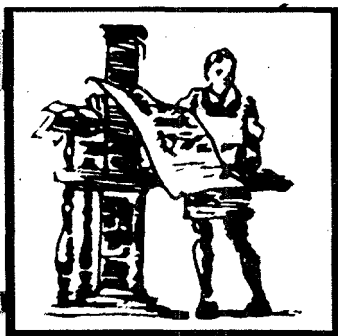


The Community Crier

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December 16, 1998

City reviews PCAC deal

Officials track paper trail, City role in arts center project

BY BRYON MARTIN

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Confusion among members of Plymouth's City Commission has led to an investigation into the City's role in a real estate deal four years ago with the Plymouth

Community Arts Council.

At a meeting Monday night, the Commission reviewed City actions from 1994 to 1997, when officials helped the Plymouth Community Arts Council (PCAC) buy and remodel the building at 774 Sheldon Rd., now known as the Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts.

Current Commissioners Ron Loiselle, Don Dismuke, Dennis Shrewsbury and Stella Greene all served on the Commission when the deal came together. Greene was also a member of the PCAC Executive Board of Directors then.

Documents from that time indicate that City officials wanted to give the PCAC project "administrative, not financial," help.

Today, however, the PCAC owes the City \$121,000 for renovations to the building they are buying from the City.

It is such disparity between the intent described in past City records and the current financial reality that have raised eyebrows and, following a Community Crier request under the Freedom of Information Act, an intense briefing

Please see pg. 16

Huge blaze levels Twp. paper plant

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Flames consumed a 35,000-square foot building in Plymouth Township Sunday, sending a mountainous plume of black smoke into the sky and temporarily closing the I-275 expressway.

According to Chief Larry Groth of the Plymouth Community Fire Department, flames sprouted at about 4 p.m. and spread quickly through the business, a paper warehouse called Document Processing, Inc. (DPI).

"We got the call at 4:10 p.m. that there was a structural fire at the location," Groth said. "We immediately dispatched two stations. When we arrived, we saw a lot of heavy smoke coming out of the west side of the building and we immediately set up an aerial tower."

Groth said that within 30 minutes of the department's arrival he noticed that the building's walls were swaying.

Please see pg. 15



Smoke eaters from the Plymouth Community Fire Department catch their breath Monday morning after a night fight with flames at Document Processing Inc, on Eckles Road. See pg. 16 for on-the-scene photos (Crier photo by R. Alwood, Jr.).

Twp. land buy could stall new fire station

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

Buying property at the triangle intersection of Ann Arbor Road and Ann Arbor Trail may have opened recreation doors for Plymouth Township, but it may have also closed the book on purchasing land for a new fire station.

Trustee K. C. Mueller brokered the deal in which Plymouth Township paid more than \$280,000 for a 3.5-acre piece of property. According to Mueller, Township officials used monies originally set aside for a new fire station.

"We were in a quandary. We just couldn't find any available property" for the fire station, Mueller said. "Our commitment as a board was that we would preserve green space, and I think that's what we've done."

The board had set aside \$750,000 in its 1999 budget to buy property for a new fire station, if a site became available. But restrictions on where that new fire station could be located — within one mile of the

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Going bowling

Briefcase Drill Team to head for Fiesta Bowl

See Friends & Neighbors, pg. 6

Brighter toys

New Canton toy store is best of both worlds

See Business, pg. 8

12-16-98



Heartfelt hug... Ofc. Todd Sepenko of Plymouth Township police stoops for an embrace from Mary Lou Concilla, of Plymouth Township. Both were among the hundreds of police and civilians who attended the funeral of slain Detroit Ofc. Shawn Bandy, held Saturday at Temple Baptist Church, in Plymouth Township. "I wish I could hug every policeman here," Concilla said. (Crier photo by R. Alwood, Jr.)

CEP, police join to fight teen traffic troubles

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Canton and Plymouth Township Police are teaming up with CEP administrators to curb the growing problem of reckless student drivers.

Due to a growing number of complaints from nearby residents about student speeders, Canton police has sent their Selective Enforcement Units (SEU) into the area at both ends of the school day.

"There seems to be an increased need for police presence at the beginning and end of the school day," said Bruce Siegel, assistant principal of Canton High School.

According to Lt. Pat Nemecek of the Canton Police, SEUs strictly enforce traffic laws. Copies of citations issued will be given to CEP administration, and habitual student offenders can lose their driving privileges.

"It's just the first phase of the driving awareness program," Nemecek said.

"We're also going to work with the community policing officer to make it a team project," he said. "We're going to provide education programs in the school using their closed-circuit classroom televisions."

Nemecek said he was also going to meet with CEP's traffic safety committee

and suggest a survey that examines traffic patterns from both high schools.

Siegel said CEP sells 1,200 parking permits each year to upperclassmen for \$60. Students are penalized for driving infractions, with penalties ranging from a two-week suspension of driving privileges to a complete revocation of them, he said.

Although Siegel said there are slightly less than 1,200 spaces, and some seniors leave school early for work co-ops, the bulk of the student drivers arrive and leave the park at the same time.

Factor in the schools' busses, he said,

and there is a potential for a traffic nightmare.

"It's just too crowded," Nemecek said. "There are too many cars and busses for people to go around driving like maniacs."

The answer may lay in a traffic

study, and perhaps stop lights at the schools entrances. But Salem Principal Gerald Ostoin isn't convinced that will solve the problem.

"We already have stop signs nearby, and it occurs to me that there is not a lot of difference between a stop sign and a stop light," Ostoin said. "I think the presence of a police officer will be more meaningful."

There seems to be an increased need for police presence at the beginning and of the school day.

- Bruce Siegel

Vice Principal, Canton H.S.

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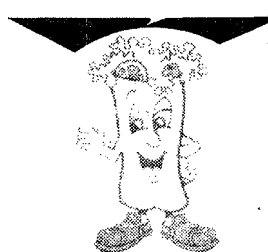
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Peer pressure gets serious

35th District Court, CEP team up for a new kind of justice

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Judge Mills Lane, eat your heart out. Teens in P-C-N have a new way to pass judgment, and it takes the concept of a jury of peers to a new level.

Called Teen Court, it's a program that started in October at the 35th District Court.

The concept is exactly the same as a typical court of law: defendants state their case before a jury, overseen by a judge.

There's only one difference: the defendants and the jury are juveniles.

Defendants for the teen court are identified by the 35th District Court probation department, according to Judge Ron Lowe, who oversees the court along with Judge John MacDonald and magistrates Eric Colthurst and Ted Johnson.

"The juvenile department picks people who they think can benefit from the influence of their peers," Lowe said. "Sometimes kids need to have someone of their own age say to them, I'm sorry, this behavior is unacceptable."

Defendants and cases are real, and chosen from the court's caseload, Lowe

said. Defendants are given the opportunity to appear in Teen Court rather than accept the judge's sentence.

The Teen Court jury is made up of students from CEP's practical law class. They spend as much time in the jury box as they do in the audience, watching how their peers judge defendants.

Jury Duty

It works like this: The defendant is shown in to the court and takes a seat on the witness stand. In lieu of attorneys, the jury asks questions of the defendant — the specifics of their case, their family or social background, how they typically do in school and if they are frequent trouble makers.

"It's nice to see how focused the kids can be," said Tim Nadon, who teaches practical law at Canton. "When it comes down to it, they take it very seriously and ask astute questions."

When the jury is satisfied, the defendant is dismissed. The jury is then escorted into a deliberation room where they discuss the sentence.

