

The Community Crier

75¢

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March 26, 1997

3-26-97

School bond passes by 96 votes

BY BRYON MARTIN

Plymouth-Canton Schools' \$79-million bond proposal passed by 96 votes in last Saturday's special election.

The bond received 5,733 "yes" votes and 5,637 "no" votes, according to P-C Schools' official election returns.

The weekend election, the district's first, brought out more than 11,000 voters in Plymouth and Canton and, as in past elections, emphasized the schism between the communities.

All 10 of Canton's voting precincts approved the bond. All eight in Plymouth — except the East Middle School precinct — voted the bond down.

According to school and municipal officials, this division is not surprising.

"I'm very cognizant of feelings of division between the communities and it's very disturbing to me," Betty Bloch, Plymouth-Canton Schools Business-Partnerships Program coordinator, said.

A Plymouth Township resident and a school employee since 1989, Bloch said, "It's an issue that has bugged me for a lot of years.

"Plymouth doesn't feel connected to Canton, and Canton doesn't feel connected to Plymouth," Bloch said. "I don't know how to overcome it."

Canton Supervisor Tom Yack agrees. "The pattern is nothing new," he said, comparing this school election's results to those of '89 and '95, in which Canton cast more "yes" votes than Plymouth did.

Rapid growth in Canton has led to overcrowding in elementary schools there, and inspired a sense of need not felt in

Plymouth, Yack said.

"Plymouth is a stable community. Schools are in place and there is little disruption so voters see no reason to support schools for children they don't know," Yack said.

What voters have told Plymouth Mayor Ron Loiselle corroborates this view.

"I've heard a number of people complaining that they are paying for, and building schools for Canton," Loiselle said. "They say, 'Why should we pay for a school for Canton? Why shouldn't they pay for their own schools?'"

Some have suggested a separation of the two communities — Canton schools bought and used by Canton. Plymouth schools bought and used by Plymouth. Both Yack and Bloch said this is unlikely.

"We need some of the powers that be up in Lansing to come down here and tell

Confusion over computerized voting equipment causes 720 lost votes

BY ROB KIRKBRIDE

Plymouth-Canton School officials and their touch-screen-voting-machine manufacturer are wondering why 720 votes were "lost" during Saturday's 96-vote bond issue victory.

Of the 12,091 voters to show up at the polls, 11,370 actual ballots were cast. According to the schools, 720 voters — about 6 percent — did not follow voting instructions for the Unilect computerized system, spoiling their ballots.

The bond vote has been certified as passing by 96 votes, with 5,733 "yes" votes and 5,637 "no."

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Please see pg. 3

Artley won't run for 5th term on Plymouth-Canton School Board

BY BRYON MARTIN

AND W. EDWARD WENDOVER

Seniors are supposed to graduate.

Dave Artley, the senior member of the P-C School Board, is graduating after 14 years there, the normal time it takes between starting kindergarten and leaving Salem or Canton High School.

Artley, says his 14 years of school board service taught him about family, friends and education, and describes the time, "like having a kid."

What started as an active role with the schools' band boosters became Artley's catapult to the school board. He helped organize the first state-wide marching band competition held in Plymouth-Canton.

Once there he became known as a vocal debater — arguing with teachers on the picket line or parents at a coffee.

At commencement ceremonies over



DAVID ARTLEY

the years, Artley has "seen a whole generation matriculate," he said, "more than 15,000 kids."

Included in that generation are his two daughters,

Sandra and Kimberly, Salem grads of '84 and '85.

"Giving my children their diplomas — that was the best of times," he said.

Artley counts the present among those

Please see pg. 5



Canton's new cable television studio will serve the entire community. (Crier photo by Scott Spielman)

Canton cable studio to open next month

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

The studio has been built, the room sound-proofed and the ceiling lowered, and even some of the shows have been taped. The only thing Canton's new cable studio needs now is a cable.

"There's just one last piece to the puzzle," Scott Zuchlewski, manager of Canton's new cable studio, said. "We need the fiberoptic cable from Ameritech

and Continental Cablevision. We're kind of in limbo until then."

Please see pg. 4

COMMA, Crier offices closed to worship

The Community Crier and COMMA, will close at noon Friday to allow its staff to observe the Easter weekend.

The offices will be open again Monday at 8 a.m. for regular business. Advertising and editorial deadlines will not change.

Talk it up

Plymouth Optimists name winners in annual oratorical contest

See Friends & neighbors pg. 6

Whalers out

Detroit Whalers lose to Soo, 4-1, in season-ending playoff game

See Sports pgs. 27-29

\$225 please

• Your Crier Carrier is collecting now for this month. His or her profits depend on your courtesy.

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(313)453-6900

WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING ABOUT CHURCH?

"Church is irrelevant to daily life"

"Church is boring"

"Pastors never mention the struggles that are tearing me apart"

"I leave feeling more hopeless than I felt before"



WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING ABOUT



The NEW church in Your Community



I have not been to church in 20 years... I can't wait to go to church now!
Nancy
Plymouth Twp.

If you're not happy when you get here, you will be before you leave-I Promise!
Tammy
Northville

The enthusiasm communicated through the music & drama is contagious... Anything But Boring!
Bill
Westland

Flat Out... I Love This Place!
Mike
White Lake

Temple is a church where you leave feeling better than when you came...but hey, who wants to leave?
Nancy
Plymouth

DISCOVER FOR YOUR SELF!

EASTER SUNDAY, March 30th
8:30 am & 11:15am

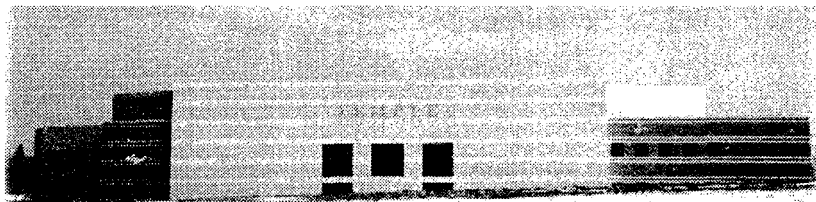
Coming Soon...

"STRESSBUSTERS"

A series of relevant talks with practical solutions for dealing with stress.

Every Sunday in April at 8:30am & 11:00am

The New Temple Campus in Plymouth



49555 N. Territorial At Ridge Road
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

Phone: (313) 414-7777

Fax: (313) 414-3999

Plymouth resident hit crossing Main Street

BY BRYON MARTIN

While crossing Main Street Saturday, 49-year old Plymouth resident Torbett Guenther sustained injuries when he was struck by a turning car, according to a City of Plymouth police report.

The driver, 22, is also a City resident, Plymouth Police Chief Bob Scoggins said.

Both Guenther and the driver were headed west: Guenther was walking in the Main Street crosswalk, the driver was turning left from Ann Arbor Trail onto southbound Main.

Scoggins said as the driver completed his left he failed to see Guenther in the crosswalk.

Guenther, who had the right of way as

a pedestrian, saw the on-coming car and stuck out both arms in defense as it struck him.

Huron Valley Ambulance took Guenther to St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti.

Scoggins said Guenther's injuries were related to his defensive gesture.

"The injuries to his arms and wrists are indicative of a bracing motion," Scoggins said.

The driver was issued a ticket for failure to yield to a pedestrian, Scoggins said. "We hope this is an isolated incident."

Since completion of the streetscape, however, pedestrian traffic has increased Scoggins said, especially in warmer months.

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Corner of Warren & Lilley
Canton

GRAND OPENING

Hours:

Mon. -Wed., Fri

8:30am-12, 3pm - 7pm

Saturday

9:30am- 12

Agenda

THIS WEEK

- The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce is holding a "Membership Coffee" tomorrow from 8-9 a.m. at the chamber office. There is no charge for the event and RSVPs are not necessary.

WEEKEND

- The Plymouth-Canton Jaycees are holding their annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday at 10 a.m. in Plymouth Township Park. The hunt is open for 0-10-year-olds. Approximately 1,000 pounds of candy will be hidden at the park.
- Canton kids 10 and under can participate in the Canton Easter Marshmallow Drop Saturday at 10 a.m. in Heritage Park. The treats will be dropped from a helicopter.

NEXT WEEK

- 1997 Plymouth Fall Festival applications are now available. All interested groups can pick up an application at the PCFF Board Meeting, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Township Hall Annex (Friendly's). New groups and last year's participants are encouraged to attend.

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Spring means starting new. That goes for you car, too. Call your Crier advertising representative to be included in the Spring Auto Care section next week.

VOTES BY PRECINCT -- OFFICIAL

	PCT.	TOTAL VOTERS	YES	NO	UNDER
Central	1	516	202	282	32
Gallimore	2	465	237	188	40
Isbister	3	428	186	230	12
East	4	522	281	228	13
Allen	5	473	186	249	38
West	6	700	287	368	45
Farrand	7	517	175	294	48
Flegel	8	191	101	80	10
Miller	9	547	268	264	15
Hulsing	10	664	320	262	82
Eriksson	11	486	246	200	40
Field	12	440	250	143	47
Canton H.S.	13	1048	605	382	61
Bird	14	529	211	271	47
Pioneer	15	612	264	300	48
Tonda	16	825	439	339	47
Hoben	17	543	262	215	66
Bentley	18	618	373	220	25
Absentee	AV	1967	840	1122	4
TOTAL		12091	5733	5637	720

P-C School bond issue narrowly passes

Continued from pg. 1

everyone that decentralization isn't going to happen. The trend is toward centralization," Bloch said.

"People are always talking about splitting the schools," Yack said. "If it wasn't for the growth in Canton, Plymouth would be a district in decline. They would be looking for ways to cut costs, not ways to continue all the great programs they have now."

Although both schools are to be built in Canton they would effect class sizes and overcrowding district-wide according to the school board, administrators and bond supporters.

Holding Canton solely responsible for new schools is a view Loiseau described as, "pretty narrow in focus," particularly when the high school will draw students from the entire district.

The high school is a shared resource and should be a common ground for everyone

in the P-C district according to Bloch.

"Plymouth-Canton is a mutually dependent community," she said. "I thought the high school would have shown that and overcome the division."

Until this connection is recognized, Yack said, such divisions are likely to continue.

"Everybody in the district must believe they are going to share in the pain if the bond doesn't pass," Yack said. "Otherwise, there is less incentive to vote 'yes.'"

Confusion causes loss of 720 school bond election votes

Continued from pg. 1

All voting systems — computerized or manual — have periodic glitches, according to Brad Wittman, director of information, voter registration for the State of Michigan, but the Plymouth-Canton Schools bond vote Saturday was somewhat different.

"Obviously something unusual is occurring here," he said. "It appears to be something inherent in the equipment that has caused people to not understand how to vote properly."

School officials said that despite the 720 votes, the election is still valid. The P-C Schools Board of Canvassers has already approved the election.

"It's not unusual to have 'under voting,'" said P-C Schools Superintendent Charles Little. "For a lot of people it was the first time they used the equipment."

But "under voting" at this level is very unusual for a single-issue ballot, say most election officials.

"I think this equipment can work well," said Plymouth Township Clerk Marilyn Massengill. (Plymouth Township is already using the Unilect machines.) "We have had some problems. It's like any new technology."

The Unilect system was in place for the June 10, 1996 P-C School Board election in which 2.87 percent of the registered voters cast ballots. School officials said approximately 8 percent of those votes were not cast properly last June.

With the higher-than-expected turnout for this \$80 million bond election, many voters in the City of Plymouth and Canton saw the digital screen Unilect system for the first time.

"Not a single vote has been lost because of that system," said Jack Gerbel, president of Unilect. "I'm just amazed. We normally don't have anywhere near that kind of 'under vote.'"

Gerbel said he was scheduled to meet with P-C School officials Tuesday to find out exactly what went wrong and develop a plan to prevent it from ever happening again.

According to P-C Schools Director of Community Relations Judy Evola, precinct workers were trained on the Unilect system on two

separate occasions. (A further, although minor, credibility issue on Saturday's election results occurred when the school district's precinct-by-precinct analysis of the election included erroneous numbers. Those numbers were later corrected.)

"There were directions in every single machine," she said. "We trained every single election worker and they were there to help voters if there were any questions."

