



The Community Crier

The Newspaper with Its Heart in The Plymouth-Canton, MI Community

Vol. 24 No. 51

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January 21, 1998



'Playing the crowd...' Before crowds in Plymouth for the Ice Spectacular, P-C Schools' "supporters" picketed Attorney Steve Boak's office Thursday. Boak is legal counsel to Jerry Vorva, who filed the suit that has delayed sale of the school-building bond. (Crier photo by Bryon Martin)

District to buy school site

BY BRYON MARTIN

What's the hurry?

Before they've sold the bonds intended to finance the purchase, the Plymouth-Canton School Board has signed an agreement to buy a privately owned parcel of property at the northwest corner of Cherry Hill and Beck roads, in Canton.

The 16.5-acre parcel, which will host a new elementary school, will be bought with \$700,000 from the district's Capital Improvement Fund, instead of the bonds originally approved for the purchase, according to Board President Mark Horvath.

But the proper question might not be 'what's the hurry,' but 'what took so long'.

P-C schools have been in "ongoing negotiations for some time" for the parcel, according to Horvath, who called it a good buy.

"I'm very excited about the property," he said. The Cherry Hill-Beck site is central to the area where the district has said it wants to build: parts of Canton now growing and expected to grow more. District documents claim more than 700 homes are being built in subdivisions around the site.

The district announced its intentions to buy such a parcel in southwest Canton in early 1997, when details in the March 22 bond were being worked out.

According to Horvath, the district "was made aware of the parcel long ago." This site was the district's first choice, he said.

What has held up the purchase, he said, is the ongoing lawsuit filed against the bond.

Sale of bond has not yet begun as it awaits further action in a lawsuit now before the Wayne County Court of Appeals. Sales are unlikely until a resolution in the case is reached. Had the bonds been sold following their March 22 approval by voters, the money for the purchase would have been available sooner.

The bond delays were hurting the district's chances of getting a site they wanted, he said. "Property goes quickly in Canton."

With the board's approval, the district gained permission to enter a purchase agreement with Eleanor Wiles, who now owns the property.

A close on the deal may still be three months away, pending environmental tests.

Canton P.D. pursues 'interesting' robbery

Report raises questions, police say

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Canton Police are investigating an armed robbery that occurred in the Canton Crossing Apartments complex Thursday.

According to police reports two male victims, 31-year-old Tim Brown of New Boston and 27-year-old Westland resident Scott Perpignani were in the apartment of Kathryn Fischer, 30, who was out shopping.

Brown, who was in the kitchen, felt someone tap him on the shoulder. He turned around to see a man with a nylon over his head pointing a gun in his face, according to reports.

Perpignani said he was playing computer games when he heard a scuffle and saw two men punching and kicking Brown.

The two men allegedly pointed guns at Brown and Perpignani and ordered them to get on the ground, and kept asking: "Where's the money," according to reports.

The suspects then taped the victims hands behind their backs, reports said, and forced them into the bedroom, where they taped their legs together and placed pillows over their heads, threatening to kill them if they didn't tell where the money was.

The suspects began ransacking the place looking for money, according to reports.

Fischer returned home while the suspects were searching her apartment. The suspects forced her into the bedroom, taped her up and asked her where her boyfriend kept the money.

Fischer told the suspects, and they took the \$260 hidden in the apartment, along with about \$40 from Brown's wallet and Perpignani's leather jacket, according to reports.

"This is a very interesting case," he said. "We don't yet know if it was drug-related, what the motive was or if it was a simple robbery," Canton Police Ofc. Leonard Schemanske said.

'Something smells funny. I don't think it was a falsified report, but I think there was some vital information left out.'

**Ofc. Leonard Schemanske
Canton P.D.**

According to Schemanske, although the robbery happened between 7:30 and 8:15 p.m. Thursday, Fischer and Perpignani didn't report the crime until the following day.

Schemanske also said that when questioned, Fischer told police that she

hadn't touched anything in the apartment, and had spent the night in a Red Roof Inn in Plymouth. When police arrived to examine the apartment, however, it had been cleaned.

Neighbors have been questioned, but thus far no one claims to have seen or heard anything unusual at the time the crime was committed, Schemanske said.

"Something smells funny," he said. "I don't think it was a falsified report, but I think there was some vital information left out."

Police have recovered the tape that was allegedly used to restrain the victims, Schemanske said.

Canton police are investigating all leads, according to Schemanske.

"This is a very serious situation. Those people are lucky they weren't shot," he said. "It's not very often that something like this happens in this community."

Like magic

East Middle Schooler leads in magic club fundraiser

See Friends & Neighbors pg. 6

Changing recipes

New management changes name, focus of Timber Creek

See Getting Down to Business pg. 8

On the road

What's it like to travel with the Whalers? Brian Corbett knows

See Sports pgs. 18-21

Pomorski promoted to Sergeant

Position blends patrol, detective duties for storied officer

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

You can't take a pizza from a killer.

A simple, odd phrase, yet enough to help newly-promoted Sgt. Rick Pomorski solve one of the more difficult cases he has seen during his 10 year stint in Canton's detective bureau.

The case involved a man who was shot several years ago in Canton Commons. There were no eyewitnesses, no leads. Pomorski and his partner, Jerry Hardesty, who was promoted to sergeant early last year, went to a pizza parlor to interview someone who delivered to the area. He offered them a pizza.

"I just got this strange, gut feeling and I turned to Jerry and said: 'You can't take a pizza from a killer,'" Pomorski said.

From the gut feeling, Pomorski and Hardesty slowly hammered out a case, which eventually led to the delivery man's arrest and conviction of First Degree murder; a case that was even shown on court TV.

Pomorski has been involved in solving some of Canton's most notorious murders,

including Leonard Tyburski, who killed his wife and hid her in his freezer, and the hit-and-run of Melissa Chissom. Last week, he was promoted to sergeant.

Pomorski started with the department as a cadet Aug. 8, 1980. He was made full patrol officer within a year and was the first and only Canton police officer to serve an indefinite assignment in the detective bureau.

"Usually assignments last three years," he said. "The department wanted someone to do the job longer than that, and they chose me."

Pomorski returned to patrol shortly before his promotion, but has nothing but good things to say about being a detective.

"It was an absolutely great job," he said. "When it came to following leads, I was only limited by my imagination. I've always been pretty inventive and I'd get a thought and follow it up. It would usually turn out pretty well."

One of those thoughts took him and some fellow detectives to Lansing to try and get a state bill passed, he said.

He was trying to have the second-hand sporting goods store Play It Again Sports designated as a pawn shop, so the store would be required to keep better track of the used equipment they purchased.

"What we had was a number of cases of people stealing golf clubs and other equipment from garages and selling them to Play It Again Sports," Pomorski said. "They're not required to keep any records, so there was no way of really tracking the equipment."

The bill was never passed, but Pomorski said he was glad to work for a progressive Public Safety Department like Canton's that would allow him and other detectives to go to Lansing to lobby for changes in the law.

Pomorski's new job as sergeant is a combination of detective and patrol officer tasks, he said. Traditionally, a patrol officer can follow up on immediate leads to any of his cases, while those requiring further investigation are turned over to the detective bureau.

Detectives are responsible for following leads that patrol officers don't have the time



SGT. RICK POMORSKI

or jurisdiction to follow, he said.

Pomorski will go out on patrol, and oversee the actions of other police officers, he said.

"It's like middle management," he said. "As a patrol officer I was just one person, but now I have other people working under me, and I can direct them."

"I'm going to miss the detective bureau, but one of the best things in life is change. This is a new challenge and I'm looking forward to it," he said.

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Raise for some Canton employes

4 per cent increase for non-union workers in line with other communities

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

The Canton Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously Tuesday to approve a four per cent increase in pay for all non-union employes.

The recommendation came after a Merit Commission study of communities of similar sizes, such as Waterford Township, Shelby Township and Redford Township, showed that most Canton officials were below average salary for similar positions.

"It's hard to get an apples-to-apples comparison," said Dave Medley, Canton's manager of Personnel Services. "A lot of communities have some of the same job titles, but different responsibilities. We try to benchmark positions found in most communities and determine market value."

The Commission also recommended the Township increase the reimbursement rates for employes who use their own cars for township duties.

'We try to be as impartial as we can. We don't want to be way out in left field paying people what they don't deserve, but we don't want to pay too little, either.'

Dave Medley
Canton Personnel Mgr.

The increase, from \$.26 per mile to \$.315 per mile, is the maximum allowed by the IRS.

The four per cent increase in salary will require a budget amendment, according to Dan Durack, Administrative and

Community Services director. Canton's 1998 budget included a three per cent increase in salary. The four per cent increase requires another \$22,000, Durack said.

The Merit Commission is a three-member civil service board created by a local ordinance, according to Medley, who also serves on the Merit Commission. It is responsible for oversight of hiring, firing and compensation of non-union employes.

One member of the Merit Commission is nominated by the Board of Trustees, another by Canton non-union employes, and the third by the first two commissioners, he said.

"We try to be as impartial as we can. We don't want to be way out in left field paying people what they don't deserve, but we don't want to pay too little, either," Medley said. "We try to determine the cost to attract someone to the job. It's one of those cases where you get what you pay for."

Spectacular draw: near 750,000

Municipal workers keep City straight during annual spectator siege

BY BRYON MARTIN

Streets in Plymouth's Central Business District were shut to vehicular traffic over the last six days — and this time, it didn't have anything to do with broken water mains or street repair projects.

Capacity crowds — an estimated 750,000 people — showed up for the 1998 Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular, according to Paul Sincock,

assistant city manager and director of the Department of Municipal Services.

That's more than ever before, Sincock said, a fact that was easy to see.

"(The turnout) doesn't surprise me," he said. "At any given moment you could see about 10,000 people around," Kellogg Park and the rest of downtown Plymouth. And because of the cold temperatures and walking involved, Sincock said, that number would turnover about every hour or so.

As Municipal Services director, Sincock heads the City staff responsible for preparation and maintenance of the icy site of the annual siege. City Police, fire department personnel and others are part of the effort, too.



The annual siege of spectators that descend upon Plymouth for the International Ice Sculpture Spectacular hit record numbers this year, according to Paul Sincock, assistant city manager. Estimates put the total attendance around 750,000 for the six-day event. Sincock said about 10,000 people gathered around event sites and in the City's blocked-off streets during peak times. (Crier photo by Kenny Ingle)

Part of their preparation, and one way Sincock estimates attendance, is through traffic control, he said. As the number of spectators driving into the City for the Spectacular increases, so does the size of the crowd downtown.

To avoid potential car-pedestrian accidents, streets are closed to auto traffic in an area radiating from Kellogg Park. As more people arrive downtown, more streets are shut down, according to Sincock.

This year, the no-drive zone reached Wing Street, a first.

"I'm amazed at how long traffic came in at high-control" levels, Sincock said, estimating that about eight hours were spent with roads closed down.

Sincock himself worked about 40 hours beyond his normal workweek shifts during the Spectacular, he said. Municipal Services workers pitched in equally.

"Some came in as early as 6 a.m. on Saturday. Some stayed until the end at 11 p.m.," he said. "I'm very proud of the crew. They worked very hard this week-end."

City Police patrolled the festival, and ambulances were on-hand for medical emergencies.

Even the 35th District Court pitched in, picking up what others pitched out: the court probation program picked up the

Please see pg. 9

Agenda

THIS WEEK

- Tonight, U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers will hold a town hall meeting in the Canton High School little Theater, from 7 - 8:30 p.m. An update of recent actions in Congress will begin the evening, but will be an open forum for discussion of audience-initiated topics. For more info, call Rivers' office at (734) 741-4210.

NEXT WEEK

- Tuesday morning the Northville Senior Center, 215 W Cady, presents a Breakfast Club meeting. Scott Baldwin will discuss "Life Style Planning", from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Coffee, doughnuts and muffins will be provided. Cost, \$2 per person.
- Wednesday, Plymouth-Canton Schools begin registration in the Canton High School Cafeteria for Community Education Racquetball. For \$110, P-C residents can purchase one-hour blocks of court time for an 18-week period. Numbers will be issued beginning at 7 p.m., and starting at 7:30, in numerical order, residents will have choose their time slot, Monday - Thursday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 416-2940 for info.

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The time most folks spend indoors during the winter is perfect for doing a little work around the house. Put The Crier's Home Repair section in with your other tools. Look for it next week.

See pages 12 & 13 for photos from this year's Spectacular

The Community Crier

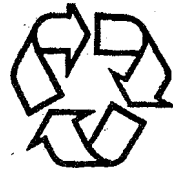
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Middle School parents night

Program to help 8th graders' move to CEP

If you've got kids in Plymouth-Canton's middle schools, a presentation tomorrow night at CEP may help you help them make the transition to high school life.

Middle School Parent Night will highlight activities, events and requirements students can expect as they make the jump from 8th grade to Canton and Salem High Schools.