"We'll take everything into account," said junior Kevin Kinelly. "If someone comes in dressed well and really takes it seriously, we may go a little easier on them. But if they come in and act like they don't take it seriously, we'll be a lot harsher."

Meanwhile, back in the courtroom, another aspect of the teen court takes shape. After the jury leaves the room,

Lowe rises from behind his bench and stands in front of the students.

"Anyone have a comment or any idea of what they'd do?" he asks, and opens the floor for discussion.

The students and judge then discuss their opinions of the defendant, and his or her story. They talk about body language, if they thought he or she lied and other extenuating circumstances which might affect the sentence.

"It's informative for all of us," Lowe said.

"They can see through the stories a little better than I can and recognize things I wouldn't recognize."

When the jury finishes their deliberation, they file back in. Lowe asks them about the sentence, and any circumstances they felt led them to their decision. The jury foreman then announces the verdict and the process begins again.

Students take the sentencing aspect of the Teen court very seriously, according to juror Scott Palmer.

"You've got to be serious when you get into the courtroom, because you realize you're dealing with someone's life," Palmer said.

"It was pretty scary the first time because I didn't know what I was doing," added fellow juror Jamie Stathopoulos. "I didn't want to make a mistake."

Sentences passed have all the weight they would in an adult court of law, Lowe

Please see pg. 9

P-C Schools:

More steps against arson

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Two fires in two months is two too many for CEP administrators, and they're taking steps to prevent any more.

By implementing a school wide education plan, producing an anti-fire video with the Canton Fire Department and increasing security and staff presence in the hallways and bathrooms, administrators hope to halt students from this particular type of dangerous mischief.

"I'm not sure if we can ever prevent it entirely, but we can maintain a greater presence in more vulnerable areas," said Bruce Siegel, assistant principal of Canton High School. "We

Holiday Crier comes early

During the week of the Christmas holiday, Crier publication dates will change from Wednesday, Dec. 23 to Saturday, Dec. 19.

Special deadlines of note for Crier advertisers include:

- Classified ads: deadlines is Thursday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m.

- Display ads: deadline is Thursday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m.

- Editorial deadlines: letters to the Editor, listings in What's Happening, Obituary notices, general news and photo opportunities is Thursday, Dec. 17.

Crier offices will be closed Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25. The newspaper will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24.

The Crier offices will also be closed New Year's Day Friday, Jan. 1. The paper will be open for business from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31.

will also pursue vigorous prosecution for anyone who starts a fire."

Canton had two such incidents in the past two months. In October, a fire started in the garbage can in a boys' bathroom caused about \$3,000 worth of damage. Two students were expelled for the incident, and are currently awaiting trial for arson, a 10-year felony.

Two weeks ago, a similar fire started in the toilet paper dispenser in the adjacent girls' bathroom. That incident is still under investigation, according to Tom George, head of security at Canton High School.

"We're not sure if it was intentional or unintentional," he said. "It's possible that someone just left a burning cigarette in the dispenser. People have been smoking in bathrooms ever since there have been bathrooms in schools."

George said Canton Fire Department and CEP students are producing a fire prevention video. The video will address the reason for fire drills and penalties for arson.

He said CEP staff will also make a habit of checking the bathrooms more frequently.

Some bathrooms may be locked during certain hours of the day he said. Part of the problem is that there are only two indoor security guards per building to cover 8-10 bathrooms, he said.

George may also hire senior citizens for part-time positions to monitor the outside of bathrooms. A similar program has been successful in other communities such as Livonia, he said.

George thinks educating students about the gravity of arson is the best way to prevent it from happening again.

"I think the kids think this is kind of a minimal activity," he said. "I don't think they know how serious it is."

Agenda

THIS WEEK

- Tonight, the CEP Chorus will perform a concert of holiday music at 7:30 p.m. in the Salem Auditorium. The Lowell Middle School Band's performance also begins at 7:30 p.m. at Pioneer. Call 734-416-2755 for more information on holiday school events.
- Tonight, the Old Village Development Authority meets at 7 p.m. Call 734-453-1234 for information.
- Tomorrow, the Canton Chamber of Commerce holds its Third Thursday update at 7:30 a.m. in the Old Country Buffet on Sheldon Rd.
- Now showing through Jan. 1 at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, the Jeanne Poulet exhibit. Call 734-416-4ART.

THIS WEEKEND

- Friday, bowl the night away at Canton's Superbowl during the Canton Police Department's 4th Annual All-Night-Lock-Down, beginning at midnight. Proceeds from the event benefit the Canton explorers program, which teaches youth about police activities through active participation. For more information on the program or the lock down, call Mike Steckel at 734-397-6451.

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Canton dump committee coming

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

The formation of a citizens solid waste management group could be a part of a new agreement that would allow Canton's landfill to nearly double its height.

According to Canton Supervisor Tom Yack, the group could keep an informal eye on the landfill and meet with Canton and landfill officials to discuss concerns. Such a group was a part of the original agreement proposed five years ago that simply never materialized.

"It's our fault that it didn't happen," Yack said. "The group was supposed to be formed 120 days before the landfill went into operation. But we thought there weren't going to be any problems before it opened, so we'd let it operate for a while and form one later."

The lack of a citizens group was one concern ore it opened, so we'd let it operate for a while and form one later."

The lack of a citizens group was just one concern Canton Hills subdivision residents raised when they met with the Board of Trustees Thursday in a second study session about the proposed expansion of the landfill.

Likening themselves to the Biblical hero David, they

discussed their concerns should the landfill win approval — and an additional 8-10 years of operational life.

D from the site, the hours of operation and possible health problems arising from breathing fumes.

A majority of those residents have complained of work being done at the landfill during the night, which landfill manager Laurie Kendall denies.

Tony Minghine, Canton finance director, said he asked the Public Safety Department to increase patrols in the area to determine if that was the case.

"They reported that the noise appears to be coming from the Ryder Truck facility," he said. "They do operate longer hours."

Residents, however, were unconvinced that this was the case.

"We resent the implication that we are speaking without knowledge," said Carol Middell, president of the Canton Hills Homeowner Association.

Under the current agreement, there is no limitation to the hours the landfill can operate, according to Minghine. The new agreement proposes, the landfill would be able to accept waste from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Those hours are dictated

by the customers Sauk Hills serves, Kendall said.

"The solid waste world is an unusual one. Its hours are not compatible with the rest of the world," she said. "They're used to getting around before the rest of the world is up."

Kendall also said there was little that could be done about noise originating from the site. That noise — a shrill, steady series of beeps — stems from the site's garbage packers. The sound can't be altered or stopped because it is an OSHA safety requirement, she said.

Officials are far from making any decision about the expansion, according to Yack. He and board members John Burdziak and Phil LaJoy will meet with residents to discuss forming a citizens group.

"I'll speak for myself: I'm still collecting information," Yack said.

Residents seemed mollified that the board was willing to listen to their concerns, but knew they were fighting an uphill battle.

"The board has the responsibility to represent our interests even though we are small in number," Middell said. "We don't think that's the case."

Law passes pain management bill

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

As most of the Michigan State Legislature scrambled with last-minute deals on casinos and revenue sharing last week, Rep. Gerry Law, Plymouth's recent-

ly re-elected Republican, rode out the session wrangling a pair of successful bills.

Law's pain management bill and fire autopsy bill have either passed through the legislature or were on their way.

The pain management bill is the last in a series of bills intent on improving doctors' ability to treat patients, according to Law, particularly those with terminal or chronic diseases.

The bill allows patients more access to treatments that could alleviate pain, Law said. It also plans for an extensive consumer education program to increase awareness of the options available.

