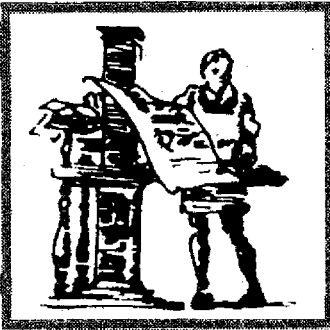


75¢



The Community Crier

Vol. 24 No. 10

©PCCC Inc.

April 9, 1997

New in Northville

Home and business boom redefining
landscape of Sheldon-Five Mile rd. area
Crier special section, pages 15 - 22

BY BRYON MARTIN

One trip to the Sheldon-Five Mile Road area brings to mind three words: boom, boom and boom.

Growth and development, from Five Mile and Sheldon roads to Beck and Six Mile roads, promises to transform the look and lay of the land.

One clear indicator of the coming change is the Charter Township of Northville Board of Trustees' approval of a Planned Unit Development (P.U.D.) for a 896-acre parcel west of Sheldon and north of Five Mile road.

Owned by Wayne County, the property is the site of the abandoned County Youth Development Center.

The plan proposed for development of the site includes a variety of uses:

- A championship golf course.
- 650 single family homes.
- up to 320 units of multiple family condominiums / apartments.
- 142 units of independent senior living.
- 143 acres for research and development use. 45 acres would be conveyed to the township

Please see pg. 18



Abandoned county and state buildings will be replaced with homes and shops in Sheldon-Five Mile Road area developments. (Crier photo by Scott Spielman).

State, school officials: Recount Tuesday, revote maybe

BY BRYON MARTIN

There will be no revote.

That is the word, according to Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent Charles Little and Bradley Wittman, director of Michigan's information and voter

registration bureau.

P-C schools canvassers met in response to a petition to recount ballots from the school board's March 22 bond election, in which 716 votes were lost at the polls.

The petition, served by Plymouth resident and businessman Dan Herriman, was one among many, but the only to request a recount.

Requests for a special ballot revote were petitioned separately by City of Plymouth Commissioner Don Dismuke, Plymouth politician Jerry Vorva, former school board president Roland Thomas, and others.

Common to all the revote petitions was the assertion that the election's 716 lost votes may have effected the outcome of the bond election, which passed by 96 votes.

That assertion is crucial to the revote petitions, Wittman said.

According to state election laws, two criteria must first be met to contend an election and request a revote.

First, Wittman said, "a defect in the machinery must be proved." This may or may not be the case in the board's election — results from Herriman's recount may provide an answer.

County canvassers will recount the votes Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. in the school board office, Little said. Results will be given that night.

"I guess after the recount we'll know what the next step is," Little said.

A revote won't necessarily be granted if a malfunction in the Unilect ballot machines is indicated by the recount, Wittman said. There is a second criterion.

The revote petitioners must also prove that the number of affected voters — 716 — could have changed the election outcome, Wittman said.

"That's going to be the big issue," Wittman said.

If this is proved, the board will be required to mail ballots to the affected voters, or possibly the entire 12,000 voter turnout.

Before any other steps are taken, however, next Tuesday's recount must be completed.

If no defect is found, the recount and revote petitions will, in effect, be answered, Little said.

"This bond passed. There is no revote."



P-C Schools board of canvassers met Tuesday in response to a petition to recount the board's March 22 bond election, in which 716 votes were lost. (Crier photo by B. Martin).

Art exhibit

Erick Carne watercolor showing begins at PCAC.

See Friends & neighbors pg. 6

Biz showcase

Plymouth chamber sponsors event promoting commerce, community

See Getting down to business pg. 10

Playing nice

Northvilles open to joint efforts in recreation.

See Sports pgs. 32-33

City sign ordinance leaves businesses with tickets and tempers

BY ROB KIRKBRIDE

The Plymouth business community has a dilemma: When does a business sign or banner cross the line from informing the public about a product to becoming an eyesore?

Some business owners say the City is too strict enforcing the sign ordinance. Others say business will suffer overall if certain rules are not followed.

One thing is for sure: Tempers are running high.

Diana Licht, owner of Mountain Rags in Old Village, said a \$50 ticket prompted her to circulate a petition calling on the City to loosen the sign ordinance.

Licht was cited for a hand-painted "open" sign in front of her business.

"It's not fair," she said. "The City can put up banners. They have one across the Plymouth Historical Museum and always have the A-frame signs in Kellogg Park."

"I can't even let people know I'm open with a sign."

Plymouth Building Official Jim Penn said business owners are warned at least two times in writing before a ticket is issued.

"Most people comply when we send them a warning letter," he said. "Just a small amount have a ticket sent to them."

In the past year, the City has responded to 84 sign violations. Penn said 20 tickets have been issued.

The sign ordinance was completely revised in 1991 to reduce the clutter that

popped up along Plymouth roads as business owners built bigger and bigger signs. In 1995, an ordinance officer was hired. Before 1995, police officers served part time as ordinance officers. But today, it's a full time job for Charles Altman.

Initially, Altman writes a letter to the business owner explaining the violation and giving a certain number of days to comply. The second letter comes with a ticket, which can be paid at City Hall, along with another explanation of the violation. If a third letter needs to be sent, the offense becomes a municipal citation and goes to the 35th District Court.

The Plymouth Downtown Development Authority is in the middle

of the controversy, like it or not. The group, which actively recruits businesses to the community, must balance advertising needs with maintaining the beauty of the City's business district.

DDA Director Steve Guile said different areas of the City have different needs when it comes to signs. He said Old Village depends on signs to attract business, while downtown businesses — with much more foot traffic — use window displays to lure customers.

Guile said the ordinances need to be crafted to take into account these differences.

"For years there hadn't been any enforcement," he said. "There was a proliferation of hand-painted signs, banners and flags."

"Visual appeal is very important. Enforcement of the sign ordinance has caused standardization, but each distinct district needs to be looked at separately."

David Schaff, who has served on the Plymouth Planning Commission since 1983, said regulating signs has been troublesome for a long time.

"The problem is we're trying to write an ordinance to cover things that might possibly happen," he said. "We usually don't get input on sign ordinances right away. We hear about it when someone wants to change their sign but can't."

Business owners hit with a ticket are finding out how expensive ignoring the ordinance can be.

The ticket for the first offense is \$50. The second offense is \$100 (or up to \$250). The third offense is a \$500 fine.

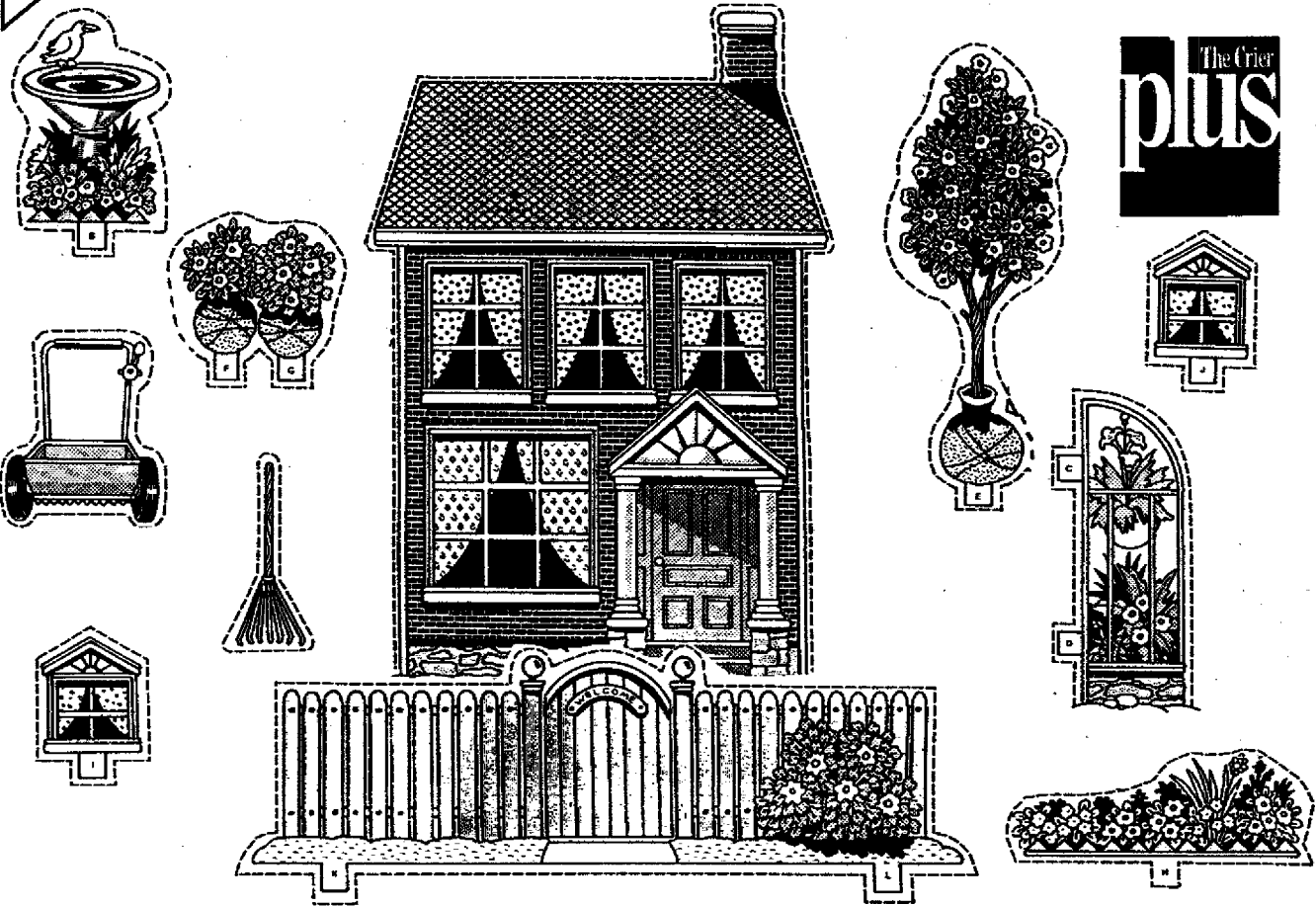
"The sign ordinance helps do away with the clutter," said Penn. "I think it has helped the City."

But as long as there is a sign ordinance, there will be arguments over its language and enforcement.

"The City told me I could put a neon 'open' sign in my window," said Licht, "but I own a Victorian home where my business is located. I don't choose to put neon in the window."

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Postmaster, send change of address notice to The Community Crier, 821 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI 48170-1624.

Wind storm plants pine on roof

Major damage avoided by lucky fall, but liability question

BY BRYON MARTIN

April showers may bring May flowers, but April breezes knock down trees.

At least that was the case in The Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community. Gusts in excess of 60 mph buffeted the area last weekend and, in some cases, brought down trees and power lines.

About 125,000 homes in metro-Detroit lost power Sunday, including 1,700 in Plymouth, according to Scott Simons of Detroit Edison. Less than 1,000 Canton and Northville homes lost power.

And while spring often brings storms and the occasional power outages, last weekend's high winds were higher than usual, according to Simons.

"We were clocking wind speeds in the high 60s. At a little more than 70 mph and you're talking about hurricane power. These were real strong winds," Simons said.

Although Elizabeth and Henry Jacques did not lose power, the wind storm had a more jarring impact on their Plymouth home.

It was late in the afternoon Sunday and Jacques was working in the basement when she heard a loud, heavy crash.

"I thought lightning had struck," Jacques said. Uncertain of where the sound originated, she ran first to her baby's room. "I looked out front and thought, 'Hey, there's a tree on the house.'"

Her neighbor's 50-foot tree had been toppled by the April winds and had landed on her garage roof.

"It landed in a strong spot, so I guess we were lucky," Jacques said.

Henry Berghoff, Jacques' neighbor and owner of the prostrate pine, agreed: "They had a brand new van in the driveway — the sticker was still in the window — and the tree missed it. Pretty lucky."

Berghoff, a City of Plymouth Police retiree, said the tree was given to him about 30 years ago. "There were five of us cops and



Tree toppled in storm (Crier photo by B. Martin)

this guy gave us each a tree: me, Carl Berry and a couple others. Mine was the only one to make it, 'til yesterday."

According to Jacques, the good news is that no one was hurt and no damage to the house is visible.

The bad news is that the Jacques might not receive help in paying for the tree's removal. "We're trying to figure out who's responsible," Jacques said.

Costs to remove such a tree are estimated around \$800.

Berghoff said his insurance company would contribute to clean-up costs.

Jacques' insurer has termed the accident, "an act of God," and may or may not cover it, which leaves Jacques with one question: "I'd like to know who God's insurance company is."

Canton fire fighter promoted to chief

Veteran smoke eater leaves inspector position, looking forward to helping people

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Canton will have a new fire marshal to toast the opening of its new fire station; in fact, the Champagne has already arrived.

Canton Fire veteran Dave Champagne was promoted to fire marshal last week.

Champagne first started as a fire fighter in 1974, as a volunteer working out of old fire station number one.

Screwdriver thief caught by Canton police

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

A 29-year-old Canton resident was arrested for suspicion of robbing a gas station last Saturday morning, according to police reports.

The suspect, Herman Mixon of Canton, stopped at the Mobile gas station at Lilley and Warren just after midnight on Friday and asked for a pack of cigarettes, according to police reports. He armed himself with a screwdriver and then announced a hold up, grabbed a large amount of cash from the register and fled.

A Canton Police officer followed Mixon down Warren, saw him run a red light at Warren and Sheldon, and proceed South down Sheldon at approximately 60 mph, according to Officer Lew Stevens. The officer was about to stop the car for traffic violations, when she learned that an armed robbery had taken place.

The officer waited for back up and initiated a felony stop. Approximately \$427 and a screwdriver were recovered, according to police reports.

"Before that I was working in a factory. I don't know if you've ever worked on an assembly line, but it's not very pleasant," Champagne said. "I wanted to get outside and help people."