Directions were also clearly marked on bulletin boards in the precinct.

After registering with the precinct workers, voters were directed to small voting booths. The screens are similar in size to a normal computer screen. Voters had a single issue: a "yes" or "no" vote on the bond. A touch of the screen on the square marked "yes" or "no" lit up the voter's selection. Voters were then asked by to choose "end voting" and "cast ballot" on the computer screen. This is where school officials believe the votes were lost.

"If the voter didn't press 'cast ballot' and left, the vote was probably erased when the next person came along," said Evola.

Little said even though it bothers him 720 voters who went to the polls did not cast valid ballots, it would not have changed the outcome of the election. "In the precincts where there was a lot of under voting, it probably would have given our voters more of a margin," he said.

Legally, it is unclear whether proponents of the bond will be able to overturn the election.

Under state law, a special election may be petitioned if it is found that voting equipment was defective. Anyone wishing to challenge the vote has 10 days to file a complaint.

Wittman said the proliferation of computerized voting equipment is being carefully scrutinized by the state.

"We have a program where all voting systems are tested," he said. "We keep them under continuous review for accuracy and procedures."

"All systems have had instances where they needed to be corrected through training. The Unilect system is no different from the others."



*Worship With Us
This Easter Season*

**Resurrection
Catholic Church**

48755 Warren Road • Canton, MI 48187
313-451-0444
Rev. Richard A. Perfetto, Pastor

HOLY THURSDAY: March 27th-7:30pm
Mass-Adoration until Midnight following
Liturgy.
GOOD FRIDAY: March 28th, Noon-Seven Last Words of
Christ, 12:45-Rosary, 1:00pm- Stations of the Cross,
1:30-Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
HOLY SATURDAY: Food Blessing 1:00pm-Easter Vigil
- 7:30pm
EASTER SUNDAY: 8:30am Mass & 10:30am
Masses - Church & Social Hall
(Blessing of Easter Food after all Masses)

**Trinity
Presbyterian Church**
(EPC)

Ann Arbor Rd. & Gotfredson, Plymouth
(313) 459-9550
Dr. William C. Moore, Pastor
Rev., William T. Branham Jr., Assoc. Pastor

Maundy Thursday, March 27, 7:30 p.m.
"Christ in the Passover" presented by Jews for Jesus
Good Friday, March 28, 12:00-1:15 p.m.
"The Words from the Cross"
Easter Sunday, March 30
7 a.m. Sunrise Breakfast
8 a.m. "The Hidden Tomb"
9:30 a.m. LIFELINE SERVICE-
11 a.m. "The Hidden Tomb"
Also special music at each service
Nursery Provided at all Services

**Risen Christ
Lutheran Church**

46250 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth
(313) 453-5252

Maundy Thursday 7:30 p.m.
"Passover Seder"
Good Friday 7:30 p.m.
"Tenebrae Service"
Easter Sunday 7:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
"Easter Changes"
Festival Services with organ, choirs, timpani,
and trumpets
Easter Breakfast
will be served . . . 8:30-10:30 a.m.

**Plymouth
Baptist Church**

42021 Ann Arbor Trail
Plymouth
(313) 453-5534

Thursday, March 27 &
Good Friday, March 28
"ONE AND FOR ALL"
CONCERT...7PM"
**Easter Morning
Worship Service... 10:30 a.m.**
Nursery & Childcare Provided

**First Presbyterian
Church of Plymouth**

Main and Church Streets,
Downtown Plymouth
(313) 453-6464

The Reverend Dr. James Skimins
Senior Minister
The Reverend Tamara Seidel
Associate Minister

HOLY THURSDAY
8:00 p.m. Communion Service
GOOD FRIDAY
8:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service
EASTER DAY
7:30 a.m. Communion Service
9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
WORSHIP SERVICE

**St. Johns
Episcopal Church**

574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth (313) 453-0190

Wednesday...7:30 p.m.
Tenebrae
Maundy Thursday...7:30 p.m.
Eucharist & Foot Washing
Good Friday...12:30 p.m.
Stations of the Cross
1:00 p.m. Solemn Collects
7:30 p.m. Solemn Collects & Tenebrae
***Holy Saturday...7:30 p.m.**
Great Vigil
***EASTER SUNDAY:**
8 & 10 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist
* (Nursery provided)

**First United Methodist
Church of Plymouth**

45201 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth
(West of Sheldon Road)
(313) 453-5280

Maundy Thursday • March 27
12:15 & 7:00 p.m.,
Communion Service
Good Friday Service • March 28 . .
12:30 & 2:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday • March 30
Sonrise Service, 6:30 a.m.
Easter Breakfast, 7:15 a.m.
Worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
(Nursery Available at 9 & 11)
Dr. Dean Klump., preaching

**St. Michael
Lutheran Church**

7000 Sheldon Road • Canton
(Sheldon and Warren Roads)
(313) 459-3333
Holy Week Services

Saturday Evening Worship - 5:30pm
Maundy Thursday Worship-7:30pm
Good Friday Men's Breakfast-8:00am
Tickets: \$4/adults and \$2.50/children
Good Friday Worship-7:30pm
Saturday Evening Worship-5:30pm
Easter Sunday-7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am
Christ Has Risen

**Canton police search for suspect
in attempted murder case**

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

A 62-year-old Canton man is being sought after allegedly slicing his wife's neck with a knife, according to police.

A warrant has been issued for assault with attempt to commit murder for Darrell Lee Wilkes, according to Canton Police Detective Leonard Wolons.

The victim, Arlene Wilkes, 42, of Canton, had served her husband with divorce papers on Thursday, Wolons said.

Wolons said that Arlene Wilkes went to Darrell Lee Wilkes' house on Fox Valley Road, near Cherry Hill and Lotz roads, Saturday to have him fix a vehicle when an argument ensued. Darrell Lee Wilkes allegedly produced a knife and slashed her twice on the neck.

Arlene Wilkes suffered a 15 cm laceration on the left side of neck, and a 20 cm laceration on the right side of the neck, according to Wolons.

Please see pg. 7

Canton cable studio serves community

Continued from pg. 1

The studio, located in the Summit on the Park Center, was included in the original blueprints for the center but required some modification before it was usable as a cable studio.

"We had to lower the ceiling from 45 feet to 25 feet, for one thing," Zuchlewski said. "It looked nice from the outside, but it wasn't too practical."

Far from being in limbo, the studio has already began taping shows, using volunteers that range in age from senior citizens to college, which they air on channel 12 on Continental Cablevision. The new cable studio will show many different types of community-based shows, as well as branching out to other areas, according to Zuchlewski.

"We've shot three studio shows," he said, "we've got a monthly golf show and some episodes of Canton Connection, and many others in the works."

Some of the new show ideas being tossed around are an aerobics and fitness program, a cooking show based on the Summit's menu, some senior citizens' programming and a kids' storytelling hour. The studio will also broadcast Township Board and Planning Commission meetings.

In addition, the studio will begin shooting a monthly news magazine about the area, which will be a cross between Dateline and a local newscast, according to Zuchlewski.

"It's our main priority right now," he said, "it takes a lot of time and teamwork."

It's going to take every bit of a month to get it together."

The news show, which would play for an entire month until a new installment is shot and put together, will differ from Canton Connection, which is a Canton based talk show featuring interviews with local government officials, according to Zuchlewski.

"We're going to have anchors, reporters in the field, the works," he said.

The cable studio is financed primarily through franchise fees paid to the township by Continental, according to Zuchlewski.

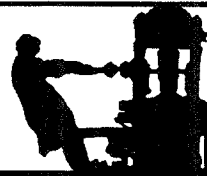
"We wanted to do something like this instead of putting the money into a general fund," he said. "It's like giving back to the community. We want to add another dimension of community information."

Zuchlewski is unsure of the exact start up date for the new channel, but hopes to be up and running within the next two months.

"If it happens before that time, then great," he said. "I wish it were done already because we're cranking the shows out now. It'd be nice to have some more control as to what goes out and when."

Zuchlewski knows that there's a lot of work left to be done, but is confident that when everything comes together, the wait will have been worth it.

"Once we're up and running, we're going to kick out a lot more programs than we are now," he said. "We have all the capabilities of the big boys—like Channel 7, only on a smaller scale."



Public notices

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a PROPOSAL for worker's compensation claims, administration and reinsurance. Specifications and Bid Forms can be obtained from the Purchasing Office, Board of Education Building, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, MI during normal business hours. Bids are due on or before 2:00 P.M. Friday, April 25, 1997. 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

Carrie F. Blamer, Secretary

Artley plans on staying active in community after school board term ends

Continued from pg. 1
good times, too.

Saturday's approval of the schools' bond is an example of the what he thinks the schools are doing well.

"I think today people are starting to believe they own the schools," he said, citing a number of school committees that now have citizen members as examples.

Budgeting, purchasing and hiring committees, with citizen members, "make them part of the decision-making process," he said. "They're responsible that way, and they take ownership in the schools.

"A lot more people are truly involved in the schools. They know that what they want to make them is what they will be."

He likes to think his work helped affect that change.

He says he'd like to see more change.

"Over the course of my 14 years I've learned a lot about how public education and the legislature work," Artley said. "I'd like to take all of that to the next level."

"What does that mean," his wife asks.

"I'm not sure," Artley says. He's considered a number of possibilities and has ruled out none. "They're all still in the pot."

Over the years (and several employment changes for Artley), he was rumored as a candidate for Canton supervisor, state representative and state senator.

Whatever his job, Artley says his cause will remain kids and their education.

His career with the board will end in June. He has one more graduation to attend, however.

Matt, a senior at Canton and Artley's youngest, will be in those commencement.

"Yes, I'll be involved again," Artley said. "I'll get to give Matt his diploma."

And for Artley — half friend of the schools, half family man — it's a fitting, if not permanent, goodbye.

"This is my community. I'll be around and involved," he said.

Canton achievers honored

Nine individuals and community groups were recently selected as Canton Community Achievers for 1996. They were honored during a special reception, "A Salute to Canton's Celebrated" on Sunday.

The groups honored included the Canton High School girls soccer team for winning the state Class A soccer championship; the Plymouth-Canton Community Business Education Partnership and Betty Bloch for co-sponsoring the Turnaround Achievement Awards program; and the Canton Firefighters Charity Foundation for various special fundraisers in support of community charities. The individuals honored included: Anne Evans, for her various volunteer efforts an her appointment to the Michigan Senior Advisory Council on Volunteers; Geri Wojcik, for her efforts on behalf of the Canton Beautification Committee and being honored by the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan; Canton Superbowl manager Mark Voight, for also co-sponsoring Turnaround Achievemnet program; John Cunningham, for being honored as a "coach of the year" by the National Federation of Interscholastic Coaches; and Salem High senior Lawrence Nunn, for his accomplishments while attending the Boys' National program. Also being saluted this year were Ron and Dolly Leiberman, a husband and wife team known throughout the community for their volunteer efforts on behalf of a number of organizations, such as the Canton Chamber of Commerce, Friends of the Canton Public Library, Meals on Wheels, and Canton Fire Ambassadors program.

Women's
Health Day
Saturday, April 5th
Holiday Inn - Livonia

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 healthy. I found a warm, caring atmosphere designed to help 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



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 close to home.

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.

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 why St. Mary Hospital is my hospital.

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or toll free
1-800-494-1615

Visit St. Mary via Internet
<http://www.stmaryhospital.org>



St. Mary Hospital

36475 Five Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48154

Affiliated with William Beaumont Hospital

The Community Crier

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Friends & neighbors

Neighbors in the news

The following students were named to the Eastern Michigan University Dean's List: From Plymouth: Cathleen Adams, Ronald Andrusiak, Julie Antoun, Ellen August, Scott Bailey, Kristen Baranowski, Leonard Baron, Jr., Cynthia Baumgarten, Melanie Blair, Stacy Britt, Christopher Buchanan, Mark Burgett, Kimberly Burke, Jeanne Cady, Kathleen Currier, Brian Darling, Melanie Davis, Jill Dennison, Denise Denomme, Jeffrey Joseph, Diana Dobry, Laurie Eissler, Holley Engel, Marlene Erxleben, Sarah Farr, Paul Faunce, Laura Filppula, Heather Gentry, Matthew Glomski, Rochelle Gotts, Jill Gregory, Jason Groom, Roberta Helmke, Blythe Jahr, Mary Beth Kowaleski, Zhana Krasnyuk, Nicole Laramee, William Lincoln Jr., Jennifer Lock, Julie Magee, Jodi McFarland, Kim McKinney, Danielle Meier, Deborah Mikita, Amy Morris, Erik Mullinix, Jeanne Murray, Paul Offer, Heather Pastor, Kari Plesco, Tyler Pollack, Lisa Pratt, Sandra Raymond, Janice Reissenweber, Jeremy Rheault, Kevin Santer, Christina Schmidt, Sean Singer, Rebecca Smith, Melissa Smokovitz, Michael Stansell, Jenna Stanton, Jennifer Stockwell, Andrew Strahan, Jennifer Thomas, Darron Tucker, Erin Warne, Christina White, Jeffrey Wilson.