On the heels of the Patient Bill of Rights, passed by the legislature last year, Law said the pain management bill is one of the final steps toward a goal he and other lawmakers set out to accomplish four years ago.

"We wanted to give people better choices," he said. "That's what we set out

to do. And I think that's what we've done."

The bill establishes a pain management commission, requires the publication of a booklet on intractable pain and provides an educational program for physicians who prescribe controlled substances.

Health insurance companies will also be required to tell their patients whether or not they offer pain management care, and to what degree.

"This is probably the most encompassing bill of its kind in the nation," Law said.

He also said the bill is not a reaction to the Jack Kevoorkian-assisted suicide debate. Although the authors of the bill are not in favor of assisted suicide, he said, "this was begun before the Kevoorkian debate became so publicized."

Law's other bill regulates autopsies in fire-related deaths. It passed 95-1 in the House, but failed to clear the Senate

before the lame-duck session let out.

Because of law enforcement officials' concerns that criminals were using fires to cover up homicides, they wanted the authority to request an autopsy in suspicious cases, Law said.

The bill doesn't require medical examiners to perform autopsies in all fire-related cases, only if police believe fire was not the cause of death, Law said.

The bill also includes language to allow abstention from autopsies when they conflict with religious belief.

If foul play is suspected, law enforcement officials can override the religious stipulation, Law said, but families will have a 48-hour window to appeal.

"Many states already have a bill like this," Law said.

The bill is expected to be introduced again next year when the new Legislature meets in January.



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How are the Whalers doing?
 Read Crier sports, pg. 23

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Cherry Hill preserved

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Canton Planners hope to keep one step ahead of developers as they preserve the village atmosphere of historic Canton.

By passing an amendment to Canton's Comprehensive Plan last Monday, they're well on the way.

The amendment opens the way for a Cherry Hill Development District overlay, which will set the tone for growth in a large part of historic Canton, according to Community Planner Jeff Goulet.

The overlay will cover about two square miles in southern Canton and centers on the intersection of Cherry Hill and Ridge roads. Planners hope to preserve that district and enhance it by developing the area as a small town or hamlet, with an emphasis on pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

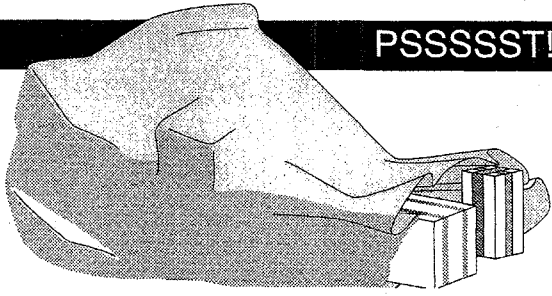
"We hope it will have some of the same ambience and the commercial accessibility as downtown Plymouth," said Planning Commissioner Melissa McLaughlin.

Goulet said the next steps would be to hire consultants and develop specifics in land use requirements.

Goulet said a developer already had options for three large chunks of property within the district. That property, which totals about 60 acres, would be developed for residential uses, and would be developed in conjunction with the overlay, he said.

"We can make sure we're all on the same wavelength," he said. "It's a good way to test the regulations as they apply to developers."

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Friends & neighbors

Neighbors in the news

Erica D'Angelo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. **Anthony J. D'Angelo** of Plymouth, was awarded a presidential scholarship at Lake Forest College. She is a graduate of Canton High School.

The presidential scholarship is awarded to those students who score 28 or better on the ACT and rank in the top 20 per cent of their class or have a minimum of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Being a former Crier intern doesn't hurt, either.

Albion College student **Molly Strand**, daughter of **William R. and Virginia D. Strand** of Plymouth, in a new member of the Gerald R. Ford Institute of Public Service.

The Ford Institute is designed to give exceptional students a chance to broaden their education through concentrated areas of government and public service. Students participate in a city government simulation and complete course work concerning political science, history and ethics.

Ron Lieberman of Canton has been nominated to receive a Citizens Insurance Seniors Award, which recognizes outstanding volunteer services by senior citizens.

10 winners from the 50 nominees statewide will receive a \$500 cash prize and a \$500 donation to the charity of choice.

Roxanne Delozier, Christine Gerak and Patricia O'Rourke of Canton; **Denise Anderson, Kathleen Ceane and Jessica Smokivitz** of Northville; and **Ryan Bayer, Marilee Brindamour and Carol Stone** of Plymouth have received the High Achievement Award from Madonna University's School of Business.

The honor is given to students who have completed a minimum of 30 semester hours at Madonna and 15 hours withing their major with a GPA of 3.5 or above.

Navy Hospitalman **Stephen D. Littleton**, son of **Douglas and Beverly J. Littleton** of Canton, recently complete one of the largest NATO exercises of the year while on a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU).

Briefcase team goes bowling

Plymouth's Fred Hill takes his popular parade troupe to the Fiesta Bowl

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

With their suits ironed with stiff precision, ties straight and heels clacking on the road, the Fred Hill Briefcase Drill Team marches down the road.

Eyes sober, gaze turned straight ahead, they appear to be just the sort of straight-laced business men their attire suggests.

But then with a command from Hill, who walks alongside with a long cane, the shuffling begins. Marchers swing their briefcases in unison, performing intricate maneuvers before assuming their staid march.

It's performances such as these that have earned Hill's troupe national recognition, and invitations to perform in such events as the Detroit Thanksgiving Parade.

Next month, the brigade will travel to Tempe, AZ for their third appearance in the Fiesta Bowl Parade.

"They absolutely love us," said Hill, chuckling. "They even paid our expenses."

Hill formed the drill team in 1985, when he worked for a men's clothier. Their first appearance was in the Plymouth 4th of July Parade, he said.

"It was a natural," he said. "There are all these guys in business suits."

Since then the team has grown in notoriety, performing in the Pro Football Hall of Fame parade, the Indianapolis 500 Parade, Detroit's Thanksgiving and Red Wing Celebration parades.

They have also made television commercials and were featured on an opening montage on cable television's The Daily Show.



Fred Hill (left) and the Briefcase Drill Team head to Tempe, AZ in January to take place in their third Fiesta Bowl Parade.

The team consists of 16 members, marching in a square. Hill has a pool of 22 local businessmen he draws from to fill the square, depending on their availability. They march and perform moves patterned loosely after Bill Murray's brigade moves in the movie 'Stripes.'

Hill said he receives about 25-30 requests a year, of which he chooses four or five. As he tells it, he's trying to limit the troupe's exposure and lengthen their 15 minutes of fame. He said the briefcase

team's popularity is fairly easy to explain.

"We give a very good comic relief," he said. "That seems to be our appeal."

When the briefcase team earns more than what they pay in expenses, they donate the funds to local charities, such as the March of Dimes of Plymouth Community United Way, Hill said. Last year they helped with the family of Margaret Williams, who was killed while crossing Ann Arbor Road.

"It's always good to help out," he said.



Happy birthday...
State Business and Professional Women (BPW) president Cheryl McKay (center) celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Plymouth BPW with Plymouth BPW president Liz Johnson (right) and member Nancy Simpson

Little time to sell court bonds

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Construction bids for the new 35th District courthouse have come in so favorably that the five communities in the district have to work fast to keep them.

According to Dennis Dundon, president of Coquillard, Dundon, Peterson and Argenta, the bids, which were opened Thursday, are good for 60 days.

Before the Court Building Authority can award the contract, however, it needs the funds to pay for it, i.e. bonds. And before the building authority can issue bonds, each municipality must have published an intent to enter into a bonding agreement with the building authority, a process that takes 45 days, according to Bob Bendzinski of Bendzinski & Co., municipal finance advisors.

