in pretty sad shape."

Construction began July 27 and ended early in November.

Quality and presentation weren't sacrificed under the tight building schedule, though. There's a 1,400 square foot showroom with unique, wedgeshaped display cases. They present items in rising tiers rather than the flat surface displays found in most jewelry stores. "I don't call them 'showcases.' I call them 'window cases,'" he said.

Don got the idea while visiting a local

## **Century 21 shakeup** Town & Country takes over Plymouth, Northville Suburban real estate offices

BY BRYON MARTIN

In what might be termed a "friendly takeover," Century 21 Town & Country in Sterling Heights purchased the Northville and Plymouth offices of Century 21 Suburban.

Tim Reilly, sales manager of the Plymouth office at 188 N. Main, is openly enthusiastic about the purchase, which was finalized Dec. 12. "We've got a real powerhouse coming to the area," Reilly said.

Among Century 21 offices worldwide, "Town & Country is top in sales dollars, and top in number of homes sold," John Kersten, president of the office, said. Town & Country brokers did more than \$1 billion in sales in 1996.

Plymouth and Northville are the hub of growth in residential construction in western Wayne County, according to Kersten.

"These are good communities, and growing communities," Kersten said. "They're good markets. We want to have a greater presence in the area."

According to Reilly, greater presence would mean a greater number of services and resources for the Plymouth office to offer its clients; it will also lead to an expansion of the Plymouth sales force, and possibly the construction of up to three more Century 21 offices in western Wayne County.

Kersten's Town & Country office employs 45 full-time brokers and has received awards for top-quality service.

Anticipating the assets Kersten will bring to the Plymouth office — more support staff and a capacity for international relocations — Reilly showed his excitement. "The area hasn't seen real estate like this."

restaurant, which presented its menu items in a similar fashion. "You felt like you could reach in and grab the food. I thought we'd do it for jewelry too," Don said.

A 1,000 square foot area is used for casting and special orders. "Before I was running all over the place," Don said. "This has made everything more convenient and efficient."

Not that work has ever been taxing for Don. He grew up around the business his father founded in 1952; it wasn't too long after Don cut his tooth that he cut his first diamond.

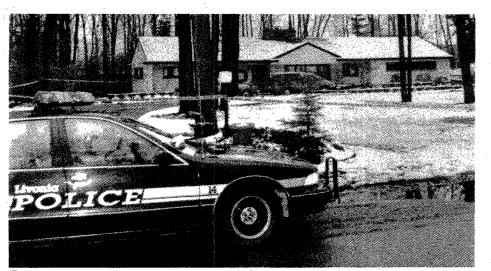
It's been more than 30 years since he began shaping stones for fingers and ears, but he hasn't grown tired of it in the least. "In any other business, you're serving people. Here, you're always creating and making people happy," he said.

Doesn't sound like a man who's planning retirement anytime soon, and he's not. "Everybody is just elated with (the new store). The old customers are getting their friends and bringing them over," Don said.

"We're just going to be getting settled in here, and designing and creating jewelry for people."

That would likely mean a bright future for O&D Bush Jewelers because its owner is the only gemoligist in town, a certification that allows him to appraise for all insurance companies.

The years of study and experience, and accumulation of professional titles has prepared Bush to keep up with increasingly smart shoppers. "We've had a lot of requests for opal lately, which we haven't had in a couple of years. It's always different. And customers are becoming more educated when they're looking for exotic stones, which makes it more fun," Don said.



Ford Sheldon Road Plant Supervisor Franciso Portillo and his wife Judy were shot at their Livonia home. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

## Twp. Ford plant employee killed

Continued from pg. 1

see if he's had any problems at work? Yes, we are."

The Ford Sheldon Road Plant has been the scene of at-work violence twice before.

On Jan. 7, 1995 Ford employee Michael Lee-Brattin argued with his estranged wife, Sandra Marie Brattin, before shooting her, and Francis O'Brien — Sandra'a alleged boyfriend — and then turning the gun on himself. Sandra was the only survivor.

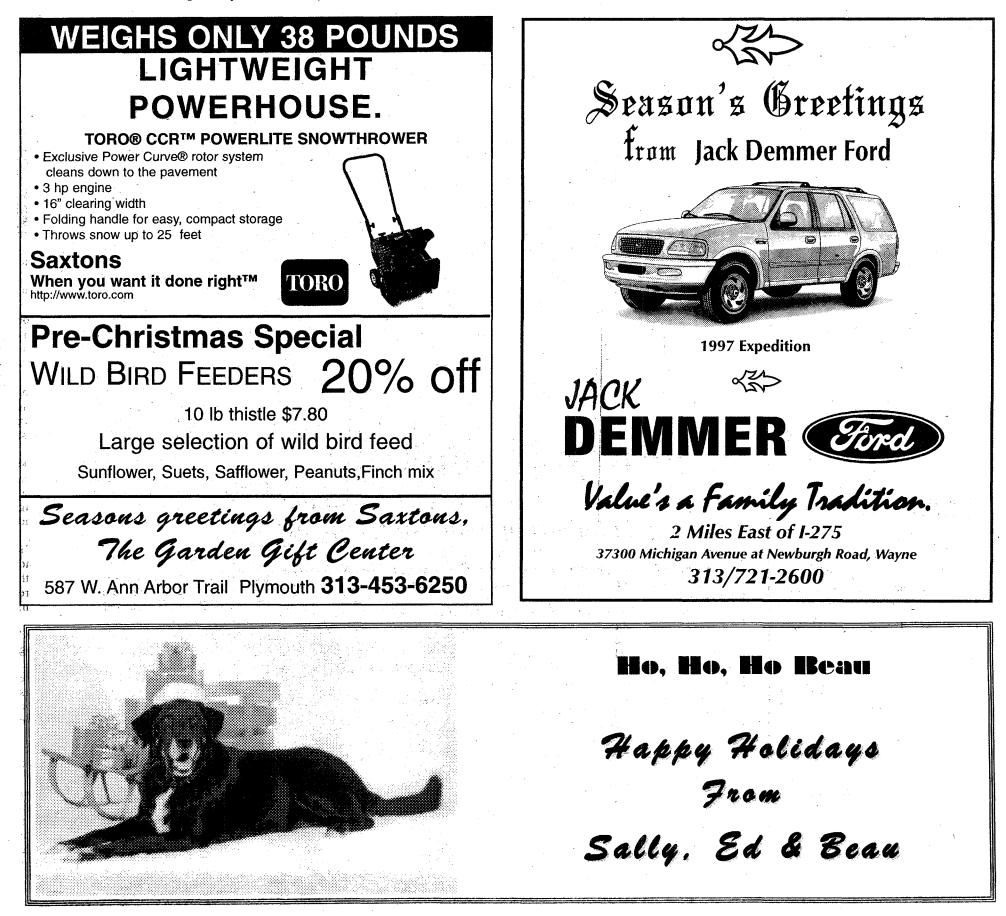
On Aug. 18, long-time plant worker Stephen Cox killed himself after shooting Security Supervisor Donald Jagod seven times. Cox was upset about a pending sexual harrassment in the workplace case against him involving Jagod's daughter, police said. Cox and Jagod both died.

Asked about the possible Ford Sheldon Road Plant connection, Neal Golightly of Ford Motor Company Public Affairs said "the question is understandable."

But he also said no connection has been established between the crime and Francisco's employment at the Sheldon Road plant.

"This is a tragic loss for Francisco's family and co-workers," Golightly said.

Francisco was a 33-year employee of Ford Motor Company and had served in his current position since 1992, the company said.





Dealership Name

Participating dealerships: Blackwell Ford, Jack Demmer Ford

Phone -

must be received by Friday, January 3, 1997, 5 PM.Winners will be notified Monday, January 6. Night on the Town prize is valid for Saturday, January 11 only.

## Schools fill curriculum coordinator, Pioneer principal slots

#### BY BRIAN CORBETT

Members of the Plymouth-Canton School Board said they were likely to approve the hiring of two curriculum coordinators and one middle school principal at last night's board meeting.