Kendra Bondie, daughter of Susan and Daniel Bondie of Plymouth, was recently appointed as a Student Ambassador for Hillsdale College. Student Ambassadors give tours of Hillsdale's campus and represent the college at college fairs. Bondie, a junior at Hillsdale, graduated from Ladywood High School in 1994.

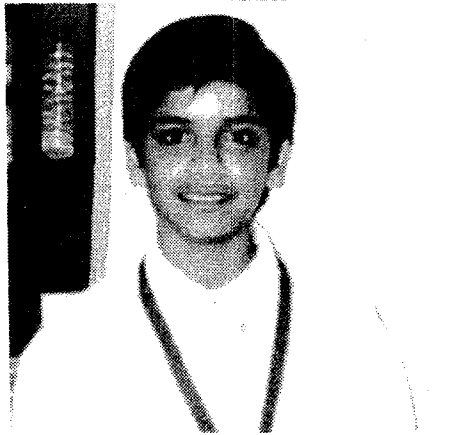
Kory Pond of Canton and Ryan Haydon of Plymouth qualified for the ninth annual Michigan Geography Bee to be held April 4, at Central Michigan University.

The state bee is the second level of a national competition for students in grades four through eight, sponsored by the National Geographic Society. The winner will receive \$100 and an all-expenses-paid trip to the national finals May 27-28, in Washington, D.C. The national champion receives a \$25,000 college scholarship.

Jennifer M. Single of Plymouth was selected to receive the Carl Frishe Physics Scholarship at Miami University. Students are selected on basis of superior academic and personal merit from more than 1,000 candidates.



ANDY KEE



JALPESH PATEL



JUSTIN KUXHAUS

Students shine in Optimist speech contest

The Plymouth Optimist Club held its annual oratorical contest for boys last Monday night at the Water Club Grill in Plymouth Township. Seven young men from four local junior high schools in the Plymouth-Canton School District participated. The topic was "My Vision For Tomorrow's World." The three winners were:

1st Place: Andy Kee, Pioneer Junior

Plymouth woman adds St. Patrick's Day to list of parade entries

Ron Hanson (left), with Charlotte Austin of Plymouth (right), and Nancy Harm stand in front of Tiger Stadium at Detroit's St. Patrick's Day Parade last Sunday.

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

If you've been to a parade in Wayne County within the last five years, chances are you've seen Charlotte Austin.

But you might not have recognized the Plymouth resident, even if you knew her.

She could have been dressed as a native American, or in wild western wear or other types of old-fashioned clothing.

Austin, an independent business person, loves walking in parades in her spare time.

"It's a lot of fun," she said. "You just walk along and smile and wave at people. The kids especially like you to wave."

High School. 2nd Place: Jalpesh Patel, Lowell Junior High School. 3rd Place: Justin Kuxhaus, Our Lady of Good Counsel Junior High School.

Each student researched, wrote and prepared his own speech under the guidance of his English teacher and presented it last Monday before an audience of approximately 60 people.

Kee will advance to the district com-

petition in April. The winner of the district competition will advance to the regional contest in May, which includes all of the Lower Peninsula.

The winner of the regional contest will receive a \$1,500 scholarship to the college of his choice from Optimist International. Last year's winner from Plymouth took first place in the regional contest.



Austin usually makes her own costumes for the parades and last Sunday's Detroit St. Patrick's Day parade was no exception.

"I always make my own costumes," the long-time Plymouth resident said. "It's easy. You just find out about a parade, find out what kind of theme it is, and come up with something appropriate."

Austin's community activities do not stop with parade walking, she said. She has also chaired several local festivals, including the Old Village Apple Festival and Plymouth's Dearie Days, the now-

defunct old-fashioned festival complete with barber shop quartets and prizes for best western costumes.

The biggest parade Austin ever walked in was the Detroit Thanksgiving Parade, but she's had invites to several parades in Chicago.

Austin enjoyed her experience in the St. Patrick's Day parade and is already looking forward to the next one.

"The streets were full; there were rows and rows and rows of people. They even had fences," Austin said.

"Everyone was cheering. It was quite a crowd."

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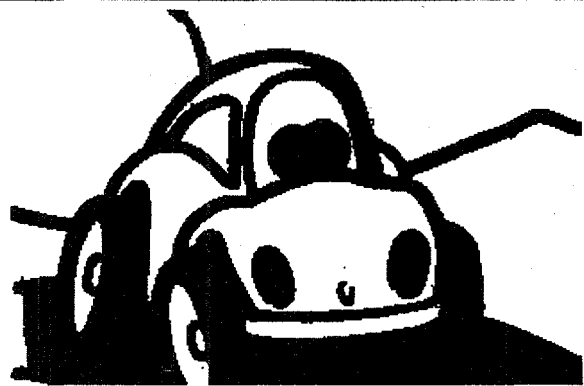
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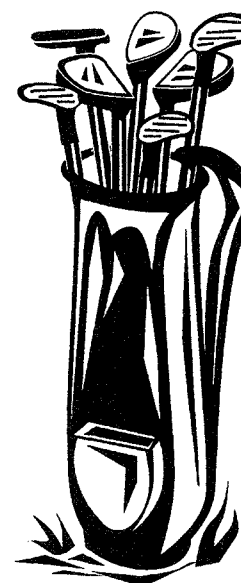
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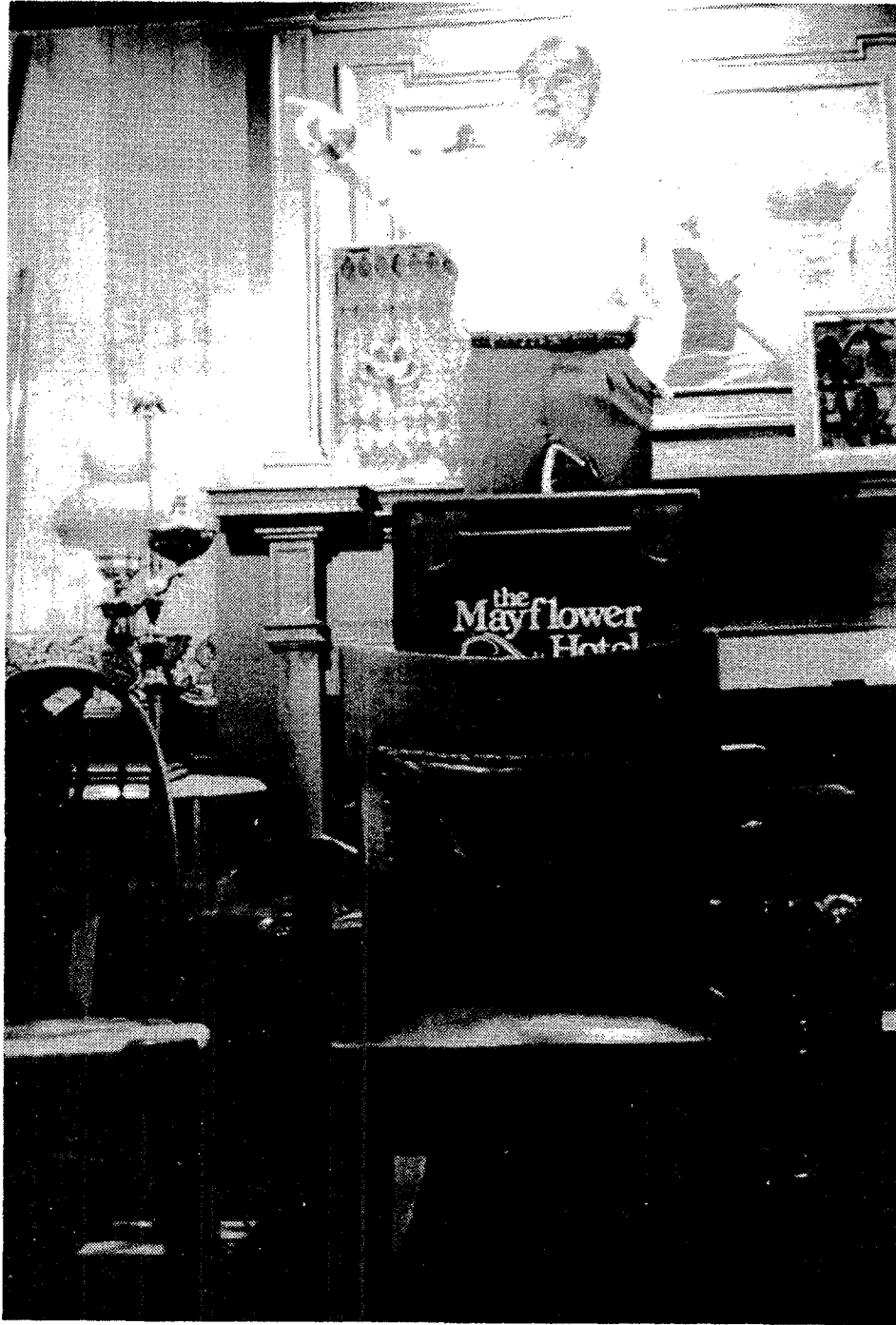
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Joe Carli, owner of JC Auction Services, said the auction was special because "the Mayflower is Plymouth."

Auction clears way for Mayflower renovation

BY ROB KIRKBRIDE

They sold everything at the Mayflower Hotel — including the kitchen sink.

The Mayflower Hotel and JC Auction Services auctioned more than simple hotel items Saturday. They auctioned memories.

The sale raised more than \$25,000 and cleared the way for remodeling of the historic downtown Plymouth hotel.

"Saturday was my most favorite day of the nine years I've worked at the Mayflower," said Avia Powell, food and beverage manager. "It was very emotional. I saw people I haven't seen for years. It's also a very exciting time."

According to Joe Carli, owner of JC Auction Services, pieces of history were sold Saturday.

"I've been in Plymouth for 35 years," he said, "and it was like selling history.

"I mean, if you buy a seat (from the Mayflower) who else has one?"

From the practical to the absurd, Carli said he was surprised by the response to the auction.

The historic mermaid from the Crows Nest sold for \$525; the Mayflower bench, \$490; Victorian chairs, \$100 apiece; and the brass beer taps, \$425 apiece.

"We even sold the bricks in the basement," Carli said.

More importantly for the owners of the Mayflower Hotel, the sale clears the way for the multi-million renovation project.

Powell said gutting of the inside of the building will begin immediately.

That's good news to Carli. "To me, the Mayflower is Plymouth," he said. "I'm glad they are remodeling.

"We need a hotel in Plymouth. It will help every retail business downtown."