Representatives from different student activities, as well as the JOURNEY and SPECTRA academic programs will be on-hand to answer parents' questions and distribute information.

Both Canton and Salem High School will hold programs in their cafeterias. Starting times for the programs will vary, depending on from which school the parent comes.

If parents know which high school their 8th grader will go to next fall, they are encouraged to attend the program in

that school's cafeteria.

For more information, call CEP at 416-7782.

Middle School Parents Night

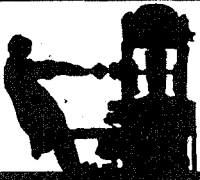
Lowell & Central parents

- Meet your counselors: 7:00 - 7:45 p.m.
- Tour the high school buildings: 8:00 - 8:30 p.m.

East, West & Pioneer parents

- Tour the buildings: 7:30 - 7:55 p.m.
- Meet your counselors: 8:00 - 8:45 p.m.

Held in both the Canton and Salem High School cafeterias.



Public notices

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES-REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1998

Supervisor Keen-McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led in the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. All members were present.

Supervisor Keen-McCarthy conducted the swearing in of Lawrence Carey, Chief of Police.

Mrs. Massengill moved to approve the agenda for the January 13, 1998, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all.

Mrs. Massengill moved to approve the consent agenda as submitted for the January 13, 1998, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all.

Mrs. Mueller moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. C-97-03, amending Section 1, Chapter 20, Building Code of the Charter Township of Plymouth with the revision requested by the Building Official deleting the last sentence in Section 112.3.1, which reads "All fees shall be paid at the time of application to the Township Treasurer or in such other manner as the Township Supervisor shall direct". Section 112.3.1 now reads: "Fee Schedule. A fee for each plan, examination, building permit, bond and inspection shall be established and may be changed from time to time by resolution of the Township Board". Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all on a roll call.

Mr. Curmi moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. C-97-04, to amend Section 1, Chapter 21, National Electric Code of 1996, of the Charter Township of Plymouth adopted by N.F.P.A., September 1, 1995. Seconded by Mr. Griffith. Ayes all on a roll call.

Mr. Griffith moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. C-97-05, to amend Section 1, Chapter 25, International Mechanical Code of the Charter Township of Plymouth with the revision requested by the Building Official deleting the last sentence in Section M.116.4, which reads "All fees shall be paid at the time of application to the Township Treasurer or in such other manner as the Township Supervisor shall direct." Section M. 116.4 now reads: "Fee Schedule. The fees for all mechanical work shall be established by resolution of the Township Board." Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all on a roll call.

Mr. Edwards moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. C-97-06, amending Section 1, Chapter 26, CABO One and Two Family Dwelling Code, 1995 Edition, of the Charter Township of Plymouth. Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all on a roll call.

Mrs. Massengill moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. C-97-07, repealing Ordinance No. C-94-06, Section 1, Chapter 27, National Plumbing Code, 9th Edition, 1993, of the Charter Township of Plymouth. Seconded by Mr. Edwards. Ayes all on a roll call.

Mrs. Massengill moved to re-establish Public Hearing date on the request to transfer Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate #96-020 from A.O. Smith to Tower Automotive, 43955 Plymouth Oaks Blvd. to the

January 27, 1998, regular Board of Trustee meeting. Seconded by Mr. Griffith. Ayes all.

Ms. Arnold moved to re-establish Public Hearing date for January 27, 1998, on the request from Tower Automotive for a Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for building improvements, machinery, equipment, furniture and fixtures for their facility located at 43955 Plymouth Oaks Blvd. Seconded by Mrs. Massengill. Ayes all.

Mrs. Massengill moved that February 10, 1998, be set for Public Hearing on the request by Valu Tec that a Plant Rehabilitation District be established for Key Plastics, Inc., located at 40300 Plymouth Road. Seconded by Mr. Griffith. Ayes all.

Mr. Curmi moved to approve the change of date for the Plymouth Township Work Session from Tuesday, January 20, 1998 to Saturday, January 24, 1998. Seconded by Ms. Arnold.

Supervisor Keen-McCarthy announced that the meeting will take place at the McDowell Center of Schoolcraft College commencing at 9:00 a.m.

Trustee Arnold requested tax abatement updates.

Supervisor Keen-McCarthy announced that the Recreation Committee will be meeting Wednesday, January 14, 1998 at 4:30 p.m.

It was moved by Mrs. Massengill and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Ayes all.

Marilyn Massengill, CMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Kathleen Keen-McCarthy, Supervisor
Charter Township of Plymouth

The foregoing is a synopsis of the minutes of the Board of Trustees held on January 13, 1998. The full text is available in the Clerk's Office for perusal. They will be submitted for Board approval at the next regular meeting on January 27, 1998.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township Meetings, to individuals with disabilities at the Meetings/Hearings upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the following. Supervisor's Office, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone number: (313) 453-3840 x 200. TDD users: 1-800-649-3777 (Michigan Relay Services)

Publish: January 21, 1998



Community deaths

Obituaries

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

JENNIE SAMBRONE

Jennie Sambrone, a Northville resident, died Jan. 13, 1998 at the age of 88.

Mrs. Sambrone was born Feb. 5, 1909 in Detroit. She owned and operated the Andrine Hotel and Bar in Plymouth, a family-owned bar for 50 years. She was a member of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Northville. She was a long-time Plymouth resident. She loved her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. She enjoyed doing puzzles at Allen Terrace with her friends. She also enjoyed going to the race track and playing cards.

She is survived by her son, Paul (Antoinette) Sambrone of Plymouth; daughter, Anna Christensen of Redford; eight grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and sisters, Loretta Bommarito of Prudenville, MI, Neva Banks of California, Katherine Pelleritto of Roseville, MI. She is preceded in death by her husband, Andrew; and her son, Vito.

Services were held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church with the Rev. Father Stanley Tokarski officiating. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Local arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

ELIZABETH A. SIMPSON

Elizabeth A. Simpson, a Plymouth resident, died Jan. 17, 1998 at the age of 84.

Mrs. Simpson was born Dec. 18, 1913 in Detroit. She was a homemaker. She came to the Plymouth Community in 1930. She loved her family and was especially fond of family gatherings. She enjoyed bird-watching, the outdoors and cooking.

She is survived by her husband, Charles "Chuck" F. of Plymouth; son, Charles F. (Susan) Simpson of Luzerne, MI; grandchildren, Karen (Ron) Mettal of Canton, LeAnne (Dale) Booth of Plymouth, Marni Chilcoff of Plymouth; great-grandchildren, Brandy Booth, Shannon Booth, Ashley Chilcoff; and sisters, Freida O'Leary of Northville, Esther Budd of Luzerne, MI, Dorothy Powell of Luzerne. She is preceded in death by her son, Kenneth.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home with Pastor Drex Morton officiating. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to the American Red Cross.

PATRICIA G. REILLY

Patricia G. Reilly, a Westland resident, died Jan. 15, 1998 at the age of 65.

Mrs. Reilly was born Dec. 1, 1932 in Pittston, PA. She was a tax preparer for H & R Block for 22 years. She was also an administrative assistant with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) from 1952 - 1964, handling top-secret information. She enjoyed cross stitch, her grandchildren and listening to good band music.

She is survived by her husband, Charles P. Reilly; daughters, Colleen (Kenneth) MacDonald of Plymouth, Kathleen Reilly of Westland; son, Charles P. Reilly, Jr. of Westland; sisters, Constance (Richard) Lunsford of Falls Church, VA, Cecilia (Reyes) Ponce of Alexandria, VA, Mary (Lonnie) Piatt of Hunlock Creek, PA; brothers, William Hoover of Wyoming, PA, Brian (Priscilla) Hoover of Pittston, PA; father, William T. Hoover of Harveys Lake, PA; and grandchildren, Stephanie and Megan.

Services were held at St. Mary's Catholic Church of Wayne with the Rev. Jack H. Baker officiating. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. Arrangements were made by Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home in Westland. Mass offerings can be made to St. Mary's or memorial contributions can be given to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48154.

DOROTHY E. MOORE

Dorothy E. Moore, a former Plymouth resident, died Jan. 14, 1998 at the age of 63.

Mrs. Moore was born in Ann Arbor. She was a long-time resident of Plymouth, where she and her husband owned and operated A & W restaurant for 28 years before moving to Naples, FL in 1986.

"Dot" was well known to Plymouth-Canton teenagers when the A & W was a popular hangout on the circuit — also including other drive-ins — during the 1960s and '70s.

She was especially respected for an uncanny knack of knowing from inside the "A" when some shennanigans were afoot — like a teen stealing an A & W mug after the root beer was gone.

She is survived by her husband of 44 years, Charles; sons, Charles Jr. (Judy) of Westland, Melvin (Debra) of Plymouth, Richard (Lisa) of Columbia, TN, Daniel of Naples, FL; daughter, Debra (Terry) Robinson of Dexter, MI; 10 grandchildren; brothers, Melvin (Carol) Gilbertson of Dexter, Art Gilbertson (Bert) of Lewiston, MI, Andy (Helen) Gilbertson of Monroe, David Gilbertson, James (Sheila) Gilbertson, John (Bernie) Gilbertson, all of Ann Arbor; and sisters, Delores (Ray) Hankins of Ann Arbor, Diane (Bob) McGill of Harriet, AR. She is preceded in death by her son, Steven.

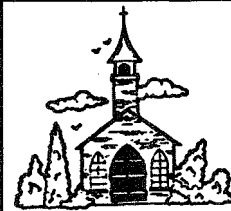
Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan 24, at the First United Methodist Church 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to The American Cancer Society, 990 First Avenue South, Suite 200, Naples, FL 34102.

John A. Schmitz, 61, cabdriver

John A. Schmitz, a redford resident, died Jan. 19, 1998.

He is survived by his brothers, Adelbert G. Schmitz of Northville and Thomas (Joyce) Schmitz of Plymouth.

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



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&
11:00 AM
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9:30am Lifeline-Contemporary
Service

11:00 am Traditional Service
Continental Breakfast served 8-9:30am
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Friends & neighbors

Neighbors in the news

Ryan Keith Calvin, from Plymouth, received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Samford University in Birmingham, AL.

Air Force Technical Sgt. Mark S. Braidwood has been named noncommissioned officer of the quarter.

Braidwood is a munitions operations deputy element chief with the 4th Equipment Maintenance Squadron at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, N.C.

He is the son of Janice K. Carbray of Flint and Duane C. Braidwood of Canton.

The following students graduated after the Fall 1997 semester from Michigan State University: From Canton: **Laura Davis, Angela Fountain, Stephen Horton, Renee Jeffers, Kevin Laber, Ryan Mainz, Amy Meese, Michael Phillips, Alan Samouelian, Christina Schafer, Lesli Schemers, Amy Tyza, and Jeffrey Zarosley;** from Northville: **Kelly Garry, Elizabeth Goering, Jennifer Hachigian, Maria Lokhandwala, Suzanne Morton, and Jennifer Vanderhaven;** and from Plymouth: **John Bell, Jennifer Curran, Melissa Davis, Dawn Habkirk, Ayanna Jones, Geraldine Roc, Christopher Soave, Craig Steshetz, and Ryan Townsend.**

The following students have received scholarships to Walsh College in Troy. From Plymouth: **Tammy Croxall, Sheryle Patterson;** from Northville: **Laura Casey, Janet Evans;** and from Canton: **Lynn Cannon, Lila Gould, Amy Tolstyka, and Theresa Tyler.**

Students must maintain a Grade point Average of 3.5 to be eligible.

Albion College student **Brooke L. Kilby** has been selected as a member of the college's award-winning cheerleading team.

A freshman at Albion, Kilby is the daughter of **Gregory and Molly Kilby** of Plymouth and a graduate of Salem High School.

Lisa L. Craven and **Laura Logsdon** of Canton have been named to the Dean's List at Northwood University in Midland, MI.

Craven is the daughter of **Richard and Magdale Craven** of Canton and Logsdon is the daughter of **James and Debbie Logsdon** of Canton.

Like magic

East Middle School's Brendan Kownacki headlines magic club fundraiser

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

It may be 12-year-old Brendan Kownacki's greatest magic trick yet: to pull funds out of a hat for East Middle School's new sound system.

Kownacki, a member of the Ann Arbor Magic Club, will be one of the main performers at East's Magic Night performance Saturday.

Money raised at the show will go toward repaying the loan the school's Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) received from Peoples State Bank to pay for the purchase and installation of a new sound system.

"We used to have just a microphone and speakers before," says Brendan's dad, John. "We were able to get rid of that and get something much better, state-of-the-art."

When it came to finding ideas on how to raise funds to help repay the loan, Brendan stepped forward.

"The magic club had done other events for charity clubs, so I suggested a magic show," he says. "We're also trying to get local businesses involved to donate money."