The anticipated approval of Curt Perry and Penny Joy as curriculum coordinators, and interim Pioneer Middle School Principal Tom Owens to his current position on a permanent basis would fill openings created by summer resignations.

All three job candidates currently work in the school district. Board members cited the school district's proven interview process, which includes a selection committee comprised of administrators, staff members, parents and teachers, as reason to believe Perry, Joy and Owens would be hired, barring unforeseen developments.

Trustees David Artley and Liz Givens said they planned on approving the recommendations. "I think they're three good people," said Givens. "I can't say I know any three really well, but I have had contact with them, and they all have a lot of life. They're really exciting people. And I've heard good things about them from people in the district."

The candidates' experience in the school district will be an asset in their new positions, school board members said.

"I think it's good to look at the school district for folks. Certainly, people from outside the district applied. I don't know how many because I don't have that information. But there's two different ways you can look at it. Hiring from within gives you an advantage because you don't have to orientate as much. I'm really pleased with Tom. I think he's had a lot of experience as assistant principal," said Davis.

"I am pleased we are going to promote from within," said Artley. "That excites me because that means people have grown."

Owens has served as interim principal at Pioneer Middle

School since July when Cheryl Johnson left to become principal at Bentley Elementary School. He has been with the school district in several positions since 1977.

Joy has been serving as interim curriculum coordinator since July. Former curriculum coordinators Sheila Alles and Kathy Harenda both left last summer to become principals in the Livonia and Hamburg school districts, respectively. Joy was hired by the P-C Schools as a classroom teacher in 1990. She has a master's degree from Eastern Michigan University and a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University.

Perry lists K-12 curriculum coordinator and Math/Science/Computer Development department head among his achievement during his 18 years in the school district. He has taught math, computers and drivers' education for grades seven through 12 with an masters' degree from Eastern Michigan University and a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University.

# Community deaths

#### Nancy J. Workman, 51, nurse

Nancy J. Workman, a Canton resident, died Dec. 13, 1996.

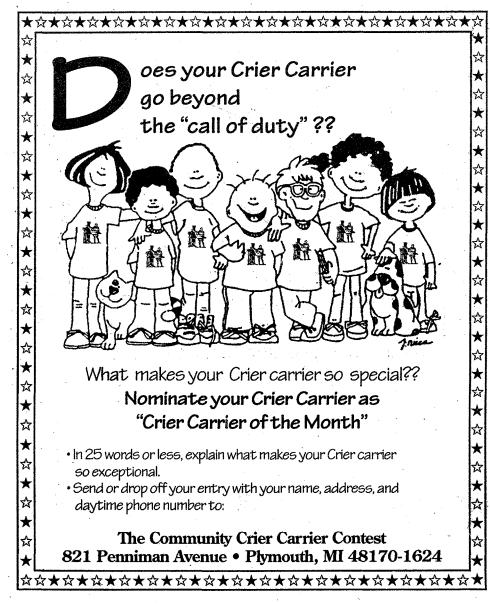
She is survived by two daughters; her mother; three sisters; and six brothers. Services were held at the Botsford Hospital Chapel in Farmington Hills. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

Loretta Fernandez, 83, fraud investigator

Loretta Fernandez, a Plymouth resident, died Dec. 8, 1996.

She is survived by one daughter; sister, Theresa Cussigh of Plymouth and two other sisters; five grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband, Louie Fernandez.

Services were held at St. Bernardine Catholic Church in Westland with Fr. Ronald Sayes officiating. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.



#### Mary Catherine Ward, 69, homemaker

Mary Catherine Ward, a Plymouth resident, died Dec. 2, 1996.

She is survived by her husband, Clark K. Ward; two daughters; four grandchildren; and one brother.

Services were held at the Disabled American Veterans Chapel in Livonia with Fr. John Hagan officiating. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

#### Robert L. McKinley, 72, account executive

Robert L. McKinley, a Canton resident, died Dec. 9, 1996.

He is survived by one daughter; three sisters; and two brothers.

Private servces were held. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.



## Will City parking problems ever end? Commission again takes stab at fixing downtown Plymouth's parking woes

#### BY ROB KIRKBRIDE

In an attempt to gain control of the inadequate parking situation in the downtown area, the Plymouth City Commission narrowly passed a Public Parking System Overlay District, 3-2.

As the City attempts to acquire parking in downtown Plymouth, the overlay district would allow the commission to add on to the parking system that already exists, without having to rewrite the parking ordinance.

The change will allow privately-owned sites within the overlay district to build out to two stories without providing additional off-street parking. It will also allow retail, service, restaurant and non-medical office uses to move in and out of the available basement, first-floor and second-floor space without parking issues. Drive-in banks, schools, hotels, theaters and funeral homes will be required to provide offstreet parking for any floor level; and all uses will be required to provide off-street parking for all levels above the second floor. Providing incentive and benefits to a limited section of the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority is not fair according to John Thomas, a downtown landlord.

"If I'm paying for the cost (of parking) and then you're letting the benefit flow to someone else, where are the benefits to me after paying the ad valorem (value-added) tax?" he asked the City Commission. "Until you begin to address all of these problems - especially parking enforcement --- this isn't going to work.

Downtown property owner Jim McKeon said the City probably won't ever capture all the private parking in the downtown area - essentially making the overlay district useless.

The problem is with a lack of enforcement," he said. "...this ordinance is being created without any dialogue with the business owners. This ordinance is a Band-Aid on a very sick person.'

Commissioners Joe Koch and Doug Miller voted against creating the overlay district. Commissioners Dennis Shrewsbury and Don Dismuke voted for the proposal, along with Mayor Ron Loiselle. Mayor Pro-Tem John Vos and Commissioner Stella Greene were absent from the meeting.

# **Free parking**

BY ROB KIRKBRIDE City officials and the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority are hoping a free upper-level parking deck will draw people who work in downtown Plymouth to park there instead of the prime spots on Penniman and Forest avenues and the lower level of the park-

ing deck. DDA Director Steve Guile said he hopes free parking will convince downtown employees to leave the free spots in front of retail stores to the shoppers.

The upper deck has been underutilized for many years," he said. "This will be a good test to see if free parking will work. If it works, maybe we'll make the entire deck free.'

## Many sources shaped P-C Schools bond proposal

#### Continued from pg. 5

Evola said the facilities will most likely accommodate district enrollment increases projected for the next five years, the maximum the State of Michigan will approve for bond propos-

The enrollment projections are the work of Frederick Ignatovich of Michigan State University. According to his estimates, elementary enrollment will peak at 7,588 students in 1998-99; high schools will peak with 4,960 students in 2001-02.

"The high schools already have about 600 more students than they were designed for," Evola said, " and we're looking at another 500 entering the district over the next five years."

To retain "Educational Equity," another of the forum's key issues, Evola said participants felt the high schools needed to be less crowded.

"Educational equity means that the same opportunities are available to all students," Evola said, claiming that overcrowding discourages this. "With a third high school, we can have 1,600-1,700 students at each," leaving the schools less crowded and easing competition for resources at each facility, she said.

If approved in its current form, the bond would increase the district's millage by 1.75 mills, to a total of 3.93 mills.

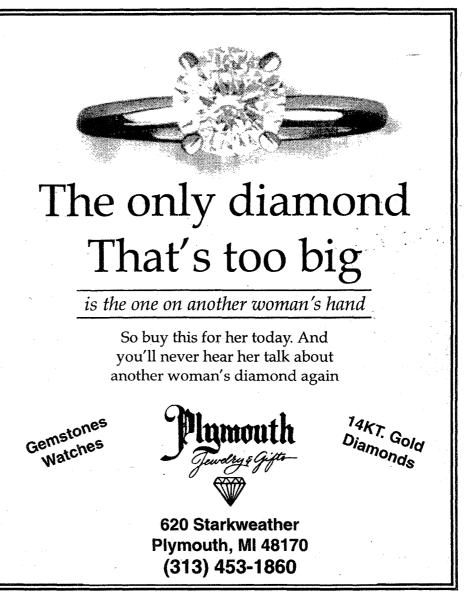
The increase alone will cost taxpayers \$87.50 per \$100,000 of their home's value. Owners of a \$200,000 home, for example, would pay an additional \$175 for the increase.