He was hired in full time in August of 1974, according to Fire Chief Michael Rorabacher, and promoted to sergeant in February 1992. He became eligible for the fire marshal position after serving as fire inspector from 1994-1996.

During his tenure as a fire fighter, and later a fire inspector, Champagne racked up an impressive number of credentials, according to Rorabacher. He is state certified and licensed not only as a fire officer and inspector, but an EMT as well.

As fire marshal, his duties switch from fire fighting to fire prevention, Rorabacher said, whether it be from coordinating and directing fire prevention activities, to fire code inspection and enforcement.

He will also be responsible for the Fire Safety House, Rorabacher said. The Fire Safety House is a travel trailer set up to imitate certain rooms of a house and used as a model for learning fire safety and prevention.

"Fire service for a long time has been reactionary. We wait for the bell to ring, then go put the fire out," Champagne said. "We're working on becoming more proactive—fighting fires by preventing them from happening in the first place."

While the fire marshal position will open up new challenges for him, it will also allow him the opportunity to continue to do the things he most enjoys about fire fighting, he said, including arson investigation.

"It's a fascinating science. Anything that is left from a fire, you can put together," Champagne said. "Fire may alter something, but it won't totally destroy it. You can put things together, like a puzzle. I get right in there and sift through the ashes with everyone else."

Champagne is looking forward to continuing with what brought him to fighting fires in the first place, he said.

"It's just a great opportunity to help people in their time of need."

Agenda

THIS WEEK

- The Plymouth Historical Museum presents Eastern Michigan University Baseball Coach David Martin, who will speak on famous Black baseball players, Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at the museum. Hotdogs, peanuts and crackerjacks will be served. Call the museum for information.

WEEKEND

- The Canton Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner Auction will be held Sunday at Laurel Manor, beginning at 6 p.m. Cost \$50 per person. Open to those with reservations only.

NEXT WEEK

- Vietnam Veterans of America will hold their general meeting Monday at 7:30 p.m. at 9318 Newburgh Road (between Joy Rd. and Ann Arbor Tr). All veterans on active duty Jan. 1, 1959 - May 7, 1975, regardless of duty or station, are eligible. Call 525-0157.
- The Plymouth Chamber of Commerce holds its Leadership Plymouth Graduation Dinner, Friday, at the Water Club Grill in Plymouth.

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Opinion.....	pgs. 34-35



You've thought spring, now for your reward. Golf season is upon us. First-timers and old pros alike will enjoy The Crier's golf section, pages 13, 14, 23-26.



Public notices

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a BID for the purchase of computer work stations. Specifications and Bid Forms can be obtained from Donna Aveck 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, April 11, 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

Publish 4-2-97 and 4-9-97

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its annual meeting Wednesday, April 16th, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. at 705 S. Main Street Plymouth, Michigan 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

Barbara Kraft, Library Secretary
Plymouth District Library
705 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170
313-453-0750

Publish Wednesday, April 9, 1997

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

NOTICE TO CITY COMMISSION CANDIDATES

Pursuant to the Local and State of Michigan Election Laws, all persons desiring to qualify as candidates in the City Primary Election of the City of Plymouth, to be held on Tuesday, August 5, 1997 for the offices of:

CITY COMMISSIONER
FOR THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH

FOUR VACANCIES (4)
(present terms to expire 11/97)

are hereby notified that "NOMINATING PETITIONS" for such offices are available at the Office of the City Clerk. Petitions must be filed with the Clerk or Deputy Clerk at City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, not later than Tuesday, May 13, 1997 at 4:00 p.m.

LINDA J. LANGMESSER, CMC
CITY CLERK

PUBLISH: Community Crier Newspaper - April 9, 23 & May 7, 1997

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF LEXINGTON

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

SUMMONS & NOTICE BY
PUBLICATION

PLAINTIFF
VS

DOCKET NO. 97-DR-32-0457X

Sheila Locklear Lara, Jimmy Stevens,
Keith Christopher Stevens DOB: 7-2-89
Travis Edward Lee Stevens DOB: 8-29-86

DEFENDANT(S)

TO: JIMMY STEVENS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Termination of Parental Rights Complaint concerning the minor children above and that you have failed to contact the agency in regards to your whereabouts, in this action, the original of which has been filed in the office of the Clerk of Court for Lexington County, a copy of which will be delivered to you upon request; and to serve a copy of your answer to said Complaint upon the undersigned attorney for the Plaintiff at their office at 314 W. Main St., Lexington, S.C. 29072-2636, within 30 days of service upon you, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer said Complaint within the statutory time allotted, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to court for the relief demanded in said petition.

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN LEXINGTON COUNTY

Date: April 3, 1997
Lexington, South Carolina

Wilkes caught in Canton

At-large man picked-up by cops; arraigned for assault

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Darrell Lee Wilkes, the 62 year-old Canton resident who allegedly cut his wife's neck with a knife two weeks ago was arrested without incident early last Friday morning.

Police were unsure of where Wilkes had been, but Det. Leonard Wolons said that Wilkes had a receipt from a store in Mt. Clemens in his wallet. Police originally speculated that Wilkes might be gambling in Windsor.

Wilkes was arraigned for assault with attempt to commit murder last Friday afternoon, and held on a \$750,000 bond, Det. Leonard Wolons said.

"Because of the serious nature of the crime, and the fact that the victim had cause to fear for her life, we asked for a high bond," Wolons said.

At 4:30 a.m. Friday, Officer Debra Newsome was dispatched to Fox Valley Road, near where Wilkes' lived, on a report of a possible prowler, according to Officer Lew Stevens.

While en route, Officer Newsome saw a van matching the description of

"Because of the serious nature of the crime, and the fact that the victim had cause to fear for her life, we asked for a high bond."

— Det. Leonard Wolons

Wilkes', according to Detective Wolons. She followed the van to an apartment complex at Cherry Hill and Lotz and arrested him when he exited his vehicle, Wolons said.

Wilkes did not resist arrest, according to Wolons. His preliminary examination is scheduled for 9 a.m. Friday at the 35th District court in Plymouth.

Arlene Wilkes has been released from the hospital and is expected to make a full recovery, Wolons said.

City commission races start; four seats open

BY ROB KIRKBRIDE

The Plymouth City Commission election is still months away, but would-be candidates for the office already are beginning their run for office.

The candidates will compete for four seats on the commission. Under City Charter, commissioners are limited to two consecutive terms in office. Commissioners Doug Miller and John Vos will not be eligible to run for another term.

Mayor Ron Loiselle and Commissioner Don Dismuke will run for another term.

That leaves two unopposed seats for the Plymouth City Commission.

Zoning Board of Appeals member Dave McDonald has already pulled petitions. Other residents who may run include: Rosita Smith, Sally Repeck, Craig Brass, Don Schneider, David Schaff, Sharon Pugh, Curtis Hill and Jerry Vorva.

If eight or more candidates file certified petitions by the filing deadline (May 13 at 4 p.m.) there will be a primary election on Aug. 5. The general election is Nov. 4.

Leahy and Broderick wed



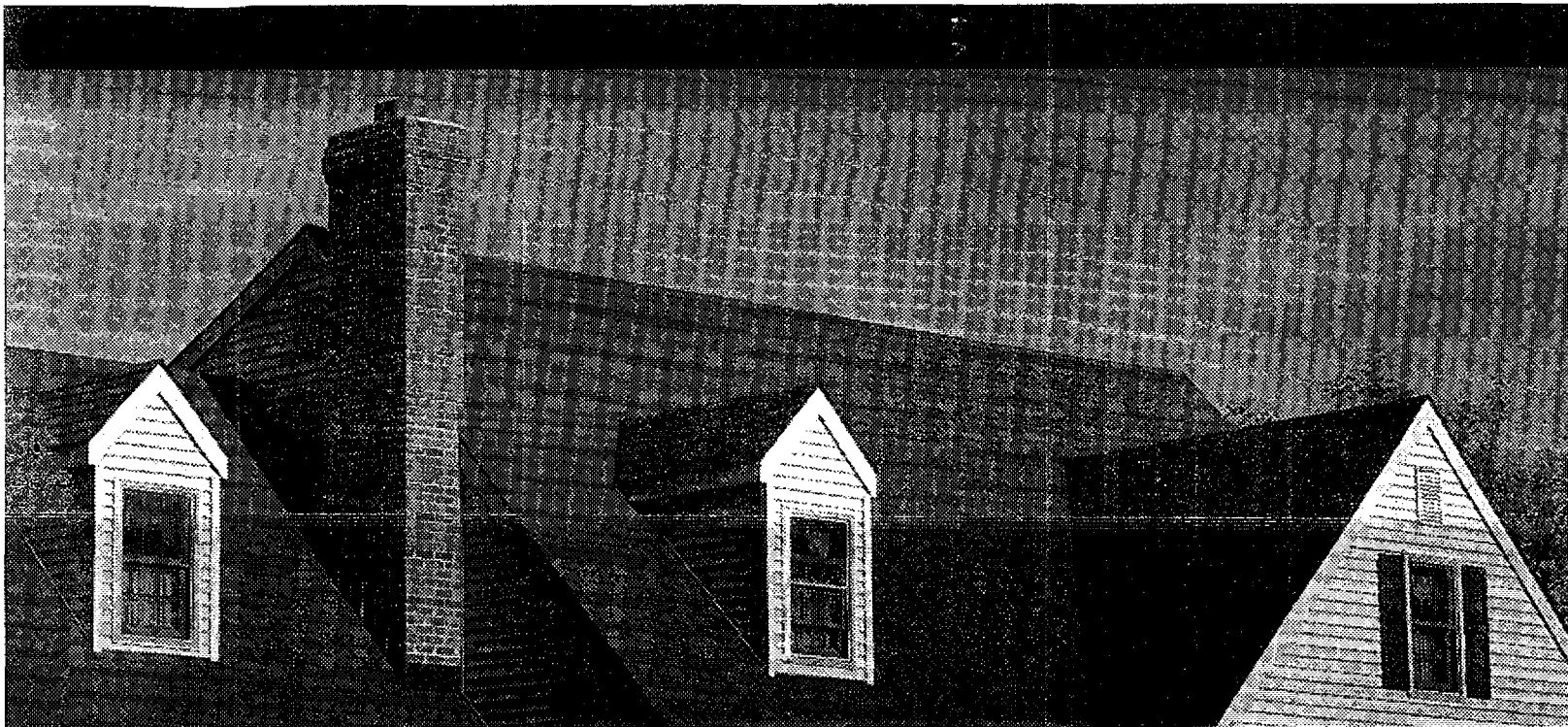
MARIE LEAHY AND JOHN BRODERICK

Marie Miyajima Leahy, of New York City, and John Martin Broderick, formerly of Plymouth Township, have been wed.

She is the daughter of Yasuko Leahy and the late Thomas Leahy of Plainfield, VT. He is a 1983 Canton High School graduate and the son of Elizabeth and John Broderick of Plymouth. The ceremony was performed in Vermont with the Rev. Jomyo Tanaka of the Mandala Buddhist Center presiding.

A senior product manager for a New York City publishing company, the bride is a graduate of New York University. The groom is a Michigan State University grad and is the director of government relations for the New York City Neighborhood Housing Services.

The couple lives in Manhattan.



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PER MONTH
For example a \$25,000 loan
for 180 months
with a 9.35% APR.

That's a first

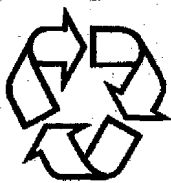
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To list your group's event in this calendar, send or deliver the notice
IN WRITING to: The Crier, 821 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI 48170.
Information received BY NOON FRIDAY will be used for Wednesday's
calendar (space permitting).

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.

VILLAGE POTTERS GUILD

The guild, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to the advancement and education of ceramic arts; its 25 members share space and equipment for the production of pottery. Classes offered each semester. Call 207-8807.

Volunteer...

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...

TUTOR TRAINING

The Community Literacy Council, Inc., will be conducting tutor training seminars for its reading program. Two four-hours 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.

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.

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Health...

SENIOR EMERGENCY PRESCRIPTIONS

Michigan Emergency Pharmaceutical Program for Seniors (MEPPS) offers aid to seniors 65 years and older when: individual/couple monthly income is less than \$968/\$1295 respectively, of which at least 10 percent is spent on prescriptions. Area MEPPS sites include Plymouth Township Hall, (313) 455-7526, and the Northville Area Senior Center, (810) 349-4140.

ST. MARY HEALTH-O-RAMA

The hospital will offer a variety of low-cost health screening tests, April 19 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the hospital auditorium. Basic tests, including blood pressure, height and weight, vision, glaucoma, counseling and referral, health education and information and displays, all for free. A variety of tests for purchase will also be available. Call 1-800-494-1650.

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.

Upcoming...

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.

WOMAN'S CLUB OF PLYMOUTH

Club will meet April 4, 12:30 p.m. at Fellowship Hall, First United Methodist Church. "A Meadowbrook Theatre Presentation," with a backstage theater costume review and enlightening tidbits about productions. All are welcome. Contact Carol Patterson at 459-3189 for information.

VILLAGE POTTERS GUILD SPRING CLASSES

Beginning April 7, spring classes to be offered: Monday nights, Wednesday days and Thursday nights, general wheel and handbuilding. Phone 207-8807.

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.

ART COMPETITION

The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Competition, sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post #6695, is open to all area 9th - 12th graders. Three prizes offered, \$35, \$25 and \$15 each. Submissions due April 9. Phone Alice Fisher for info at 459-2394.

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.



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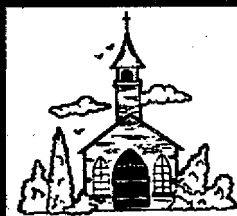
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Getting down to business

Neighbors in business

The Northville firm, Arch Associates LLC has named Deirdre Hamilton as its International Business Intern.

Arch provides quality and productivity enhancement plus standards compliance support services for domestic and foreign organizations in private and public sectors.



DEIRDRE HAMILTON

Business Network International, a business referral organization, is forming a new BNI group in Northville.