"The residents have to have 45 days to circulate a petition if they want to call for an election for the bond sales," Bendzinski said.

Before the communities can publish the statement of intent, they needed a maximum dollar amount for the bond sale, Bendzinski said.

The estimates for the building, including hard construction costs and soft costs — architect fees, furniture and equipment and legal fees is about \$8.125 million, Bendzinski said.

The court has \$2.2 million in insurance revenues to spend on the new building. It also has about \$1.8 million cash on hand, which they could contribute to the new courthouse. But court officials might want to hold on to a portion of those funds and try for a more attractive bond issue, if the bonding rate is good, according to Canton Supervisor Tom Yack.

The board decided to set the maximum bond level at \$6 million, the cost of the new building less the insurance proceeds.

"By no means are we willing to bond up to \$6 million. This is just a number for the model resolution," said Northville Township Supervisor Karen Woodside.

The court advisory board's biggest time obstacle is the holidays. Community board approval is necessary to publish the statement of intent, and many communities don't have meeting scheduled until next year.

Plymouth and Northville Townships will have to schedule special meetings. Paul Sincock, Plymouth's assistant city manager, said he would try to get the item on Monday's commission agenda.

"There is a certain amount of time urgency here," Dundon said. "I don't think you would ever get bids this favorable again."

City to decide firefighter hire

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

Fire Chief Larry Groth has been asking for three more full-time firefighters to supplement his anemic staff since last year. By 1999, he may get his wish.

The Plymouth Township Board of Trustees has already approved funds in their 1999 budget to pay for the firefighters. To accommodate the joint fire department agreement, the City Commission must now decide if they are willing to contribute, too.

At last Monday's City Commission meeting, members discussed the proposed hires. Although they didn't question the legitimacy of Groth's claims, Commissioners did ask whether or not the state should bankroll the increase that is required by a change in state law: the two-in/two-out rule.

"Suddenly this mandate has come down forcing us to re-examine our fire service," said Plymouth Mayor Don Dismuke. "That is certainly something we have to consider."

The mandate requires at least four firefighters to be on site at a fire before anyone enters to fight the blaze.

For a department like Plymouth, which has lost half of its part-paid firefighters in the last four years, meeting the mandate results in long hours and overtime pay for the firefighters.

According to Groth, six full-time firefighters, two per station, are required each shift. At full staff, seven firefighters are on duty. Because many of those firefighters have seniority with the department, at least one is often out with a sick or personal day, leaving the shift at the

six firefighter minimum.

"If one of those firefighters is out, we are left with only five and we have to call in somebody for overtime," Groth said.

Adding to the staffing strain is the daily routine of fire inspections, Groth said. More than 1,500 businesses are examined each year. That's far too many for the fire inspector alone, leaving many of the duties to firefighters.

"All of those things contribute to burn out," said Township Supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy.

Discussions of new firefighters date back to the fire merger four years ago. Talks heightened this year when the Township said they would seek a millage increase to pay for extra firefighters and police.


At that time, the City said they would match the Township's commitment if the millage passed.

The millage did not pass, and both communities were left to re-evaluate their stance.

In their recent budget sessions, the Township included funds for extra firefighters, and according to Keen McCarthy, it could finance the new crew even if the City backs down.

For now, the City Commission hasn't discussed the new proposal, Dismuke said. He said discussions could continue within the next week.

"We have not made any conclusions," Dismuke said. "Groth's recommendations are based on how they serve the whole community. We need to look at how they benefit the City."



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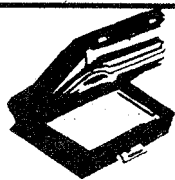
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Getting down to business

Neighbors in business

Shurgard Storage of Canton has completed their new climate controlled building. The new facility houses more than 60 brand new heated and cooled storage units in a variety of sizes, including units with drive up access.

Shurgard anticipates this will fill a need in the Canton area for high security, temperature controlled storage. The new building is complete with high security lighting, computer controlled access and fully insulated walls and ceilings.

Saint Joseph Mercy Health Care System has installed a Computerized Axial Tomography (CAT scanner at the new **Canton Health Building**. It is the only CAT scanner in the Plymouth-Canton area.

CAT scanners use computers and rotating X-Ray tubes to help physicians diagnose head, chest and abdominal conditions.

"I'm really pleased that SJMHS is investing in the Canton community like this," said Canton physician David Seaman, MD. "Patients who formerly would have to make a trip to Ann Arbor can take advantage of the diagnostic radiology services right here in Canton."

Cary G. Varblow, CFP LUTCF, FIC, a district representative with the Lutheran Brotherhood, serving Ann Arbor and Plymouth, was recently approved to serve as a LifeMap Financial Planner.

LifeMap is a comprehensive financial planning philosophy.

The Plymouth Chapter of Business Network International will meet from 7-8:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31 at the **Water Club Seafood Grill** at Ann Arbor Road and I-275.

The Northville Chapter meets at **Kerby Koney Island** at Eight Mile and Haggerty.

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

Visteon Automotive Systems Sheldon Road Plant has received certification to the international environmental standard ISO 14001 for its conservation efforts.

The ISO 14001 standard involves the use of a strict environmental management system.

A brighter, better toy store

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Canton's Brighter Toy Store is just that. With tall windows, and an abundance of interior light and colors, it looks like a children's paradise.

Walls are lined with the hottest new toys. Race tracks and train sets are constructed for children to play with and a state of the art listening station provides samples of music.

Owner Cindy Brandemihl designed the store with today's smarter, more creative children in mind. In fact, she enlisted the help of her daughters, Courtney, age 10 and Kelsey, age nine, to provide the product for their own age groups.

"Courtney insisted that I have toys and cool stuff, as she calls it," Brandemihl said. She handed over the catalogue and allowed her to do the ordering, and the results have been better than she expected. "It worked out fabulous. We've sold out of a lot of the stuff."

Brighter Toy Store opened the day after Thanksgiving. According to Brandemihl, it's a real family effort. Designed in part by Cindy and her husband, Gregg, the store is managed by Cindy's sister, Suzanne Pettovello.

Located on Canton Center Road, just



Cindy Brandemihl's toy store on Canton Center road features old classic dolls to modern toys that stretch children's imaginations. (Crier photo by Scott Spielman).

south of Ford, the store contains virtually any type of toy a growing child would want. Brandemihl said she drew upon her experience selling toys to specialty toy shops to choose the best types of products.

If there is a pattern in the types of toys found in the store, it is learning and imagination.

"Most of the toys you have to put together before you can play with them," she

said. "They're interactive toys that stimulate children's imagination before they play."

Coming next year will be a web site and birthday registry to complement the stores policy of providing free gift-wrapping. Soon customers will be able to punch up a child's name, see what they want for their birthday, call the store and have the toy wrapped and ready to go when they arrive, Brandemihl said.

Tattoo parlor opens in Old Village

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

When you first walk in to Victor Locke's Old Village Tattoo studio, you may think you are in a doctor's office.

The walls are white, the decorations scarce. The Mill Street store front is pristine, not the type of environment you would expect for someone who caters to

what some think of as a questionable art form.

That's the way Locke likes it. A professional tattooist for about seven year, Locke previously had a shop in Westland. After a brief stint in Kentucky, he is back to re-build his clientele in Plymouth.

He first started in the field through a

friend of his father's who recognized his talent for art. From there it was a two year apprenticeship.

"It's mostly a lot of watching and learning," he said. "When you practice you use a grapefruit. It's very similar to regular skin. It tears up just as quickly if you don't work on it right."