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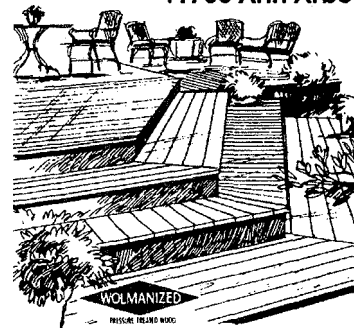
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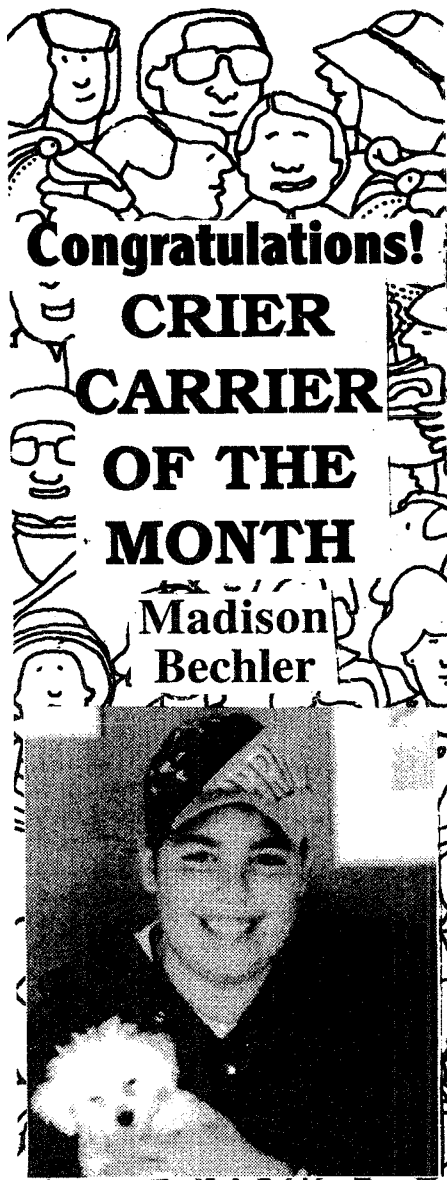
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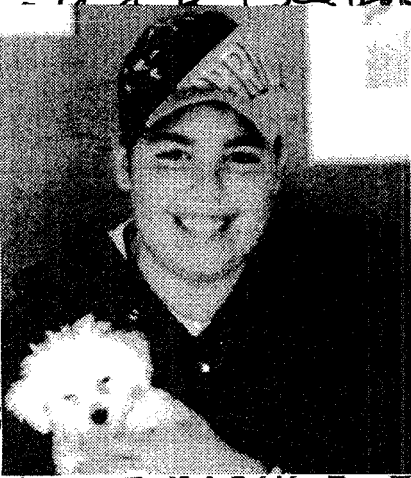
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What's Happening

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).

Groups...

SPRING SOCCER REGISTRATION

The City of Plymouth is registering for Spring Soccer at the Plymouth Cultural Center from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Bring a birth certificate and registration fee: \$40 for City residents, \$60 for non-residents. For info, call 455-6620.

CITY WINTER CLASSES

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department is offering more than 20 classes for ages ranging from tots to seniors. For a brochure and other info., call 455-6620.

Upcoming...

PLYMOUTH CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP COFFEE

Thursday, March 27 the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce will honor the Plymouth-Canton School Board at its membership coffee, from 8 - 9 a.m. at the Chamber office. Free, no RSVP needed.

EASTER MARSHMALLOW DROP

Canton Parks and Recreation is sponsoring its Annual Easter Marshmallow Drop March 29, for Canton kids 10 and under at Heritage Park. Children will be divided into age groups before they hunt down helicopter-dropped marshmallows they can exchange for goodies and treats.

FELLOW'S CREEK MEN'S GOLF LEAGUE

Canton Parks and Recreation Mens Golf League will begin April 23, 5 p.m. at Fellow's Creek Golf Course. Registration has begun, cost is \$400. League is limited to 36 golfers and restricted to Canton residents unless league fails to fill by March 31.

55 ALIVE: MATURE DRIVING CLASS

AARP driving class, sponsored by V.F.W. Post 6695 Ladies Auxiliary, April 2 and 3, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., at V.F.W. 6695. Cost, \$8. For info and reservations, call Barbara at (313) 538-1859.

FABERGE TRIP TO CLEVELAND

City of Plymouth Parks and Rec will offer a trip to Cleveland, OH to view the Faberge Collection. A two-day, one-night trip April 7 and 8, the tour will cost \$199, and includes transportation, lodging, two exhibits and a lecture and some meals. \$50 deposit required. Call 455-6620.

FREE INVESTMENT SERIES

The Northville District Library is sponsoring a free investment series presented by Merrill Lynch financial consultants. The first, "College Planning," April 9, 7 - 8:30 p.m. Call (810) 349-3020 for reservations.

SENIOR TAX ASSISTANCE

Free income tax assistance for seniors is available in Plymouth, Canton and Northville through April 15th, courtesy of the AARP Tax-Aide program. Those seniors interested should call for an appointment: 397-5444 in Canton; 349-4140 in Northville; 455-6620 in Plymouth. Information on home visits are also available at each number.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON JAYCEES

The Plymouth-Canton Jaycees have several events upcoming, including open house/orientations, meetings and activities. Call the Jaycees Hotline for times and dates: 453-8407.

Health...

BLOODMOBILE SITES

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be open to the public at the following times and locations: Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, Tri City Christian Center, March 26, 3:30 - 9:30 p.m., call (313) 326-0330. St. Thomas A' Beckett Catholic Church, March 28, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., call (313) 844-2505.

HEALTH AT THE SUMMIT

In Feb. and March, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital is sponsoring a series of health programs at Canton's Summit on the Park. Topics include exercise, cardiac screening, stress management, nutrition for children and adults, parenting skills and cessation of smoking. A separate, Women's-health-oriented series is also planned. Registration required. For info, phone (313) 712-4106.

OAKWOOD CLASSES/SCREENINGS

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

PLYMOUTH BREATHERS CLUB

For those with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema and other respiratory disease. Meets the second Wednesday of every month from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph Mercy Health Building, Plymouth. For information, call 313 712-5367.

SENIOR VAN

The Plymouth Community Seniors van is available for transport to any destination in the city or township five days a week, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The van will also assist Plymouth seniors in getting to medical, dental and other appointments, and makes planned trips to Westland, Livonia and Laurel Park Malls. Phone 459-8888 for info on this free service.

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.

SMOKE STOPPERS

In combination with the "patch," or by itself, this program can help win the battle against smoking. Group and individual sessions available at St. Joseph Mercy Health Building, Plymouth and Ann Arbor. Call 313 712-4141.

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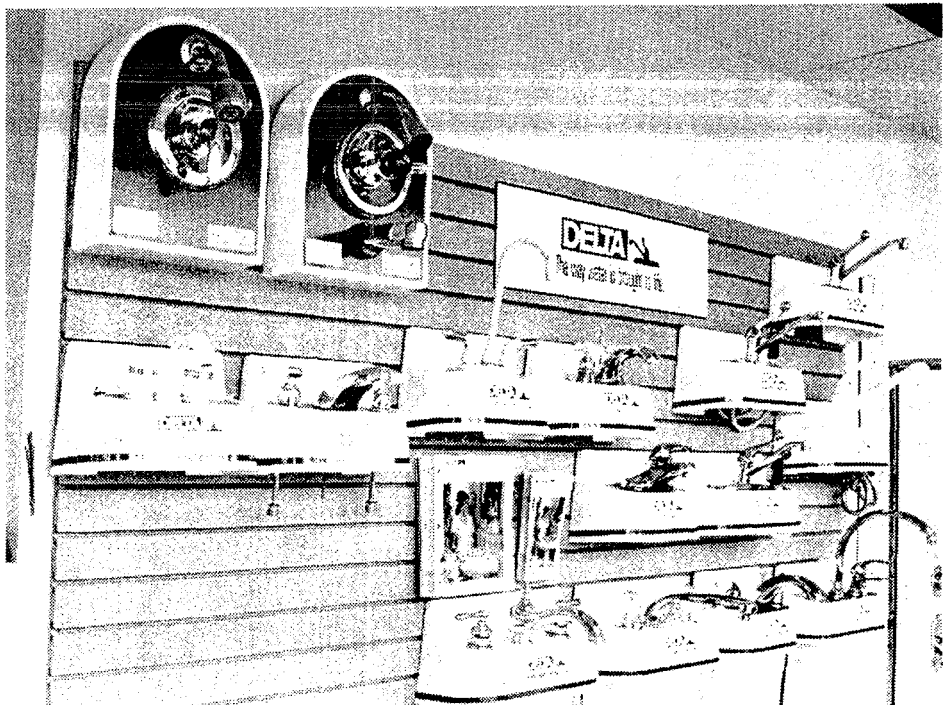


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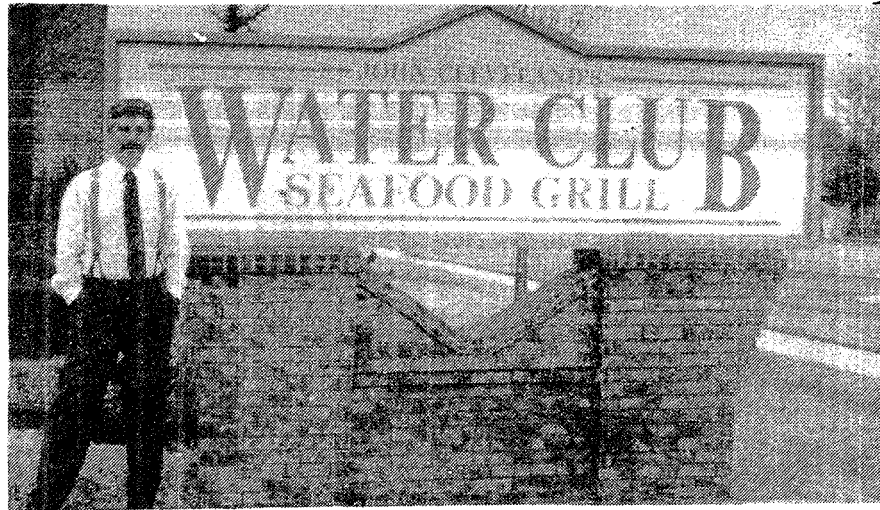
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Wild Wings is a gallery featuring Nature and Wildlife art for the nature lover and sportsperson! It has become the place of choice for home and office decor and includes a wide array of accessories and gift items too numerous to mention. Their location at Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail with background nature sounds brings the out-of-doors indoors to be enjoyed by all. For the marvelous beauty of nature, plan a visit soon! (313) 455-3400



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When the ancient Greek Philosopher, Aristotle, said, "In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous," his words traveled down through the centuries to ring true in the ears of Kal Jabara, who in 1980 established Wild Wings, a gallery filled with the finest in wildlife art, and related items for home and office decor.

"The gallery is the result of a childhood love of wildlife calendar art," said Jabara who in 1971 became a serious collector of originals and quality limited edition lithographs and nine years later turned his boredom with semi-retirement into a store that makes affordable art available to others.

Filled with skillfully carved duck decoys, exquisitely detailed signed and numbered prints, and many very special gifts, this gallery has something for anyone who appreciates the beauty found in the marvelous world of nature.

Wild Wings features the art of Terry Redlin, Thomas Kinkade, Bev Doolittle, Robert Bateman and many other nationally known artists.

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Gallery Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Sat: 10-6 Thur, Fri: 10-9 Sun: 12-5



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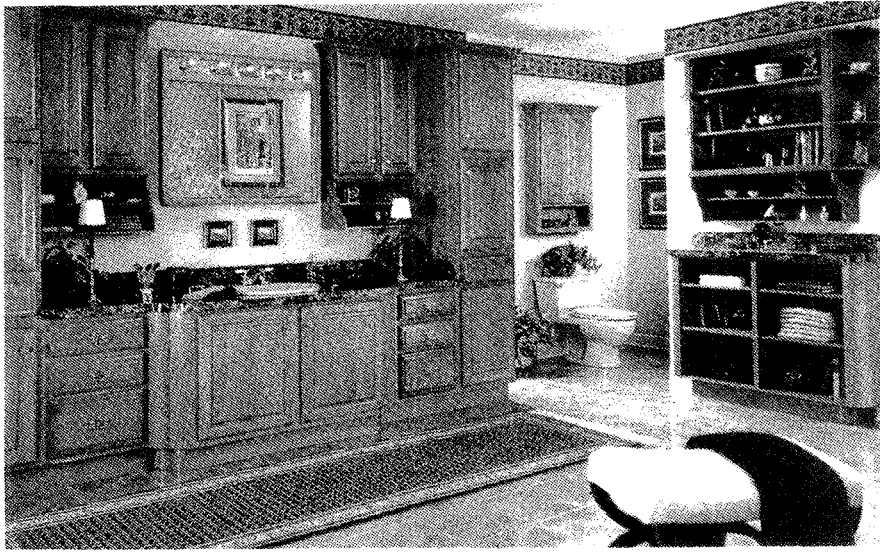
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Papa Romano's has been Plymouth's favorite Pizza for over 12 years and, with the opening of their new Eatery & Tavern on Ann Arbor Rd between Main & Lilley, is fast becoming a favorite family place. Owners Jim & Maggie Grutza would like to welcome you to come in and try "Plymouth's Best Pizza", chicken, ribs, pastas, or their new lunch buffet (weekdays bet. 11-2).