BNI is a business marketing program that allows one person from each represented profession to join a chapter. BNI seeks to improve commerce through a structured referral system, and is the largest referral system worldwide. Those interested should call Debra Ammar at (313) 525-4900.

Residents from The Plymouth-Canton Community were among those hired and granted sabbaticals by Eastern Michigan University.

Martin Shichtman, of Plymouth, professor of English language and literature, will work on his book, "Arthur's Hitler/Hitler's Arthur: The Appropriation of the Middle Ages by the Radical Right."

Sam Fullerton, of Plymouth, professor of marketing, will continue to study global business ethics at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia.

Asrat Tessema, of Canton, professor of finance/computer information systems, will research the developing Ethiopian securities market.

Linda Sanderson, of Canton, was hired as audio visual attendant at McKenny Union.

"Showcase Plymouth" spotlights commerce, community 9th-annual business expo plugs excellent employees, volunteers

BY BRYON MARTIN

Get 'em while you can.

Booths are quickly being sold for the 1997 Showcase Plymouth Business Expo, according to Fran Toney, director of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce.

Scheduled for May 6 at the Plymouth Manor, the event, "Is a party for the entire community to celebrate working, living and doing business in Plymouth," Toney said.

Various businesses and service organizations will operate vendor booths at the expo, providing examples of, and information about what they do.

"It's a chance for people to find out what businesses are right here in Plymouth; maybe something they've been looking for," Toney said.

For a six-foot table and a space at the expo, chamber members pay \$55; cost to non-members is \$100. All exhibitors are required to donate a door prize of \$25 or more.

Some vendors also run their own give-aways and drawings, Toney said. But incentives to attend the expo don't stop there.

The chamber recognizes a number of group and individual achievements.

Service club and chamber volunteers, vendor employees and outstanding student citizenship are all honored at the expo; a beautification award is also awarded to a Plymouth-based business, all in a group ceremony.

Any senior at a Plymouth-Canton high school, public or private, is eligible for the student citizenship award, according to Toney.

"It's a good chance to honor volunteers and students," Toney said, emphasizing the connection between community and commerce.

Hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks and wine will be served. Admission is free, as Toney emphasized.



1996 CHAMBER AWARD WINNERS

"Absolutely no admission. Everyone is invited," she said.

Past attendances have averaged around 500, according to Toney, who said she expects as large a crowd this year despite an event name change.

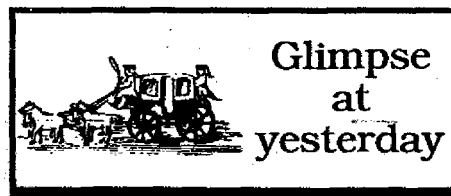
"It used to be called 'Positively Plymouth,'" Toney said. "But if you told someone, 'I'm going to Positively Plymouth,' they usually asked, 'What's that?'"

Business Expo, Toney said, seemed more to the point.

Showcase Plymouth will run from 5 to 7 p.m. Those interested in exhibiting at the expo should contact Toney at the chamber, but should be quick about it, she said.

"About half of the booths are gone already. People who go know: It's a great event."

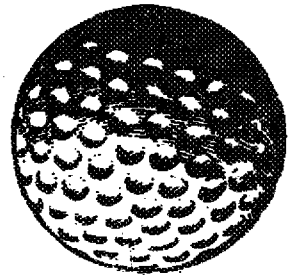
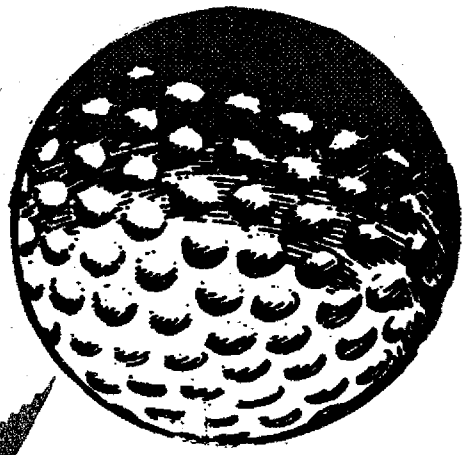
Northville's turn-of-the-century tech



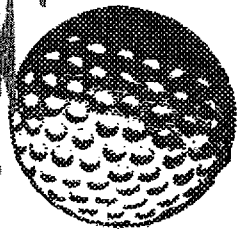
Business the old-fashioned way — when "high tech" was embodied by telephone wires and electric lights (note the bulbs).. This shot of Main Street in downtown Northville, circa 1900, is one in a series of photographs, "Michigan Views," printed by Paul W. Gilbert. All prints are made from original glass negatives or the photo itself, and are available at Little Professor on the Park, downtown Plymouth. As seen in this photo, Northville was "cutting edge," with two auto garages and The Northville Electric Shop.

1997

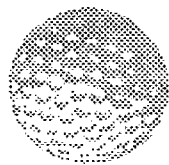
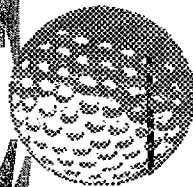
PULL
& SAVE



GOLF



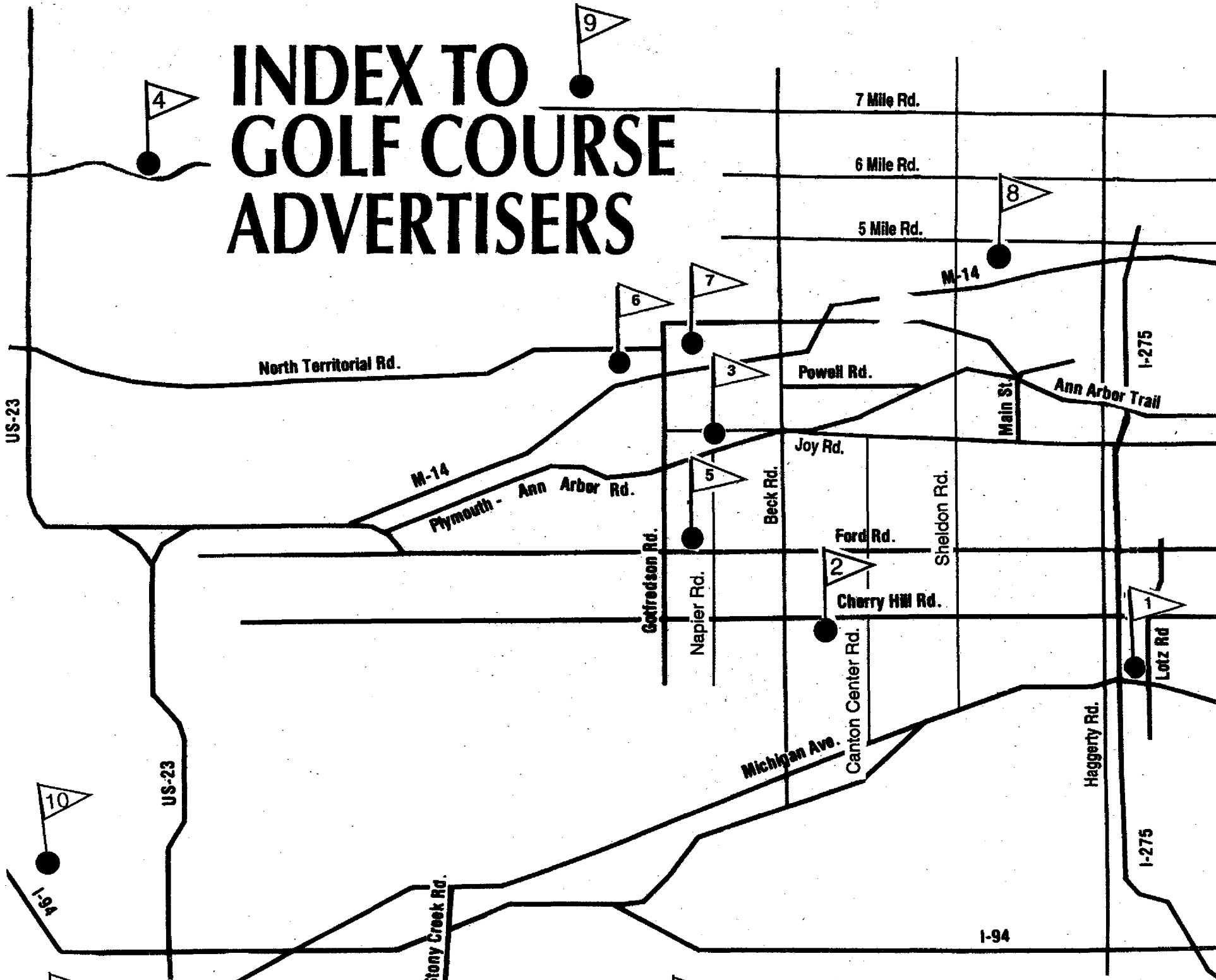
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- 3 ARBOR-JOY GOLF RANGE**
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- 4 THE LINKS AT WHITMORE LAKE**
The Links at Whitmore Lake -An 18 hole professional golf course reflecting both traditional Scottish golf style & some of Northern Michigan's finer Northern courses, pro golf shop, driving range, lessons, restaurant & bar. Fri. night fish fry specials. Located on 6 mile just east of US-23.
- 5 HICKORY CREEK GOLF COURSE**
3605 Napier Road at Ford Road in Plymouth Township. Enjoy a taste of Northern Michigan on our wooded front nine, and Links-style back nine for a unique and challenging round of golf. Driving range, Golf outings welcome.
- 6 FOX HILLS COUNTRY CLUB**
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Golfers love area, live near courses

New golf communities and courses make The P-C-N area a place to play and stay

BY LINDA KOCHANEK

Whatever it is that a golf fanatic seeks in a golf course, it may be found as close as their own backyard.

Golf, a favorite American past time has become a way of life for many in The Plymouth-Canton-Northville area. A new crop of local golf courses and subdivisions are springing-up with full golf amenities. They have full 18-hole courses, driving ranges and club houses with many golf activities for the whole family.

Some new communities have made the area a haven for the golf enthusiast. Stonebridge, a golf course development in Ann Arbor, has much to offer the golfer.


"People like that their homes back onto the golf course," said Myron Serbay, president of Boulder Development Company. "It is permanent open space with someone else taking care of the maintenance."

Throughout Stonebridge's 650 acres lies an 18-hole golf course. The home styles are quite diverse and two-thirds of them back up onto the golf course. More features include parks, beaches, ponds and rivers throughout the development.

Many new and older courses in the area give ample opportunity for everyone, even beginners, to play different courses.

"We are more than just a golf community," said Kevin Mill, operations manager of Pheasant Run Course in Canton. "Pheasant Run is owned by Canton Township and it is open to the public. We want everyone to get a chance to play here."

Fox Hills in Plymouth is known as "The Public Country Club." It has more than 45 holes, a championship course with lakes, hills and woodlands. It also has leagues open to the public, including senior and junior leagues.



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Words to the would-be golfer

Skip the killer clubs and cleats at the start, and first get-off on the right foot with a little links learning.

BY LINDA KOCHANEK

So you want to be a golfer?

With all the talk about the golf season approaching, many of us would like to give it a try. Most of our basic questions can be easily answered by the local golf shop, golf course or pro.

Lowell Weaver, from the Links of Whitmore, offered ideas for people starting out. "Take lessons," he suggested. "Start off in

group lessons first, the cost is less and you can make sure that you like the game. Then, if you are serious, you can spend more on private lessons with a pro."

Start off with classes that are available at golf courses and community schools, as well as those offered by local pros, he said.

"Do not buy the most expensive clubs right away," Weaver continued. "You should get your swing where it will stay first and then buy a set that fits you."

Some starter sets are fairly inexpensive, starting around \$50 to \$100. Used clubs are a good bet too, and are usually available somewhere around town.

Most important for beginners: Don't go on the toughest course first. "Many people start off on the toughest course and then get frustrated," Weaver said. "Start off on an easier one, then build difficulty."

Dave Horstman, a PGA golf pro at Pheasant Run in Canton, said, "The beginner should learn the three basics in golf: grip, stance and posture."

For the more-seasoned player with game trouble, Horstman suggests getting help from a PGA professional.

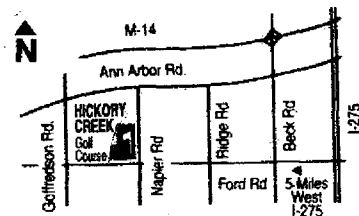
Consider these tips when approaching the game. You have nothing to lose — give it a swing.