These projected cost increases inspire caution in Bohlen, who urges both the taxpayers and the school board to carefully consider their needs.

We're dealing with tens of millions of dollars here. If we're prudent, and we don't want to be bulldozing unused schools in a few years, we'll consider all projections carefully."

The bond issue is tentatively scheduled to appear on a March 1997 ballot.







## 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).

# Health...

#### NEW BEGINNINGS GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Meets every Monday at 7 p.m. at Plymouth Church of Christ, 9301 Sheldon Rd., just south of Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth. Anyone who is grieving a loss because of death or divorce is welcome to attend. There is no charge. For more information, call 453-7630. 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. For more information, call 453-

#### 9703 weekdays between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. WARM CLOTHING FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

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

#### **RESPIRATORY DISEASE ASSISTANCE**

For those with respiratory diseases. Second Wednesday of each month at the Arbor Health building in Plymouth from 2-3 p.m. Free of charge. For more information, call 712-5367. **PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM FOR SENIORS** 

Available twice monthly by appointment at Plymouth Township Hall. For more information, call Frances Rudd at 455-7526 between 1-4 p.m. weekdays.

#### OAKWOOD CLASSES/SCREENINGS

Blood pressure checks, breast feeding support groups, childbirth preparation classes and infant CPR. For more information, call 454-8001.



#### SANTA CLAWS

For a \$5 donation pets and children can have their picture taken with Santa at Specialty Supplies Plus, 1498 S. Sheldon Rd., all proceeds will go to local animal shelters. For more information, call 453-6930.

**CROSSROADS CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH BEGINS HOLIDAY TEACHING SERIES** Dec. 22- "The Joy of Jesus: Celebrating his goodness to us." The church meets at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday at West Middle School in Plymouth. For more information, call Pastor Rob Eddy at 641-6400.

#### TOY DRIVE ENDS TODAYS

Mel's Golden Razor, 595 S. Forest Ave. in Plymouth, is collecting new or used toys for needy families for First Step and Mott's Children's Hospital. For more information, call 455-9057. CANTON COMMUNITY CABLEVISION TALENT SEARCH

Canton is beginning a search for talented residents who are interested in helping with the creation and production of its expanding television network. Residents who would like to offer their services for cable television work should call the Communications office at 397-5472 or Scott Zuchlewski at 397-5360. Residents can also send a resume to Zuchlewski at 1150 S. Canton Center, Canton MI 48188. Interested residents will be interviewed and auditioned for various programs. Voice-overs, narration, writing, producing, on-camera, etc.

#### SATURDAY STORY TIMES FOR CHILDREN

Story times are open to children in kindergarten through third grade. Dates are Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 1 and April 5. Sessions begin at 10 a.m. and are 45 minutes long. No registration required. For more information, call 453-0750.

# Groups...

#### PLYMOUTH UNITED WAY AND ROTARY TOY DRIVE

The United Way, Rotary and Midas Muffler of Plymouth are collecting new, unwrapped toys at various locations through the holiday season. Plymouth locations include: Community Federal Credit Union, First of America, Midas Muffler, NBD, Papa Romanos Eatery Tavern, P-C Schools District Office, Bird Elementary School, East Middle School, Plymouth City Hall, Plymouth Cultural Center, Plymouth Township offices, Township Police Department, United Way and Water Club Seafood and Grill. For more information, call 454-4130.

#### PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHORUS AUDITIONS

Open auditions Jan. 7 at 7:30 p.m., and auditions by appointments Jan. 14, 21 and 28 at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Rd., west of Sheldon Road in Plymouth. All voices, but especially tenors are needed. Call 455-4080.

#### GROUPS RAISING FUNDS BY SELLING ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

The Plymouth Business and Professional Women, the Plymouth Symphony League, Plymouth Community Chorus and Plymouth Optimists are selling Entertainment Books '97 for their respective group functions. The Entertainment Book '97 contains hundreds of 50 percent and two-for-one discounts on dining, travel, movies, sports and more. Plymouth BPW: call Joanne Delaney at 455-5171, a portion of the \$40 cost will go to scholarships. PSL: call 453-3016, profits will benefit Symphony. PCC: Call Stan at 459-6829, the \$40 costs will help fund Chorus' charitable and educational activities. Optimists: Call Bill at 453-8253 or Ken at 728-7619, the cost is \$40.

# THANK YOU



#### **Gary Pack**

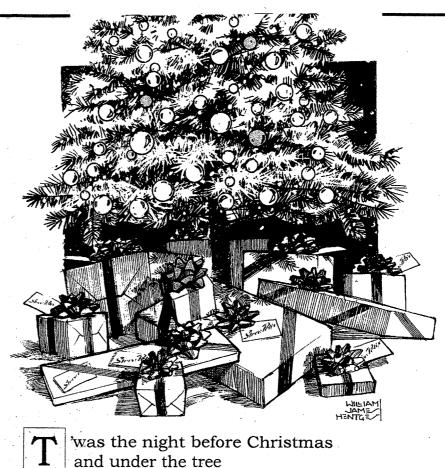
? would like to thank all my customers who have helped make this a great year for me! ? have thoroughly enjoyed being of service to you and would like to wish all of you a healthy and prosperous 1997.

I pride myself on being a knowledgeable and caring professional and look forward to our continued business relationship -

REMEMBER TO DEAL WITH THE BEST CALL GARY PACK AT



41001 Plymouth Rd. Plymouth 313-453-1771



d and under the tree there were gifts from Steve Petix from you to me.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

CLOTH

340 S. Main Plymouth

(313)459-6972

# \*LOCAL MERCHANT ALERT: HOW MUCH OF THE \$5,000,000 Shopping dollars coming here JANUARY 15-20 WOULD YOU LIKE?



The Crier's Guide to the 15th Annual Plymouth

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APPROXIMATELY

ICE SCULPTURE SPECTACULAR

# This 20,000 plus Special Edition goes right in their hands.

## Limited Advertising Space is still available.

Our community's premier winter event...with attention and visitors from all over southeast Michigan...and the world!

You can get your message to the thousands of participants, visitors and residents of our community with an advertising message in The Crier's Guide to the Ice Sculpture Spectacular. Expanded home and newsstand circulation, plus distribution at the Festitval itself. And, take advantage of The Crier's efficient color rates to add extra impact to your message!

To determine how much of their attention your store wants, Call

(313) 453-6900 The Community Crier

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# **Crier Classifieds**

\$5.50 for the first 10 words, 20¢ each additional word. Deadline: Monday, 4 p.m. Call (313) 453-6900

Antique



#### **Child Care**

NANNY NEEDED: Enthusiastic, loving & experienced person to provide care 3 days per week in our Northville home for 7 month and 4 year old Beginning in January, non-smoker, own transportation. references required. (810) 380-7781

#### Children's Resale

Need extra CASH? Children's Orchard pays cash for children's clothing, toys and equipment in excellent condition. Call 313/453-4811 for appointment

#### Entertainment

BE INNOVATIVE! Professional Storytelling & Musical Accompaniment for your next party or meeting. Call Storyteller Debra Christian (313)451-1128 or Musician Mike Shelata (313)480-2021

#### For Rent

PRIME DOWNTOWN PLYMOUTHstorefront-Penniman Ave - handicap accessible - 750sq. ft. Call 313-453-6905 for information

Prime downtown Plymouth loft apartment for rent. Call 313-453-6900 for info.

#### **For Sale**

Kittens & Cats - many to choose from -"safehouse" Call Rita at 313-663-1618

Must Sell! 3 New Arch Type Steel Buildings, 25X30, 30X58. Financing in Place. Must Sell Immediately. Great for Backyard Shops and Garages. Call Today 1-800-222-6335.