Spring Clean-Up Time

Here's a neat way to clean up on your too-little kids' stuff: Clear out the closets, and don't forget to look under the bed. Then bring your finds to the Orchard and trade 'em in for cash.

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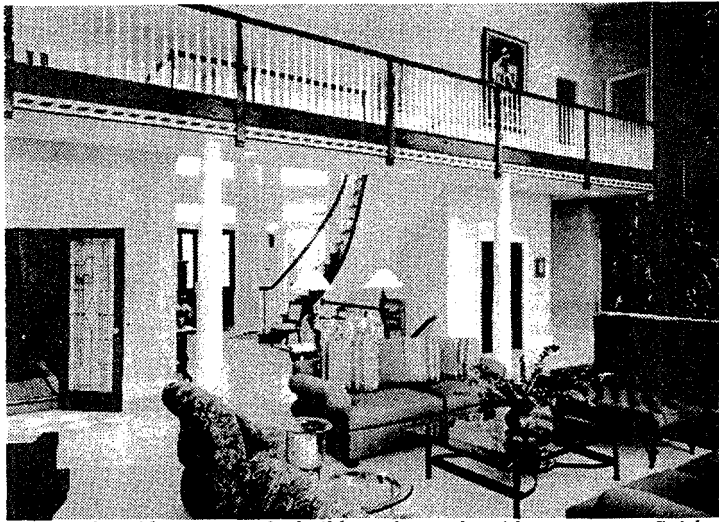
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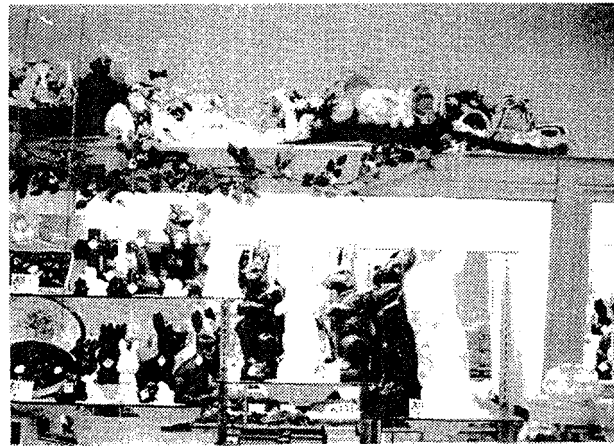
*Children's Orchard, a resale store and more, carries new and gently used
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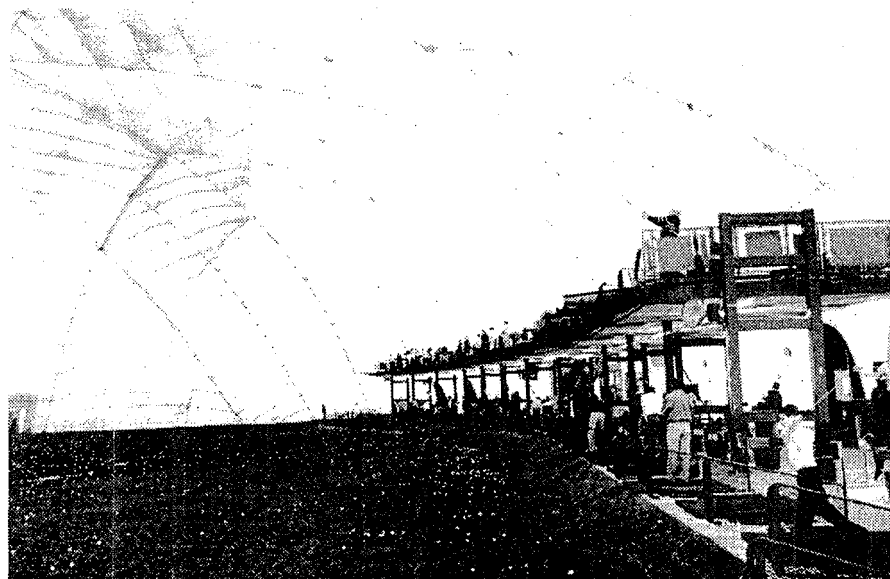
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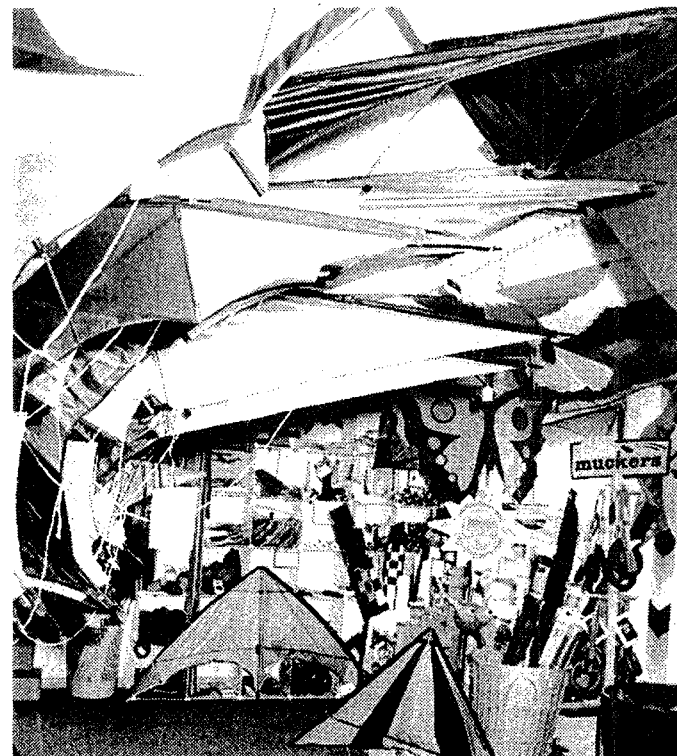
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What's Happening

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).

Volunteer...

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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

FISH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FISH of Plymouth/Canton is always looking for volunteers to assist in its purpose of aiding neighbors who cannot help themselves. If you would like information on being a driver, a "caller", or just running errands, call 261-1011 and leave a message.

GUEST SPEAKERS NEEDED AT P-C SCHOOLS

The Plymouth-Canton Business Education Partnership is looking for individuals to share information about their occupation to students in classroom settings. To volunteer, call 416-4903.

DONATE PERIODICAL SUBSCRIPTION

The Plymouth District Library is seeking individuals, businesses, and community groups to donate the cost of a subscription to one of the more than 300 periodicals to which the library subscribes. Sponsor's name will appear on the front cover of the periodical. Donation is federal, state tax deductible. For more information, please call the library at 453-0750.

PLYMOUTH CHAMBER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce is always in need of volunteers, especially preparing information handout packages. For more information, call 453-1540.

CARRIAGE PARK SENIOR COMMUNITY

Those looking for a rewarding experience can contact Heather at Carriage Park: caring, energetic individuals willing to share their time and talents with residents are needed. Phone 397-8300.

HOSPICE OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

The hospice is seeking patient care, patient companion and team support volunteers in The Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community. For more information, call 291-9700.

PLYMOUTH COURT NURSING CENTER

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

MICHIGAN CANCER FOUNDATION

The Michigan Cancer Foundation-West Region is looking for volunteers to provide transportation for cancer patients in The Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community. For more information, call 561-8880 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Schools...

WSDP, 88.1-FM REUNION

WSDP, the student-operated station of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is planning its 25th anniversary reunion for 1997. Former staff members are asked to send their current addresses to the station at 46181, Joy Rd. Canton, MI 48187 or call 416-7732.

FREE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

State-funded program offered to families who meet income guidelines or "at-risk" factors. Children must be four years old on or before Dec. 1. Classes begin in January and run for 20 weeks Monday through Thursday at Hoben and Truesdell schools. For more information, call 416-6190.

EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Computers, tutoring, games, etc. The program runs Monday through Friday and begins after school ends and concludes at 6 p.m. \$5 per student per session with a minimum of two sessions per week. For more information, call 420-7040.

TUTOR TRAINING

The Community Literacy Council, Inc., will be conducting tutor training seminars for its reading program. Two four-hour sessions must be completed in order to become a reading tutor. Call Jean Calabrese at 416-4906.

KIDDIE KAMPUS REUNION

25th anniversary of the P-C Schools' preschool program, June 4 at the Canton High School cafeteria from 7-9 p.m. All former staff and students are invited. To make a reservation, call 416-4927.

P-C SCHOOLS NEED GUEST SPEAKERS

The P-C Business Education Partnership is looking for individuals willing to share their expertise with local students. To volunteer, call 416-4903.

Meetings...

MEN'S GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST

St. Michael Lutheran Church invites all men to their annual breakfast, March 28 at 8 a.m. Jeff Totten, Baseball Chapel Coordinator for the Detroit Tigers will be guest speaker. Tickets, \$4 for adults, \$2 boys 10 and under. Call 459-3333.

CANTON REPUBLICAN CLUB

The Canton Republican Club, which meets on the third Thursday of each month, will be meeting at Cherry Hill School at 7 p.m. For more information, call Melissa McLaughlin at 495-0304.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON CIVITAN MEETING

The Plymouth-Canton Civitan club will hold their monthly dinner meeting on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Water Club Bar & Grill. For more information, call Margaret at 455-6989.

PLYMOUTH YMCA "Y" KIDS

For children ages 3-5. Openings for afternoon sessions of Y Kids. Age 3 meets on Tuesday and Thursday, and ages 4-5 meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For more information, call the Plymouth YMCA at 453-2904.

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Rev. Wm. Branham - Assoc. Pastor
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Community deaths

Obituaries

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

KENNETH EDWARD SYMEON

Kenneth Edward Symeon, a Belleville resident, died March 14, 1997 at the age of 40.

Mr. Symeon was born Sept. 22, 1956 in Detroit. He was a ticket agent for Northwest Airlines. He graduated from Sacred Heart School in Dearborn and served in the U.S. Air Force for four years.

He is survived by his mother, Patricia of Tampa, FL; daughter, Catherine of Atlanta, GA; son, Daniel of Brandon, FL; and several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his father, Adolph.

Services were held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church with the Rev. Fr. John Sullivan officiating. Burial was at St. Hedwig Cemetery in Dearborn Heights. Local arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial tributes can be made to the charity of choice, or mass offerings can be made.

JOSEPHINE E. CARNELL

Josephine E. Carnell, a Pinckney resident, died March 16, 1997 at the age of 83.

Mrs. Carnell was born January 14, 1914 in Julian, PA. She was a ward clerk at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia. She was a long-time Plymouth resident.

She is survived by her son, Samuel S. (Sandra) Carnell III of Mitchell, IN; daughter, Bette J. (Edward) Samples of Pinckney; grandchildren, Samuel S. (Sherry) Carnell IV, Gregory S. (Dawn) Galliher, Geoffrey J. (Wendy) Galliher, Suzanne E. (Marvin) Patton, John E. Samples III; and four great grandchildren.

Services were held at and arrangements made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth with Rev. Wayne T. Large officiating. Memorial tributes can be made to the charity of choice.

PAUL E. WOODRUFF

Paul E. Woodruff, a Westland resident, died March 18, 1997 at the age of 90.

Mr. Woodruff was born Sept. 30, 1906 in Newton, PA. He was an illustrator for an automotive manufacturer.

He is survived by his wife, Helene A. Woodruff of Westland; daughter, Cheryl (William) Zepp of Plymouth; and grandchildren Kevin and Angela Zepp.

Services were held at and arrangements made by Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home in Westland with Rev. Christopher Richards officiating. Burial was at Parkview Memorial Park in Livonia. Memorial tributes can be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 721129, Berkley, MI, 48072.