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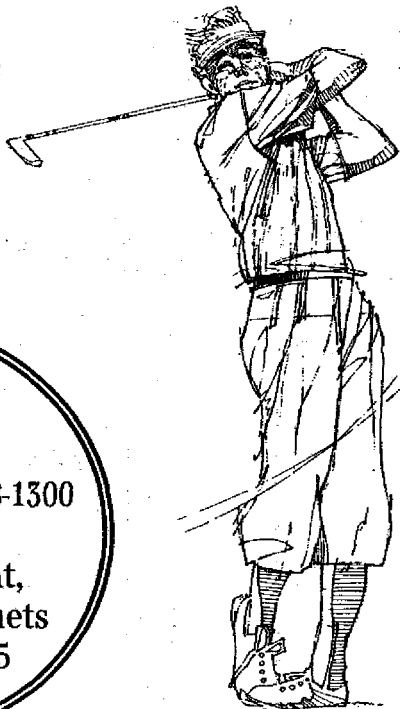
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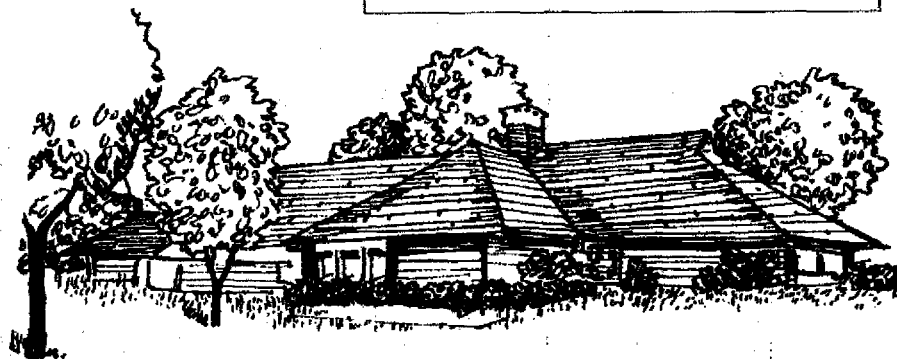
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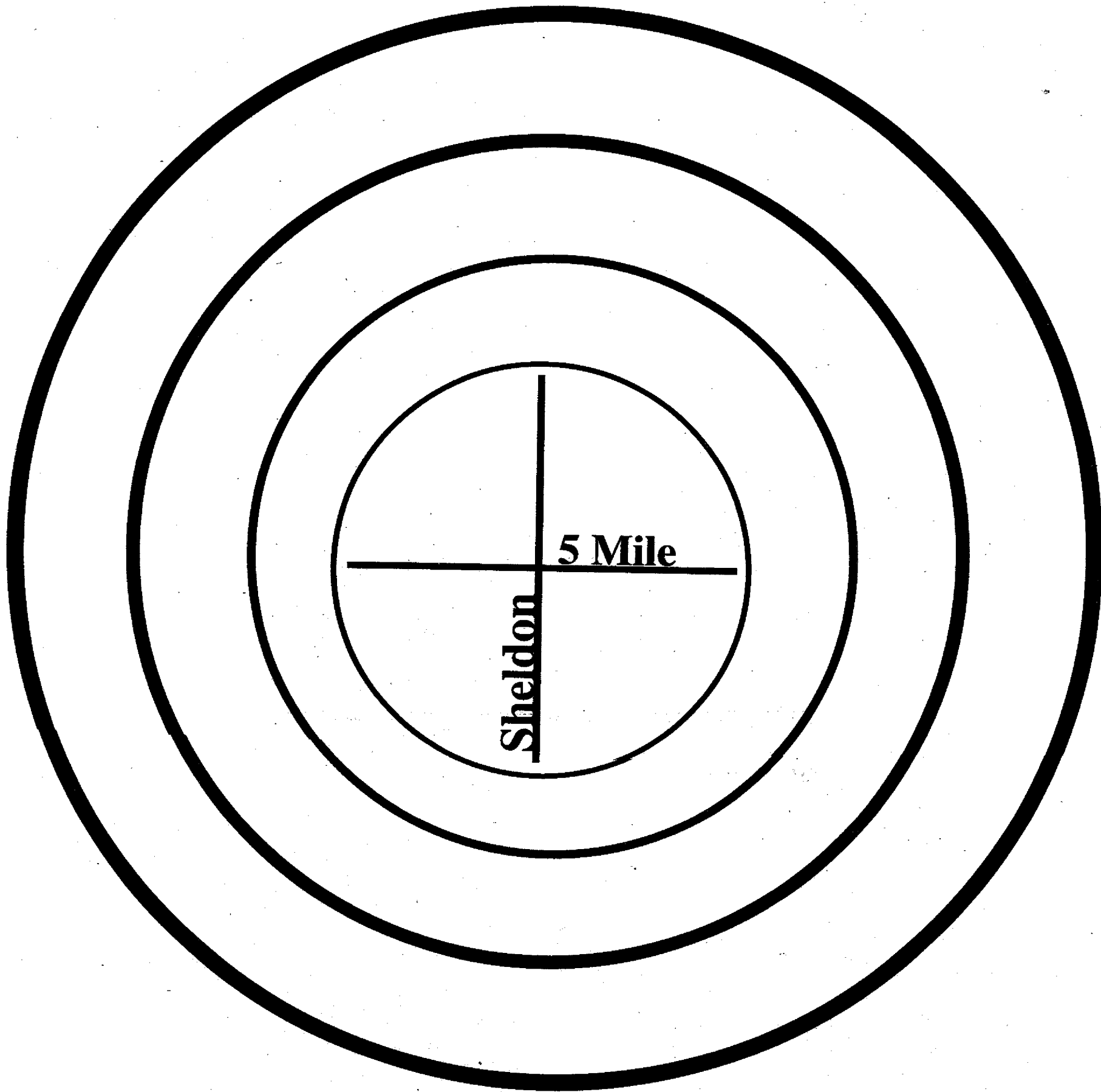
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TARGETING GROWTH



A SPECIAL CRIER INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Sheldon-Five business boom began in '80s

DeMattia, Jeannotte gambled by bringing their businesses to Northville Twp. in the mid 1980s. A decade later, high-tech and high-rent developments follow suit.

BY ROB KIRKBRIDE

The Sheldon-Five Mile Road area is one of the hottest commercial/industrial centers in southeast Michigan.

But just how does an area become so desirable?

According to Plymouth Township Supervisor Kathleen Keen-McCarthy, it starts with a great community.

"I think (the area has grown) because Plymouth Township is a desirable place to conduct business," she said.

The boom started as a pop in 1985 when Bob DeMattia moved his company from Farmington. Now the company has three divisions, each serving a specific phase of industrial development.

In 1985, the area between Sheldon and Beck roads, north of North Territorial, consisted of the Ford Sheldon Road Plant and little else. Empty fields dotted the landscape.

Soon, industrial parks sprung up around the Sheldon and Beck road exits of M-14. The boom was on.

Recognizing the nice neighborhoods, convenient highway access and friendly business atmosphere, companies began relocating to the Metro West Industrial Park and Plymouth Oaks Business Center.

"It was a perfect location for business," DeMattia said. "It was a natural progression. Companies realized this was a great place to live and do business."

High-tech industry flocked to the industrial parks, including Johnson Controls, Nissan Research & Development, Ventura Industries and Graco Robotics.

More than 10 years later, they are still coming.

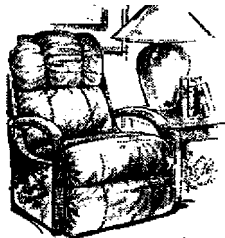
Now, a commercial element is flocking to the Sheldon-Five Mile Road area. The Sheldon Place Shopping Center, another DeMattia project, is nearly full.

The promise of \$250,000-\$350,000 houses has drawn several major commercial businesses to the area, including Busch's Valu Land, Community Bank and Office Warehouse.

"More than 15 years ago, DeMattia had a vision on how that area would develop," McCarthy said. "It has exceeded everyone's expectations."

DeMattia said he sees more growth in the future for the Sheldon-Five Mile Road area. "More business, more community and more housing helps everything that is already there," he said.

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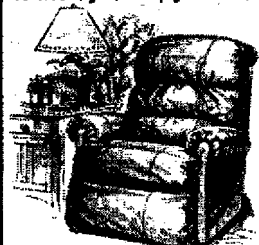
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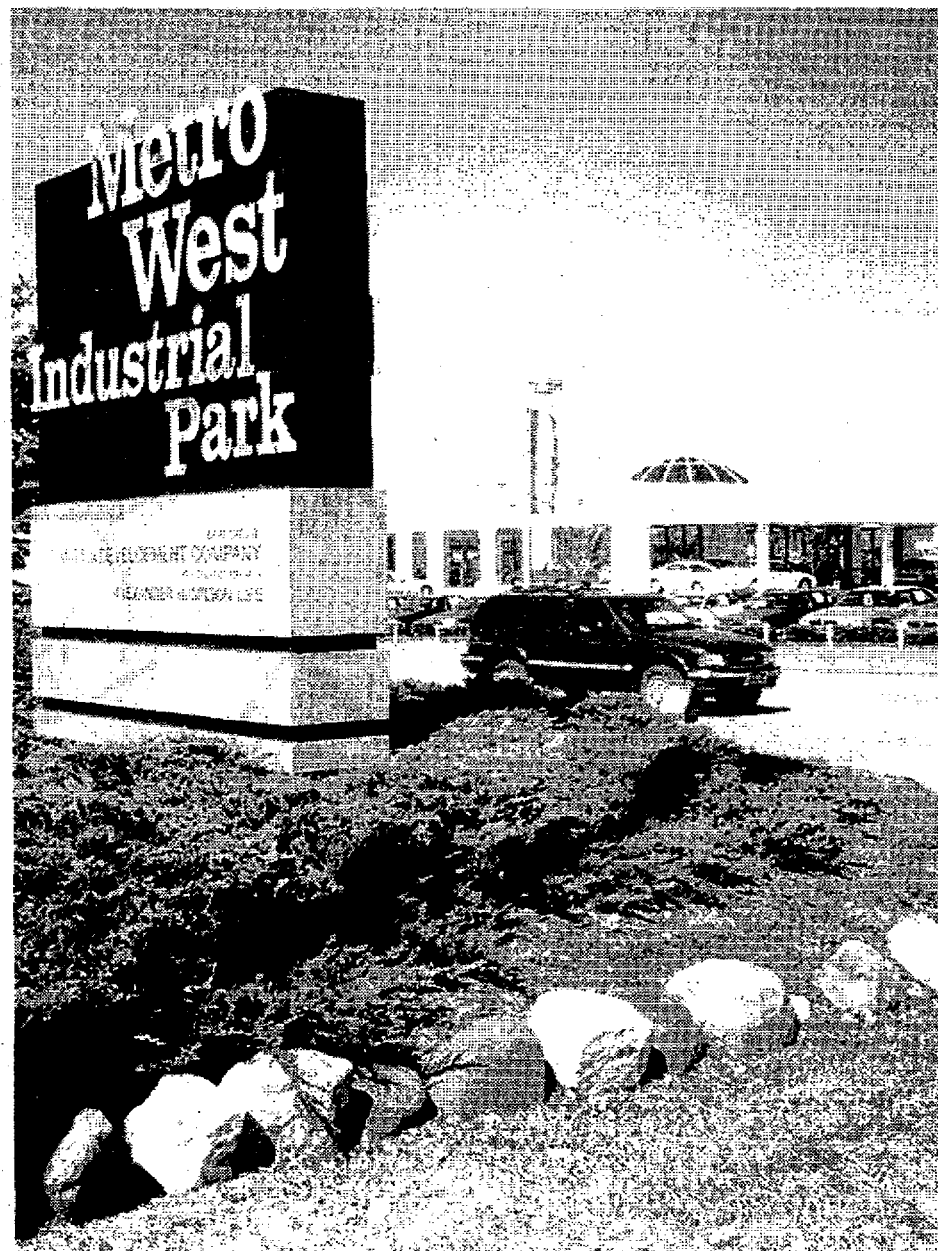
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Metro West Industrial Park, located at Sheldon and Beck, and Five and Six mile roads, was one of the first large business developments in the Sheldon-Five area (Crier photo by R. Alwood, Jr.).

Sheldon-Five a land of value for area businesses

Shopping center's up-and-coming location, mix of stores, inspires relocations to N'ville Twp.

BY ROB KIRKBRIDE

Like prospectors rushing to mine a ribbon of gold in the old west, commercial business owners have made their own discovery: The Sheldon-Five Mile Road area is the mother lode.

With \$250,000-\$350,000 houses scheduled to replace the rotting County Child Development Center, it is easy to see why there is a commercial business rush.

From new businesses to those looking to expand, the Sheldon-Five Mile Road area is the hottest commercial land in southeast Michigan.

"We're very excited about the explosion of growth out there," said Michael Ross, president and CEO of Community Bank of Dearborn. The bank is opening a branch the end of May in the Sheldon Place Shopping Center.

Ross said the full-service branch will capitalize on small business lending and residential mortgage lending, along with a strong deposit program.

The anchor store of the Sheldon Place Shopping Center is Busch's Valu Land grocery store. The 45,500 square foot, upscale grocery store is expected to bring between 100-125 new jobs to the community. The Sheldon Place store will be the 10th in the Ann Arbor-based grocery chain. It is the first Busch's store in western Wayne County.

"We are always looking at new sites and markets," said Busch's spokesperson Peggy Conlin. "This was a market that appeals to us. We want to continue to grow."

Unlike some retail shopping centers that are built and sit half-vacant, Sheldon Place has not open yet, but has just one vacancy left.

Busch's will be surrounded by Venture Outdoors, Community Bank of Dearborn, Subway, Leo's Coney Island, Domino's, Images Salon, Lorey Cleaners and Office Warehouse.

Dan Argonis, owner of Venture Outdoors, said his business is moving from a successful location in downtown Plymouth to Sheldon Place to expand their service and market.

"There are two things that prompted our move," he said. "We ran out of room and out there, we'll have a kayaking pond available for demonstrations."

Argonis said he was also drawn by the incredible growth of the area. "We are expecting an influx from Toledo, Northville, Brighton," he said. "The store will be closer to the highway - M-14. It's easy to get to from I-275 and 696 as well."

Venture Outdoors will occupy one of the corner locations at Sheldon Place. The business will move from Penniman Avenue in downtown Plymouth May 1.

Bob Jeannotte recognized the potential for the Sheldon-Five Mile Road area early. His Pontiac-GMC Truck dealership moved to Sheldon Road in 1979. The Buick dealership moved in 1994.

"This has become a very good area for us," said Bob Jeannotte, Jr. "When the Pontiac dealership moved out here, it was nothing but woods."

Jeannotte said they are looking forward to further development of the area. As houses spring up, Jeannotte said they hope to fill the garages.

"Everybody thinks this is an up-and-coming area," he said. "Thankfully, my father had the foresight to recognize that."



Bob Jeannotte moved his dealerships to the Sheldon-Five Mile more than 10 years ago. His son, Bob Jr., credits his dad with keen vision for making the move (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.).