Kownacki says he will perform for about 30 minutes of the two-hour show, which will also feature acts from other Ann Arbor Magic Club magicians, such as a 78-year old illusionist who has played in places like Las Vegas and Reno.

Kownacki has been performing magic since he was eight, and says he had plenty of material to present.

"I always watched magic on TV and found it interesting," he says. "I started reading about it in books and started doing card tricks and eventually worked my way up."

Kownacki goes by the stage name of The Great Brendini. His routine consists of magic ranging from "closeup" magic such as card tricks and other sleights of hand to more complicated illusions involving a Guillotine, and levitation and suspension.

He is aided at times by his special magic glasses, which help him differentiate between normal objects and specially, magically enhanced objects, he says.

"The secret is the extra thin lens," he says.

Like any magic act, Kownacki's involves a lot of audience participation.



Brendan Kownacki displays some of the props he will use in his routine at East Middle School's Magic Night Saturday, including the Guillotine and the Dissector. (Crier Photo by Scott Spielman).

In addition to asking for volunteers for some tricks, such as the Guillotine or the Dissector in which Kownacki will remove the volunteer's hand, Kownacki also passes out his equipment for inspection by skeptical audience members.

"I find that people tend to be less suspicious if I let them examine things first," he says.

Kownacki has performed for various clubs, at other schools and at birthday parties, but this is the first time he has performed in front of a home audience of fellow East Middle

School students.

But that doesn't seem to bother him.

"I used to be nervous, but I've gotten over it," he says. "The more I do, the less

nervous I am. The magic club helps me get less nervous."

Magic isn't Kownacki's only hobby. He also enjoys writing mystery stories, like *Kidnapped*, a story he wrote in which a boy is kidnapped and has to outwit his captors. The story is peppered with jokes, and has a surprise ending that would make Alfred Hitchcock proud.

Kownacki says he plans on keeping up with magic, and will probably use it to supplement his income someday.

"A lot of people have other jobs and do this on the side for extra money," he says. "That way you can keep it a hobby and do it for the fun of it, not because you have to."

East Middle School's Magic Night begins with close up magic at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24th. The main performance begins at 7 p.m. with tickets ranging in price from \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door, according to Kownacki.

For more information call 416-4955 or 455-9804.

Magic Night

6:30 p.m. East Middle School
1042 Mill (Lilley) Rd.
Plymouth. Call
(734) 416-4955 or
(734) 455-9804

The winners of this month's
RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
Invitational...

\$50 To The Winners, PCHS Class and Teachers

Dear Kindness Editor,
 Please print the following "Random Act of Kindness: for the next edition possible. Too many negative items are mentioned in our news today. Therefore, when I see kind, selfless gestures by our teenagers today, I feel it should be printed.

Plymouth Canton High School's Health Occupation Class" came to our Nursing Facility today, Wednesday, December 17th, to sing Christmas Carols. This in itself is a treat for our residents. Added to the wonderful singing, the boys and girls collected money and purchased beautiful poinsettias, candy and cookies. Most of the cookies were home-baked. One teenager awoke at 5 AM to bake freshly-made cookies. The two class teachers responsible for supervising the group were Judy McKay-Wall and Julie Gross.

Our residents love attention, visitors, entertainment and treats. It gives them memories and puts a smile on their faces for days to come.

Please see that such acts are published. Not enough "Thank you" and praises are given to deserving children today.

*\$25 To The Winner,
 Anthony Tamagne*

Dear Kindness Editor,
 Anthony Tamagne stops every day at Wilcox Lake to feed the fowl--ducks and pigeons. They are so hungry and look so glad to see him. He has been doing this kind act for 4 to 5 years.

Sincerely,
 Diane Minutiolo
 Administrative Assistant
 West Trail Nursing Home

*\$25 To The Winner,
 Larry Bird*

Dear Kindness Editor,
 This past week on Tuesday November 11, the staff at Gabriela's was scheduled to have a staff meeting at 6:00 p.m. Upon arriving at Gabriela's, unknown to the staff, owner Larry Bird cancelled the staff meeting and had a big surprise for the 22 staff members. The surprise? He rented two limousines and took the staff out to dinner. The entire staff was totally surprised. We would like to thank Larry Bird for his "Random Act of Kindness."

Thank you for your consideration and don't hesitate to call me should you have any questions.

Anne Musson

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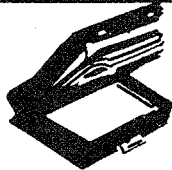
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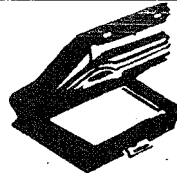
please contact The Kindness Editor at 313/453-6900 to make arrangements to receive your gift certificates. Congratulations! Keep up the Kind Spirit!



**If you witness a Random Act of Kindness, put it in writing and send it to:
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Getting down to business



Getting
down to
business

A change of recipes

New management team changes name, focus of Timber Creek

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Another change is on the way for one of Northville's more fickle restaurant spots.

Located on Northville Road between Six and Seven Mile, it has hosted a number of restaurants during its 24-year history, including Riffles and its most recent occupant, Timber Creek Restaurant.

Pending final approval from Northville Township on the transfer of Timber Creek's liquor license, the restaurant will go through another change, adding to its reputation as a kaleidoscope of restaurants that seems to change names and styles more often than the artist formerly known as Prince.

The new name will be Mulligan's of Northville, and will evolve the site into a more family-oriented business, according to Gary Lepak, manager of Timber Creek-Mulligan's.

"Timber Creek was here for about a year and a half, and they didn't do bad," Lepak said. "They put a lot of the tools in place. They cleaned it up and now it's bright and open. You can't say that they failed."

Previous owners opened up the interior of the restaurant, providing more space and light, according to Lepak. They also updated the kitchen, he said.

Lepak hopes to build on those improvements by providing a new menu to go along with the restaurant's new atmosphere.

"We want to take it to the next level," he said.

To do that, he brought with him the rest of his management team from his previous restaurant, P.B. Putters in Lyon Township.

With assistant Mary O'Donnell and chef, John Turner everything is in place to turn Timber Creek into a golf-themed family restaurant, Lepak said.

"Everything comes together with a good team," said Lepak, who considers himself more of a coach than a manager. "A good coach does not win by himself, but puts the whole program together. We have a strong commitment to each other and we've put together a great concept with consistency in service, food and a positive attitude."

But changes aren't restricted to management philosophy: Lepak is already examining the feasibility of acquiring



Chef John Turner (left), 'Coach' Gary Lepak (Center), and dining-room supervisor Mary O'Donnell (right), hope build on foundations left by Timber Creek restaurant. (Crier photo by Scott Spielman).

adjacent property to expand the restaurant and add a group dining room, where clubs could get together for functions.

"There's really no other place nearby where groups can meet," he said. "I think if we could provide them with a place to meet, it would go over well."

Lepak plans to replace the deer trophies lining the walls with golf equipment and photographs, he said.

The restaurant would also sponsor golf events and after-game specials, he said.

Plans also include changing the focus of the menu from wild game to light, healthy dishes, he said.

"Everyone enjoys the game of golf, whether you're young, middle-aged or retired. It's a cross-

generation game, and we want to provide something that everyone will enjoy," Lepak said.

"We'll retain some of the popular

items but we're going to add more fresh fish, steak, chicken and salads."

Lepak is planning other changes too, such as keeping the restaurant open seven days a week, offering activities and daily specials.

He has already started one group activity, the Senior Dinner Club, which offers a reduced-price meal for senior citizens with activities such as cards or games afterwards.

"It's an opportunity for them to get out. We'll keep them occupied for about three hours, and it's a lot of fun," he said.

The changes should introduce the new restaurant to a wider range of people, and turn it into an everyday eatery rather than one people would want to go to occasionally, Lepak said.

It will also help the business overcome its greatest liability: location.

"This is definitely not a high-profile location. It's a place you have to be wanting to go to," Lepak said. "But I'd rather be known as being a half-step out of the way and a full step ahead of the competition."

Lepak isn't sure when all the changes will take place, but hopes to have them complete sometime in February, he said.

MEDHEALTH Wellness Centers, in Plymouth, donated \$7,000 to Our Lady of Providence Center (OLPC) in Northville.

The funds were raised during the 1997 Futures Golf Classic, a ladies professional golf tournament and program featuring more than 100 professional golfers.

OLPC provides residential, educational and vocational opportunities for developmentally disabled women and children.

The funds will go toward continuing educational and recreational programs for residents.

Susan Hulce Cerletty, daughter of Joanne Winkleman Hulce of Plymouth, has been named Senior Vice President and Chief Operations Officer of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC) Hospital and Clinics.

Cerletty has more than 20 years of leadership experience in physical rehabilitation. She is a graduate of Plymouth High School, and the University of Michigan.

The Business Network International (BNI) Plymouth Chapter has scheduled their regular meeting for 7- 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 22 at the Water Club Seafood Grill at Ann Arbor Road and I-275.

For more information call the BNI regional office at (734) 397-9939.

Betty Ashcraft, of Plymouth, will present a class on introductory computer training beginning Wednesday, Jan. 28.

Classes range from introduction to Windows 95 to advanced software such as MS Word. For more information call: (810) 227-7358 or (734) 416-8433.

Ed McCombs and Paul Petroff, investment executives at Paine Webber, will give a free stock market seminar at the Plymouth Community Arts Council building on Sheldon Road.

The hour-long seminar will start at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28 and focus on how to take advantage of simple stock market strategies.

Mark Merlanti has become a principal member in the law firm of Bassey and Selesko, P.C in Southfield.

Merlanti, a Canton resident, is also president of the Mettetal Airport Advisory Board.

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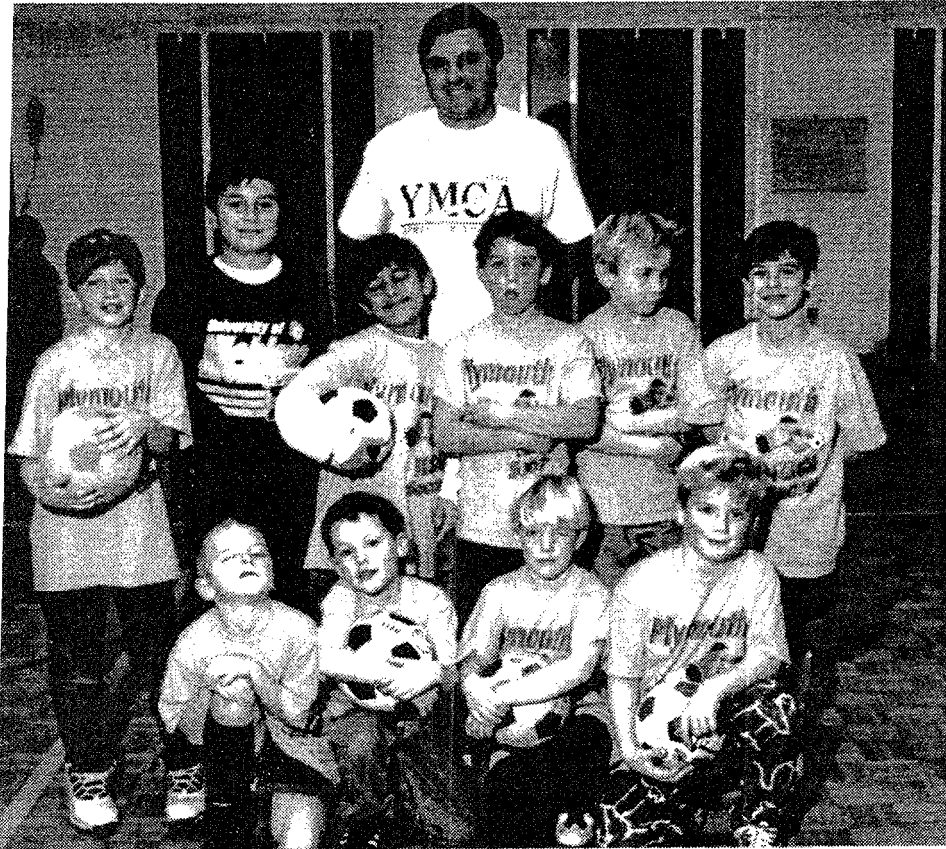
11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Fri. and Sat.

11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sun.



What's Happening

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



The Plymouth YMCA has a number of children and adult winter activities, including indoor soccer, now in season. Call them at 453-2904 for information.

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Events

US REPRESENTATIVE HOSTS TOWN MEETING

Lynn Rivers is hosting a town hall meeting **Today** from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm at Canton High School's Little Theater. The program will consist of a brief overview of activities of the 105th Congress, followed by a question and answer period. This is a chance for the community to voice opinions, questions, and concerns directly to the Representative. For more information call Chip Silvis at (313) 741-4210 or (313) 722-1411.