FELIZA DEOGRACIAS ROSARIO

Feliza Deogracias Rosario, a Dearborn resident, died March 19, 1997 at the age of 91.

Mrs. Rosario was born March 28, 1905 in the Phillipines. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her daughter, Natividad (Alex) Rosario Garma of Dearborn Heights; sons Dr. Floro (Katie) Rosario of Southfield, Daniel (Isabel) Rosario of Canton; sister, Patricia Torres of Long Beach, CA; and seven grandchildren.

Services were held at St. John Neumann Church in Canton.

Celebrant was the Rev. George Chamley. Burial was at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia. Arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial tributes can be made to The American Diabetes Association, 30600 Telegraph Rd., Suite 2255, Bingham Farms, MI 48025.

CLAUDIA ANN BRYANT

Claudia Ann Bryant, a Plymouth resident, died March 19, 1997 at the age of 48.

Mrs. Bryant was born May 5, 1948 in Detroit. She was a personal recruitment education secretary.

She is survived by her husband, Harold E. Bryant of Plymouth; daughters, Jennifer Bryant of Plymouth; Carrie Bryant of Shawnee, KS; sisters, Kathleen (Jerry) Le Boeuf of Woodhaven, Elizabeth Dominski of Willis, Susan (Norman) Tamer of Grosse Ile; brothers, David (Elizabeth) Dominsky of Arkansas, Thomas (Susan) Dominski of Lincoln Park; and mother, Regina Dominski.

Services were held at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton with the Rev. Robert T. Kerr officiating. Burial was at Our Lady of Hope Cemetery in Brownstown. Arrangements were made by Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial tributes can be made to St. Joseph Hospital, Breast Cancer Research & Development Office, P.O. Box 995, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

VIVIAN M. STROUD

Vivian M. Stroud, a Livonia resident, died March 17, 1997 at the age of 84.

Mrs. Stroud was born July 11, 1912 in Fordville, IL. She was a production worker at Daisy Air Rifle. She was a founding member of the Daisy Credit Union, which became the Community Federal Credit Union.

Private services were held at the Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Local Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

EVELYN A. ALLISON

Evelyn A. Allison, a Livonia resident, died March 19, 1997 at the age of 85.

Mrs. Allison was born Oct. 1, 1911 in Itasca IL. She was a secretary at Trinity United Methodist Church in Detroit. She loved needlecraft and to play pinochle.

She is survived by her husband, John E. Allison of Livonia; son, Lyle E. Allison of Okinawa, Japan; daughters Donna J. (Lynn) Pries of Naperville, IL, Karen H. (Gary) Morrison of Fenton; 14 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Services were held at Newburg United Methodist Church with Rev. Gilson Miller and Rev. Melanie Carey officiating. Burial was at Cadillac Memorial Gardens in Westland. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial tributes can be made to the American Lung Association.

NELLIE M. ROBERTS

Nellie M. Roberts, a Livonia resident, died March 21, 1997 at the age of 96.

Mrs. Roberts was born Dec. 3, 1900 in Ypsilanti. She was an engineering and accounting supervisor. She was a life-long Plymouth resident, and graduate of Plymouth High School.

She is survived by her sisters, Avis E. Waldecker of Plymouth, Mabel G. Fake of Farmington Hills, Amy E. Bertrand of Livonia; and many neices and nephews.

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

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Sports

Sports shorts

The City of Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department is currently holding registration for the following **adult softball leagues**: Men's slow pitch, Women's slow pitch, co-ed slow pitch and Men's Modified Fast Pitch.

Registration will last through the month of March or until the league is full. Play will begin in early May. For more information, call Recreation Director Tom Willette at 455-6626.

Fox Hills Country Club in Plymouth is hosting a ninth annual Angela Hospice Golf Outing May 12.

Lary Sorenson will be among the golfers participating.

A Golfer package is \$150 and includes free range balls before golf, 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch on the turn, steak dinner, open bar and beverage tickets on the course.

There will also be prizes. Business Partner and Corporate packages are available too. Proceeds from the outing will benefit the Angela Hospice. For more information, call 464-7810.

Adult softball registrations are currently being held at the Canton Parks and Recreation Services. Men's team fee is \$280, Women's \$360, and Co-ed \$320. The Women's and Co-ed are

Please see pg. 21

Tough as Rocks

Depth, grit carries Salem to 18-win hoops season

In a season chock full of instability, the Salem boys basketball team was consistent.

They had only one losing streak, back to back games versus Walled Lake Central and Canton, and two winning streaks of five games or more on the way to an 18-6 season, a Lakes Division title and a district title.

"I'm happy with the results of the season," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "It surpassed my expectations for this year."

That's because the Rocks were coming off their first losing season in recent memory, and entered 1996-97 with a roster laden with underclassmen — Nate Gray and Andres Lopez were the only returning seniors on the ball club.

But that inexperience was overcome by teamwork and dedication. The Rocks started nine different players. "I think the strength was the chemistry our team had, and the depth and balance," said Brodie.

In one of the toughest basketball conferences in the state, fresh legs would come in handy.

After an impressive season opening win versus Monroe, the Rocks suffered their first setback against Ann Arbor Huron. "We lost to Ann Arbor Huron in a heartbreaker, and the kids were crushed; it was a one-point loss," Brodie said.

That's when the Rocks began to take on the determined, never-say-die attitude that carried them to the first-round regional game of the state tournament in mid-March. "They were determined not to get down," said Brodie.

After the loss to the River Rats, the Rocks won seven in a row, until losing on the road to Walled Lake Central and Canton. Two conference losses might have put Salem out of title contention years ago, but not this topsy-turvy season. "It's been getting more and more like that every season that I've coached," said Brodie. "The teams are getting better, and they're better coached."

It's no different at Salem. Junior Jeff McKian emerged to lead the team in rebounds. "I was extremely happy with his play, especially early in the season.

Mike Korduba emerged as a defensive star, and Gray as the team leader on the court. "Andres Lopez was steady. He started out slow, but as the season went on, he kicked it on and got back on top of things," said Brodie. The Rocks struggled from the field for most of the season and it would haunt them in two losses in one week to Franklin, the latter a Patriots' upset in the WLAA tournament. "I would've liked to shoot the ball better. It's gotten to be a disappearing art," Brodie said.

But the Rocks' winning attitude didn't disappear when district time rolled around. Salem beat Churchill, 76-59, and



An early season, one-point loss to Ann Arbor Huron turned out to be a blessing in disguise for Salem. After the River Rats' victory in the last second, the Rocks took on a never-say-die attitude. It worked all the way to the first round of state regionals. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

Novi, 54-46, setting up the first district final versus Canton in years. The Rocks defense came to the forefront, shutting down Canton stars Donte Scott, Nick Hurley and Rob Johnson, to win the game, 49-43, and the district.

Salem was knocked out of the state tournament in the first round of regionals by Detroit Central, who would ultimately advance to the state semi-finals. The Rocks led early in the fourth quarter in the game, but again had trouble shooting from the field. "We needed the ultimate game to beat them," said Brodie.

But Salem came close to the ultimate year. They achieved nearly all of their team goals by winning the division, district championship, 18 games and beating Canton.

"I was really proud of the guys this season," said Brodie. "I was proud of the seniors for not giving up and taking the

younger guys under their wing, and I was really proud of the underclassmen for acting older."

Lakers, Kings PCJBA champs

The Lakers are the champions of the Boys "B" League and the Kings rule the Girls "A" League in the Plymouth Canton Junior Basketball Association.

The boys championship game was set up by the Lakers' win over the Celtics, 54-42, and the Pistons' victory over the Nets, 45-39. The Lakers defeated the Pistons in the final, 39-25.

The Girls championship game shaped up after the Celtics beat the Bulls, 24-22, and the Kings defeated the Lakers, 20-17. In the finals, the Kings slipped by the Celtics, 23-21.

Morrone authors storybook victory in Game 4

BY BRIAN CORBETT

Hollywood couldn't have written a better script than the one authored by Mike Morrone and his Whalers teammates, who avoided elimination from the first round of the OHL playoffs with a 4-3 double-overtime victory against Sault Ste. Marie Saturday night at Compuware Sports Arena.

Down 3-0 in the best of seven playoff series and playing in possibly his last home game, Morrone — the 21-year-old team captain who had five goals in the regular season — scored the game-winner at 10:02 of the second overtime on a three on one rush with forwards Andrew Taylor and Harold Druken.

Druken carried the puck along the boards from the Detroit blue line to the right circle and centered the puck past lone defenseman Marc Moro to Morrone in the slot, who tapped the puck past sliding goaltender Michal Podolka and into the left side of the net.

It was Morrone's first goal and second point of the playoffs. "Coming down the ice with Tayles and Drukes, you know, they've got 60, 70 goals between them, and I thought one of them was going to take the shot and I would just try to take (the Soo's Moro). But Drukes spoon-fed it to me, and all I had to do was just tap it in," said Morrone, the game's number one star.

The heroic goal came at 11:38 p.m., more

than four hours after the game started. But the crowd wouldn't have been rewarded for their devotion if it wasn't for Detroit goalie Robert Esche, who made 56 saves, 23 in the opening overtime period. "Unbelievable. Unreal. He made some unbelievable saves," said Whalers Coach Peter DeBoer. "He kept us in it."

Steve Wasylo, Taylor and Julian Smith scored Detroit's first three goals.

The game was as exciting as playoff hockey can get: end to end rushes, break-aways, spectacular saves and crunching body checks. Detroit took a 1-0 first period lead on Wasylo's first playoff goal. Taylor scored on a slap from the left circle 51 seconds into the second period to give Detroit a 2-0 lead. Joe Thornton scored off a face-off in the right circle 20 seconds later to pull the Greyhounds within one, 2-1. But the Soo continued to play apprehensively.

With less than seven minutes remaining in the second period, Julian Smith split the Soo's retreating defensemen Moro and Robert Mulick and flicked the puck past Podolka from the rim of the crease for the 3-1 lead.

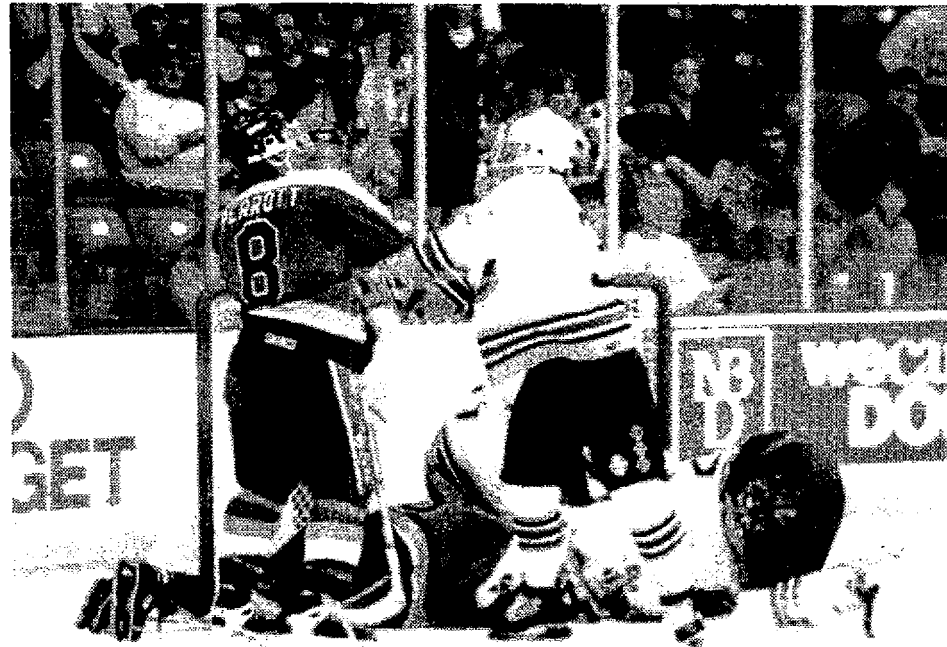
The Whalers held a 22-10 shots on goal advantage as the second period wound down, but that's when their dominance ended. Peter Cava set up Brian Stewart's goal at 19:04, and it appeared the Whalers might repeat their game one self-destruction.