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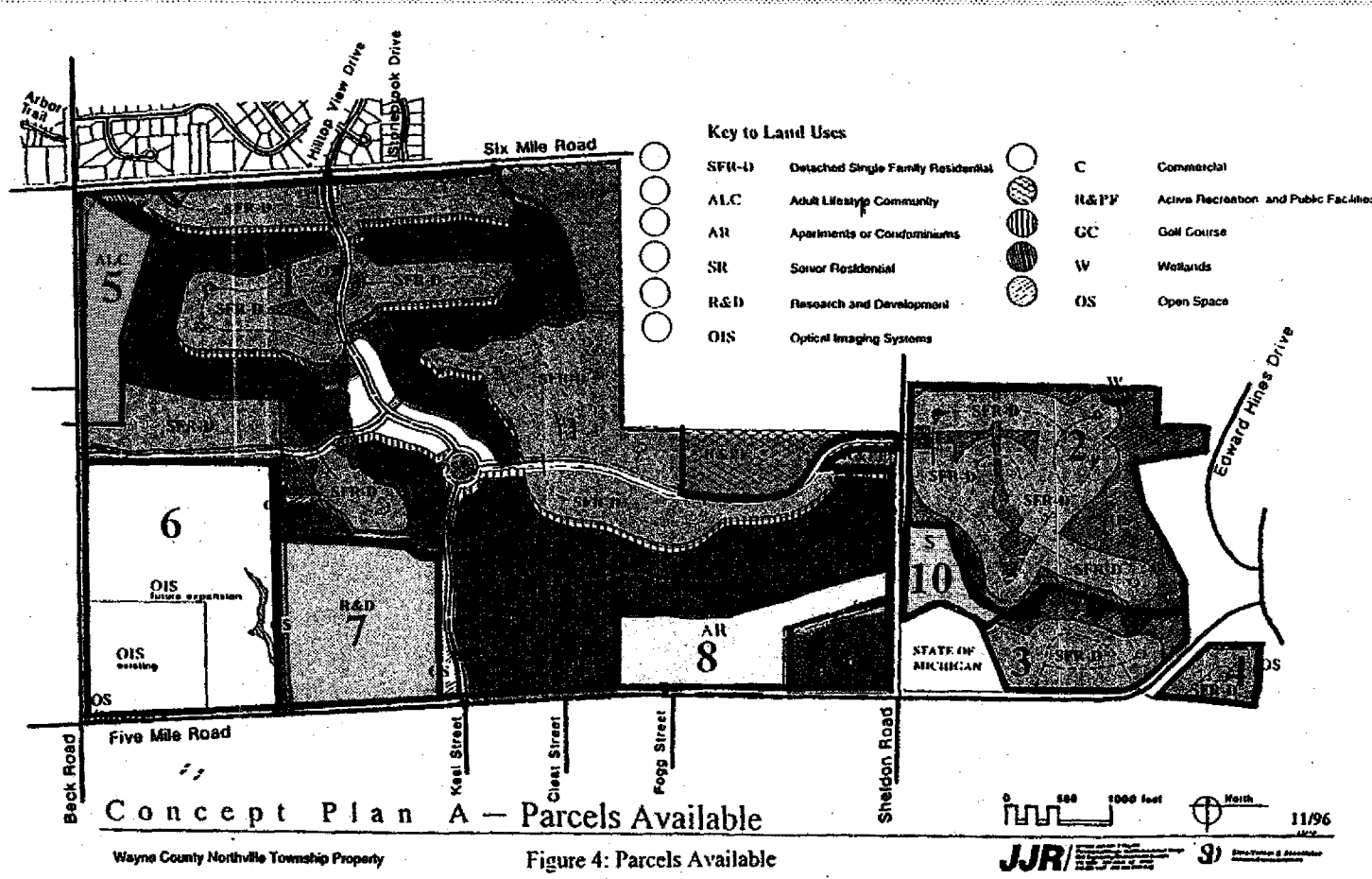
Trustee-approved P.U.D. opens development door

County buildings and land, long vacant, could be razed and cleared by fall '97

This plan, proposed for the development of Wayne-County owned property in Northville township, includes a variety of zone types:

- Adult lifestyle community (gray);*
- Single family residential (red);*
- Apartments & condos (yellow);*
- Senior residential (pink);*
- Research & Development (orange);*
- Commercial (purple);*
- Recreation (tan);*
- Golf course (green);*
- Wetlands (blue);*
- Open space (brown).*

Now, County Child Development buildings sit on the parcel. (Plan courtesy of Northville Township).



Continued from Pg. 1

for recreation and public facilities, such as a fire station.

Twenty percent of the 896 acres would be preserved as open space, and could include bike and walking paths.

Having been passed by Northville's trustees, the P.U.D. moved on to Wayne County's Board of Commissioners and Economic Development Committee (E.D.C.) where it is awaiting approval.

Today, more than 60 vacant buildings connected by an underground network of tunnels are scattered over the parcel. With consent from the county commissioners and E.D.C., demolition of them can begin, according to Dawn Flynn, Northville Township manager.

"The P.U.D. overrides existing zoning for the area. It will expedite clean-up of the property."

"Once demolition begins, we're looking at about 180 days before its complete," Flynn said. "There are the buildings to tear down, the

tunnels to be taken up and I think some asbestos to be removed."

"The P.U.D. overrides existing zoning for the area," which is strictly residential, Flynn said. "It will expedite clean-up of the property."

According to Flynn, demolition could begin as early as late fall of 1997.

Sale of the property is unlikely before demolition is complete, Flynn said.

Portions of the county's proceeds from sale of the land will go toward the Wayne County stadium project and the 21st Century Fund, which provides aid to economically distressed areas, according to Mike Prochaska, director of business development of the Wayne County department of jobs and economic development.

Once completed the development will contribute to the drastic changes in Northville Township's looks and population.

Gone will be the vacant buildings, fields and brush, Flynn said. "It going to be totally different, all developed and built up — except for the open spaces."

Open space on the site may be maximized through cooperative planning with other developments, Flynn said.

Part of the 451-unit Rose Property development, west of Sheldon and north and south of Six Mile road, runs next to the county property's proposed open space.

The Rose parcel, as-yet unapproved by the township, also includes open space.

ACRES PER ZONE

Single-family residential	408
Golf course	206
Research & development	61
Public recreation	45
Apartments & condos	40
Adult lifestyle	26
Commercial.....	14
Open space.....	180

"We might try to get the two together. The open area would run together and be more open," Flynn said.

Other developments around Sheldon and Five Mile roads will bring more than 300 housing units to the vicinity.

And with community shopping centers and recreation plans in the works, the P.U.D. is one part of a building boom in Northville Township.

"They're intending to put some nice homes up," Flynn said. "It's a good use of the property, a win-win situation for the township and the county."

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

It's awakening now, coming slowly to life one wing at a time. Furnaces are once again pumping heat into drafty halls, priests teach the word of God and the chapel once again reverberates with song. On the weekends, and some weeknights, the ornate marble hallways echo with a sound rarely heard in its previous incarnation: The sound of children laughing.

St. John's Seminary, once closed and put up for sale, is emerging like Lazarus with new vigor and a new purpose. Where young men studying to be priests once walked, talked and lived, a congregation of construction workers is breathing new life into the immense structure.

Windows are being replaced, wiring redone, oak is being restored, rooms refurbished and suites are being created; all so this city within a city can serve a new type of spiritual journeyman — or woman.

Founded by Cardinal Mooney in 1948, the Seminary was based on a design he saw while traveling in Italy. "He had a basic idea for one," said Father John West, a graduate of St. John's Seminary and current rector of Center, "and found a seminary he really liked."

The seminary housed every man studying for priesthood in Michigan, according to James Keifer, director of the Cardinal Maida Institute for Youth. It served both graduates and undergraduates, offering master degrees in divinity, a pastoral degree to be an ordained priest, and for academics, a doctorate degree in theological studies.

But the seminary was more than a school to the young men, according to West, it was a home.

"They had a gym, raquetball or handball courts, there was the golf course, although it was only a generous nine holes back then; even a bowling alley," he said. "All your needs were met."

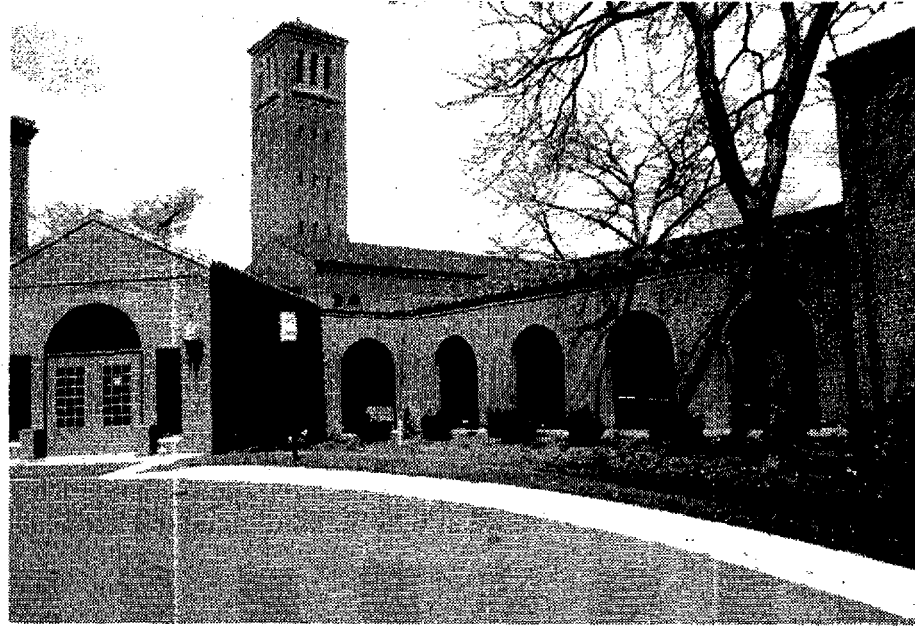
At its peak, the Seminary was bustling with activity, housing as many as 250 students at one time, West said. "There were around 200 when I graduated in 1977."

Unfortunately the peak didn't last long. "The call to priesthood dwindled," said Corinne Wiland, hospitality coordinator for the St. John's Center. "There was less of a need to house the students."

With enrollment dwindling, the Archdiocese of Detroit was faced

Renewal & Revival at St. John's Center

Once-abandoned seminary reborn as family retreat



with the problem of having two half-full seminaries. St. John's was closed and put up for sale, and all studies were directed to Sacred Heart in downtown Detroit.

"It was only 40 years old, and built to last forever," West said, "so it was very hard. Especially for alumni, but we wanted to make the best use of our resources and put all of our knowledge in one place."

The seminary was on the market for six years, closed and gathering dust and mildew. One potential buyer even considered tearing it down. But as times changed, a new Cardinal was

came back recognizing the importance of ministry to youth. There was a lot of enthusiasm in younger people, but no place for them to call home."

"Teens, children and adults under 30 are 30 percent of the church population," West said. "There were just not enough places to bring kids. That's what tugged at the cardinal's heart. He saw all the good things in Denver and said: 'Why can't we do this at home?'"

It turns out, they could. They had the structure and the lease had just run out on the Mission Hills Golf course, returning it to the Archdiocese of Detroit, which



St. John's Center for Youth and Family (top) is a showcase inside and out, as Father John West, St. John's rector (left), can attest. Coffered ceilings and intricately tiled floors (right) are highlights. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.).

appointed to the Archbishop of Detroit, and he saw the changing face of his congregation.

It was on a trip to Denver that Cardinal Adam Maida first realized the beginnings of the new St. John Center, Keifer said. "He

would provide a source of funding. So, at the 1994 St. Patrick's Day Mass, Maida announced that St. John's Seminary would be opened as the St. John's Center for Youth and Family.

No longer a seminary, the center would now be available for all types of spiritual retreats, primarily dedicated to the church's younger members. It already possessed everything needed for a retreat center: Old dormitory rooms were converted into larger, two-room suites for couples, or could be fitted with bunk beds for children.

Only 25 percent of the center is ready for use now, according to West, but renovation is constantly underway, and he hopes to have the entire center ready for use by the year 2000, at the latest. Although limited, it already accomodates all types of retreats.

Some of the retreats and programs offered now are "Beginnings Experience" for adults who recently lost their spouse to death or divorce; "Engagement Encounter," a preparation for marriage; "Marriage Encounter," for couples wishing to rekindle the spirit of their marriage; Retrouvaille, a group for troubled marriages; and youth programs such as the Justice and Peace Institute, which puts young people in touch with social gospel and helps them deal with problems such as sexism, racism, violence and the pressure of being a teenage catholic.

The center makes a perfect retreat setting, even though it is relatively close to a populous area, according to West. "The building has quite a 'woo' to it," he said. "It has a quieting and calming effect on people. It's a perfect place to find some depth."

The center is available for all Catholic churches, Keifer said, and will expand availability as more room becomes available. "Ultimately we may open it up for use for corporations and business," Keifer said, "and any other religions wouldn't be turned away. We may not have the room to accomodate everyone, but that's a good problem."

West agrees, and is delighted to be back giving a new spin to his old school. "I never thought I'd be here again. I thought all of that would be gone," he said. "We see it as a gift from God that we're giving new life to. This used to be a very forlorn part of the county, full of institutions and jails. Now it is a very hopeful part, and we want to be a part of that hope."



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Different towns linked in past, growing together

Plymouths and Northvilles share history, features and future

Since a meeting in the Northville Opera House in the Spring of 1898, the Plymouth-Northville Townships' dilemma has been a situation unique to Michigan.

Following a vote of 40 to 30 at that meeting, Plymouth Township and Northville Townships split to become Michigan's only two half townships.

Although the popular story is that the church-going Plymouthites didn't want to be associated with the Northville saloons, the more plausible reason goes to the Plymouth-run government not maintaining the bridges at the northern end of the large township. (The two cities were formed later out of the respective townships.)

Since the separation, it's often seemed the Northvilles and the Plymouths provide more smoke than fire about their distinct "differences."

But that's only officially.

Unofficially, the communities are linked by

"No two governmental units are as "peas in a pod," as Plymouth and Northville Townships."

commerce, service and social clubs, the roads and high school rivalries. Short of the Plymouth-Canton link forged by a common school district, no two local governmental units are as "peas in a pod" as Plymouth and Northville Townships.