MAID OF ERIN PAGEANT

We are looking for girls ages between 17 & 23 of Irish descent for the "Maid of Erin" pageant to be held **Feb. 28** at the Gaelic League. For further details call Bridie Flynn at 313-464-8556 or Peggie Bolland at 313-255-5677.

CRAFTERS NEEDED

Crafters of every ilk are encouraged to apply for a spot in the 1998 Spring Craft Show at Schoolcraft College **March 7**. The fee for a 12' by 12' space is \$90; 10' by 10' costs \$55; 8' by 9' space costs \$40; and there is a \$40 fee for an 8' by 4' hallway space. There is an additional \$15 fee for electricity. For additional information call (734) 462-4417

SPRING YOUTH SOCCER REGISTRATION

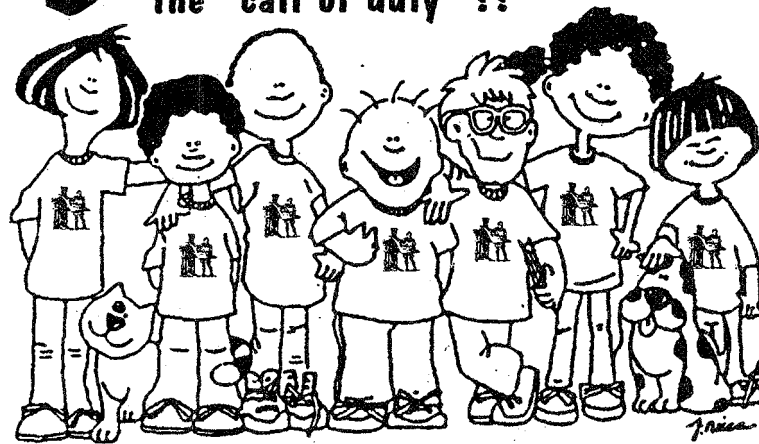
The Plymouth Recreation Department will be taking Spring Youth Soccer Registration the entire month of January at the Recreation Office, during business hours, Monday thru Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm. All registrations require a birth certificate. The fee is \$40.00 for residents and \$60.00 for non-residents. For more information call 455-6620.

Health

ADULT CPR CLASS

The Plymouth-Canton Jaycees will be conducting an adult CPR training class on **Saturday, January 24**. This course is free and the public is welcome to attend. It begins 1:00 p.m. at the Plymouth Township Annex on the corner of Ann Arbor Rd. and Lilley. Please call (734) 463-8407.

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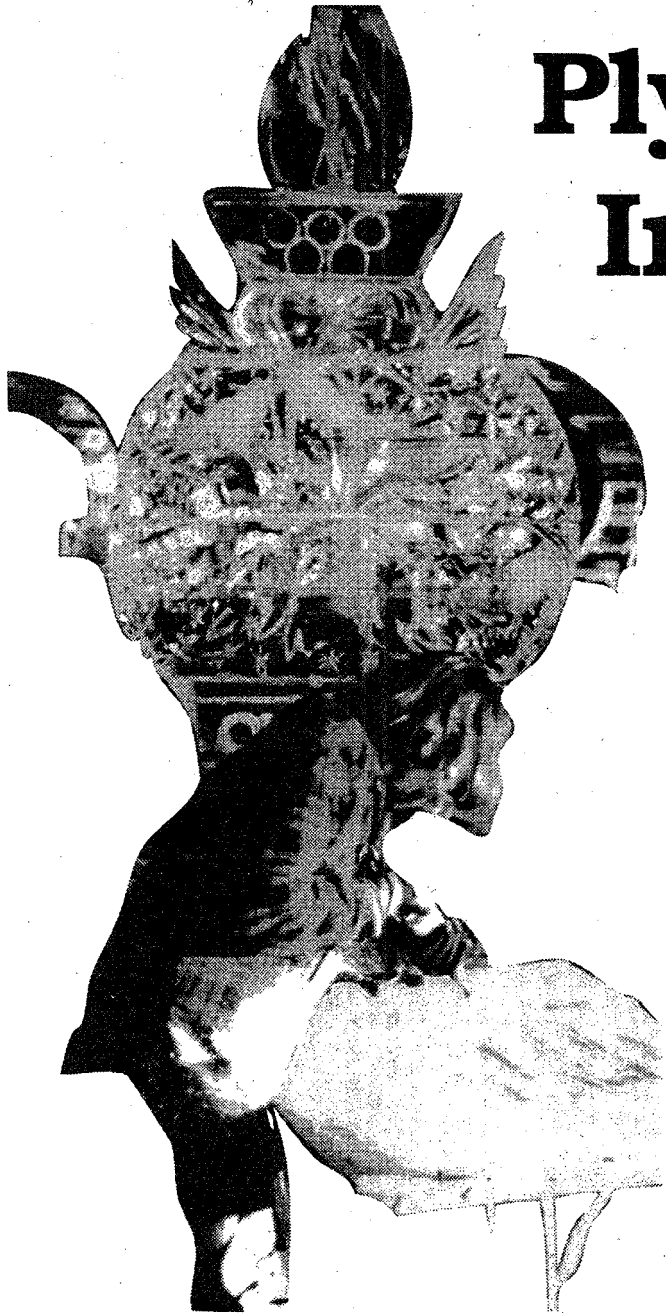
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A look back at The 16th Annual

Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular

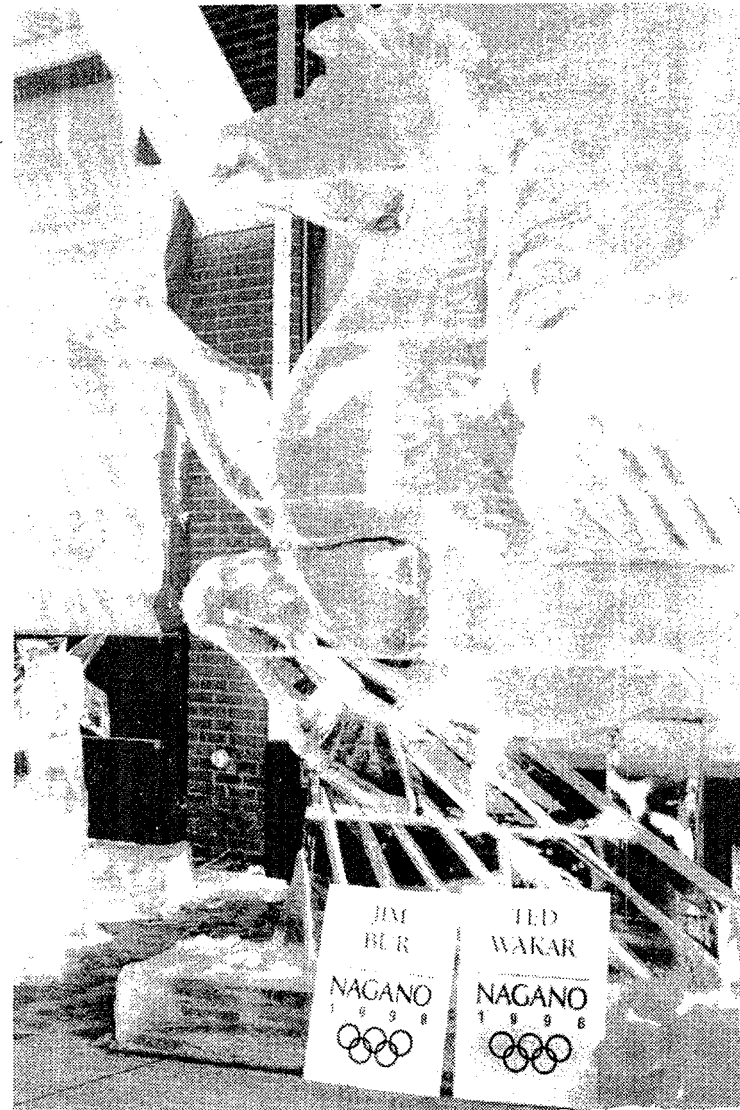
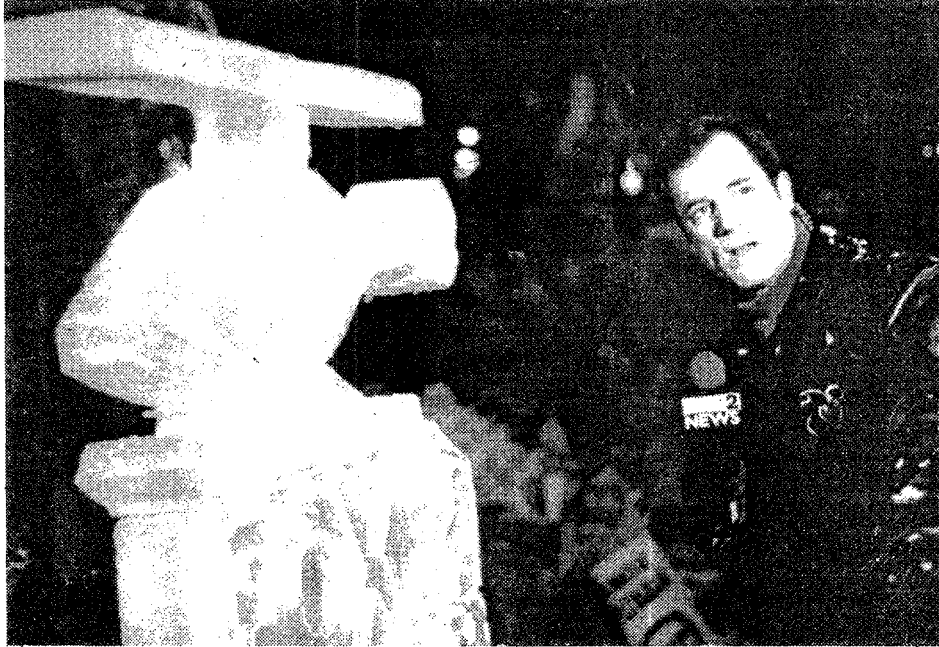


Spectators of all ages flocked to Plymouth to point out their favorite ice sculptures. The Ice Spectacular is one of Plymouth's largest-drawing events. (Crier photo by Kenny Ingle).



Just when you thought it couldn't get any bigger... Perfect weather — which probably was a first, helped draw more to town than last year's estimated 600,000. Thousands of people jammed Kellogg park at a time, and lined up for more than an hour to go into The Gathering. (Crier photo by R. Alwood, Jr.)

(Below) Fox 2's Sportscaster Dan Miller was among the celebrities who braved chilly temperatures for the celebrity carving competition Thursday (Crier photo by R. Alwood, Jr). Musicians Betsy Beckerman and Tom Wall (left) performed in the lobby of the Arbor Health Building for spectators who stopped by to warm up with complimentary cups of hot cider. (Crier photo by Kenny Ingle). A youngster stretches back for a better view of ice sculptures in The Central Parking Deck(bottom left); and (bottom right) Canton's Ted Wakar and teammate Jim Bur display their expertise before heading off to the Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan (Crier photos by R. Alwood, Jr.)



Total estimated attendance for '98:

750,000

Draft of Cherry Hill Village plan OK'd

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Canton's Planning Commission voted unanimously Monday to approve a conceptual site plan for a proposed development in formerly agricultural Canton.

Tentatively called Cherry Hill Village East, the Planned Development District (PDD) is proposed for 100 acres on the north side of Cherry Hill Road between Beck and Ridge roads.

The PDD will consist of two parts, according to Bob Leighton, a land design specialist with Robert Leighton Associates, Inc. The eastern part of the PDD will be comprised of 98 lots for single-family residential homes, while the western portion will contain 42 detached condominium units, Leighton said.

The condos and houses would be separated by Denton Road, which the developer plans to extend north into the PDD.

Walkways, paths and a gazebo would be added to the village's shared park areas, Leighton said.

"We're going to take advantage of the open space and really do some nice things," he said.

The PDD agreement allows developers to "cluster" houses or condominiums together to produce more open space in the form of public parks and increased buffers, according to Jeff Goulet, Community Planner.

"We allow 25 percent of the total acreage to be used for setbacks, landscaping and buffers," he said.

The PDD is within the Cherry Hill Historic District transition area, which was recently created to ensure a smooth transition

in developments between the Cherry Hill Historic District and eastern Canton, according to

Commissioner Melissa McLaughlin.

The wood-and-brick look of the buildings in the PDD are an ideal match for the district's historic feel, according to McLaughlin.

"We challenged the developer to break the mold of traditional development in Canton. This is a different type of

property and a different neighborhood," she said. "They certainly came through. It matches the character of the Cherry

Hill community with a blend of brick, siding and color."

The commission asked Leighton to look into adding deceleration lanes along Cherry Hill. An initial traffic study showed that additional lanes weren't necessary, but the planning commission was concerned that coupled with other developments in the area, lanes would be needed in the future.

The development will now return to the planning commission for final site plan approval.