The walls of Locke's shop are decorated with tattoo designs from artists around the world. Customers can select a design, Locke will copy it on a copy machine and use the carbon as a stencil for the design. Then it's all about filling it in.

Locke, a member of the Alliance of Professional Tattooist, said he takes a variety of factors into account when he determines his fee, which starts as low as \$30.

Size of the tattoo and amount of colors comes into play, as well as intricacy of design and body location.

He says a big part of his job is relaxing his clients, which he does by providing a friendly atmosphere.

"I like to have fun and joke around," he said. "I'm definitely not going to be a stick in the mud."



Victor Locke said he has already received a decent amount of business in his Old Village parlor, which is located on Mill Street. (Crier photo by Scott Spielman).

Walker-Winter gets facelift in and out

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

The construction trailer is already in place in the parking lot of Canton's Walker-Winter Elementary.

A portion of the playground has been staked out, dirt has been moved — construction workers on bulldozers seem as eager to begin their work in the playground as the children are to play in it.

First built in 1839, the school is poised to receive about \$3.8 million in bond money for an expansion and a technology update.

The funds will pay for seven new classrooms, new furniture and cabinets, replaced ceiling tiles and an upgrade to the school's computer systems, linking classrooms.

Funds come from a \$108 million bond issue passed overwhelmingly in February in the Wayne-Westland school district, which owns Walker-Winter.

The bond will renovate all but two of the district's 29 buildings, according to Charlotte Sherman, assistant superintendent of Wayne-Westland Schools. Walker-Winter is among the first to see renovations, she said.

According to Jim Edward, principal at Walker-Winter, the renovations are sorely needed. The school has been updated in 1920, 1961 and 1977.

"It's really not in terrible shape, but after 20 years you have to make changes," he said.

The school's seven new classrooms will provide elbow room it lacked before. Two of the classrooms will be used for dedicated art and music rooms, services which had been provided by an "Art Cart," Edwards said.

The existing classrooms will be gutted and refurbished, with new cabinets, computers and ceiling tiles.

Each classroom will get a VCR and monitor, and connection to the school's satellite system. Students had the ability to watch such programs before, but only by crowding into a converted storeroom.

"You wouldn't believe how we're packed in here," Edwards said.

The 20 year-old carpet in the hallways

will be torn up and replaced with tile to provide a cohesive look throughout the patchwork style school, Edwards said.

The new classrooms will be completed by the spring. Most interior renovations will occur throughout the summer, according to Sherman.

The renovations and enhanced technology are important for Walker-Winter students, many of whom come from Canton's disadvantaged areas, Edwards said. Walker-Winter draws students from Sherwood Village mobile home park, Canton Commons, and other areas.

"It's important for the kids to have a nice school," Edwards said.

Teen court: 'a better sense of civic participation'

Continued from pg. 3

said. And while some defendants may choose the Teen Court in an attempt to find a more lenient sentence, Lowe said such is rarely the case.

"Some are more harsh some more lenient, but most of them are hitting the mark," he said. "They are usually generating sentences that would be consistent with what our probation department would recommend and are given out by judges."

Background

Although new in the 35th district, the program has been around for a number of years, according to Lowe. He said he first learned of it before he was elected as a

judge and began to pursue it further after the 35th District Court gained jurisdiction over juveniles two years ago.

Eventually the court received a grant to pay for training in the program, and the Teen Court grew out of that class, he said.

In addition to learning more about the court system, Nadon said the program has other benefits for students. It reinforces the lessons he teaches in class and gives the students an increased sense of civic responsibility, he said.

"A lot of parents have a negative attitude when it comes to jury duty," Nadon said. "Maybe the kids won't get to that point. They'll have a better sense of civic participation and pride."

Lowe agrees. While he said it was still too early to tell exactly how effective the program is, he said he likes what he sees so far. He hopes exposing students to the law in a positive way can help develop a better respect for it.

"It's always been my and (Chief Judge John) MacDonald's philosophy to create local solutions for local problems," he said. "This one is a very effective solution."

The students agree that the program is working. When combined with the classroom lessons, the students get a better grip of the lesson, according to Palmer.

"Some classes like math you learn it but you can't apply it in life," Palmer said. "When you experience this first hand you can understand it better."

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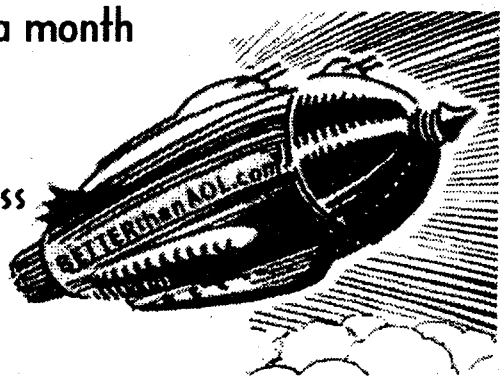
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Groups

KIWANIS BREAKFAST CLUB

Meets 7:15 a.m. Tuesday mornings at the Water Club Seafood Grill at Ann Arbor Road and I-275. For info call (734) 453-1373.

PLYMOUTH SYMPHONY LEAGUE ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

The 1998 Ultimate Entertainment Book, offering 50 per cent discount coupons at hundreds of restaurants and discounts for many other services and events is available from the Plymouth Symphony League by calling (734) 453-3016 or at the Plymouth Symphony Office, 819 Penniman Avenue in downtown Plymouth (734) 451-2112. The book is \$40, and all proceeds are used to support the Plymouth Symphony.

WALTONWOOD NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Waltonwood senior community needs volunteers to head a men's club, help with arts, crafts, bingo and meal services. For more information call (734) 844-3060.

OPTIMIST CLUB ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Entertainment 99 books are on sale by the Plymouth Optimist Club. Proceeds go to benefit children's causes. To order the \$40 book call (734) 728-7619 or (734) 453-8253

PLYMOUTH-CANTON CIVITAN MEETING

P-C Civitan Club holds their monthly dinner meeting, on the third Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Water Club Bar & Grill. Call Barb Kobiela, 464-1129.

GOD'S GOLDEN GIRLS

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church invites women over 50 to join "God's Golden Girls." Meet third Friday of each month, noon. Free lunch with reservation. Call Pattie, 981-0286.

CANTON REPUBLICAN CLUB

Canton Republican Club meets on the third Thursday of each month at Cherry Hill School at 7 p.m. Call Melissa McLaughlin, 495-0304.



Volunteer

MICHIGAN CANCER FOUNDATION

Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer-Institute is looking for volunteers to provide transportation for cancer patients in P-C-N area. Call 561-8880, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program need volunteers in Canton to help children needing tutoring in basic math and reading. Free training. Call 883-2100 ext. 368.

FISH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FISH of P-C in need of volunteers to assist in aiding neighbors who can't help themselves. To be a driver, caller, or run errands, call 261-1011, leave a message.