Matt Lahey's unassisted goal at 5:41 tied the game, 3-3, seemingly securing that fate. But Esche and Morrone took that chapter out of the Greyhounds' playbook and wrote their own finale.

Esche stopped everything that came his way as the Soo took target practice from all over the ice in the first overtime.

Play settled down in the second overtime, but the heartbeats picked up when Thornton blasted a slap shot that rebounded off of Esche and layed in the crease until being cleared away.

Two minutes later, with the play again in the Detroit zone, the Soo was caught with only one man back and Morrone capitalized on the best scoring chance of the second overtime.



There was a lot of action at both ends of the ice in Detroit's 4-3 double-overtime against the Greyhounds Saturday night. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

Soo wins in blowout Friday

The Whalers lost their best of seven playoff series to the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds — and they can look to the second period as their undoing.

For the second time in three games, the Whalers surrendered a one goal, second period lead against the Greyhounds which they were never able to regain. The latest came in Friday's 8-3 loss before a strangely small playoff crowd of 2,358 at Compuware Sports Arena, giving the Greyhounds a commanding 3-0 series lead. Detroit was outscored 7-2 in the second period in the series.

Peter Cava scored a hat trick for the Soo, but it was goaltender Michal Podolka who was the reason for the victory. Podolka, who shut out Detroit in game two, stopped 12 shots in an opening period dominated by the Whalers. Then the Soo exploded with four goals in both the second and third periods. By the end, it was ugly for the Whalers. Robert Esche was pulled from the net and Detroit's frustration spilled over into nine third-period penalties. "I really think Podolka held them in it in the first period," said Whalers Coach Peter DeBoer. "I think they came out in the second period with the attitude, 'Hey, we just got outplayed for 20 minutes, but we're only down, 1-0.'"

The Soo didn't stay down for long. Trevor Tokarczyk scored on a rebound off of Esche's pads at 3:01. Tokarczyk assisted on the Soo's next goal by Cava at 5:53, and the Soo lead the rest of the game. Detroit threatened with a goal by Bryan McKinney at 13:47. But any momentum the Whalers gained was stolen by Richard Uniacke's goal with less than three minutes remaining in the second period.

Whalers lose Monday, 4-1; season over

The Detroit Whalers were ousted from the OHL playoffs with Monday's 4-1 defeat at Sault Ste. Marie.

Detroit forward Harold Druken pulled the Whalers within one in the second period when he scored on the power play at 1:41. But Soo goalie Michal Podolka held Detroit in check the rest of the game, and Richard Uniacke and Nathan Perrott added goals in the third period Detroit goalie Robert Esche made 37 saves.



WHALER WATCH



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PLAYOFF SUMMARY

GAME 1: Detroit takes an early 3-1 second period lead on goals from Andrew Taylor and Harold Druken, but Joe Thornton's natural hat trick rallies the Soo for a 4-3 win.

GAME 2: Michal Podolka blanks Detroit by making 27 saves, 11 in the first period. The Soo, won 3-0, and takes a 2-0 series lead.

GAME 3: The first-ever OHL playoff game in Plymouth proved to be a disappointment. Detroit led 1-0 after the first period, but the Soo scores four goals each in the second and third period for an 8-3 blowout win.

GAME 4: Detroit avoids the series sweep in dramatic fashion — a double overtime, 4-3 victory. The game winner is scored by captain Mike Morrone.

WHALERS PLAYOFF STATISTICS

Playoff leaders(thru Game 4):

Goals-Taylor (3)
Points-Taylor (4)
Penalty Minutes-Vodrazka (37)
Power Play Goals-Taylor, Druken (1)
Shorthanded Goals-Druken, Taylor (1)
Game Winning Goals-Morrone(1)
Plus/minus-six players (even)

Team stats:

Home record: 1-1
Away record: 0-2
Power play(home): 1 for 9
Power play(away): 2 for 15
Penalty killing (home): 1 for 10
Penalty killing (away): 2 for 14
Penalty minutes: 133



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Stingrays win state hockey championship

The Plymouth Midget AA team was crowned state champions March 16 in Battle Creek.

The Stingrays went 5-0 during the tournament over a three day span, March 14-16.

The weekend started the night of March 14 when Plymouth faced off against Calumet. Clint Bonkowski got the hat trick for the Stingrays, and Brad Feiler, Brett Reinhart, Ryan Ward and Jeff Lang also scored for Plymouth, who won 7-1.

Calumet scored their lone goal with 1:50 remaining in the third period, spoiling the shutout for goalie Gordy Smith.

Plymouth faced a tough challenge in game two, playing against the hometown

favorites, Battle Creek. It was a pretty evenly matched game in the first period until Lang slammed one past the Battle Creek goaltender with an assist from Austin Meibers at the 5:42 mark.

The second period was scoreless, but in the final period Plymouth let loose with their power and netted three more goals, scored by Ryan Ossennmacher unassisted, Marc O'Keefe and Reinhart with assists going to Lang, Nik Derouin and Feiler. Plymouth's excellent forechecking, backchecking and defense led by Ryan Safran and Don Klacking helped the Stingrays obtain a near shutout for goalie Justin Lilienthal. Battle Creek scored with five minutes left in the game, but could not

overcome the Stingrays' defense and once again the boys from Plymouth were victorious.

Game three was Saturday night against the AFI Thunder. Plymouth was held scoreless in the first period but managed to put two between the pipes in the second period. The first goal was a breakaway scored by Derouin from Reinhart and Feiler. The second was a deke move by Feiler on the AKI goalie with assists from Matt Church, Derouin and Feiler. Plymouth won, 6-2.

With the win, Plymouth finished first in the National Division and faced off against second-place Midland from the American Division in the semi-final game the next day. Midland's spirits were running high. But the Plymouth fans remained, as always, cool as cucumbers. They did, however, manage to delight the boys on the bench with a fine choreographed performance to the strains of "YMCA."

Plymouth began scoring as the first period was about to expire, Clint Bonkowski netted one with assists from Miles Meibers and Reinhart. Midland was held scoreless in the first. In the following two periods, Plymouth came out with two goals to win, 5-2, and move on to the championship game versus the St. Clair Shores Saints. Both teams were undefeated in their respective divisions.

The first period was a defensive battle and ended up scoreless thanks to some excellent saves by Smith, who stopped the Saints' shot barrage. In the second period, Plymouth kept up with the Saints' two goals on scores from Reinhart and Lang. Tied 2-2, the third period was tentatively played by both teams, until Feiler passed to defenseman Matt Church, who shot from the blueline toward the Saints' net. Reinhart tipped it through the Shores goalie stick side. Plymouth held on for the last 2:48 and won, 1-0. The Stingrays now advance to the Nationals in St. Louis.

CYO Champs!



The Junior Varsity B basketball team from Our Lady of Good Counsel won the division championship for the Catholic Youth Organization. The team ended their season with a 10-0 record. The players on the team are: (back row, left to right) coach Earl Hall, David Coppiellie, Sean Brennan, Kyle Wallazy, David Rossow, Ben Couillard, Brad Crowe, Brad Kolb, Kevin Wallazy, coach Jeff Zlonkevicz; (front row, l to r) David Hall, Matt Schmidt, Jon Show, Mark Cancy, Kevin Conlon, Troy Wiercioch, Tom Early and Robbie Johnson.

Canton gymnasts have season full of twists

It was a strange year for the Canton gymnastics team.

The Chiefs went 2-10 in dual meets and finished seventh in the Western Lakes Activities Association, but qualified for the state finals and took 11th place out of 13 teams. "I'm really pleased with the season," said Canton coach John Cunningham. "I'm not pleased with a 2-10 record, but that doesn't really matter to me. The kids had fun."

With a youthful, inexperienced team, Cunningham instilled a care-free approach, while slowly interjecting a small shot of confidence week by week. And by the time post season action rolled around, they believed what their mentor was telling them. "It took some convincing," said Cunningham, "and after awhile, they were convinced."

It's easy to see why the Chiefs were questioning themselves. The team faced the pressure of upholding the rich Canton gymnastics tradition which included nine straight trips to the state finals without some of the top gymnasts from last season, such as Brie Wall and Katey Gilles. To make matter worse, the Chiefs began the season with meets versus Freeland, Northville and Rockford, all elite teams in Class A. "That's the way we like to do things. Sometimes, when you have a really hard meet and it's going to be really close, it's better to have it earlier rather than later," Cunningham said.

The Chiefs' only victories came against Cadillac and at midseason versus Walled Lake, but Cunningham wasn't looking for victories, just effort — and he got it in no uncertain terms. "Again, I've used the term all season 'maximize your effort.' And these girls did that," he said. Maryanne Berg, a transfer student from Norway, was an unheralded gymnast at the start of the season, but a regional qualifier by the end. Jenny Demsky will get the nod in a tough decision for most improved gymnast, Cunningham said. "Literally, at the beginning of the year, it was: 'I wonder if we can get a bar routine togeth-

er,'" Cunningham said.

Marcie Emerick is this season's most valuable gymnast for her steady performance all season. Emerick, a sophomore, was the strength of the team with freshman Liz Fitzgerald. Michelle Farnsworth, Nicole Vaagenes, Becky Woolfram and Beth Muylaert comprised the remaining top half of Canton's lineup. "While I had top gymnasts, we always had that fourth girl step up," said Cunningham. "Or I should say, we always had the first, second, third, fourth and fifth girl step up."

When Muylaert went down with an injury and the Chiefs continued to struggle in the standings, some suggested calling the season a wash. Cunningham would have none of that, he wanted the state finals. Even when the Chiefs were ambushed by the Ann Arbor Pioneer A team in a meet designated for B teams, Canton dismissed the loss as a mere bump on the season-long road. "We called it the 'Year of the Pothole,' on the road and in the gym," said Cunningham. The Chiefs continued to improve as the season progressed with near misses against Brighton and Traverse City. "We lost to Brighton by six points; Brighton was the sixth-ranked team in the state. We lost to Traverse City by four points; Traverse City was ranked eighth in the state," Cunningham said.

Even Canton's seventh-place conference finish was misleading when you consider six WLAA teams made it to the state finals. Then, at regionals, Canton's year became even stranger. They pulled off only the second tie in Michigan gymnastics history, deadlocking with John Glenn at 134.075. The Chiefs moved on to the state finals for the 10th consecutive year, a surprise to some, but not to Cunningham. "A 2-10 record, it doesn't look like a good year on paper, but if you check off our accomplishments, this is the 10th year in a row we've made it to the state championships," he said. "We made quantum leaps this year."

Sports shorts

Continued from pg. 19

jointly run with the City of Plymouth. Registration ends April 4 for Women's and March 28 for Men's and Co-ed. For more information, call 397-5110.

The Thursday Morning Golf Group plays nine holes at Hilltop Golf Course every Thursday at 8 a.m.

There are a limited number of openings. For more information, call Betty or Karen at 459-8386.

The Plymouth-Canton and Plymouth Salem High School Ice Hockey Team Boosters are in the process of obtaining the necessary support to sponsor an inter-scholastic high school ice hockey team proposal before the Plymouth-Canton School Board.

Mail post cards or letters of support to Plymouth-Canton and Plymouth Salem High School Ice Hockey Program, P.O. Box 6091, Plymouth, MI 48170. Website address: <http://www.rinknet.com/dwhalers/dwhalers.htm>. E-Mail notes of support to: earzno@e.imap.itd.umich.edu.

Compuware Sports Arena offers public skating Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:10-11 a.m. and 12:10-2 p.m., and Sunday from 12:40-2 p.m. in the Olympic Arena only. Admission is \$4, and skate rental is \$3.

Drop in hockey is held Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7-8:50 p.m. and noon to 1:50 p.m.

Player admission is \$7; goalies are free.



Community opinions

Aluminum siding proposal would protect public

EDITOR:

I would like to respond to your info-opinion regarding Plymouth Township's position on aluminum siding.

As one of the "personalities" involved in the huffing and puffing of the Big Bad Wolf I would like to assure you that the concern was for that of the citizens.

There are some builders in the community who have been known to order discontinued aluminum

siding or seconds which are not easily matched for replacement and repair. The discontinuing of aluminum siding as an appropriate building material in Plymouth Township was placed in a rough draft of a proposed new ordinance being discussed by the Planning Commission.