Vic Gustafson, Planning Commission chairperson, wished Leighton luck on the project, and urged him not to change the site plan too drastically.

"So many developers go back take the preliminary approval, go back to the drawing board and start cutting," he said. "They try and make it as cheap as possible and the result isn't even worth the approval. It really leaves a black eye on the community, and I'd hate to see

'We challenged the developer to break the mold of traditional development in Canton. This is a different type of property and a different neighborhood.'

**Melissa McLaughlin
Planning Commission**

Plymouth planners deny church annex

BY BRYON MARTIN

Plymouth's Planning Commission denied the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth's request to convert a residential house into a classroom annex for youth and adult programming.

The commission's reasoning: incompatibility with its surroundings, according to David Schaff, commission vice chairperson.

Schaff said the commission's position on the project was one "in favor of what they're trying to do, we'd just like to see them do in on their site," he said.

"Obviously some people are disappointed, but there are two sides to every story," David Brown, director of youth ministries at First Presbyterian, said. "We have to respect that." Programs under Brown's responsibility would likely have moved to the house from their space now in the church.

In late October First Presbyterian announced its plans to buy the house at the northeast corner of Harvey and Church streets. Amid protests from neighbors and congregation members, the church said it would convert the house into a classroom annex for youth-oriented classes.

Converting the house into an annex would mean more cars parked up and down Harvey, neighbors said, beyond the demands on parking they already felt. Some also voiced misgivings about the general incursion of non-residential uses in residential areas.

At their meeting last week, attended by both supporters and opponents of the annex, the commission listed similar concerns in their denial of the project.

"There were a number of traffic safety issues," Schaff said, who presided over the meeting and request. "There's no parking at the site." Without a suitable arrival spot, visitors

to the annex would likely be dropped off in the streets, a situation the commission wanted to avoid, according to Schaff.

Converting the house would require a zoning variance and wider setbacks from adjacent lots per non-residential zoning, he said.

Part of the area is now zoned for multiple-family use, but is zoned single-family in the City's master plan. Putting a church annex in a neighborhood would represent "an encroachment into single-family residences. I think that was a valid issue," Schaff said.

Schaff presided over the meeting and request because Commission Chairperson Larry Chute had stepped aside: Chute is a member at the church.

"I abstained because it may be a conflict of interest," he said, perhaps summing up the situation: "It's tough to mix politics and religion."



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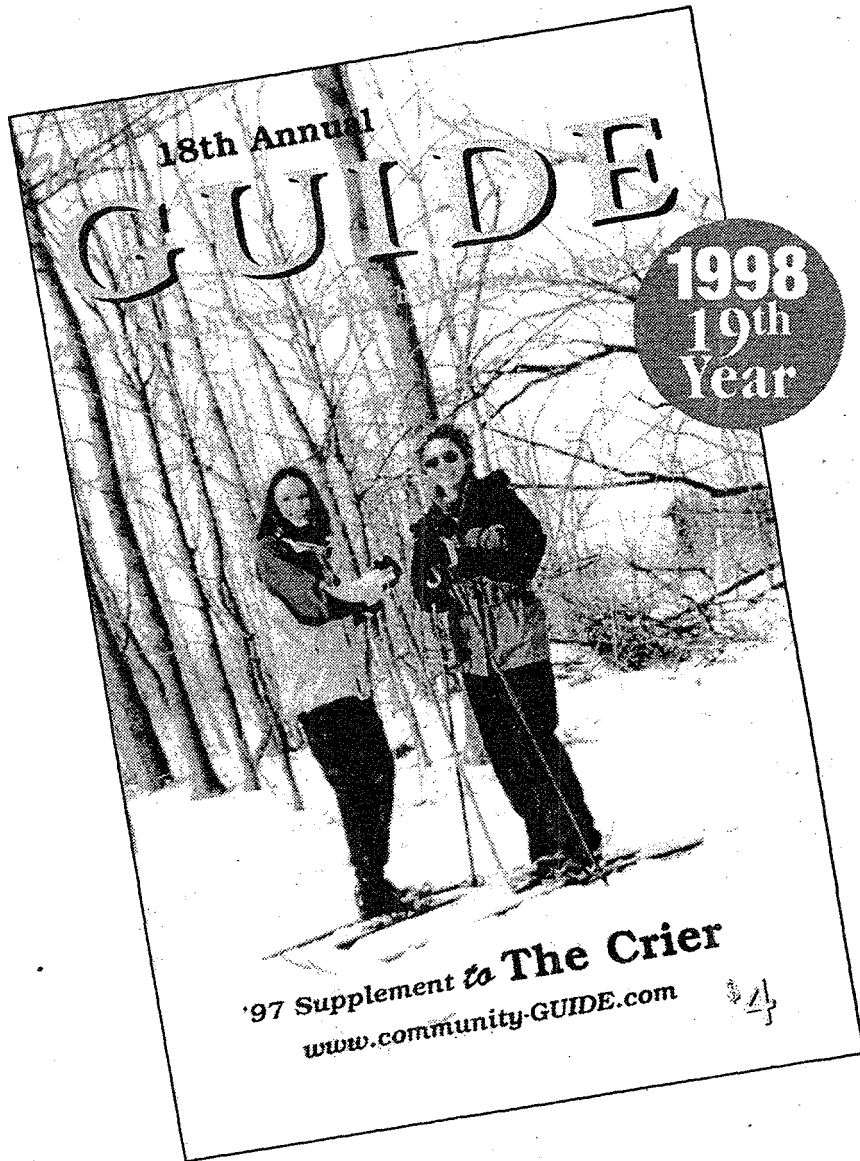


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HERE COMES *The* GUIDE?

to Plymouth-Canton-Northville-Salem-Superior



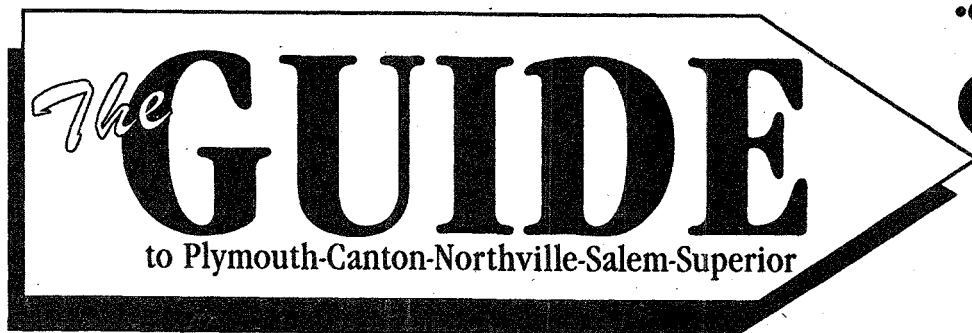
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- Emergency Phone Numbers
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- Schools Calendar
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- School locator maps
- Local government
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Sports

Sports shorts

Canton Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with the Wayne-Westland YMCA, is sponsoring **youth floor hockey clinics** and a Saturday game program. There will be six skill clinics and five games. Games will be played at the Summit on the Park Community Center. Clinics begin Jan. 26. There is no residency requirement for players.

For more information, call 397-5110.

City of Plymouth Recreation Department is taking **Spring Youth Soccer Registration** the entire month of January at the Recreation Office, during business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Recreation Office is located in the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer St. All registrations require a birth certificate. The fee is \$40 for City residents, and \$60 for non-residents. For more information, call 455-6620.

The Plymouth Figure Skating Club will host the **United States Figure Skating Association Midwestern Precision Team Sectional championship at Computware Sports Arena Feb 6-8.**

More than 145 teams and 3,000 skates are expected to compete. The highest placing teams at the Midwestern Sectional championship advance to the USFSA Precision championships in March in San Diego.

The Canton Parks and Recreation Services is sponsoring its Winter Session of **Mens Racquetball** at Body Rocks Racquetball in Livonia.

The 14-week has no residency requirements and is held on Wednesday evenings.

Court times are 6:30-7:30 p.m.

The fee is \$100 per person. Players will be divided into divisions based upon ability level. For registration information, call 397-5110.

New **Soccer Referee training** will be held at the Canton Township Hall, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd, on Jan. 31, Feb. 7, Feb. 14 and Feb. 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. You must attend all four sessions. You must be at least 12 years old to take the class. To register send your name, social security number and a check for \$43 made out to the Michigan Referee Committee to: P.O. Box 700260, Plymouth, MI 48170-0945. If you have questions, please call 454-7335.

Class size is limited.

Rocks romp Canton, 118-68

BY ERICA D'ANGELO

The Salem boys swim team on Thursday crushed cross-creek rival Canton, 118-68.

The Rocks seized top places in all but two events.

Some of Salem's best swims included the 100 yard backstroke, where senior co-captain Nick Corden came in at 56.17. Corden also took the 200 individual medley, coming in at 2:07.49.

It was Brent Mellis' first time swimming the 100 yard butterfly, and he flew to first, coming in at 58.38.

Andrew Locke clocked in at 22.97 in the 50-yard free style, and Tim Buchanan took the 100-yard free style in 50.03.

The 500-yard free style went to Brian Mertens with a time of 5:03.06.

Salem was equally successful in the relay events.

Corden, Buchanan, and Locke, along with Jason Rebarchik took the 200 medley relay coming in at 1:43.04.

Rebarchik, Locke, Mellis, and Dan Jones captured the 200 free relay at 1:34.40. Mellis, Locke, Buchanan, and Corden took first in the 400 free relay at 3:23.72.

The Chiefs' first places included the 200-yard free style, won by senior captain Jason Musson with 1:53.35.

Musson just beat out Salem's Mellis, who came in at 1:53.37.

Matt Heiss also took the top spot for Canton in the 100-yard breaststroke at 1:07.23.

Canton did have many strong second places, including Kurtis Hornick in the 50 free style at 23.36 and the 500 free 5:09.05.

John Theisen followed first in the 100 fly at 1:00.47, and Aaron Reeder came close in the 100 backstroke with a 58.74.

Canton's 200 medley relay team composed of Justin Allen, Heiss, Theisen, and Hornick came in at 1:44.82.

John Cook, Chad Williams, Andy Schmidt, and Musson pulled in at 1:38.47 in the 220 free style.

Canton's Musson felt the outcome of the meet was no surprise.

"It was what was expected, especially

SWIMMING

from a state-level team such as Salem," he said.

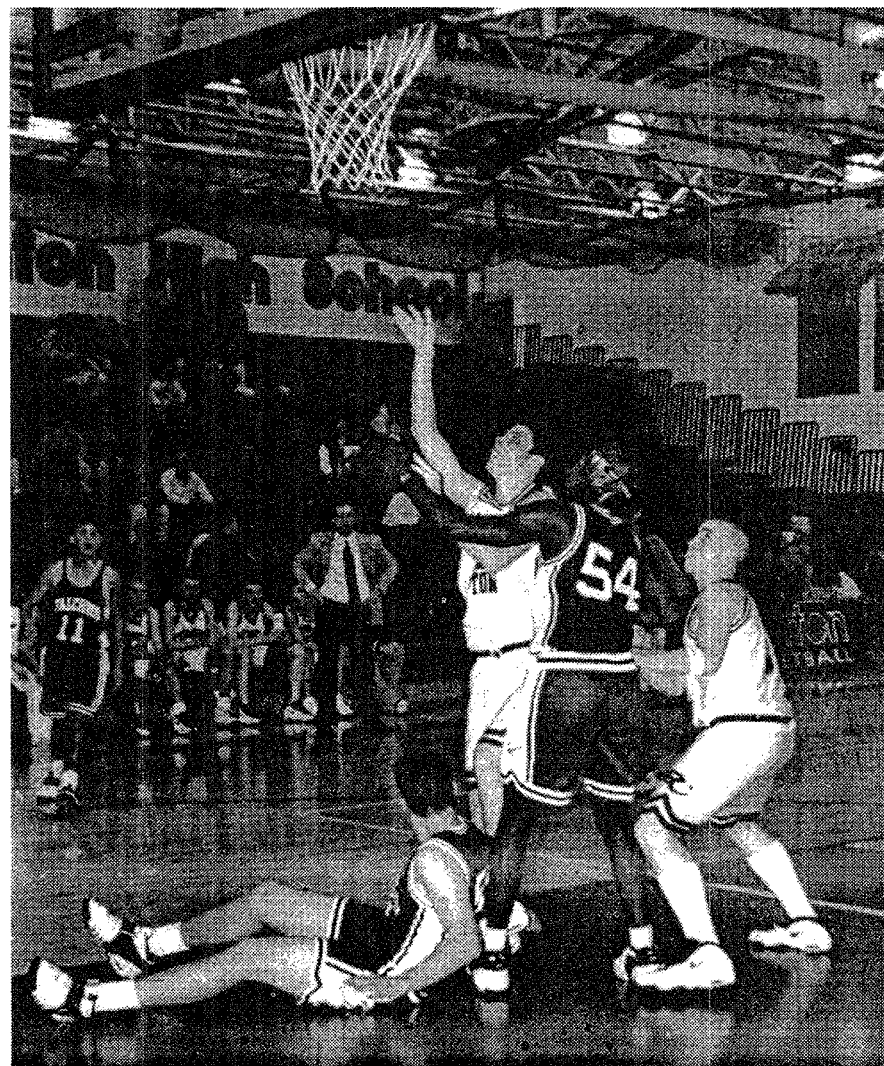
Salem is 3-0, and Canton is 0-3.