In fact, as the Sheldon and Five Mile Road area finally develops after years of shameful neglect by Wayne County and State of Michigan governments, the two townships will be even more symbiotic.

Sheldon Road marks the centerpiece of the two communities' M-14 entranceway and developmental showcase at the Five Mile they share between them.

FarmHouse: A township's transition

The look of Northville Township's south-western end has been countrified for years: the land north of Five Mile and west of Sheldon has been dominated by farm houses, tall and fallow fields, abandoned silos and county buildings and the occasional light industry. Homes appeared far from the road, on acreages and beside ponds and lakes. In the last three years homes have increased in number. A steady of incursion of subdivisions and development will bring more homes, more business. In the next three years, views like this will be gone.



With malice toward none

By W. Edward WENDOVER



Consider these facts about Northville and Plymouth Township:

- Both are Michigan's only "half- townships" in size and shape.
 - Both had their central downtowns turn into separate villages then cities.
 - Both have had ongoing examinations of unifying with their downtown cities.
 - Both developed governmental services — such as police — at about the same time.
 - Governmental officials have long been traded and shared between the Plymouths and the Northvilles: Rod Cannon, Chip Snyder, Steve Walters, Suzy Heintz, Dunbar Davis, John MacDonald, Carl Pursell and the current crop.
 - Both townships have women supervisors.
 - Both townships share similar demographics. For example, Northville Township's population includes 14.37 per cent age 60 years and over; Plymouth Township's is 14.71 per cent.
 - Both townships host prisons — across the road from each other.
 - Both townships have shared some services with their respective cities and both face ongoing political pressures to share more — if not unify completely.
- And as time goes on, the differences between Plymouth and Northville Townships will be less and less noticeable.
- Would it ever get to the point of undoing that vote in the barn in 1898? It's not likely.
- But as infrastructure and service costs force local governments to examine cost sharing, what closer two local units (excluding each of the townships and their core cities) can be found nearby?
- The Five Mile Wall is crumbling.

Lack of land makes Fairweather Friends

Northville Township eyes state-and county-owned property

BY BRYON MARTIN

They're Fairweather friends, or at least they would like to be.

The Northvilles haven't had enough recreation space in years, according to Karen Woodside, Northville Township supervisor. And with continued growth in the community the problem worsens: Vacant fields fill with houses, condos and shopping centers.

The 16 square-mile Northville Township has long been short of rec space, Woodside said. "We're about 107 acres deficient right now."

As an end around this problem the township traditionally has relied on others for space.

Baseball and soccer fields and facilities at Northville schools and Maybury State Park have been used by department leagues, according to director Traci Sincock.

But this tried solution falls short as new homes and developments require more rec space. Ironically, it is these developments that are claiming land once used for play.

Issues of land ownership also challenge township acquisition of land, according to Woodside.

"About one-third of the township is institutionally or publicly held, so it's tough to acquire land," Woodside said.

Suburban sprawl also puts recreation space in greater demand but shorter supply.

Vacant state and county-owned properties look increasingly like enticing buys for the township, Woodside said.

The Fairweather Center and Phoenix properties, currently owned by the state and county respectively, are among them.

The 63-acre Phoenix parcel, located across from the Phoenix Correctional Facility on Beck and Five Mile road, may be on the market.

The Fairweather Center is located at the corner of Five Mile and Sheldon. Buildings on the state-owned property have been abandoned for more than three years. It was the site of a death in January, when Livonia youth Scott Brown, fell from the roof after drinking there with friends one night.

The site currently is being appraised for sale by the state. Woodside said the township is eyeing these parcels as a chance to fatten its lean rec lands.

But when the lands will be available, and at what cost, is yet unknown.

"There are probably a number of people interested in the Phoenix property," Dawn Flynn, Northville Township manager, said. Competition for the land may drive the price out of the township's price range.

The Fairweather Center may be affordable, but its sale might not come soon enough to meet Northville's needs in a timely fashion, according to Woodside.

Appraisal of the property, demolition of abandoned buildings and state department processes may gum-up sale of the property, slowing it by as much as a year, Woodside said.

"It shouldn't take that long," she said. "It's ridiculous."

Participation in recreation department leagues and programs continues to grow with the population, however. Its soccer program alone enrolls more than 1,500 people.

Fields are used and overused. The demand for rec space continues. Acute need is felt.

"Programs like our spring soccer league are in jeopardy," Woodside said. "We've expressed interest in the public lands. Sen. (Robert) Geake and Rep. (Gerald) Law have been very helpful in pursuing this with the state," she added.

"We have to move somewhere else very quickly."

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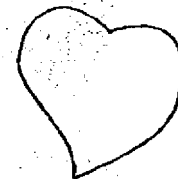
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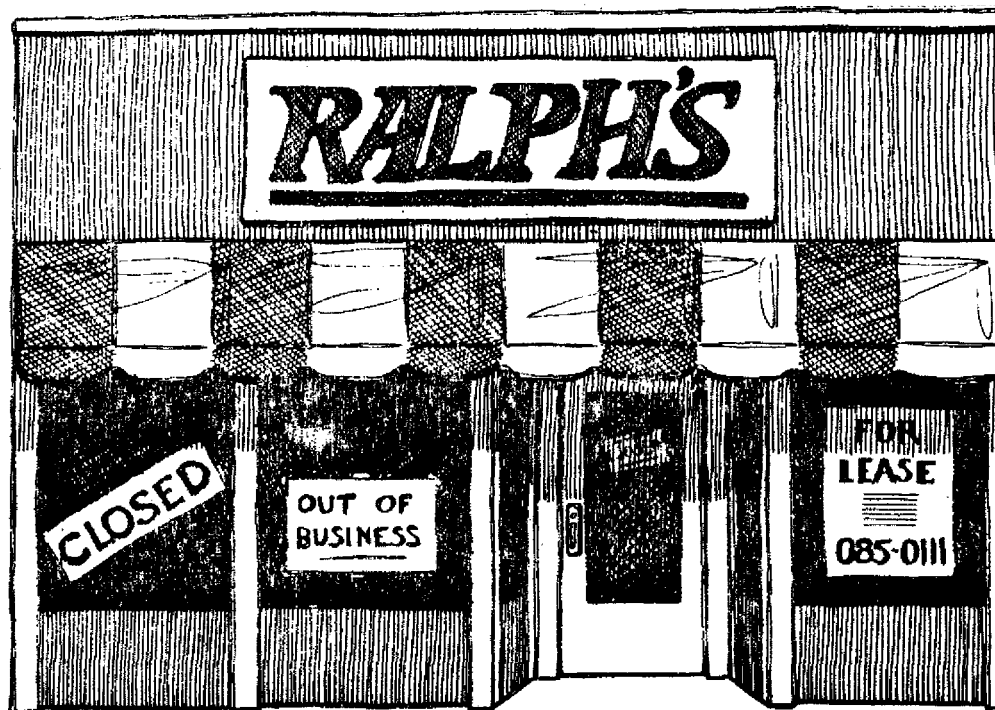
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| #5 I'm going through a divorce and my husband is suing me. | #76 I'm saving all my money for a buying trip to Toronto. | #123 The newspaper ran a story on one of my competitors. |
| #8 I spent all my money on stocking the shop. | #82 My brother-in-law is taking a marketing course in night school and he says advertising doesn't work. | #124 Your newspaper ran a story when I crashed my car into the hotel lobby. |
| #12 I've never had to advertise. | #84 My cousin's next-door-neighbor's kids are putting flyers on windshields downtown — I think. | #137 The newspaper prints "negative" letters. |
| #17 The newspaper makes too much money. | #88 I advertise on our matchbook covers. | #140 The newspaper favors Canton High School. |
| #25 I don't have anything to advertise. | #89 I mail to our customer list. | #141 The newspaper favors Salem High School. |
| #31 I have to paint the outside of my store. | #93 I don't get any advertising allotment from the home office/parent company. | #142 The newspaper favors the Rotary Club. |
| #38 My accountant says I can't spend any money. | #98 I don't have any co-op dollars. | #143 The newspaper favors the Lions Club. |
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| #41 My wife says I can't spend any money. | #110 My name is well known in town. | #149 The newspaper prints too much Canton news. |
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Leagues popular & practical choice

BY LINDA KOCHANIK

Golf leagues are becoming more popular than ever. Across the area enrollments are increasing, but for a variety of reasons.

The sport gives people a chance to get together with other golfers for fun and to improve their games. It also offers a range of leagues, with skill levels from beginner to advanced. There are leagues for men, women, youth, seniors and co-ed.

Comradery and guaranteed tee times are among the more common reasons for the formation of leagues.

Lowell Weaver, from the Links of Whitmore, said, "Leagues

guarantee a tee time for those on it, even on beautiful-weather days. In turn, promising that the golf course will have players on slower days."

Most courses favor this, as a portion of them depend heavily on league revenues for fiscal survival.

Courses in the area have leagues open now. To look into joining one, contact a local golf course or check with a church or workplace for leagues. Hickory Creek, Links of Whitmore and Fox Hills are a few courses that still have space. but they're filling up fast, so sign up soon and enjoy the game.



With golf rising in popularity, many different brands of golfing equipment are becoming available at golf stores. Even buying a hat can be a difficult choice.

The pre-tee 1-2-3: Golf's triplet of etiquette, the key to fun

Have you hugged your clubs today?

That seems to be the question across the lips of many Plymouth-Canton-Northville residents lately. Spring has sprung and the golf courses are now busy with people trying to freshen their game.

Here are a few things to remember that will help everyone have a great time on the course, from beginner to pro:

1. Practice good course etiquette — Be conscious of where you stand, when you speak and how to move so as not to be disruptive to the players in your group. Take care of the course you play on. Make a habit of replacing divots, raking bunkers and repairing ball and spike marks. Don't walk across a ball's line to

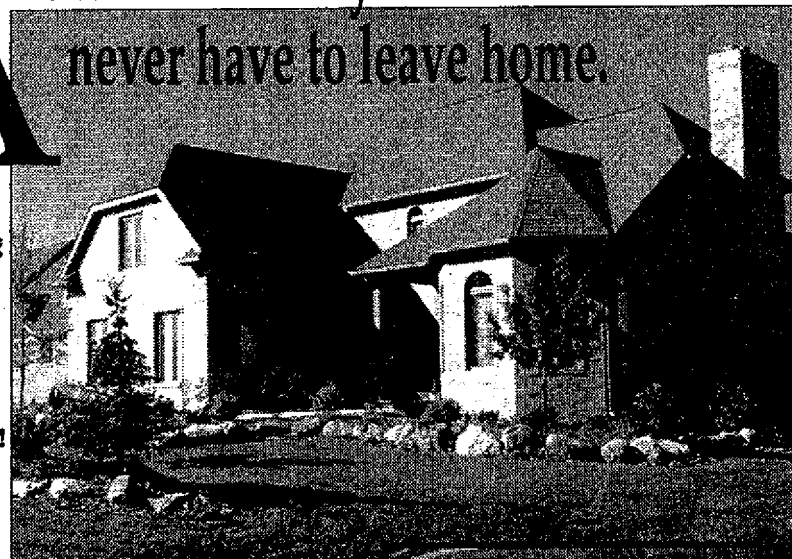
the cup. Also, be ready to play when it is your turn.

2. Stretching — Before hitting at the practice range or playing a round, pay particular attention to stretching your back, shoulders and arms. This added flexibility will help your golf game and reduce your chances of injury. Remember, flexibility is the key to power.

3. Be Prepared — Here is a list of items to keep you prepared for any situation you meet. In your golf bag you should pack: aspirin, bug repellent, bandages, water, ball markers, a hat, an extra pair of socks, an umbrella, a lightweight rain suit, a towel, extra gloves, a sweater, sunscreen, supply of golf balls and tees, extra pencils and an official rule book, golf jokes and a sense of humor. Have fun— it's golf!

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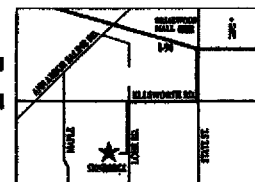
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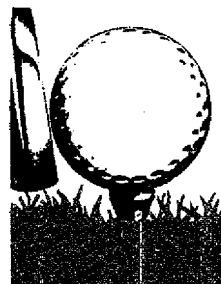
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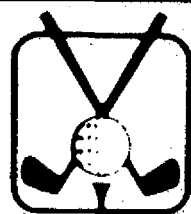
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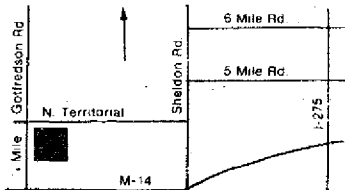
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Strut your stuff as you dodge the rough

Plaid knickers and tassles — hah! It's haute course coture in golfers shoes and clothes

BY LINDA KOCHANEK

Golf — it's not just for preppies anymore.

Some say fashions in the golf world are quirky. At one time, alligators and polyester prevailed. But for the 1997 season there's a whole new look of status and fun on the course.

The golfing attire style used to cater to the old-school golfer, but now it is a fast-growing sport with younger generations, too. This is apparent in the new styles of golf shoes.

Mike Molnar, manager at the ProGolf Discount in Canton, said, "The biggest surprise in footwear is the golf shoe that looks

like a Berkenstock sandal." It has brighter colors and can be worn without the traditional socks. *Tres college, tres young.*

For women there are also new "booties" with leopard or cow prints.

"The majority of styles made aren't marketed just for the retirees anymore," Molnar said. "Everything is going high tech."

"The ladies' line is a bit more radical than the guys," said Michael Chastine, customer service representative for Las Vegas Discount Golf and Tennis in Canton. When asked about the new fashion for men, he said, "The great white shark from Australia, the new Greg Norman line, is in big this season. This clothing line is updated twice a year, and it seems to get a lot of looks from customers."

If sandals and cow prints still aren't your style, then don't fret. A full line of traditional styles remain to fill every golfer's fashion needs.