#### CHRISTMAS TREES -

CHOOSE AND CUT Pine, Spruce and Fir. 5-12 Feet. Four weekends. Nov. 30 thru Dec. 22. Saturdays 11 am-dark. Sundays 12 amdark. 9190 Joy Rd. between Gotfredson and Curtis. One and a half miles west of Arbor-Joy Driving Range. Superior Twp. (313)455-2402.

#### **For Sale**

GRANDFATHER CLOCK BY RIDGEWAY Cherrywood & beveled glass case. Triple chimes & moon dial \$1095 (Retail \$2800) Dark pine trestle table - 36" x 60" with two end chairs, 2 benches with backs, two ten inch leaves. Seats 6 to 8 comfortably, Opens to seat up to ten. Good Condition \$400.00 (313)455-3365

HAMMOND ORGAN CONSOLE MODEL M3 PLAYS WELL. One key damaged 313/455-1009

JOINTER/PLANER 6" Sears - Still in box, includes motor & legs \$250.00 (313)455-0696

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER Thomasville-Medium Oak. Excellent condition. Like new (313)454-9223

AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE 40671 Joy Rd. Canton, MI will auction contents of the following units for unpaid rent on Dec. 19, 1996 at 1:00 P.M. G29-Hissong/furniture, bike, boxes 141-McGilverary/elec.. motor & trimmer, tools, bike and boxes.

LOVE BIRDS FOR SALE: A pair of black faced love birds w/ orange & yellow chest; green backs. Cage, food, & toys. \$100.00 313-453-6860 Ask for Brandy 9-5 weekdays only 810-541-8526 after 5 pm

Kenmore cabinet sewing machine with storage, chair. \$75.00 Recumbent exercise bike \$250.00

(Like new) Upright piano w/ bench. Good condition

\$500.00. Call (313)397-3625 Cross country ski sets w/ clothing. His & hers. \$50.00 each. (313)455-0504

#### \* Free \*

This classification is FREE to those offering objects for free to the public. It is not intended for commercial use.

ABSOLUTELY FREE! Ladder Rack for older Ford Econoline Van. Call (313) 454-0177 After 6 PM

OIL TANK 220 GAL. - good shape - free Canton 495-0438

36" ALUMINUM STORM AND SCREEN DOOR- white on one side, cream on the other Call 455-4681 after six.

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Brian's Painting, interior & exterior, 15 years experience, 810/349-1558.

> DECORATING SERVICES PAINTING - WALLPAPERING Molding; drywall -- plaster repairs. CALL (313)451-0987.

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Mature women, honest and reliable seeking to clean the home you care about with quality. Experienced with excellent references, 453-8717

A MOTHER'S HELPER HOUSE CLEANING AND MORE PROFESSIONAL QUALITY 2 hrs/\$45 - 3.5 hrs/\$60 313/606-1199 PGR. Customized cleaning for your home or office. Reliable, affordable. Call Karen @ (313)451-6201

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#### **Real Estate**

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwelling advertised in this newspaper are avail able on an equal opportunity basis



#### **Real Estate**

3 Bedrm Ranch-Country Kitchen, Westland-Livonia Schools. Help-U-Sell Real Estate Call Fred @ (313)514-1313 v.m.

3 Bedrm. Ranch with Basement. South Redford Schools, Help-U-Sell Real Estate. Call Fred @ (313)514-1313 v.m.

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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 1 year: \$40.00 OR send your check (or VISA/MC#) with your name and address to **Community Crier** 821 Penniman Ave Plymouth, MI 48170-1624

Memories of the old J. L. Hudson building on Woodward Avenue in Downtown Detroit wanted. What do your remember best about the store on a retail level? On an architectural level? If you worked, shopped or davdreamed there, please share all of your memories. Send all information and/or photos, plus name, address and phone number to: "Memories' P.O. Box 5315 Plymouth, Mi 48170 CHRISTMAS, THE GIFT OF LOVE THAT HEALS HEALS Come hear an inspirational talk that will enrich your understanding of the true meaning of Christmas. Sunday, December 22 at 4 p.m. First Church of Christ Scientist; 100 W. Ann Arbor Trail.

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Better get one soon... Blacks' ...... Northville Mathisons' Canton Saxtons' ..... Plymouth

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Curiosities

PLASTERING- Specializing in water



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Deadline: Monday, 4 p.m. Call (313) 453-6900

Curiosities

Thanks so much to the Plymouth

Community for supporting our Village

Potters Guild, located behind the

Plymouth Landing

MERRY CHRISTMAS GENEVA

"You are the brightest light in Plymouth"

Love, Leah & Jesse Varga

GARY KUBIK is one step closer to being

bionic. The holidays are just around the corner-

are you ready?! Bob Lepping had to catch the last 15

minutes of sunshine outside of the

Savannah airport!

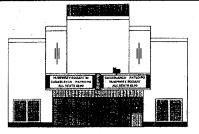
Rich & Beth- So glad you are coming in for

this weekend!! L & B

I miss the sunshine!

Thanks gang for holding the fort down while

Curiosities



PENN THEATRE 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. Gabrialas, 322 S. Main St., Plymouth, (313)455-8884.

How's your Hudson's memories coming along? You say they're not? Well, get on it! Send your thoughts to the box number listed elsewhere in the Curiosities!

START DATING TONIGHT! Play Detroit's dating game. 1-800/ROMANCE! Ex. #4952

Snow,,,shovel,shovel, shovel "THAT HANDLE THING"® Mathisons'...Canton Blacks'.....Northville Saxtons'.....Plymouth

Hey Rob, Don't people usually get hickeys on their neck? VALERIE STACY #1 Artist in the preschool/kindergarten age group - Good job BUT! TERRA STACY says wait till next

year

Daddy Stacy says you both are #1 to him

Happy Birthday Lisa Filar. She's 39 again and again and again and again...

Janet Frenkel of Century 21 Castelli & Lucas, was spotted in a Canton subdivision with a large round man dressed in red with a long white beard.

Hi Geraldine, I know you like to read these so here you are - A STAR IN PLYMOUTH

Lose up to 30 pounds in 30 days. Guaranteed (810)447-2425

> Snow's coming Lift that shovel easier "THAT HANDLE THING"® Saxtons'...Plymouth Blacks'...Northville Mathisons'...Canton

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KRACKENBERG! Merry Christmas to Mom & Dad (The Kubik's) in their Winter Wonderland, Secord Lake! Love ya - Gary and Judy

#### Curiosities

The perfect pet-lover's present- a gift certificate from Jill Andra Young

Photography., this area's leading pet photographer. For a limited time, each gift certificate comes complete with free IAMS Pet Food Products. Call 455-7787

"ARE YOU SURE YOU can't die from chapped lips?"--Steven Woods, 1996

(barely) "DOES MIKE CARNE follow Beauregard's rules?" -

#### **Help Wanted**

\$1000's POSSIBLE TYPING. Part time. At home. Toll Free 1-800-218-9000 ext. T-5746 for Listings

\$1,000 Weekly Stuffing envelopes at home. Free Details. Rush LEASE to: ACE Dept 6098. P.O. Box

5137, Diamond Bar, CA 91765 ACO HARDWARE WAREHOUSE 2ND SHIFT

SHIPPING DEPARTMENT Lift at least 50 lbs. work in variable temperatures depending on season, good math and reading skills required. Starting time 4 p.m. Starting pay \$8.15 hour. 90 days \$9.00, pre-employment drug test. Send letter of interest to: ATT: Human Resources/WHSE, 23333 Commerce Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48335-2764, EOE.