Obviously, in a community where we enforce minimum standards* required by the various codes adopted, this would be a major change of policy. However, if there is a known practice in the building

industry (or with one or two particular builders) which is detrimental to our citizens as consumers, perhaps we have the duty to find a way to discourage such practices. At least we have the responsibility to discuss or hear the options, if any.

K.C. MUELLER

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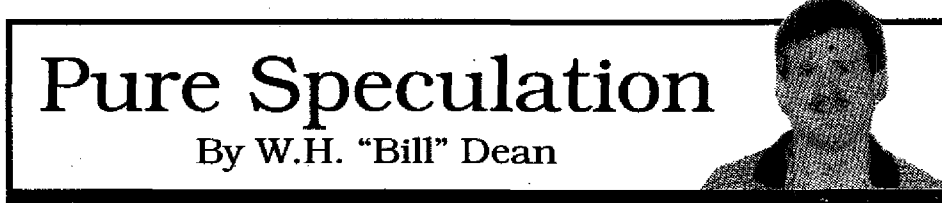
Swimming classes teach 'little fishes' valuable life lessons

The Class A High School State Swim Meet was held this month in Ann Arbor. Both Canton and Salem performed well, and deserve our congratulations. By the way, who decided "Rocks" was a good nickname for a swim team?

Everyone should attend a swim meet once in a while. Besides the excitement of the competition, and the chance to see local swimmers match up against the best, there's another attraction: an opportunity to observe how effortlessly these swimmers move through the water. Watching them, it's easy to forget that water is not their natural environment, and that swimming is not innate, but must be learned.

Swimming isn't easy. Not for people, anyway! Fish, frogs and polliwogs are designed for it, but humans are not. We have none of the standard equipment: no gills, no flippers, and no webbed feet (tabloid exclusives aside).

Fortunately, Nature ensures that



Pure Speculation

By W.H. "Bill" Dean

creatures adapt to their environment. Consider the mighty duck - he's on top of the Animal Kingdom, at least in the Transit Division.

Who else can walk, swim and fly? For us, our brain is our most important physical asset. If we need to cross an ocean, or dive miles underneath, we invent a machine and make it happen.

The fact remains, however, that when we step into the sea with just our swimsuits, we are truly fish out of water.

That's what makes Miss Dora special. She teaches local kids how to be fish in the water. As one of her helpers, I've watched from close range how she shapes five-year-olds into swimmers with an even mix of

discipline, devotion, technique and fun.

"COME ON FISHES!", shouts the aquatic drill sergeant. "REACH THOSE ARMS OUT!" The parents in the pool instinctively reach their arms out, following along with the kids. "KICK THOSE LEGS!"

The weekly progress of these young swimmers is not always obvious, but the achievement over the long run is clear. This is a credit to Dora.

She helps the kids grow comfortable in the water, and builds their confidence in her, and in themselves. With very small steps and loads of encouragement, she teaches them to swim.

Most of us know how to swim, but

forgot how we learned. We don't remember how it feels to flounder in the water, with nothing between us and the bottom of the pool but our kicking legs and flailing arms.

When you watch high school swimmers, it's hard to believe that they once fought the water with both fists, flapping their arms like a hummingbird stuck in an oil slick. I'll bet every kid on the swim team had a "Dora" in their past.

Three weekends ago, when the high schoolers were swimming for glory, the walls echoed with cheering and shouting.

This weekend Miss Dora will be in her pool, like always, teaching little kids how to swim, and teaching their parents how to teach. And just like in Ann Arbor, the walls will echo with cheering and shouting:

DON'T STOP KICKING!
REMEMBER TO BREATHE!
REACH OUT AS FAR AS YOU CAN!"

Advice we might all consider...

High school bond turnout rules out Saturday vote conspiracy

The woman who called The Crier Sunday to get the Plymouth-Canton School bond election results had a new one.

There are lots of conspiracy theories out there...but this was a new one.

She maintained that a special election held on a Saturday in the spring was designed to make it difficult for senior citizens to vote.

"So many seniors are in Florida right now," she pointed out.

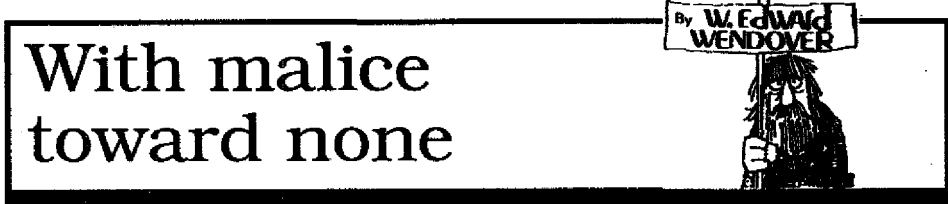
The counter that they should read the papers brought, "Of course YOU'D say that to sell subscriptions."

"Saturday confuses seniors because it's not a regular election day," she also said.

But what about the fact that this voter turnout was eight times higher than the regular election last June?

Her next point did carry some weight. "Why don't the schools automatically send out absentee ballot applications like most local governmental units do?" she asked.

They're not required to, but certainly the schools know that absentee voters — largely senior citizens — generally oppose bond or millage questions (as they overwhelmingly did Saturday). The schools would argue against the expense of



With malice toward none

mailing out absentee ballot apps.

The caller was quite polite and wouldn't have been pegged as a senior citizen if she hadn't identified herself as one. Maybe she's got a point on the absentee ballot requests.

But on Saturday votes — the turnout says differently.

On spring elections — governments have only so many windows to approach voters.

It being a conspiracy? That's a hard stretch.

Besides, the very narrow victory of 96 votes with the controversy about 720 spoiled ballots Saturday will eclipse that conspiracy.

For all the money spent on the new fangled voting machines, there's a 6 percent spoiled ballot rate on a single-issue vote?

If the conspiracy theory folks are looking for something to chew on, that's where they should they look.

Write a letter to the editor:

821 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI 48170



Community Opinions

Thanks for bond election support

EDITOR:

It's the day after the Plymouth/Canton School Bond Election and I'm wondering how I can possibly thank all the wonderful people that made this monumental task such a success for our children and our community. I am so afraid of forgetting someone but I will try anyway.

A big thank you to: everyone who recognized how important an issue this was and voted; those people that attended the community forums last October, those that served on the Bond Steering Committee that made the recommendations to the School Board; those people that came to the informational meetings; Chuck Little, John Birchler, Judy Evola and everyone in the Administrative Offices; and to the School Board for supporting recommendations from the community.

A special thank you to: those that contributed to the Citizens' Election Committee in terms of donations or your time including those that did data entry, passed out flyers,

worked on election day, etc.; and those businesses that donated money, food office space, or a place for the fund raiser. The Citizens' Election Committee was made up of many sub-committees with hundreds of people that gave much of their time and effort and it was very much appreciated. These sub-committees were chaired by the following dedicated, hard-working people that you should thank when you see them: Judy Mardigian, Lucy French, Christina Bair, Betty Bloch, Mark Horvath, JoAnn Lamar, Steve Harper, Carl Fanning, Suzanne Dershem, Monica Pecoraro, Marcy Staley, John Filios, Kary Amin, E.J. McClendon, and Esther Hulsing.

Another thank you to: My family and all the families of the above people who gave up their husband, wife, mother or father for such a great cause.

I look forward to all the exciting things that are going to happen in our school district because of your vote!

SUSAN KOPINSKI, CHAIRPERSON CITIZENS' ELECTION COMMITTEE

Parents should be accountable for children, not 'village'

EDITOR:

I'm writing in response to Joanne Lamar's letter in the March 19th Crier. I'm not writing this to promote or denounce the bond, since that decision will have already been made by the time people read this. Instead, I would like to bring attention to some of the comments she made and attitudes she conveys.

First of all, I do agree that we are all a part of the educational system. If we buy anything, we pay a sales tax that makes us, willing or unwilling, a part of the system. It was the next statement "It takes a village' to educate our children" that I would like to comment on. I believe it takes committed parents and qualified teachers to educate our children. I don't always agree with every "village" member and would not consider it very responsible of me to leave my children's education up to the "village." I do expect my children to grow up and be respectable villagers, but do not wish for them to take on many of the villagers' practices. I guess if I was as busy as the writer of the letter I'm commenting on, the village concept would probably be more appealing to me, because children do take up a lot of time and energy. Instead, I have chosen to take on that responsibility and am not dependent upon "village affairs." If we start handing our children off to the "village," who then will be held accountable for them?

The writer also stated that "we should not be about complaining, but about participation in change." Whoa, hold the ponies. Is she saying we should forget about our own diverse ideas and support something we

might disagree with? I thought we lived in America. I thought we were the "village"; that diverse group of people where everyone's opinion counts. If William Wallace and his followers didn't "complain," how different would Scotland's history be? If the colonists didn't "complain" about their representation, would there be a USA? (This list goes on and on.) General Patton (remember, he served the US during World War II) once said "if everyone is thinking alike, only one person is thinking." Just because someone disagrees doesn't mean they're complaining. Yes, a former member of the school board "spoke up" against the bond. (Remember, he too is a diverse member of the village.) Should we so readily point a finger at him because he wasn't at the three forums (about 9 hours total)?

Let's not forget that this man did attend many school board and planning meetings, including the site development meetings where a site plan, which was ignored during the current process, was developed. He has served the community as a concerned "villager."

I found it interesting that 70-some people attended the community forum, but regular attendance at school board meetings is less than a dozen (excluding the board itself and employees). How many of the forum attendees are board meeting attendees? It takes more than just three days work of forums to adequately understand our district. If those forum attendees are so committed to the "village," then where are they during the regular board and budget meetings?

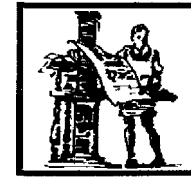
I commend the writer of the editorial for making the sacrifices to attend the bond forums, but if the concern is truly there, she should rearrange her schedule and attend the board meetings regularly, where many ongoing decisions are being made that affect the "villagers" (perhaps a few American history courses would also be of help). I also commend the former board member for acting as a concerned and responsible member of our "village." It's too bad we didn't take the time to be diverse and evaluate his ideas. (Isn't there a saying, "Haste makes waste"?) It would be interesting to see who actually has spent more hours and attended more meetings for the improvement of this district, the editorial writer (Joanne) or the former board member.

Lastly, (I have to ask) how does someone who has three jobs, three master's degree classes, is writing a thesis and involved in the bond proposal have time to see and know their children? Just as change is very difficult for many people, so is responsibility. Children take time and sacrifice. Do we really know what they need, or do we spend so much time away fulfilling our own needs, pretending to be concerned, that we really don't know them? Maybe change does need to happen, but maybe that change means taking the time to tune in to our own children. Then so much wouldn't have to be left in the hands of the "village".

A concerned "villager" whose husband attended two of the three forums and regularly attends board meetings,

SHERYL PHILLIPS

The Community Crier



THE
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WITH ITS
HEART IN THE
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Things are happening in the community!

<p>May 6</p> <p>PLYMOUTH</p> <p>— May — Positively Plymouth (Business Expo-Free) 6: Showcase Plymouth 5-7:00</p> <p>16,23: Free Music on the Street</p> <p>— June — 1: Free Taste Fest 14: Sunrise Sale</p> <p>— Summer — Concerts in the Park</p> 	<p>March 29</p> <p>CANTON</p> <p>— March — 29: New Easter Marshmallow Drop Heritage Park 10:00am</p> <p>— April — 20: Health-O-Rama Testing and Screening Summit on the Park, 12-6:00pm</p> <p>— May — 3: Annual Kid's Fishing Derby Heritage Park, 9:00am 7: Chamber's Small Business of the Year / ATHENA Awards Luncheon Summit on the Park, 12-1:30pm</p> <p>— June — 15: Father's Day Golf Scramble 19-23: Canton Liberty Fest</p>	<p>April 26</p> <p>NORTHVILLE</p> <p>— April — 26: Dinner Dance Auction, Northville Parks & Rec.</p> <p>— May through October — Farmers Market, Every Thursday</p> <p>— May — 23,24: 10th Annual Flower Sale, Downtown Northville. 26: Memorial Day Parade</p> <p>— June — 21,22: Art in the Sun 26: Chamber Golf Outing</p>
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