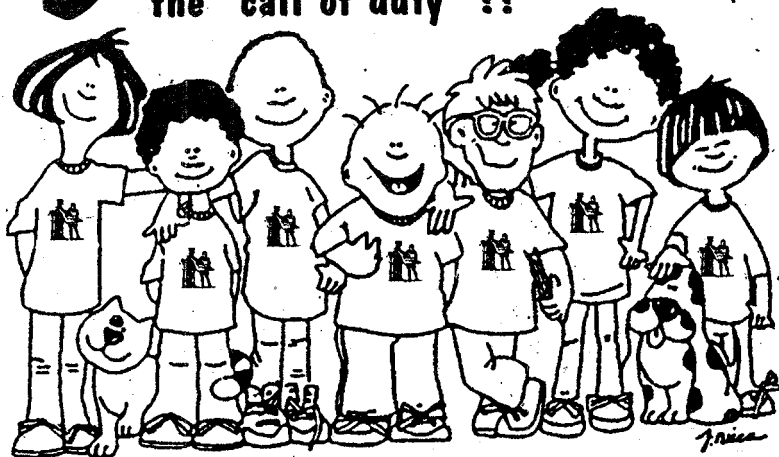
SUMMIT SHUTTLE

Summit on the Park, Canton, offers shuttle service from east parking lot (next to playscape) to north door of Summit. Enclosed eight-person cart provides service 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. If P-C Schools close because of bad weather, tornado or severe thunderstorm warnings, shuttle won't operate. Senior Office, 397-5444.

STUDENT EXCHANGE

Families needed to host international students from "Academic Year in America," sponsored by American Institute for Foreign Study Foundation. Students range from 15-18 years, arrive from Brazil, Germany, Spain, Netherlands and other countries. Call Amy Mullen, 1-800-322-4678, ext. 5423.

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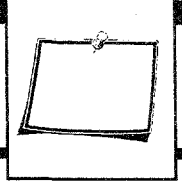
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Events

OLGC REUNION

A Dec. 26 reunion is planned for members of the OLGC class of 1980. For more information please call or email with your current address: Kathy Meade Brady at 202-546-4377 or kbrady@erg.com; Karen Detrich Gearns at 734-455-5475.

CANTON HIGH SCHOOL HOLIDAY CONCERT

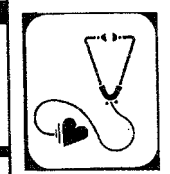
The Canton High School Holiday Concert will be held **Wed. Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Salem High School heater. The concert will be sung in a collage style, where there is continuous music until intermission and again at the finale. There will be a minireception with refreshments during intermission. Also Toys for Toys for Tots Charity will be collected. For more information call 416-7765.

NORTHVILLE NIGHT

Northville Parks and Recreation will again be sponsoring the second annual family New Year's Eve event called Northville Night. More than 400 people attended last year's event, which will once again be held at Northville High School. Tickets for this family event go on sale **Nov. 1** at the Recreation Department and are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children under the age of 12. There will be clowns, carnival games, slot cars and miniature golf and a magic show. For more information contact Northville Parks and Recreation at (248) 349-0203.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC DRAMA

The Father's Gift of Love, a choral drama, will be presented by the Celebration Choir, Soloists and Drama Ministry of Calvary Baptist Church in Canton. Reader's Theater, drama and contemporary choral and solo music combine to tell how the innkeeper's wife and one of the magi discover in their own ways the significance of the new born King of the Jews. The show will be **Dec. 18 at 8 p.m.** For more information call 734-455-0022.



Health

SUICIDE LOSS PROGRAM

Arbor Hospice offers a group for adults who have experienced a loss through suicide. The group meets at Risen Christ Lutheran Church in Plymouth on the first and third Monday evening of each month from 7-8:30 p.m. For more information call 734-662-5999 or 248-348-4980.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HANDBOOKS

40-page handbook contains current domestic violence laws, women's rights, community resources list, and more, in Arabic. Pick-up copies at Arab-American and Chaldean Council, Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, Wayne County prosecutor's office and department of public health clinic in Dearborn. English, Spanish versions available. Call 313-224-6994.

WEIGHT AND CHOLESTEROL MANAGEMENT

St. Joseph Mercy Health System is sponsoring the Nutriway weight and cholesterol management series. The program includes cooking demonstrations, taste testing, label reading, restaurant survival and more. Classes available at Canton Summit on the Park. Call 313-712-5110 for details.

FOCUS ON LIVING

A self-help group for cancer patients and their families meet the first Wednesday of each month at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia. Meetings are from 7-8:30 p.m. in the hospital auditorium. Call 734-655-2922 or 800-494-1650 for details.



GUIDE to Entertainment

Go PCN

Your GUIDE to commercial entertainment in the Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community. Also note community and non-profit groups' events, listed in this Crier under *What's Happening*.

BOULDERS

734-459-4190; Thurs.: *Danny Cole*; Fri.: *Jim Prescott*; Sat.: *Night Flight*

CANTON CINEMA 6

734-981-1900, "*Rugrats*" "*A Bug's Life*" "*Psycho*" "*Jack Frost*" "*Star Trek*"

CLUB CANTON

734-722-0722; Wed. - Sat.: "*Sierra Blue Band*"

ERNESTO'S

734-453-2002; Mon.-Thurs.: *Strolling Musicians*; Tues.-Sat.: *Live Music in Piano Bar*.

GENITTY'S HOLE IN THE WALL

248-349-0522; Live Interactive Dinner Theater: "*Clueless at Christmas*."

KARL'S COUNTRY CABIN

734-455-8450; Thurs.: "*Big Dave and the Ultrasonics*"

LOWER TOWN GRILL

734-451-1213; Sat.: *Glen Eddy*

LUCILLE'S TAVERN

734-397-1988; Wed. - Sat.: *Walley Jackson*

MARQUIS THEATRE

248-349-8110; Live Musical Theatre "*Cinderella*" through Jan. 17.

PENN THEATRE

734-453-0870; Now playing: "*Simon Birch*"

PLYMOUTH COFFEE BEAN

734-454-0178; Thurs.: *Del*; Fri.: *Lou Rye*; Sat.: *Family Magic*

STATION 885 RESTAURANT

734-459-0885; Wed. - Sat.: Live music with *Wally Gibson*;

WAGON WHEEL LOUNGE

248-349-8686; Thurs.: *Open Jam*; Sat.: *Ben Moore and the Blues Express*

These listings are free of charge and are accurate as of noon Friday, prepared for Wednesday's Crier. Bookings, reservations, cover charges and capacities may change, so please call to verify information. A venue wishing to be listed or to update information should call The Crier at (734) 453-6900 by noon Friday.

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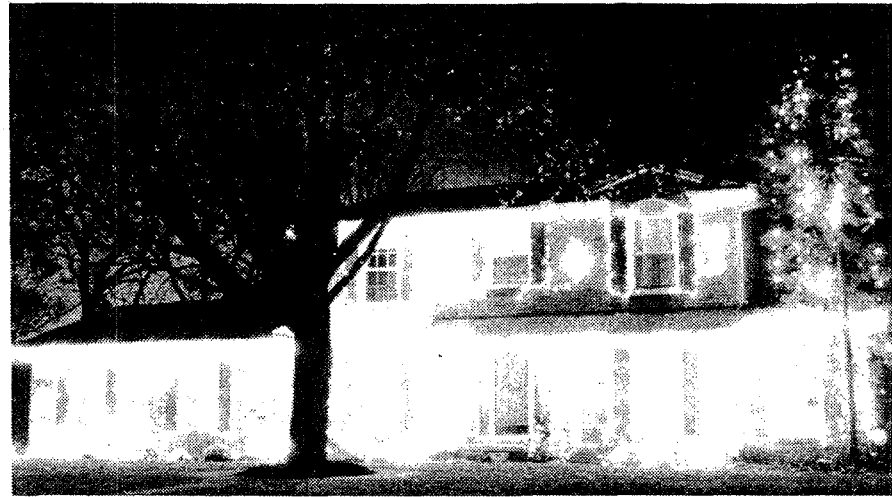
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The lights of Plymouth



1377 Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth



120 Burroughs, Plymouth



208 Blunk, Plymouth

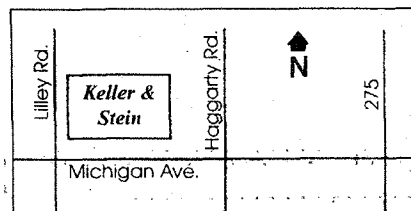


111 Evergreen, Plymouth

It's a holiday tradition that predates electricity itself. And this year, with warm temperatures reaching far into December, the holiday lights seem brighter and better than ever. Throughout the Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community, houses and businesses light up the cold winter nights. There were so many great houses, we couldn't show all of them. So here are a few.