AID/HOUSEKEEPER for handicapped gentleman. Part-time weekday afternoons. References (313)458-1742

ANIMAL HOSPITAL Accepting applications for Receptionist and Veterinary Assistant positions. Must be dependable, self-starting, motivated, have good communication skills and be able to

juggle priorities. Team player-flexible, pleasant & compassionate. Veterinary experience desirable, but more important is a mature & positive attitude. Part-time/Fulltime includes Saturday. Apply in person at the Plymouth Veterinary Hospital, 725 Wing

Street, downtown Plymouth Auto Body 5 years minimum experience. State certified. Salary (313)934-5900 or pager(313)276-4017 Auto Body-I Care trained, state certified.

Commissions. Medium to heavy hits. (313)934-5900 or pager (313)276-4017 Auto Painter Diamount/Downdraft. Busy shop.

(313)934-5900 or pager (313)276-4017 CHILD CARE PROVIDERS, full and parttime. Infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. Plymouth area 455-5490 DISSATISFIED? Looking for an opportuni-

ty to earn good part-time income without risking your full time occupation? Call 810/975-8107

EARN \$75 TO \$165 DAILY WORKING FROM HOME! NO EXPERIENCE NECES-SARY. FOR DETAILS SEND SELF

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Experienced Nurses' Aides for private home in your area. Leave a message, M-F, 9-4. We will return your call promptly.

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VISA

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 HOME COMPUTER USERS NEEDED. \$45,000 income potential. 1-800-513-4343 Ext. B-4535 Call for details Homeworkers Wanted \$240-\$480 Weekly Clipping Coupons or Processing Grocery Premiums. Easy! Checks Mailed Weekly. Application Send Long Self Addressed Stamped Envelope: National Coupon

Network, 668 Main St., Suite 235 Ext# NC487 Wilmington, Ma 01887 Home Health Aides & CNA's Need extra cash for the holiday season! We have immediate opportunities available

for enthusiastic individuals to staff private duty cases in the Wixom and Milford areas Excellent references and reliable trans-

portation a must! We have morning and afternoon shifts available. For immediate consideration please call Kara for an intension Heartland Home Health Care

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POSTAL JOBS

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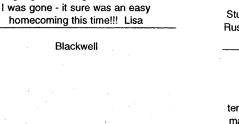
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get the paper out! Thanks A!! Dear Martha et al: It's snowing and cold and beginning to seem a lot like Christmas. People are gradually decorating both inside and outside their homes and everything seems to have a special glow. The Crier had a Christmas party Sunday afternoon in Lower Town. Everything was so pretty. The food was especially good as was the company. Everyone had a wonderful time. However we did lack something until your boxes arrived. What is Christmas without cookles and fruit cake? You made our day.

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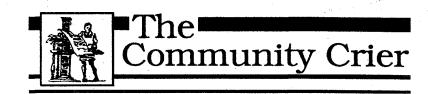
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— Top stories in the Plymouth – – Canton – Northville —

YEAR IN REVIEW

---Community ----

## Coming December 31

## in The Community Crier

Just before we leap into 1997 is the right time for a look back at the events of 1996 in our Community.

With stories ranging from the effects of the year's events on the Plymouth-Canton Schools, to the ever-changing face of local business, 1996 was filled with important milestones and changes in our Community.

To help us reflect on 1996, and prepare for the challenges of the coming year, The Crier presents its Year in Review edition on December 31, 1996. This section and edition will take a close look at the top stories, interesting personalities, and major issues in our Community. Reports will cover government, business, sports, law enforcement, as well as the human faces that affected us all this past year.

Take this opportunity to place your advertising message in this in-depth, well-read section.

For information, or to place your message, call your Crier Advertising Consultant Today! Page 18 THE COMMUNITY CRIER: December 18, 1996



THE COMMUNITY CRIER: December 18, 1996 Page 19



## Sports shorts

These are the Plymouth Canton Junior Basketball Association standings as of Dec. 14.

**GIRLS "A" LEAGUE** Celtics 6-2; Pistons 6-2; Lakers 5-

3; Magic 4-4; Bulls 3-5; Kings 0-8. Bulls 45 - Kings 25. Lakers 44 Magic 34. Celtics 22 - Pistons 20.

BOYS "B" LEAGUE NATIONAL Pacers 2-0; Pistons 2-0; Bulls 1-1;

Celtics 1-1; Lakers 1-1; Sonics 1-1; Bucks 0-2; Knicks 0-2. AMERICAN

Hawks 2-0; Magic 2-0; Jazz 1-1; Kings 1-1; Nets 1-1; Spurs 1-1; Rockets 0-2; 76ers 0-2.

Pacers 51 - Bucks 35. Celtics 50 -Knicks 43. Hawks 58 - 76ers 38. Kings 39 - Rockets 33. Pistons 51 -Bulls 32. Sonics 42 - Lakers 33. Spurs 52 - Bulls 47. Magic 45 - Jazz 35.

#### The Plymouth YMCA is currently taking registration for winter classes beginning in January.

Some of the classes being offered are: Youth Travel Leagues for Basketball and Floor Hockey, Youth Instructional Leagues for Basketball. Indoor Soccer, Floor Hockey, Girl's Basketball, Indoor Youth Golf Lessons, Youth Dance and Gymnastics, Preschool Indoor Soccer, "Y" Hoops, "Y" Pucks, Theme Party Thursday, Intro to Karate, Karate, Step Aerobics, Yoga, Adult Golf, "Y" Kids, Driver's Education and other classes.

Payment is due upon registration by fax, telephone, mail or walk-in. The fax number is 453-4191 and the phone number is 453-2904. Visa and Mastercard are accepted. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The City of Plymouth will be taking Spring Soccer registration the entire month of January during business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The City of Plymouth Recreation Department is located in the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street. All registrations require a birth certificate. The fee is \$40 for City of Plymouth residents and \$60 for non-residents. For more information call 455-6620.

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department has open skate time at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Monday: noon to 1:40 p.m. Wednesday: 11:50 a.m. to 1:40 p.m. Friday: 12:50 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.



Salem coach Bob Brodie took his team to the verge of victory, but came up short. The Rocks lost to Ann Arbor Huron in the final two seconds. Salem had a chance to maintain their one-point lead when the River Rats missed both free throw shots with a few ticks left on the clock. The Rocks scrambled to retrieve the missed shot, but the ball was recovered by a Huron player, who sank a basket in the final seconds. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

# **Basketball teams tip-off seasons**

#### Rocks lose in final 2 seconds BY MATT HUCAL

The final two seconds seemed to last forever last Friday, and it cost the Salem basketball team, who lost to Ann Arbor Huron last Friday, 68-67.

With the Rocks leading 67-66, a Huron player was fouled with two seconds remaining in the fourth quarter. The shooter missed both free throws, but in the ensuing two seconds Huron grabbed two rebounds with the second follow-up shot finding its way into the basket for the victory.

"That was a long two seconds," Salem coach Bob Brodie said, "but our kids fought hard and I'm proud of our comeback."

The comeback Brodie spoke of came in the fourth quarter. The game was a back-and-forth battle all night, with Salem up, 19-18, after the first quarter and, 38-33, at halftime.

In the fourth quarter, the Rocks fell apart then came back together again. Huron outscored Salem, 17-11, in that quarter as the Rocks fell behind by as many as 10 points with four minutes left in the game. Led by the three-point shooting of Andy Power, who had five treys on the night and 19 points, Salem charged ahead until the final seconds. The Rocks had a total of four threepointers in the fourth quarter.

Other Rocks finishing in double-digits were Andres Lopez with 14 points, Jeff McKian with 12 points and Matt Mair with 10 points. The loss Friday evened out Salem's record at 1-1 after a 73-62 win over Monroe on Dec. 10. The Rocks faced a tough Ypsilanti team yesterday who just recently upset top-ranked Catholic Central

"These guys are giving me a good effort," Brodie said. "They play hard, they're competitive and don't like to lose, so we took that Huron loss pretty hard."

The Rocks travel to Brighton tomorrow with the junior varsity game beginning at 6 p.m. The varsity games begins immediately after the junior varsity game.

## Chiefs stomp Monroe, 75-48

For the second time in three days, the Monroe Trojans lost to a team from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. Canton duplicated Salem's feat by crushing Monroe on the road by the score of 75-48.