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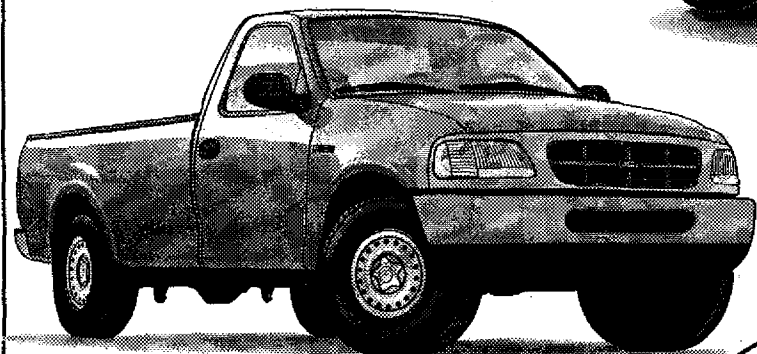
Living on the fairway; a golfer's dream

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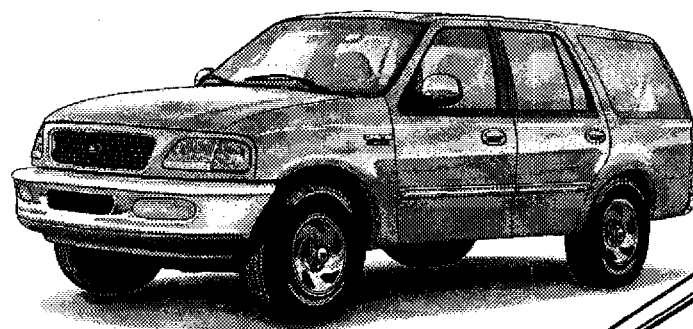


With Canton growing at an unprecedented rate, more and more subdivisions are popping up next to area golf courses, and vice versa, as is the case in this subdivision which neighbors Pheasant Run Golf Course. It's an ideal situation for golf lovers who don't want to travel far to play a round.

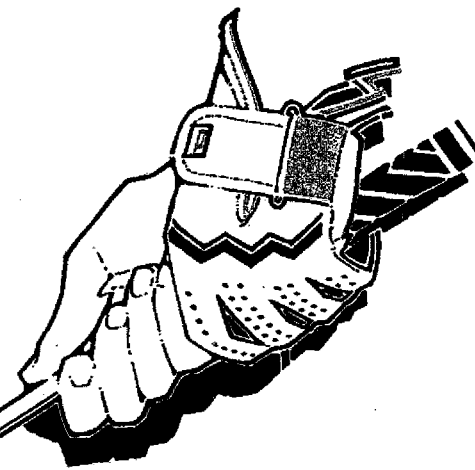
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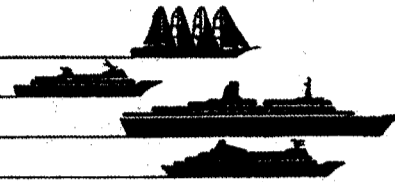
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THE CRIER: April 9, 1997 Page 27

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March 28, 1997

W. Edward Wendover, Publisher
The Community Crier
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COMMA, Crier announce staff changes

Several changes have been made to the staff of The Community Crier and COMMA.

Bryon Martin will take the place of Rob Kirkbride as editor of The Crier. Martin, a 1991 graduate of Canton High School and 1996 graduate of Michigan State University, is the only editor of The Crier to have graduated from the Plymouth-Canton School District since

W. Edward Wendover started the paper more than 24 years ago.

Also joining the editorial staff as reporters are Jillian Bogater, a 1988 graduate of Salem High School and 1992 graduate of Central Michigan University, and Scott Spielman, a 1986 graduate of Plymouth Christian Academy and 1996 graduate of the University of Oregon.

Rhonda Delonis was named art and production director for The Community Crier and COMMA. Delonis is a 1989 graduate of Canton High School and a 1996 graduate of Eastern Michigan University.

Cynthia Gray was named public relations director for COMMA. She will handle COMMA's accounts in Monroe and Oakland counties.

"Never before have we had so many people on staff with ties to The Plymouth-Canton Community," said Crier Publisher and COMMA, President W. Edward Wendover.

"We continue to be committed to serve this community. What better way than with people who were born and raised here?"



Community deaths

Obituaries

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

STANLEY RUSSELL

Stanley Russell, a Canton resident, died April 2, 1997 at the age of 78.

Mr. Russell was born July 28, 1918 in Islin, PA. He was a plant security officer for Ford Motor Company. He was a member of St. John Nuemann Catholic Church in Canton, and a member of the Eagles.

He is survived by his wife, Frances of Canton, daughter, Vickie (Danny) Demers of Canton, sister, Sophie Tessier of Minden City, and grandchildren, Kristin and Mark Demers.

Services were held at St. John Neumann Catholic Church with the Rev. Father George Charnley officiating. Arrangements were made by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

REV. SAMUEL MARTIN BACKMAN

Rev. Samuel Martin Backman, a Westland resident, died April 7, 1997 at the age of 64.

Rev. Backman was born May 3, 1932 in Newell, SD. He was the senior pastor at the First Baptist Church of Northville. He worked as a missionary in Brazil for more than 30 years, starting seven churches; six on the Amazon and one in the prairies of Central Brazil. He graduated from Praire Bible Institute and Seattle Pacific College and organized campus Bible studies and prayer meetings.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley of Westland; sons, David (Carrie) Backman of Canton, Paul of Westland; daughter,

Cathy (Todd) Shamie of Canton; brothers, Olaf Backman, a missionary in France, Axel Backman Jr., of California, Milford Backman of California; sisters, Margaret Williams of Washington, Joy Flood of Washington; parents, Axel and Ida Backman of Washington; and five grandchildren.

Service will be held Friday, April 11 at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Northville with Pastor Rob White, Pastor Steve Sparks and Pastor Al Larson officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Livonia. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial tributes can be given to the Rev. Backman Memorial Fund.

Vera Opal Blackshear, 91, child care attendant

Vera Opal Blackshear, a Plymouth resident, died March 11, 1997.

She is survived by her sister, Merle Cavender of Plymouth; four nieces and one nephew. She is preceded in death by her husband, Frank.

Services were at Oakland Hills Cemetery with Pastor Paul F. White officiating. Arrangements were made by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

Donald A. Babcock, 50, quality engineer

Donald A. Babcock, a Canton resident, died March 19, 1997.

He is survived by his parents; wife, Gayle; daughters, Deanna and Kathleen of Canton; and one sister.

Services will be held Sat. March 22, at The Solid Rock Bible Church in Plymouth with Rev. Rob White officiating. Arrangements were made by McCabe Funeral Home in Canton. Memorial tributes can be given to Community Hospice.

James Alfred Poulson, 83, Ford Motor Company

James Alfred Poulson, a Plymouth resident, died March 20, 1997.

He is survived by many friends.

Private services were held and arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial tributes can be given to Arbor Hospice.

Ethel Foushee Burns, 74

Ethel Foushee Burns, a former Plymouth resident, died March 30, 1997.

She is survived by one daughter; one son; and one sister.

Arrangements were made by and services held at Jernigan-Warren Funeral Home in North Carolina with Philip McCall officiating. Burial was at Maplewood Cemetery in Durham, NC.

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Is Northville Parks and Recreation sharing a goal for Plymouths?

Northville officials willing to discuss merging recreation programs

BY BRIAN CORBETT

The City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township could possibly look northward, instead of inward, as an answer for the City's financially troubled Parks and Recreation Department.

With talks apparently stagnant between the City Commission and the Township Board of Trustees regarding cooperative recreation services, community officials might find a receptive partner across Five Mile Road — the Northvilles.

Officials from Northville City and Township said they would not rule out a future consolidation of the recreation programs.

"We would always explore the opportunity to work with other communities," said Northville Township Supervisor Karen Woodside. "Anytime we can better serve the residents of our community and reduce the tax dollars paid by our citizens, we'll look into it."

"I'm aware of Plymouth and Plymouth Township meeting to try and solve their problems," said Northville City Manager Gary Word. "But there's been no formal invitation to Northville for consolidation of recreation services. We're not necessarily willing to do that, but we'd be willing to discuss that."

The possibility remains because both programs need help, though Plymouth's situation is certainly more serious.

The Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department has temporarily canceled classes at the Cultural Center, and is cutting its staff by three employees. Also, the Parks and Recreation Department has limited, if any, expansion possibilities in the City of 2.27 square miles.

There's been meetings between members of the City Commission and the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees to discuss recreation consolidation, but the talks have slowed to a crawl as the Township awaits the results of community-wide survey to determine residents' interest in recreation services. A municipality of 23,686 citizens, the Township currently has no recreation department, but residents are allowed to use City programs with little or no extra cost.

"The City is going along as though the Township isn't going to do anything," said Plymouth Parks and Recreation Director Tom Willette.

In Northville, the Parks and Recreation Department should have

an additional 107 acres of land earmarked for recreation, according to population figures. "We are in a very bad situation," said Woodside.

Subdivisions have swallowed up hundreds of acres, and sent property prices soaring. "Land is very valuable in (Northville) Township, and we haven't purchased any land. Now, we have to purchase land at a more valuable price," said Woodside.

Compounding the property crunch, one-third of Northville Township's land is owned by state institutions. The Northville Parks and Recreation Department is being forced to vacate the four soccer fields on the Wayne County Child Development Center land along Sheldon Road, which is being sold to private entities. "We have so much public land, yet we have so little recreation," said Woodside.

While the City of Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department's future is uncertain as it awaits Township notification, Northville's joint recreation services millage expires next year.

The situation is frustrating for both communities, because the existing programs are extremely popular. Northville's number of program participants has jumped by 25 percent in two years to 13,128 in 1996. "The way I look at it, it's onward and upward," said Northville Parks and Recreation Director Traci Sincock.

Might a joint agreement between the communities be a long-term solution? Without formal discussions and research, the benefits are not easily identifiable, officials say.

But there are some intriguing possibilities, and the concept is not that far-fetched. Both departments already share some services either with each other or other communities.

Plymouth has the Cultural Center ice rink and banquet facilities, which Northville lacks. Northville offers land for expansion.

There are preliminary discussions with the Northville School District to use Northville High School as a recreation center, pending June voter bond approval for a new high school, which would be built on Six Mile Road, between Beck and Sheldon roads.

"The Northville School District is pursuing a new high school. If that comes to pass, they have informally offered us the existing high school," said Word.

But that option is years away from reality, and both parks and recreation departments would like to see action immediately. "The time to move was yesterday," said Woodside.

Druken among Whaler award winners

Several Detroit Whalers walked away with post season honors last week, including forward Harold Druken, the only team member to be nominated for a Canadian Hockey League award.

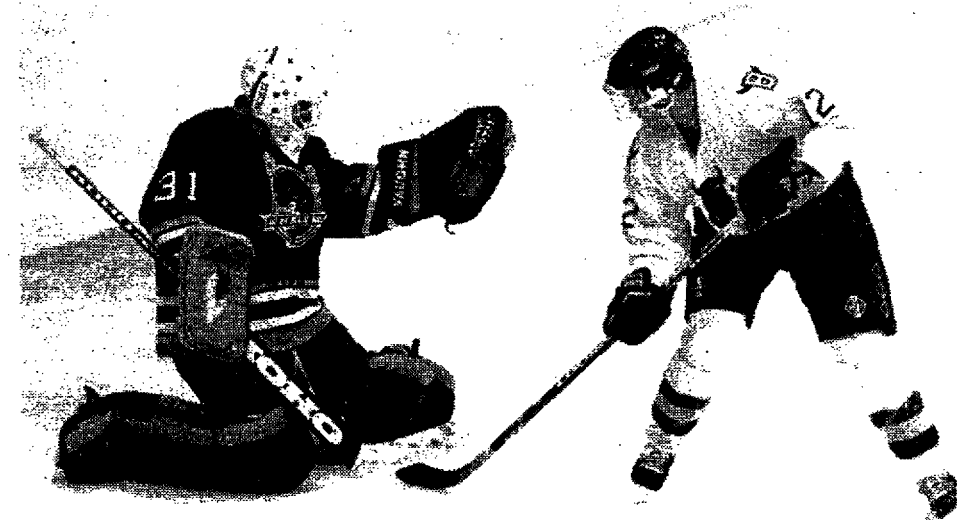
Druken, a native of St. John's Newfoundland, was named the Whalers'

Rookie of the Year, and placed third in the same category in OHL voting by coaches and general managers. Druken scored 27 goals and had 58 points last season for Detroit. The OHL Rookie of the Year award was won by Windsor's Peter Sarno.

Robert Esche was the named the Whalers' Most Valuable Player, and placed third in the OHL Goaltender of the Year voting, won by Peterborough's Zac Bierk. Esche was an OHL All-Star and played for Team USA in the World Junior Championships, and finished the regular season with a 3.81 goals against average in 58 games, a 24-28-2 record and two shutouts. He led all goaltenders in minutes played with 3,241. Esche is a sixth-round selection of the NHL's Phoenix Coyotes.

Other individual Detroit Whaler award winners are: Steve Wasylo (Most Sportsmanlike Player of the Year), Luc Rioux (Scholastic Player of the Year), Jan Vodrazka (Best Defenseman), Andrew Taylor (CHL Top Scorer), and Mike Morrone (Humanitarian Award).

In the OHL West Division's coaches poll, Taylor was tied with Joe Seroski (Sault Ste. Marie) and Jeff Zehr (Windsor) for Most Improved Player. Mark Cadotte tied with Windsor's Matt Elich for Best Skater. Vodrazka tied for second in the Best Body Checker category, and Randy Fitzgerald finished second in two awards, Best Penalty Killer and Hardest Worker.



Detroit Whalers goalie Robert Esche was one of several players to receive post season awards. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

On deck

CANTON BASEBALL

Games begin at 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Wednesday at John Glenn. Saturday at home versus Novi (DH) at 11 a.m. Monday at Harrison.