With Salem's recent capture of the

conference relay title, and such wins as the one over Canton and Ann Arbor Huron two weeks ago, a sixth WLAA champion title isn't that far away.

However, if Canton wants to stay in the race, they'll need to swim harder to stay afloat.

In the paint



The Canton boys basketball team in action at home last Friday against the Farmington Falcons. Canton faces Livonia Franklin at home this Friday. JV begins at 5:30 p.m. The varsity games follows immediately after. (Crier photo R. Alwood Jr.)

Chiefs best John Glenn, 133.05-127.45

BY KRISTEN VAN DUSEN

The Canton gymnastics team had its best performance of the season last Wednesday. The Chiefs defeated John Glenn at Canton, 133.05-127.45.

John Glenn and Canton always have been rivals. Last year both teams tied at regionals to qualify for states.

But it wouldn't finish in a tie this time.

The outstanding gymnasts were Liz Fitzgerald and Marcie Emerick.

GYMNASTICS

Fitzgerald scored an amazing 9.2 on the floor. Emerick scored a high of 9.1 on the vault.

Canton excelled in the vault and floor routines. They also scored high on the bars and beam.

Fitzgerald and Amy Driscoll had the top scores for bars, 8.55 and 8.50. Emerick was the top scorer in the beam with 8.55.

"We went in with the right attitude," said senior Jenni Demsky, "and it really showed in our performance."

"We knew John Glenn would be tough competition, so we gave it our best," said captain Kristin Brooks, senior.

Canton meets next with Northville on Wednesday.

"Northville is one of the top teams in the state. This will be a difficult meet," said Brooks.

Canton is 5-2 and 1-1 in WLAA.

Wolves not so big, bad; Whalers win

BY BRIAN CORBETT

Sudbury won't be blowing this house down anytime soon. But they sure did huff and puff.



In one of the best team efforts of the season, the Plymouth Whalers defeated the Sudbury Wolves Saturday, 5-0, before 4,368 fans, the largest crowd ever at Compuware Sports Arena.

The Whalers, who led 1-0 after one

2

The number of wins Peter DeBoer needs to set the franchise coaching record for regular season wins.

Since 1995-96, DeBoer has compiled a regular season record of 84-66-13. He is 94-78-13 overall.

DeBoer is chasing his predecessor and current Carolina Hurricanes Coach Paul Maurice, who was 86-38-8 in two regular seasons and 113-49-8 overall.

period of play, got goals from Paul Mara, Julian Smith, Eric Gooldy, Nikos Tselios and Yuri Babenko. Dave Legwand had two assists for Plymouth.

At the end of the second period with the Whalers leading, 4-0, the frustrated Wolves did their best to start a bench-clearing brawl when several fights broke out.

But the disciplined Whalers remained on the bench. Mara and Randy Fitzgerald of Plymouth were given two-game suspensions for their roles in the fights.

Plymouth 4, Windsor 2 — The Whalers improved their record to 7-0 this season against the Spitfires behind Julian Smith's two-goal effort at Compuware Sports Arena.

Defenseman Kevin Holdridge and captain Andrew Taylor also scored for the Whalers, who jumped out to a 3-0 first period lead.

Plymouth improved to 24-14-3 overall and 14-5-2 at home.

Esche made 27 saves. He frustrated the Spitfires by plucking several high shots out of the air with his quick glove hand. Jason Ward ruined Esche's bid for a second consecutive shutout with a goal at 13:18 of the second period.

Julian Smith opened the scoring 11:25

into the first period. He was set up from the left wing by Steve Wasylo. The goal turned the momentum in Plymouth's favor after Windsor had pressured early.

Troy Smith and Dave Legwand set up Holdridge's goal at 14:11 to give

Whalers fly with Fedorov

BY BRIAN CORBETT

While most of metro Detroit is beginning to believe the Detroit media generated perception that Sergei Fedorov is an arrogant prima dona who lacks heart, people who actually spend time with the former Hart Trophy winner have quite a different story to tell.

Fedorov, who is in the midst of a prolonged contract squabble with the Red Wings, practiced with the Plymouth Whalers last week at Compuware Sports Arena.

He provided electricity to a dressing room in the need of a spark after consecutive losses in Belleville and Barrie the previous weekend. With the paparazzi filling the visitors bench, the pace of last week's practices were noticeably faster than usual, players said.

"It's awesome. He can fly," said center Julian Smith, one of the fastest skaters on

Plymouth a 2-0 advantage. Julian Smith extended the Whaler lead to 3-0 with a shorthanded goal at 16:38.

With Plymouth leading 3-1 in the third period, Yuri Babenko set up Taylor's 20th goal of the year at 1:19.

the Whalers.

"He glides, and all of sudden, he's gone," said center Eric Gooldy.

Fedorov centered the Whalers' top line with captain Andrew Taylor and fellow Russian Yuri Babenko. Rookie center Dave Legwand, who usually anchors the unit, was out of town at the OHL All Star game last week.

"I never thought I'd say 'I don't want Legwand on my line'," Taylor said, smiling. "But it did help a lot. Everyone wants to impress Fedorov, and we had a good week of practice because of it."

Apparently, Fedorov was out to impress, too. He often was the first player on the ice, and the last player to leave the weight room. He signed autographs, and struck up casual conversations with several players. "First of all, he's the nicest guy," said Whaler defenseman Sergei

Please see pg. 21

WHALER WATCH

Steve Petix
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	W	L	T	Last 10	Pts.
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SARNIA	22	15	8	7-1-2	52
PLYMOUTH	24	14	3	5-5-0	51
ERIE	18	26	5	2-7-1	38
S.S.MARIE	14	25	2	4-6-0	33
WINDSOR	15	29	1	5-5-0	31
EAST					
BELLEVILLE	28	15	2	8-2-0	58
OTTAWA	23	11	7	6-3-1	53
KINGSTON	23	16	3	4-6-0	49
OSHAWA	19	22	4	2-8-0	42
PETERBOROUGH	15	23	5	2-8-0	35
TORONTO	10	24	8	2-7-1	28
CENTRAL					
GUELPH	30	11	3	8-2-0	63
BARRIE	29	12	2	6-3-1	60
KITCHENER	17	20	5	4-6-0	39
SUDBURY	16	28	4	2-8-0	36
OWEN SOUND	16	24	2	2-8-0	34
NORTH BAY	12	29	6	2-7-1	29

WHALER STATISTICS

Team Leaders:
Goals: Legwand (38)
Assists: Legwand (31)
Points: Legwand (69)
PIM: Boulerice (123)
+/-: Legwand (+28)
GAA: Esche (3.02)

CATCH OF THE DAY
Defenseman Kevin Holdridge was named to the honor roll at Catholic Central High School with a 3.01 grade point average

UPCOMING GAMES:

- Thurs. (7:30) at Windsor.
- Fri. (7:30) at London.
- Sat. (7:30) vs. London at CSA.
- Tues. (7:30) at Sault Ste. Marie.
- Jan. 30 (7:30) at Sarnia.

Jack DEMMER

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An outsider on the inside

Customs, ice storms and life on the road with the Plymouth Whalers

"You know what?" Robert Esche, the Whalers' all-star goaltender, says to me the morning of Jan. 11 at the back of the team bus somewhere in between Belleville and Barrie, Ontario, "I want to see someone write what an OHL road trip is really about."

It's about cellular phone calls to wives or girlfriends on the 401. It's about business-like scheduling. Quick meals at roadside diners. The ear phone filtered sound of Metallica drifting past you from the Discman several rows back. Climbing over seats to get to the bathroom. Changing in the aisles as the bus rolls into the next arena. It's about playing cards games and chewing tobacco to pass the time. Or wishing you had more time as you prepare for your second game in 16 hours.

Welcome to life as player, coach or trainer in a junior hockey league. There's no customized jet with a gourmet chef preparing dinners, or suite reservations at the Radisson. Just a guy named Bill with a heavy Canadian accent driving a bus to the nearest Quality Inn off the freeway.

But you won't ever see Paul Newman climbing on board with the Hanson Brothers to make a sequel to "Slap Shot", either. The only horseplay on this weekend trip to eastern Ontario was Sunday's 7-3 loss to the Colts in Barrie.

With just dreams of turning my favorite game into a lifestyle, I can't promise Esche and the rest of the Whalers the introspective he desires, and they deserve.

What I can deliver is a diary of an outsider who was inside for one weekend

Jan. 10 Saturday, 6:30 a.m. — I already have an appreciation for what these guys do. Getting up before the sun on a frigid weekend in January to make a five-hour trip through lower Ontario and into the worst ice storm in Canadian history is not enticing. But there are two important games to be played, tonight against the East Division Belleville Bulls,

and Sunday afternoon versus the Central Division Barrie Colts.

7:45 a.m. — I'm informed of Rookie Rule No. 1. "You can't sit there," says George Kirky Scott, the affable assistant to the coaches and the Whalers' video technician. "That's a coach's seat." I may be a journalist by trade, but I'm a rookie this weekend, and first-year players have to "double up" on the bus, while the veterans, coaches and trainers spread out over two seats for the bus ride. I slide in next to Pete Krupsky, the Whalers' play-by-play radio commentator and a regular on these road trips.

7:50 a.m. — Rookie Rule No. 2: you load the bus. (I'm spared of this detail.)

8:00 a.m. sharp — We leave. Head Coach Peter DeBoer, assistant coaches Greg Stefan and Steve Spott leaf through several newspapers looking for OHL game results. Everyone quickly falls asleep. **9:40 a.m.** — "Yuri. Sergei. Let's go," Stefan says. We're at Canadian Customs in Sarnia, and Immigration wants to see passports for the Whalers' two Russian players, Yuri Babenko and Sergei Fedotov. They put their pillows aside, grab a sweater and begin to climb over seats, rather than go through the isle criss-crossed with a labyrinth of legs, to get to the front of the bus. Initially, I feel sorry for them — two young men, playing hockey half of a world away from home, are singled out for their nationality and sent out into the biting January cold while the rest of us continue to sleep. Then, I watch them get off the bus with the most resplendent customs guard I've ever seen, and I begin wishing I was Russian, too.

10:00 a.m. — It's time for a 10 o'clock showing of a yet to be decided movie to kill the next two hours of the journey. The bus has a VCR, several televisions and a bathroom. It's not John Madden's cruiser, but we're not driving across the country, either.

Men in Black, Pulp Fiction and Blown Away are among the movie selections.

"You guys should be ashamed of yourselves," says Spott, who is known for his banter.

Blown Away wins out, only Kirky (the video technician, mind you) has trouble finding the beginning of the movie on the tape.

"Hey, Kirky, what movie is this," a voice calls out from the back of the bus.

"Tell them it's Legends of Hockey,"

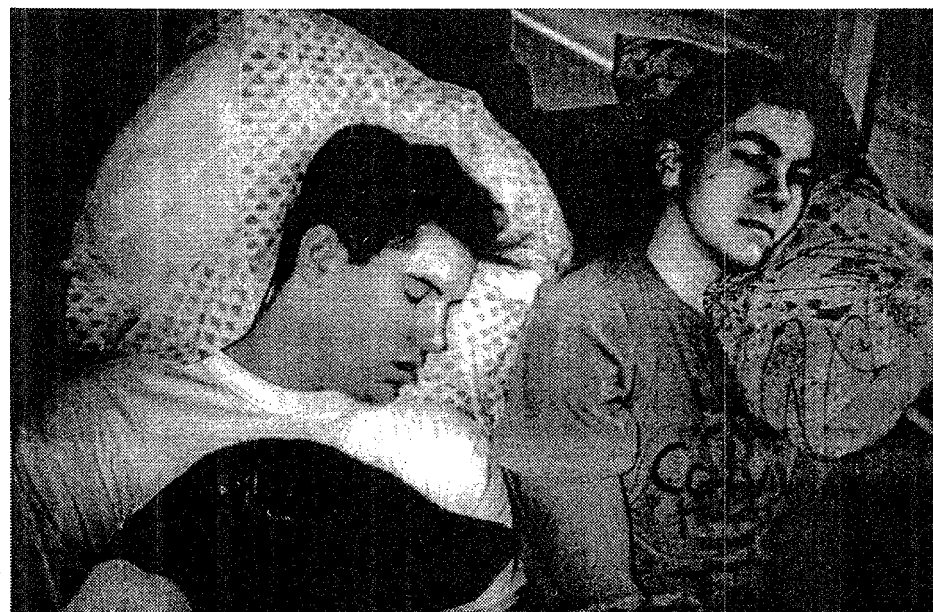
Truth is Tough

By Brian Corbett



so, at worst, I figure he'll speak only when I'm not. For now, the room is mine; Bower is riding up on the fan club's bus.