The Chiefs took a 19-12 lead entering the second quarter, then extended that lead to 40-21 at halftime.

"I was surprised with the final score," Canton coach Dan Young said. "They were switching defenses on us all game, but we got better as the game went on."

Canton was led by Nick Hurley's second high scoring night in as many games this season. He finished with 19 points and Rob Johnson had 14 points. Dante Scott and Matt Ammons each had 10 points, and Mike Elsner had nine points.

On Dec. 10 the Chiefs hosted Wayne Memorial and lost, 63-59, in their season opener. Hurley led the way for Canton with 25 points and Johnson had 14 points.

Young cites his team's defense, rebounding and balance on offense as their strong phases of the game this season.

"Anyone can lead us in scoring in any game, which makes us even more effective," Young said.

The Chiefs tower over their opponents. Johnson and Elsner stand at 6'4", Ammons is 6'5" and an injured Jason Meagrow is 6'7"

Canton played Ann Arbor Huron yesterday and travel to Ypsilanti tomorrow for a junior varsity game at 6 p.m., with varsity beginning immediately afterward.



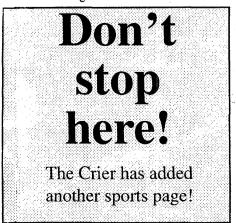
## Chiefs win Allen Park Invitational

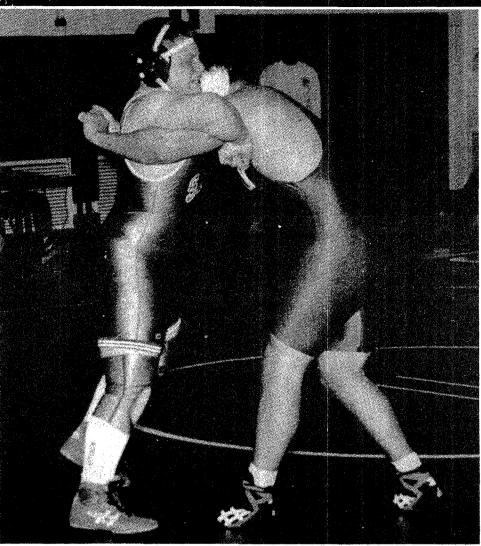
The Canton varsity volleyball team opened the first day of the season with a tournament championship at the Allen Park Invitational last Saturday. Canton defeated perennial Catholic League power Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard by the score of 15-9, 15-8 in the finals. Canton went 6-0 for the day in matches and 12-0 in games.

The Chiefs placed first in their pool by defeating Crestwood 15-2, 15-0, Rochester 15-6, 15-9, Belleville 15-7, 15-3 and Allen Park 15-2, 15-0. This placed Canton versus the second-place team in pool A, which turned out to be Wyandotte. Canton took control of the first game of the semi-finals with a convincing 15-5 win. Canton soon found their backs against the wall, down 9-13 late in the second game. The Chiefs came back quickly with three aces from Nikki Kovachevich. In the next rotation Donna Logsdon also came up with two aces and a final serve that left Wyandotte unable to return the ball for the final point.

In the finals Canton faced Gabriel Richard, also undefeated in pool play. Canton's serves remained strong in the first game, helping to keep Gabriel Richard off balance and give the Chiefs a 15-9 win in the first game. Canton had major trouble serving in the second game with seven missed serves that included four in a row at one point. The consistent hitting of Jessica Orleman, Donna Logsdon, Jenny Sikora and Stephanie Chefan along with strong setting from Courtney Wells allowed the Chiefs to side out and kept Gabriel Richard down to eight points in the final game. The tournament gave the Chiefs a record of 6-0 at the end of the first day of a long season.

Leading the team for the day were Wells with 79 assists and 13 aces, Kovachevich with 40 digs and 10 aces, Orleman with 32 digs and 23 aces, Sikora with 38 digs and 16 aces, Logsdon with 26 kills and 35 digs, Brandi Bernard with 19 aces and 16 digs and Chefan with 20 kills and 12 digs.





Salem heavyweight Charlie Hamblin lost in the finals of the Salem 8, but has shown promise early in the season. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

## Salem wrestlers finish second, Chiefs last at Salem 8 tourney

The Salem wrestling team hosted the Salem 8 Invitational Saturday and nearly swept their own event before eventually falling to Holt, the defending state champion.

Holt finished with 294 points and Salem ended the day with 201. Rounding out the field was Adrian in third place with 188 points, Catholic Central was fourth with 148 points, Brighton was fifth with 122 points, Saline was sixth with 89 points, Ann Arbor Huron was seventh with 63 points and Canton was eighth with 58 points.

This year the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) created a new weight class at 215 pounds, increasing the number of classes from 13 to 14.

Leading Salem was heavyweight Charlie Hamblin, who lost in the finals and finished in second place.

Other Rock wrestlers finished:

At 103 pounds John Mervyn was sixth place and 1-3 on the day.

At 112 pounds Dan Morgan lost in the finals and finished in second place.

At 119 pounds Dominic Saleri was sixth place with a 1-3 record.

At 125 pounds team captain Eric Coburn was named Most Valuable Wrestler in the tournament by placing first and not being scored on all day. At 130 pounds team captain Sean

Hughes was seeded sixth before the tournament began but defeated the second and third seeds to finish in second place.

At 135 pounds James Green was seeded third but finished in second place.

At 140 pounds Dan Hamblin was second place after going 3-1.

At 145 pounds Jeremy Wollschlager was fourth place after going 2-2 for the day.

At 152 pounds Anwar Crutchfield was third place at 3-1.

At 160 pounds Mike Popeney was fourth place at 2-2.

At 189 pounds Teono Wilson was 4-0 and finished in first place.

At the new 215 pound weight class Dave Walker was injured and was replaced by Mike Kozma who didn't place.

The Rocks are undefeated in dual meets with a 4-0 record after beating Canton, Monroe, South Lyon and Catholic Central earlier this year. Salem travels to Stevenson tonight to take on the defending league champions at 6:30 p.m.

# Sports

## On deck

SALEM BOYS BASKETBALL At Brighton tomorrow with JV

beginning at 6 p.m. and varsity starting immediately afterwards.

#### SALEM BOYS SWIMMING

The Conference Relays start the season at 1 p.m. this Saturday at home.

#### SALEM WRESTLING

At Stevenson tonight at 6:30 p.m.

SALEM GYMNASTICS

Always one of the best team in the state, the Salem gymnastics team next meet is Jan. 8 at home versus Hartland.

#### SALEM VOLLEYBALL

The JV team is at the Madonna Invitational on Dec. 28. The next varsity match is in the Portage Northern Invitational on Jan. 4.

#### CANTON BOYS BASKETBALL

At Ypsilanti tomorrow. JV at 6 p.m. and varsity afterwards.

#### CANTON BOYS SWIMMING

The Chiefs travel across campus to Salem for the Conference Relays on Saturday at 1 p.m.

#### **CANTON WRESTLING**

At home versus Franklin tomorrow at 6:30 p.m.

At home on Saturday for the Canton 8 Invitational at 9:30 a.m.

CANTON GYMNASTICS

Next match on Jan. 8 at Northville at 7 p.m.

**CANTON VOLLEYBALL** At Ann Arbor Huron tonight at 6 p.m.

Sports



# Whalers ride out Storm...

## Detroit beats first-place Guelph with potent offensive attack, swarming defense

BY BRIAN CORBETT Detroit calmed the Storm Saturday night.

The Guelph Storm, who are in first place with 42 points in the OHL's Central Division, had the misfortune of playing the Whalers right after they had acquired a new player — Dan Pawlaczyk — and fell to Detroit, 4-1, for the first time this season.

Pawlaczyk, who left the Toledo Storm last week to rejoin the team he played for last season, scored the first two goals of the game, including a first period breakaway move that froze Guelph goalie Bryan McMullken.

The goals were Pawlaczyk's second and third points since returning last Thursday versus Windsor.