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- Holiday Gifts & Decorations



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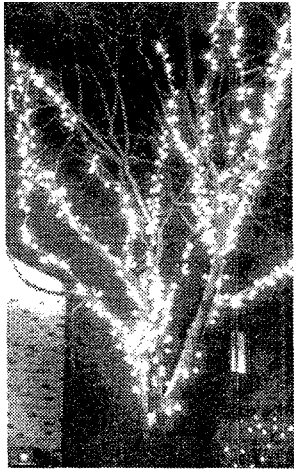
397-0800

Mon.-Sat. 8:00-6:00 Sun. 10:00-2:00

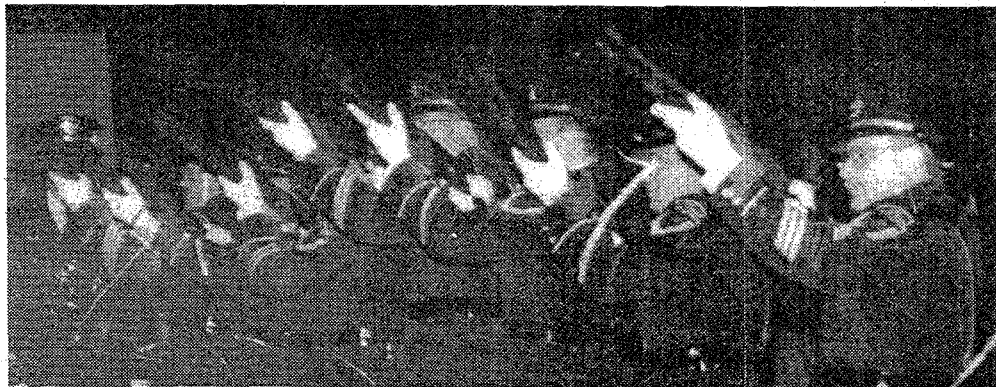


44447 Marc Trail, Plymouth Township

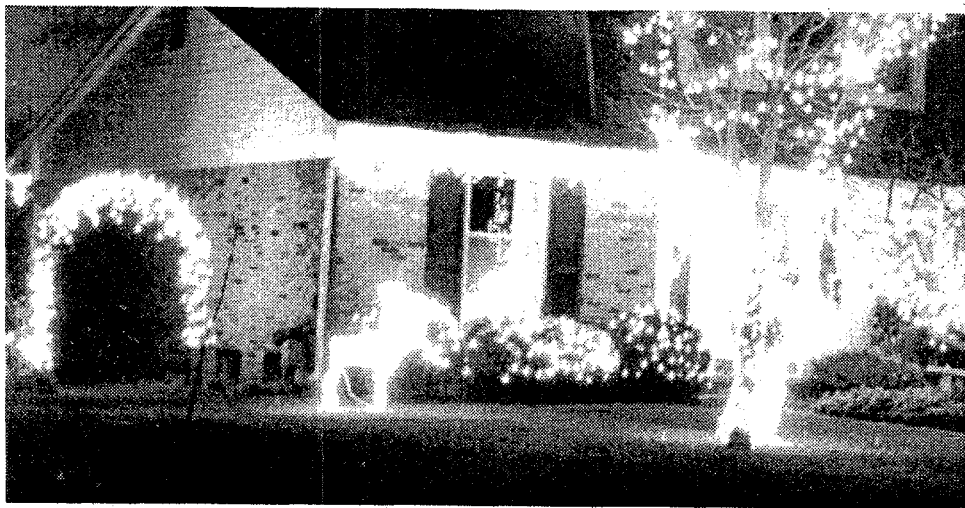
And the lights of Canton



8771 Westminster Lane, Canton



As part of Project Blue Light, a tribute to fallen police officers, residents are being asked to shine blue light this holiday season. Left, offers fire a 21 gun salute at a ceremony Monday night. Max Bandy, below, father of slain Detroit police officer Shawn Bandy, speaks to the crowd.



880 Mannington, Canton

Crier photos by R. Alwood Jr.



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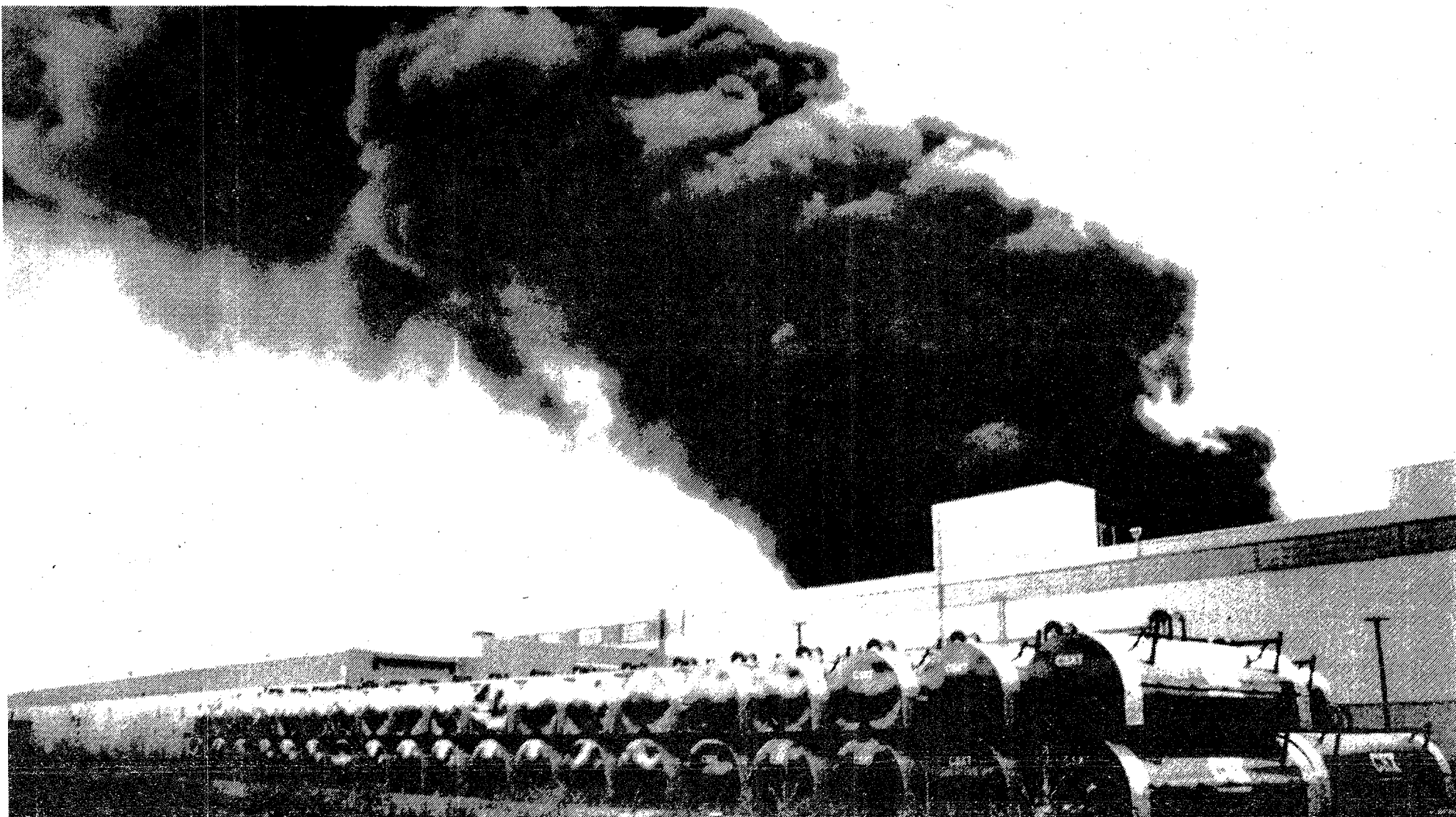
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See the 99 Ventura and S-10 Pick-up



Our deals are all lit up for the Holidays



A giant plume of black and yellow smoke drifted for miles south of Sunday afternoon's fire. (Crier Photo by Bryon Martin)

Low water pressure hampers firefighters

Continued from pg. 1

Minutes later, the entire roof collapsed.