2:30 to 3:15 p.m. — At a restaurant a block away from our hotel, we sit down



Goaltender Scott Holsinger (left) enjoying a favorite bus activity — sleeping. Holsinger and defenseman Shaun Fisher (right), both rookies, must "double up" on road trips during their first year with the Whalers. (Crier photo by Brian Corbett)

suggests a certain coach. Guess who.

Noon — Just where is Belleville, anyway? It's been four hours, and they tell me we've got another two to go. I guess I should've checked out travel distance before I decided which road trip I was going to go on. **1 p.m.** — Have you ever heard of Prince Naseem Hamed? Or, what I should probably ask is, have you ever seen Prince Naseem Hamed? Neither had I until Kirky pops a tape of the London-bred fighter's most recent boxing match at Madison Square Garden into the VCR. And let's just say Hamed's entrance into the ring is somewhere in between Michael Jackson and Hulk Hogan. I'm immediately a fan of Hamed, who dances his way down a lighted runway before backflipping into the ring. And I think the players can learn from it too. Hamed is extremely loose and focused prior to a title fight. The Whalers could use that rare combination come playoff time. Later I'm asked who I'd rather fight, Hamed or Jesse Boulerice, the Whalers' enforcer. That's easy. Hamed's 10-minute ring entrance would give me plenty of time to run. Plus he keeps his gloves on when he fights.

2:05 p.m. — Welcome to Belleville. Stefan hands out room assignments, which are different every trip. Someone bemoans getting paired with a goalie. Does the same attitude that allows goaltenders to think it's OK to get pelted with frozen rubber carry over into their off-ice lifestyle? I'm assigned a room with Whaler color commentator John Bower,

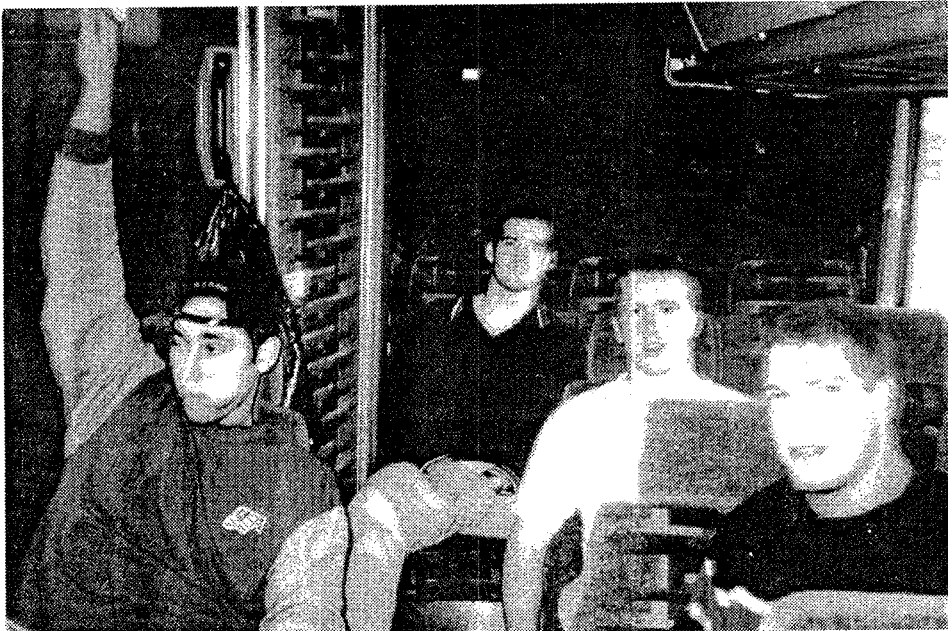
for a buffet meal, which is a good idea because these guys would wear out an entire wait staff with their appetites. "The bus leaves for the rink at 5:30 p.m. sharp," Stefan says.

There's that word again, "sharp."

3:30 p.m. — I'm back in my hotel room watching the OHL game of the week on TV when Bower walks in, along with Ed Roberts, a reporter for the Great Lakes Hockey Alliance. Soon after Krupsky knocks on the door, to join what soon is proclaimed the largest Plymouth Whalers media contingent ever. A candid conversation about hockey soon begins to sound a lot like a radio broadcast, once Krupsky and Bower get going. Krupsky returns to his room, and Bower mumbles something about waking him up at 5:15 p.m. The hockey game and a smattering of Bugs Bunny cartoons keep Roberts and I engrossed.

5:15 p.m. — What time did John want us to wake him up? **5:20 p.m.** — Bower wakes up on his own, sending the rest of us into action. **5:30 p.m. (and about 20 seconds)** — We missed the bus. So that's what they mean by 5:30 p.m. sharp. I'd have a hard time paying the team fine because I just realized I don't have any Canadian money. Luckily, the media veterans I am with can pay for the five-minute cab ride to the arena.

6:00 to 10:45 p.m. — The Whalers lose 3-1 before a raucous crowd of 2,500.



As veterans (from left) Robert Esche, Andrew Taylor, Troy Smith and Steve Wasylo enjoy several perks on the long bus rides through Ontario. They get to spread out in the back of the bus while the rookies load their hockey gear. (Crier photo by Brian Corbett)

Salem, in classic form, wins tourney

BY ERICA D'ANGELO

The Salem volleyball won its conference opener last Thursday, and the Plymouth Salem Classic Saturday.

The conference opener went extremely well against Livonia Franklin, considered one of the Western Lakes Activities Association better volleyball teams. Salem hardly allowed Franklin to get in on the action, winning the meet with a 15-2 and 15-4.

Salem's lead players, including seniors Amanda Abraham and Jenny Trott both had good games. Abraham had six impressive kills, and Trott had four. Abraham also had several nice blocks, and three service aces. Trott also had eleven digs.

VOLLEYBALL

On Saturday the Rocks again battled to victory, and left their close rival, Canton, in the dust. Last year, the two teams played each other in the final round of the tournament. This year, however, things were a lot different. Canton didn't even make it to the semi-finals, missing the cut by one point. Canton co-captain Amy Plagens wasn't really sure why things went so out of favor for the Chiefs. "The team played really well, I guess there was just a lot of mental errors," she said.

Maybe part of the reason the Chiefs had such an unlucky tournament was that starters Plagens and Christy Even, were

both out. Plagens was out with a knee injury, and Even didn't attend the game because she was attending a school field trip. The beginning of Canton's season has started to look dim, especially compared to last year's impressive campaign. However, they hope to start turning things around this week, beginning with their first league game Monday night, against tough opponent Walled Lake Central. They will play again tonight, 7:00 pm at Livonia Stevenson.

On the other side of the creek, Salem is just beginning. They are already proving to be another powerhouse team this year, and their goal to make it to states shouldn't be that out of reach.

To Belleville, Barrie and back

Continued from pg. 20

These old arenas seem to bring out the loudest vocal chords. The only seating here is along the sides, and the rows go all the way to the ceiling. The game has me on the edge of my seat, not because of the score, but so I can look down at the game being played almost directly below my spot in the rafters. You don't miss anything up here. The pre-game media dinner features KFC and pizza; it comes as no surprise when I'm told Compuware is the only five-star restaurant on the OHL circuit. Conversation continues to hover

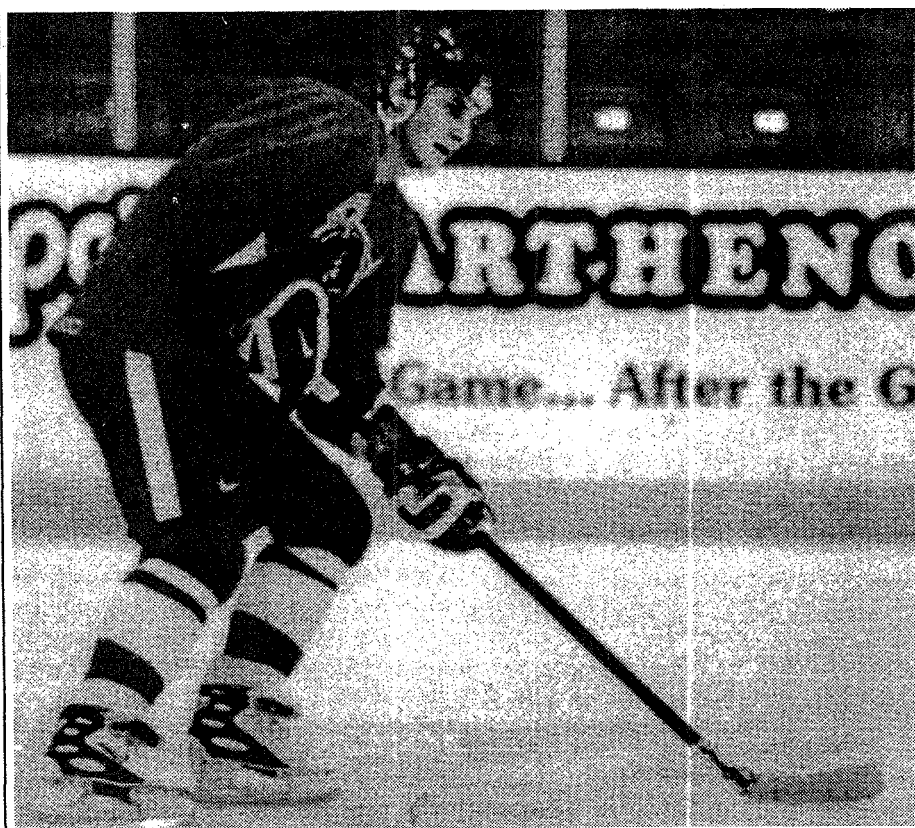
around the terrible ice storm, which has closed highways and knocked out power lines just 20 minutes away.

11 p.m. — Rookie Rule No. 3: You buy dinner. This one isn't so bad, I even invited the coaching staff to join us since it was going on my travel expense account. But I am relieved (or at least my publisher is) that a late night chicken dinner is delivered to the 20 or so players at the hotel, and most adjourn to their rooms for a couple rounds of cards. As it turns out, it was a bluff, and Krupsky buys dinner and drinks. I'm getting lucky on this

rookie initiation stuff. I wonder if hockey players know what "cub" reporters endure. 1 a.m. — Lights out for 8:30 a.m. bus departure; that's 8:30 a.m. sharp. 3 a.m. — Alright, who's snoring? 7 a.m. — Wake up call, only it just briefly wakes me up. This is earlier than I get up during the week. 8:15 a.m. — Springoutofbedthrowclothesonrundowntot helobbygetonthebuspshew! 8:30 a.m. — Wheels are turning. 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. — A buffet breakfast at a roadside restaurant. I tell Stefan, who's arranged for meals an lodging, he'd make a good tour guide. 10:30 a.m. — I spend about 30 minutes at the back of the bus with veterans Andrew Taylor (the captain gets three seats to himself) Troy Smith, Esche, Boulerville, Steve Wasylko and Pat Parthenais. The conversation turns from the previous night's loss, to who's the team's worst roommate to the finite life of a junior hockey player. "Every single person at the camps I've been to has told me, 'Enjoy juniors as much as you can'," says Esche. "I wouldn't mind playing juniors for the rest of my life."

"As long as the pay gets better," Taylor says. 11 a.m. — What would a trip through Canada be without a stop at Tim Hortons? 12:08 p.m. — We roll into the Molson Centre in Barrie. It's a brisk but bright and beautiful Canadian Sunday with a light snow scattered around the arena. The three-year old facility is radiant with glass facades at either end, and the inside is even more impressive. Two levels of suites ring the arena, and a second-story restaurant overlooks the ice surface. The media is given a considerable amount of room behind the top of row seats. But the arena has no weight room for the players, and fans can't bring beer to their seats. That's like not being able to eat a hot dog at a baseball game.

2:00 to 4:30 p.m. — Even though the Whalers lose, 7-3, the game is as equally entertaining as the Molson Centre. 4:45 p.m. — After a second loss in as many tries, the scene outside the locker room resembles as M.A.S.H. unit; it's time to pull out in a hurry. 5:00 p.m. — Pizza is delivered to the bus, everyone is quickly done eating because no one is talking. Pretty soon no one is doing anything, that's because the lights are out for a reason, and I have a pretty good suspicion it doesn't have anything to do with preventing me from writing this article on the



Sergei Fedorov, who's in the midst of a prolonged contract squabble with the Red Wings, practiced last week with the Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Sports Arena. (Crier photo R. Alwood Jr.)

Continued from pg. 19

Fedorov.