CANTON BOYS TENNIS

Matches begin at 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Thursday at Riverview. Saturday at the Monroe Invitational. Monday at home versus Stevenson.

CANTON BOYS TRACK

Tomorrow at John Glenn at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at Ann Arbor Pioneer at 10 a.m.

CANTON GIRLS GOLF

Matches begin at 3 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Today at Ann Arbor Huron. Friday at the Ann Arbor Invitational. Monday at home versus Walled Lake Central.

CANTON GIRLS SOCCER

Games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Tonight at home versus Stevenson. Saturday at Troy at 3 p.m. Monday at John Glenn at 4 p.m.

CANTON SOFTBALL

Games begin at 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Today at John Glenn. Monday at home versus Harrison.

CANTON GIRLS TRACK

Tomorrow at home versus John Glenn at 3:30 p.m.

SALEM BASEBALL

Games begin at 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Wednesday at Franklin. Saturday at Traverse City (DH) at 1 p.m. Monday at home versus Farmington.

SALEM BOYS TENNIS

Matches begin at 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Tomorrow at home versus Grosse Ile. Saturday at the Monroe Invitational (TBA). Monday at John Glenn.

SALEM BOYS TRACK

Tomorrow at home versus Churchill at 5:30 p.m.

SALEM GIRLS GOLF

Tee time is 3 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Today at Ann Arbor Huron. Monday at Grosse Ile.

SALEM GIRLS SOCCER

Games begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Today at John Glenn at 4 p.m. Friday at home versus Novi. Monday at home versus Farmington.

SALEM SOFTBALL

Games begin at 4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Today at Franklin. Friday at Ann Arbor Pioneer (DH) at 3:30 p.m. Monday at Farmington.

SALEM GIRLS TRACK

Tomorrow at Churchill at 3:30 p.m.



Community Opinions

Ginsberg inspired 17-year-old Canton student

The first time I met Beat poet Allen Ginsberg, I was a 17-year-old with an assignment. My "Approaching the Arts" teacher, Barb Masters, had arranged a poetry reading with him at Canton High School.

Notebook in hand, I sat in the school's auditorium and listened as the modern-day poet laureate performed for us. I watched in wonderment as this old bearded guy with a squeeze box sang out of tune and passionately read his poetry. Little did I know what an effect he would have on my life.

This first meeting came to mind when I read of Ginsberg's death late last week. My first reaction was shock, as it seemed only yesterday when I saw him read with poet/songstress Patti Smith. But then a sadness set in as I realized how human this made him. Ginsberg was 70 years old, the average life span for a man today. Ironically, his life was anything but average.

When I was a student at Salem High School in the mid-1980s, I knew exactly what I wanted to be in life: a modern-day Beat poet, wearing black and burning

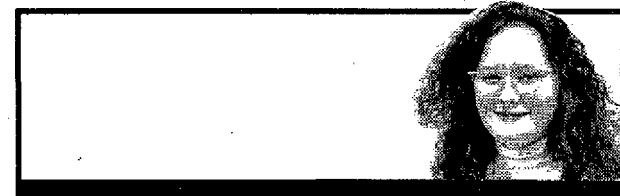
incense all the time. But then reality set in, and I realized this fantasy would not pay the bills.

Shortly after I decided to go into journalism, I saw Ginsberg again and he said something that profoundly affecting my writing style. Simply said: "First thought, best thought." This opened a new stream of consciousness writing style that helped my writing to become more spontaneous, and surprisingly, more concise.

His effect on the local community is immeasurable. He was a great friend to this area, visiting nearby Ann Arbor, and sometimes Plymouth, several times a year.

A group of local Ginsberg devotees have organized a poetry reading in his memory. The event will take place at 8 p.m. Thursday at the Plymouth Coffee Bean Company, located at the corner of Penniman and Harvey.

I've read that Ginsberg spent his last days surrounded by close friends while writing poetry about his impending death. An avid Buddhist, I believe he walked into nirvana — an escape from mortality and suffering — with a calm



smile on his face.

*Touch what you touch
Think what you think
Let go, let it go slow
Earth, heaven and hell ...*

*Die when you die
Die when you die
Lie down, you lie down
Die when you die.*

— "Gospel Noble Truths"
Allen Ginsberg

Temple Baptist mixes high-tech, common sense message

There was a buzz of excitement in the air as I found my way down the newly carpeted halls, past the elevators, into the main auditorium. Smiling people milled about as I settled down into a new, theater-type seat.

The stage was hidden behind a plush curtain with colored lights glaring down at it. A full orchestra was warming up in the orchestra pit. I sat down, looked up at a pair of video screens on either side of the auditorium, and waited for the show.

Show? Wait a minute; this was church. Temple Baptist Church. Big-time religion has come to Plymouth.

The service was an eclectic mix of concert, drama and sermon. The church's

Off the cuff By Scott Spielman



huge choir sang inspirational, upbeat songs, as the congregation clapped along in rhythm. Choir and band members then acted out a mini-drama that illustrated the point of the morning's sermon.

Finally the pastor took the pulpit and delivered his sermon. The gigantic video screens on either side of the pulpit alternated between close-ups of him as he preached and the outline of his sermon.

This was high-tech Christianity at its best.

Some say that the new facility is too big and showy. They say that all the multicolored lights, video screens and theater-type seating and sound system make it sound more like a concert hall and not all that holy.

I disagree. In a world where organized religion is often seen in an unflattering light, it makes sense to break down some

stereotypes and present a positive, open environment. When was the last time you had fun at church?

Pastor Powell's often-humorous sermons are easily absorbed because of his relaxed speaking style, and genuine connection with the problems we all face — no matter what religion.

In today's often-harsh environment where many churches turn younger prospective members off with doom and gloom and hellfire sermons, it is good to have a place where you can go relax and celebrate.

Who knows, you may even make a habit out of it.

'Ideal class size' in P-C Schools subject to interpretation

EDITOR:

Mrs. Lamar, it is certainly unappealing to be labeled "unconcerned" since I do have many concerns. Influential conversation and debate does go on outside of short forums. It is unbelievable to hear that since I missed "the deadline" to participate, my ideas and comments don't count as much.

I liken that to telling an innocent man sitting in the electric chair that he doesn't have a chance for appeal, too bad, we've made our decision and you're going to fry. I trusted my elected representatives to look at the whole story and come up with good conclusions. In February, I finally saw some information and became concerned that something was missing in the story being told. It was quite a whirlwind from then to March 22.

I am wide awake. A 27-year ex-resident of Canton, electrical engineer, sometimes software writer, technical writer and trainer with a 5-year-old, having evaluated many children's software programs myself, I am well aware of the state of things. I've researched and discussed how computer technology has been implemented in other states and in our state. Despite it being 1997, school-based start-ups remain a hunt-and-peck process. Read the Newsweek fall/winter issue at Little Professor, dedicated to computers and the family. Also the Wall Street Journal article, March 19, among many other stories.

Mrs. Murphy, the only strangers who called me as a result of my letters and board meeting comments were those who questioned the bond assumptions too and wanted to know what I had to say. No non-elected citizen who supported the bond, trying to get the word out thought, "I didn't see Glenn at the forums, I wonder why he doesn't agree with all of our overwhelming evidence. Maybe I should call him and see what he has to say that may enrich our bond proposal." Instead, I was lambasted.

Obviously, Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent Charles Little himself did not say that children will fail. However, with limited print space, I have to catch a general idea. The Crier is gracious enough to print the few words I do provide. Little is the figurehead for a movement and, as such, represents the general sentiment. The sentiment, even stated again in the letter next to yours, is vote "yes" for educational success. What does the opposite

imply? Absolutely, I am for success, however not at the expense of missing information and hearing the answer to why it worked before, under much more extreme conditions, and not now under easier conditions.

Determining "ideal class size" is the foundation of the decision to build, or not, and how much. A voter's decision hinges on how the number is derived and how honestly it is presented in a complete story.

State guidelines are given as the key evidence to build. What gives the number its importance? How do you make it "real" in our district? Who says it's real? Its reality and strength comes from the outcome of our schools — educational quality.

I believe the quality of education dictates how many students can be in a class, not the other way around. The dismaying disconnect for me is that class size did not limit success for us in the past. The perception and reality through the '70s and '80s was one of excellence, with larger class sizes.

Today we enjoy the luxury of low class sizes, yet the perception and reality is that educational results aren't excellent anymore, as compared to our own district.

How can you present a complete, honest picture to the public without showing class sizes from the opening of the high schools to now, without looking at the perceived and real trend in educational success from the beginning to now, without looking at the actual numbers of students in the district in the past (thousands more) as compared to now?

Do you know these numbers? Without an accurate, historical context, you cannot make a valid conclusion about how big a class should be in our district.

Where is the written historical perspective, a quality based perspective resulting from the forums, for me to read and think about? In my opinion, the corrective action has not been taken yet. We got the schools, but at what price through an incomplete story?

The bond addresses conditions that will help take the edge off a changed educational system. With bricks and mortar and computers the perception of quality will certainly improve.

GLENN KREMER



Community opinions

Bond fighters have sore loser attitude

On March 22, 1997 our Plymouth-Canton Community passed a bond proposal for our school district to benefit our children and our community as a whole.

This is a great accomplishment that few Michigan school districts have been able to attain in recent years. Many people from some of these other districts have asked me how we did it because they are in awe. I tell these people that we had a great team of dedicated people that worked hard and provided information and facts.

Above all, the school district and the Citizens' Election Committee ran an open and honest campaign with a totally positive attitude. This campaign was also a grass roots campaign with ideas and concerns coming from our community. We stressed "Plymouth-Canton Community" because that's what our school district is. The Citizens' Election Committee is very proud of the campaign

we ran and its results.

This brings me to what is happening now in terms of requests for a recount. I have no problem with a recount and believe citizens have every right to ask for one.

However, what disturbs me is who is asking for the recount and what their motives are. Roland Thomas publicly announced at a Plymouth-Canton School Board Meeting that he would not challenge the election and he lied because he has done just that, along with his buddies that believe that they should be running things, not our own community of people.

They are pitting Plymouth vs. Canton and I'm tired of it and angry. I have personally worked very hard to dispel this attitude for the past several months and find it to be immature and childish.

The people that want this recount have said that they believe the count will come out the same, so I can only conclude that

they will take their sore-losing attitude to court and prolong the process. This may not matter to these people because the majority of them do not have school age children.

It does, however, matter to the rest of us who have children that will suffer because of their potential actions. These children will be from Canton, Plymouth, Northville and Salem — wherever our school district touches. By delaying planning and construction, my own son may be a junior, not a sophomore, before we have three high schools. That makes it personal and I am very disturbed by how this may affect his education.

I am going to ask the people behind this effort to let it go after the recount. Our community does not need to go through this. But, most of all, our children have earned and deserve to have less crowding in their schools. Aren't the kids what it is all about?

SUSAN KOPINSKI

Traffic volume at Temple Baptist already high

EDITOR:

I went to the Plymouth Township Board of Trustee meetings to protest against Temple Baptist building their structure at the corner of North Territorial and Ridge roads.

My case was: The volume of traffic will be too much for that corner.

That piece of land was for low-volume housing. I believe it was to be 250 home sites. With an average of three cars per home, there would be 750 cars. Naturally, not all cars would leave at the same time so nobody would have to wait nearly a half hour to be able to have access to Ridge Road.

Even at peak holidays would there be traffic tie-ups of even a 10-minute wait to enter Ridge Road.

Temple Baptist assured us at the meetings traffic would be routed south on Ridge, then to Beck Road. This would be done to keep traffic at Ridge and North Territorial to a minimum.

But now, traffic is not going south. The Township Supervisor

and Board would not listen. Why? They don't live there. I bet they don't have to wait 20-30 minutes to leave their home.

There is a very simple solution to the traffic dilemma. While Temple Baptist parking lot is emptying, all residents on Ridge Road could stay home. That way, no problem will be apparent.

A note to Mr. Kenyon:

You would rather see the church than a bunch of houses. Just wait until you can look at the baseball fields and the concert hall. If you think 24 minutes is too long to count cars, stay tuned my friend.

The traffic volume is going to be a whole lot more. Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays — you'll be saying "Remember when we only had to wait this long on Sundays?"

You'll be counting more than cars. You'll be counting rescue vehicles and police cars.

Isn't progress great?

PAUL REVOLDT

Editor will remember P-C Community as classroom

When I started working at The Community Crier Jan. 17, 1994 I got more than a new job. I found a home.

Along the way, I also found a wonderful wife and was blessed with a child.

But the time has come to move on. It's time to cover a new beat, meet new coworkers and take what I've learned to a new employer.

Friday is my last day as editor of The Community Crier. By Monday I'll be at my new office at The Ann Arbor News.

Over the past three years, I've learned a lot about the newspaper business, family life and community.

Thank you for letting me use The Plymouth-Canton Community as my classroom.

To be sure, I learned a lot while covering breaking news stories like the Sheldon Road Plant shootings (both of them), the airplane crash at Mettetal and water pipe break on Ann Arbor Trail.

Most journalists would be happy to cover those exciting, crazy moments that only happen a few times in a reporter's career.

But one thing I've learned while working at The Crier is that the most important, most touching moments come from interaction with the public on a daily basis.

No curves

By Rob Kirkbride



I'll never forget the woman who won the Archway Cookie bake-off, the handicapped boy who was given a bicycle by the Plymouth Rock Lodge, the kids who brought their pets to the Pet Parade at Fall Festival in the pouring rain, or the giving spirit of those who helped the victims of the Penniman Avenue apartment fire last year.

Those are the people who truly shaped me as a journalist. They were my teachers.

As I move on, I'll continue to look back fondly at this point in my life and use my experiences to guide me.

I'll also be an avid reader of The Community Crier. It's a community treasure — something I'm very proud and honored to have been a part of.

Although my job is changing, my family and I will still be around town. We'll be at the Farmer's Market, Liberty Festival and Kellogg Park — this community is in our blood.

The Community Crier



THE
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