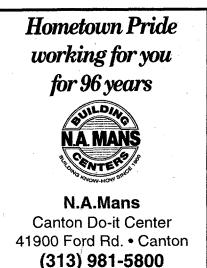
Chad Cavanagh and Bryan McKinney, the Whalers other post-training camp additions, also scored in their first two games with the Whalers.

In what was the beginning of an outstanding weekend for assistant captains Andrew Taylor and Mark Cadotte, and teammate Steve Wasylko, the forwards each had two points Saturday night.

The win avenged Detroit's 3-2 season opening loss on Oct. 3 in Guelph, who entered the game with nine more wins than the Whalers.

"I guess some people around the league might view it as an upset," said Whalers Coach Peter DeBoer. "But Guelph has been playing .500 hundred hockey on the road, and we've been playing pretty well lately, so we definitely thought we could play with this team. I think the turning point of the season is that Ottawa game (a 4-3 loss on Dec. 7) when we played with best team in the league for 90 minutes. We're on a pretty big confidence high right now."

Perhaps a result of their successful new attitude, and a 4-2 record this month, is a recent trend of making good



on early scoring opportunities, as Pawlaczyk did at 3:43 of the first period Saturday night.

He took a pass in the neutral zone from Cadotte, and skated in alone on McMullken. In close, Pawlaczyk went to his backhand to beat the sprawling goaltender.

Twenty four seconds into the second

period, Wasylko and Taylor set up Pawlaczyk's second score of the game.

Taylor put the Whalers up 3-0, after he took a pass from Cadotte, skated down the right side, and took a left-handed shot to beat McMullken on his stick side.

Detroit's stifling penalty killing unit, ranked second in the OHL, had its most impressive moment of the season during three consecutive Guelph power plays called in 4:54 of the second period. The Storm was held to just two shots on goal, preserving the shutout until Jason Jackman scored later in the period at 18:38. Wasylko got his second point of the game when he set up Bryan McKinney's second goal of the season at 3:58 of the third period.

## ...shoot down Windsor Spitfires Whalers' Wasylko back on track with 5 points over weekend

#### BY BRIAN CORBETT

It's the holiday shopping season, and the Whalers got their gift in Sunday's 5-4 win over Detroit River rival, the Windsor Spitfires.

After surrendering a two-goal, third period lead, Chad Cavanagh scored with 34 seconds remaining in regulation when he batted a loose puck through the pads of Windsor goalie Scott Roche.

Cavanagh, the team leader in game winning goals (4), was frank when asked about how he scored. "I don't know," Cavanagh said with a grin. Standing in front of the net amidst criss-crossing traffic, Cavanagh swatted at the loose puck, "and it went through his legs as he was sliding across (the crease)," he said.

It was Detroit's second win in three meetings against their division rival, leapfrogging the Whalers into third place in the OHL's West Division, one point ahead of Windsor.

While Cavanagh's goal might have been the most memorable for the 2,572 in attendance, forward Steve Wasylko was the firepower behind the victory, recording a natural hat trick.

In the last two games, Wasylko has five points (three goals, two assists). He was named the number one star of the game Sunday, ahead of Windsor defenseman Glenn Crawford, who had four assists. Dan Pawlaczyk, who rejoined the Whalers last week after leaving the Toledo Storm of the East Coast Hockey League, and teammate Andrew Taylor each had two assists.

The win capped an important weekend for the Whalers, Coach Peter DeBoer said. "With Robert Esche and Jesse Boulerice leaving (for the Junior World Championships in Europe), it was especially important we got some points," DeBoer said. "It's great to get the spirits up and get some points heading into Christmas. And if someone would've told us at the beginning of the season we'd be in third place at Christmas and have 13 to 15 wins, which is outstanding with the young team we've got, we'd be in a good position."

Detroit appeared to heed the urgency of their coach in the first period, outshooting Windsor, 13-6. Wasylko opened the scoring at 5:13 when linemates Pawlaczyk and Taylor set the Munster Hamlet, ON native up for his ninth goal of the year. But Windsor emerged from the period tied, 1-1.

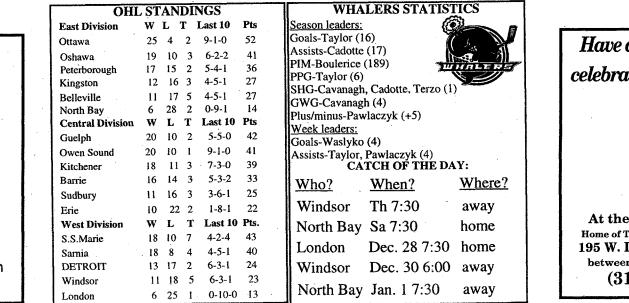
Wasylko gave the Whalers the lead again when he scored with a man advantage at 11:27 of the second period. Windsor answered quickly 1:32 later when Nelson Mando took a pass from Crawford in the left circle, closed in on the Detroit net and ripped the puck past Esche into the top, left shelf. Roche's stellar play fell apart in 58 seconds during the third period when Wasylko and Steve Dumonski scored for Detroit.

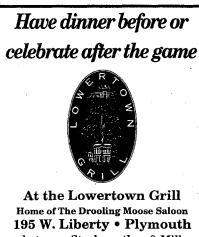
Wasylko's third goal came from deep in the slot as he crossed from left to right and beat Roche with a backhand.

But the Spitfires wouldn't go away. Crawford assisted on goals by Matt Cooke and Mando to even the score once again. The game appeared headed for overtime until Cavanagh's score.

Wasylko, who had been in a scoring slump after starting out the season with six points in his first six games, credited his linemates — the speedy Pawlaczyk and the rough-and-tumble Taylor — for getting him back on track. "That, and I guess I wasn't going all out like I was. So I just had to get back working hard, getting out there and bearing down. That's what I did (last weekend), and I got a few points," he said.

DeBoer was glad to see the 6'2", 190-pound forward return to his scoring ways. "He's one of the guys, coming into the season, that we had to depend on for offensive numbers. He's had trouble finding the net the last month or so, but recently he's raised his game significantly," DeBoer said.





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# **Community opinions**

# Scoggins sings swan song

Following recent blunders, it's good that Plymouth Police Chief has left

Personally, I'm sorry to see that Bob Scoggins is leaving as Plymouth Police Chief.

He's a nice guy, but clearly, it was time.

While the mild-mannered "Green Hornet" was good at calming troubled waters like The Cruise or the Nazis, he wasn't tough enough to stand up to crime or leadership in his department.

(I should note that I lobbied former City Manager Gordon Jaeger to pick Bob as chief. At the time he was the logical choice.)

But as the streetscape finally finished and business downtown began hitting on all cylinders again, it became clear that Bob Scoggins couldn't lead the police force to handle the business community.

And once the police chief loses the support of his business community — it's over. The same thing happened to Rick Myers, Scoggins' predecessor.

The break-ins weren't the only problem, but certainly the most public, thus far pointing to Bob's inability to lead in today's climate of community policing.

Local business folks have been upset that the police didn't share information with the merchants — especially since the break-ins happened on two consecutive days. A phone fan-out could alert merchants to be prepared.

"We were the last to know," said Denni Englehart, of Chameleon Galleries, at yesterday's Plymouth Chamber Retail Committee meeting. (Denni's on the chamber board and has been an active retail lobbyist.)

"Someone should have called the retailers and alerted them," she pointed out.

Plymouth Police Lt. Mike Gardner agreed at that meeting. "I can see the value of you knowing about it," he agreed. Mike went on to give the retailers several tips to guard against break-ins.

But Mike said that without his knowing about the memo Bob Scoggins had written to City Manager Steve Walters. "As you are aware, information that is given out regarding crimes can be extremely damaging to officers handling an investigation..." the police chief wrote on the way out the door.

Bob was too chicken to attend the meeting himself — sending Mike unprepared at the last minute. Scoggins had completely retreated to a bunker mentality — similar to what police departments used in the 1960s. Since then, policing has become more "community based" (and, therefore, open).