"I didn't know him before he came here, but he's the nicest guy you'd ever want to meet. He's a great NHL player, unbelievably fast."

This isn't the first time an NHL player has skated at Compuware Sports Arena. Bob Probert practiced with the Whalers last summer, and Slava Kozlov, Keith

Primeau and Adam Graves also have used the facility.

"It's a great learning experience for the guys. It's a good measuring stick, too. Sergei Fedorov is one of top five skill players in the NHL, it's good for our guys to see how hard he works during practice and afterwards in the weight room," said GM/Head Coach Peter DeBoer... "He's a great person, too."

On deck

SALEM BASKETBALL

Friday at Farmington. JV begins at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at home versus Northville. JV begins at 6 p.m.

SALEM SWIMMING

Thursday at home at 7 p.m. versus North Farmington.

SALEM WRESTLING

Thursday at John Glenn at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the Holt Invitational at 9 a.m.

SALEM VOLLEYBALL

Today at home versus John Glenn at 5:30 p.m. Monday at Farmington at 5:30 p.m.

SALEM GYMNASTICS

Saturday at the Adrian Invitational at 1 p.m.

CANTON BASKETBALL

Friday at home versus Franklin. JV begins at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at Walled Lake Central. JV begins at 5:30 p.m.

CANTON BOYS SWIMMING

Thursday at home versus Northville at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Monroe Invitational at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Stevenson at 7 p.m.

CANTON WRESTLING

Thursday at home versus Harrison at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the Belleville Invitational at 10 a.m.

CANTON GYMNASTICS

Today at 7 p.m. at home versus Northville. Monday at Farmington at 6:30 p.m.

CANTON VOLLEYBALL

Today at Stevenson at 5:30 p.m. Monday at home versus Northville at 5:30 p.m.

bus. (Though it does succeed in doing just that.) No cards. No television. It's just time to think about the disappointing road trip, except for trainer Dave Hilger, whose job it is to think about how hard to make practice tomorrow.

9 p.m. — American customs comes on board in Port Huron. "Where's Sergei Fedotov? That's Fedotov not Fedorov," said the greybeard customs man. "He's cheaper," someone quips. 10:15 p.m. — The players are given instructions on Monday's practice routine. 10:45 p.m. — Home sweet home. I'm more than tired than I was Friday.



Community opinions

Holding bond hostage 'un-American'

EDITOR,

I find it deeply distressing that the school bond election continues to divide our community. The election was certified first by a unanimous vote of the bipartisan Board of Canvassers, who found no defect or bias in the voting machines. This was confirmed at the county level, by the Secretary of State, and by the decision of Circuit Court Judge Rashid. Once the election was certified, the school board had no legal right to nullify the election, and was, in fact, required to implement the results of

the election. Four venues have determined that the vote was properly conducted, and that the equipment used was in proper working order.

In every election, there are under counts. These are either inadvertent or intentional, and, ultimately, are the responsibility of the voter. Paper ballots can be cast incorrectly, and absentee ballots have been returned unmarked. The punch-card voting system used in school election prior to the bond election is notorious for the potential for spoiled ballots. As an example of a very narrow

election with many spoiled ballots, I can point to the 1992 election of Kathleen Keen-McCarthy won that election by 17 votes. Punch card ballots are easily spoiled in multi-seat elections if a voter accidentally chose more than the allotted number of candidates (3 of 6 rather than 2 of 6)—an error that the new voting machines will not allow, by the way.

It would be a dangerous precedent to remove the responsibility of each voter to properly cast his ballot and require that elections meet some standard for under-counts or spoiled ballots. If we did make such a requirement, any election could be held hostage by a minority of people who, realizing that their candidate or proposition is unlikely to pass, deliberately fail to make a proper vote. Unlikely, you think? Well, consider what sometimes happens in elections where

multiple seats are being filled. Supporters of a weak candidate often advise their voters to cast only a single vote, and forfeit their remaining votes, in

essence 'diluting' the vote for other candidates.

I find it alarming and un-American that one man should deliberately hold an election hostage under the guise of 'defending the democratic process.' I am appalled that people are naive enough to believe that the

issue is what he has tried to make it. The actions of the school board have been unjustly cast in the worst possible light, and may voters have been unreasonably turned against the schools.

We need to refocus on the school children of this district. We need to build the schools.

PAT KIEWICZ

It would be a dangerous precedent to remove the responsibility of each voter to properly cast his ballot and require some standard for under-counts or spoiled ballots.

Proposal 'unconstitutional'?

EDITOR:

I have read with interest about the "proposal" of the individual challenging the bond issue approved by voters last year. As I understand it, he wishes a select group of the population to automatically receive absentee ballots for each election. While I certainly support the model established by the State of Oregon last year to have voting by mail, I find the concept of preferring one group of an electorate a serious throwback and a challenge to equal access. I would also like to point out two issues.

First, I believe that federal and state election laws have prohibited any practice that prefers one group of voters over any other. Even if the school district, city or state passed legislation to allow such a voting preference, it would probably be unconstitutional.

Second, the laws of our state currently specify who can vote by absentee ballot, and the lawyers involved in the litigation may want to review the statutes which would prohibit any settlement based on the "proposal."

MICHAEL S. KHOURY

An early jewel

A development on Ford Rd. could be a jewel in Canton's crown. But is now the right time? The DDA has a month to decide.

The Burton-Katzman developers have bought themselves another month of breathing room.

The developers presented an ambitious plan to Canton Township's Downtown Development Authority (DDA) last month. Their aim is to create a mixed use, but consistently-themed commercial park on about 125 acres of undeveloped land at Along Ford Road between I-275 and Lotz Road.

Burton-Katzman proposed to clean up the watershed, improve the storm water drainage system and fill the park with four or five upscale restaurants, a 20-screen movie theater, a shopping center and about 400,000 square feet of office and residential space.

And all they asked for in return was about \$4 million in initial infrastructure improvements.

Understandably, the DDA board blanched. Chairperson Ralph Shufeldt requested additional information from the developers, such as the actual cost of the development and an intensified traffic study, with the intention of pursuing these issues further in a January meeting.

That meeting, originally scheduled for last Thursday was postponed until the third week in February: Burton-Katzman claimed their information was not yet ready.

So while the developers have more time to prepare before they give their final pitch on what will be a pretty tough sell, there's time for the DDA to consider one other aspect of the proposal:

Do we need it?

Take away all the traffic concerns, the wetland concerns, even the monetary concerns, and just look at how fast Canton is growing.

Before developers give their final pitch on what will be a pretty hard sell, there's time for the DDA to consider one other aspect of the proposal: Do we need it?

With all the subdivisions being built up and businesses expanding in the area, the Township is already overcrowded.

It reminds me of a similar situation in Eugene, OR. Eugene is a wonderful city by all practical measures (except annual rainfall). About a year before I left, Hyundai wanted to locate a major manufacturing plant on the outskirts of town. The plant offered some of the same things that the Burton-Katzman development offers Canton: they would clean up under-utilized wetlands, give the economy a shot in the arm and bring in an estimated 1,200 jobs.

The city said no.

Not because of the wetlands or the extra traffic and

Off the cuff

By Scott Spielman



certainly not because Eugene didn't need an economic boost. The city said no simply because they liked the city the way it was.

Canton is at a point where growth will continue out of control if planners aren't careful. The DDA already has a full plate this year, and the improvements they have proposed for Ford Road need time to be completed and tested. Only after the DDA has had time to judge the efficacy of the improvements can it accurately judge how a development the size of Burton-Katzman's will effect the area.

The DDA should think well whether Canton needs the development enough to contribute \$4 million to it. Burton-Katzman should examine ways to complete the project without the funds.

The answer could be simple: the development, while a potential jewel in Canton's crown, is a concept whose time has not yet come.

And the DDA should allow the Ford Road corridor to catch up with growth in Canton.



Community opinions

Ice Spectacular going logo?

For years you have seen it in Hollywood movies. This year it reached the Rose Bowl. Not even the produce aisle is safe.

More and more product placement and marketing opportunities are priorities where they weren't before: corporate logos and slogans are slapped across the remote and disparate parts of contemporary American society.

Where the average consumer is likely to look, corporate logos are likely to be.

So, when 750,000 folks show up in Plymouth for the International Ice Sculpture Spectacular, it's no surprise to find ads. Plymouth is following a cultural-economic trend.

On the big screen, advertisers have paid to put their products in unobtrusive-but-unmissable spots ever since E.T. first nibbled on a bag Reese's Pieces. And videotape versions of the film *Jerry Maguire* are about 40 seconds longer than the version seen in theaters. Why? Reebok forced a contractual issue and now one of the characters in the

movie, a football player, appears in a faux ad for Reebok athletic shoes.

To a degree, sports have always been tied to advertising. First pro athletes, and eventually college players were marked with the Nike Swoosh. It's a little symbol, but symbolic of a bigger trend in advertising and corporate marketing strategies. It's one that has even reached the upper echelons of collegiate athletics: the next Rose Bowl will have a corporate sponsor.

Is there nowhere that corporate images don't appear?

If there is, it apparently isn't the produce aisle. When I went to grab a bunch of bananas while grocery shopping last week, I found a little sticker. Chiquita? No. It was oval, black and asked 'Got Milk?'

"Yes, I've got milk! I bought it three aisles ago. What I want is bananas — and a break."

With ads as far and near as the eye can

Some Might Say

By Bryon Martin



see, it's no surprise that Plymouth's Ice Sculpture Spectacular would be influenced by the greater culture of which it is a part.

By no means does it compare with Hollywood or the others in being too pushy with products. But there are signs.

Last year there was the giant Progresso Soup can cluttering the view near Kellogg Park. This year brought the giant Pepsi logo sculpture in The Gathering. I know sponsorship must be important to pulling off the Spectacular, but come on. The Pepsi logo? If I felt ripped off, how did people who drove an hour or more to get to Plymouth feel?

And where did they spend their money once they got here? I'm sure restaurants did well, but how about retailers? Do Plymouth clothiers need competition from a guy who rented a tent on Main Street to hawk wool sweaters? They bore no apparent connection to the Spectacular, other than they were sweaters and the weather was cold.

Sure, a few wool sweaters are preferable to giant Swooshes on the Mayflower (unless Nike has a renovation plan ready). But huge numbers of people come to the Spectacular each year; 1998 brought 750,000. Where possible, let's keep the focus on town.

Because if it's corporate logos and invasive advertising spectators want, they can find it in plenty of places other than Plymouth.

Just check the produce aisle.

Kudos to P-C bus drivers

Thursday's snowstorm — although not huge by any means — hit just before the morning commute, snarling drivers.

School bus drivers here were especially stymied, both because of other traffic, and because the Plymouth-Canton Community School District is so far flung over roads way down the priority list.

But they did a magnificent job!

One empty bus did temporarily lose control on its way to pick up kids. But no damage was done, and the bus moved on.

And sure, some stops were late and the

routes took extra time past the morning bell, but the job got done, and done safely.

Congratulations to a dedicated group that's often overlooked and sometimes under fire.



Plymouth Soccer Club: no to YMCA rec.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter was sent to Plymouth City Manager Steve Walters.

Dear Mr. Walters,

As President of the Plymouth Soccer Club I am writing in support of a joint recreation program for the City and Township of Plymouth. The creation of a well funded, professionally administrated joint recreation program could well serve the needs of the more than 1100 children in our community who play soccer each season.

However, I must voice concern that to the best of my knowledge, the committee examining the establishment of this joint endeavor does not include a single recreation professional. Input from the people who know exactly what it takes to run a recreation

program of the size that is being proposed is crucial to any decision. The Plymouth Soccer Club is not in favor of the YMCA handling the administration of a joint recreation program for the simple reason that the YMCA in Plymouth has not demonstrated

'The Plymouth Soccer Club is not in favor of the YMCA handling joint recreation. The most logical path is to build upon the existing City of Plymouth Rec. Dept.'

Fred Stafford

Soccer Club, we applaud your efforts in working to address the recreation needs of our children.
FRED STAFFORD
President, Plymouth Soccer Club

the ability to administer a program of this size at the level of quality that is required.

The most logical path is to build upon the existing City of Plymouth Recreation Department. This is a professional group that has proven it can administer large programs efficiently and deliver quality results. Expanding this existing core and having it report to a joint governing body comprised of representatives from the City, Township and School Board could greatly minimize any growing pains the establishment of a joint recreation program will create.

Why start from scratch when you already have a solid recreation foundation that is serving the needs of the City and Township Residents?

Speaking on behalf of the Plymouth

The Community Crier



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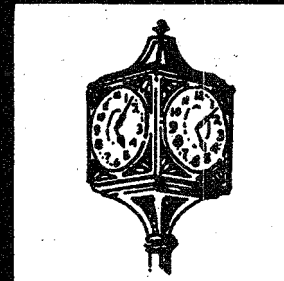
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