Scoggins "led" his department back into the dark ages — and his bunker mentality was showing.

His memo says, "All police agencies follow similar guidelines (about releasing information)."

That is absolutely false.

Either Scoggins disagrees with modern police procedures or he does not

# With malice toward none

understand how (closing his books) undermines community support of a police department.

The City of Plymouth Police Department is the most difficult police department in the area from which to obtain information. Even Northville Township Police, once a notoriously closed society, has become communityminded under Chip Snyder's leadership.

Bob's bunkering down was evident too when the Plymouth Township Police car broadsided the Plymouth-Canton School bus. That investigation was concluded, but the final report sat waiting on the former chief's desk.

If Scoggins followed through on his early days' hoofing the beat as the "Green Hornet" parking ticket guy or on suggestions to patrol the streets on foot or in cute golf carts, he might have saved his job.

These B&Es of downtown businesses will be solved only by alert business owners or residents observing something unusual. The key word is "alert" — a short form of "alerted."

Aside from embarrassing Mike Gardner, what purpose is there in hiding the break-in information? The crooks know which stores they hit and how much they got. The store owners were all willing to spread the word, hoping to alert others and find witnesses.

Other signs of Bob's weakness as chief had surfaced too.

And so, even though Walters likes to internalize managing the City's departments, he realized that doesn't work with the police department. He was left with little choice but to replace Scoggins.

Fortunately for Bob, it's not that he doesn't have another potential employment situation. As many Plymouth Festival-goers have seen, the former City chief is a tremendous gospel singer and has recording and performing opportunities.

Maybe his gentle temperament is better suited to gospel.

Another police chief bites the dust! Bob Scoggins was like Wayne Fontes, just waiting to pack the bags — only Fontes should have been axed as quickly.

Meanwhile, the Plymouth Police are still "investigating" the B&Es and warning retailers to take precautions.

# Keep holiday season safe: don't drink, drive

#### EDITOR:

The approaching holiday season will be marked by happy moments with family and friends, giftgiving and holiday parties where adults celebrate the season. Yet for all the enjoyment these parties can provide, it is important to remember that holiday entertaining is serious business — anyone hosting or attending a holiday party should not only consider their guests, but friends and neighbors with whom we all share the road.

The fact is that responsible drinking and safe driving during the holidays is everyone's responsibility. So if you plan to host a holiday party in the weeks ahead, clip the following list of responsible party tips and post it on the refrigerator as a reminder:

• Ask guests who among them will volunteer to be designated drivers.

• Always serve food with alcohol beverages. High protein foods like cheese and meat help moderate the effects of alcohol.

• Don't force drinks on your guests.

• Make non-alcohol beverages available to your guests.

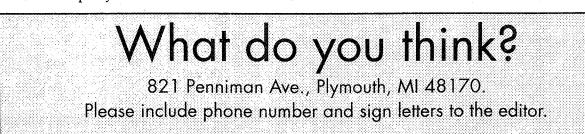
• Close the bar an hour before the party ends so your guests have a non-drinking period before driving home.

• If — despite your best efforts — someone has

had too much to drink, arrange transportation home with another guest, drive the person yourself, call a cab, or ask your guest to spend the night. Do not let that person drive home.

With a little, simple planning, all of us can do our part to make the holiday season enjoyable and safe this year. On behalf of the entire Central Distributors of Beer, Inc. family, happy holidays! BILL VENTOLA

CENTRAL DISTRIBUTORS OF BEER, INC.



# **Community opinions**

# Dog sitting is part of life in Plymouth

It was glum, rainy and cold, and I was tired. I was in no mood to go outside and return some roaming muddy mutt that was running around in my girlfriend's yard.

But after a quick blaze of common sense I figured the consequences of not accompanying her through the wooded lots of the Plymouth Township subdivision far outweighed watching the final few minutes of the football game on TV.

So I staggered to the door as Amy held on to Laddie, his long hair dripping and his white coat turned dirty brown. Mudpuppy.

I didn't bother putting my jacket on this December

Saturday. Why? "This will be easy running this little dog home," I thought. I knew I was wrong the minute we stepped out the front

door — our friend now on a leash — and a family member of Amy's drove by and shouted, "Laddie."

He knew his name. This obviously wasn't a rare occurrence.

I came to find out this dog had become quite a familiar sight around the block lately. So much so Laddie could probably be brought up on solicitation charges for showing up at so many doorsteps.

I was quickly filled in as we walked Laddie home. He made his first neighborhood cruise about one month ago. Amy and brother Tyler spent an hour or so walking the streets, almost mistakenly returning him to a home with a similar looking dog until finally being directed to the pooch's correct address.

Turns out, Laddie's owner is elderly, and may need a hand or two sometimes with more than just watching his dog. He thanked his two young neighbors repeatedly for their efforts, which included an hour or two of walking around on a chilly night.

"At least we knew where to take him this time," I thought as my boots sank into the soggy sod accompanied by that annoying squishing sound.



But when we got to the front door, no one answered. We rang the doorbell again. Waited and shivered. One more time. No luck; no one is home. We circled the house, no lights were on. Just as we were about to take Laddie and begin dogsitting, we spotted a leash near a side door. We exchanged our harness for the other. We had returned him home, but our duty wasn't done yet. The temperature was dropping and Laddie was soaked from his romp in the swamp. This dog couldn't like the cold anymore than us. "See if the door's open," a voice said to me.

I checked and opened the gates to the pooch's palace. I probably should've stopped there, but I didn't. I reached and opened yet another door into the house. I held the muddy one at my knees. He gave me a helpless stare.

I looked back up and into a house with spotless carpets, a beautiful foyer and furniture. A tough one: either let this mangy mutt run wild inside the house or confine him to cold cement garage.

I've returned many lost and/or escaped pets during my neighborhood kid days. It's all part of the subdivision life — looking out for each other, turning on porch lights, shoveling a driveway.

It's a responsibility that comes with home ownership, and I'm glad to say The Plymouth-Canton Community partakes like none other — especially during the holidays. If you haven't joined us, it's not too late to lend a helping hand.

In fact, I can think of someone who might need help cleaning his carpet.

# Citizens favor open government

EDITOR:

The State of Michigan, through the Auditor General, is trying to audit

state gas tax revenues paid to Wayne County. Wayne County is resisting this request because they believe the Auditor General does not have the legal authority to audit these records.

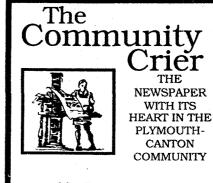
Whether this argument has legal merit or not, I believe that Wayne County's decision is a poor public relations move. Citizens favor open government and the County's decision to resist this accounting gives the appearance of impropriety.

Wayne County has the opportunity to gain a public opinion advantage by opening its books, if nothing is amiss, as they contend.

Michigan roads are a disgrace! Bills to increase the gas tax to repair our long-neglected roads have been in part bogged down by partisan bickering over how the revenue/booty will be shared.

Before we stick a fork in the taxpayers again, wouldn't it be prudent to let the taxpayers know what they have been getting for their money to date?

MICHAEL J. GEROU



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## Wise Men removed from Kellogg Park long before Christmas ends

#### EDITOR:

Each year the Nativity scene statues are placed in Kellogg Park. Each year, as a Christian, I am offended when the Wise Men are moved to the manger on Christmas, in direct contradiction of the Bible, which states that they did not arrive until the 12th day after Christ's birth — hence the origin of the 12 days of Christmas. Each year, by the 12th night, the statues are long gone, having been removed only a few days after Christmas by City workers. As long as we seem determined to irritate the American Civil Liberties Union, those who cherish the amendment that decrees the separation of church and state, and the "heathen unbelievers," shouldn't we adhere to Biblical accuracy in the timing of our display?

Otherwise, those who disapprove of our display may do something worse than criticize us or file suit against us. They may laugh at us for our apparent ignorance of our own religion!

SHERYL TRIPP KHOURY