The fire burned fiercely and quickly, as much of the building contained bales of shredded paper which resisted efforts to saturate them with water.

Firefighters from Livonia, the Northvilles and Canton were called to assist, and about 60-70 firefighters battled the ferocious blaze into the night. Radiant heat from the blaze caused several nearby semi truck trailers, each filled with the same type of baled shredded paper, to catch fire.

A dumpster on the west side of the building was glowing red with the heat, and still smoldered the following day.

Early efforts to combat the blaze were hampered by low water pressure, according to Groth.

"We were never without water at any time, but the pressure we did have wasn't what it should have been," he said.

Tom Hollis, manager of Plymouth Township's Department of Public Works, said the initial low pressure was due to a malfunction in the Township's automated telemetering controls, which were installed last year.

The controls regulate pressure valves in the Township's water reducing stations, he said. When the water in any tank drops below a certain level, they are supposed to turn on and replenish the tanks, Hollis said.

Instead, workers had to physically operate the valves at the Northville Road station, which corrected the pressure problem, Hollis said. Hollis said he then rebooted the system.

"That brought the system back," he said. "At no time were they operating without water."

But lack of pressure meant firefighters weren't able to combat the blaze effectively, according to Groth.

"When you have less pressure you can't put the stream of



Substantial water pressure finally returned for firefighters around 6 p.m. Sunday night.

water exactly where you want to," he said.

Water pressure was back on line before 6 p.m., according to Groth.

Located at 1310 Eckles Road in the Plymouth Industrial Center, the site is adjacent to I-275.

Police had to temporarily close the freeway because gawkers, drawn by the immense cloud of black smoke, were getting too close to the flames.

"People were parking their cars in the median and walking across the freeway to watch the fire," said Al Matthews, assistant fire chief. "They were about 50 or 60 feet away."

Groth said the dense black smoke originated from tar burning on the building's roof. It also contributed to the smell, which was reported as far south as Canton.

Although DPI had no fire suppression system, it was separated from adjoining businesses Atlas Steel and Copco Steel Company by a fire retention wall, Groth said.

Fire penetrated that wall when the ceiling collapsed, but Atlas and Copco's sprinkler system checked the advance of the blaze. Both businesses suffered only minor fire damage, Groth said.

DPI had no fire suppression system because the business had been there since before current fire codes were established, according to Groth.

Groth said that no one was working at the plant at the time of the fire. He was still investigating how the blaze was spotted and reported, but preliminary reports indicate the fire was reported by an employee who happened to stop by, he said.

Plymouth firefighters doused the last of the hot spots throughout the day Monday. Little fires burned under the collapsed roof and could only be fought after heavy debris was removed, Matthews said.

"We had to go it with grappling hooks and pull some of the debris out of there," he said. "We couldn't send anyone in there right away — it was too dangerous."

Groth said no one was hurt in the fire. He said lack of heavy winds and the unseasonably high temperatures made it easier for firefighters to combat the blaze safely. Groth said one of the dangers of fighting fires in the winter is that everything freezes up and gives firemen a treacherous surface to walk on.

"We were very fortunate that we didn't have to admit a single firefighter to the hospital for injuries or smoke inhalation," he said.

Blaze seen from 10 miles away

Sunday, December 13, 1998



Firefighters battled the Plymouth Township blaze for nearly a day, as ashes continued to smolder far into Monday. No employees or firefighters were hurt. Plymouth Fire Chief Larry Groth said unseasonably warm temperatures and little wind helped. (Crier photos by R. Alwood Jr. and Bryon Martin)



City copes with PCAC paper trail

Continued from pg. 1

at City Hall Monday night.

There, Mayor Don Dismuke read from a memo he had circulated among commissioners.

"Over the past several months there have been questions raised relating to the appropriateness of the arrangements made on the original acquisition of the property at 774 Sheldon Rd. and subsequent to the sale of the PCAC. Subsequent to the FOIA request from The Community Crier, I inquired of the City Manager the nature of the request and any concerns he had over the existing relationship."

After slogging through stacks of City minutes, contracts and legal papers, the Commission arrived with a short and lucid list of what to do next: refinance the PCAC debt; change its agreement with the arts council from a land contract to a lease; determine if the deal that landed the PCAC property violates legal and/or ethical standards.

What has not emerged from the reams of legalese is how the paper trail which records the evolution of the PCAC deal became so unclear about its basics.

Commissioners said they still want to know:

- Why City documents describe a lease with PCAC, when in fact the council is buying the property and building from the City on a land contract;
- Why there is no record of Commission approval for spending \$119,000 in City dollars to finance renovations at the PCAC building;
- Why that \$119,000 debt went 14 months into arrears with no explicit notice to the Commission from City Manager Steve Walters or Finance Director Mark Christiansen.

Commissioners and the PCAC affiliates in attendance Monday grappled with these and other questions, and tried to assemble the aging documents into a clearer picture of how things came to be as they are.

The deal then

In 1993, the Plymouth Community Arts Council wanted to move out of the space it was renting above Wiltse's Drug Store on Main Street, and into a location of its own. The private non-profit arts council has a 30-year history in the Plymouth-Canton School District, but with an annual budget less \$200,000, it was unable to finance the deal on its own.

It turned to City Hall for help.

Walters and the City's Finance Director, then Bill Graham, explored purchases at two other sites before arriving at 774 Sheldon Road. At that corner was a



The Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts (Crier photo by Bryon Martin).



GREENE

vacant church, the former Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall. According to Walters, the site wasn't attracting bids because zoning there narrowly restricted its use.

But the building and the zoning fit the PCAC's needs, he said. Although a private non-profit, the arts council serves a public interest, according to Walters: art and cultural activities and education.

"The public use turned out to be a great compromise for the site," he said. It also allowed the City to step into financing the deal.

Graham went to the books to find a way to get PCAC into the building. He found one. The City could take a tax-exempt loan from Comerica bank at 5.8 per cent interest, a better rate than the PCAC could get on its own, and then lease the building to the arts council. Monthly lease payments would coincide with the City's loan payments to Comerica, thereby avoiding any cost to the City.

This is the plan Graham said he proposed: buy the building, then lease it to PCAC. City bond counsel Joel Piell, of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C., approved the plan as described, and with that approval, the City bought the former church June 13, 1997.

But instead of beginning a lease with the arts council, the City sold the building to PCAC two days later on a land contract dated June 15.

Walters said he could not recall the exact rationale for the change in plans, but suspected it was for convenience sake.

"The original intent was to enter into a lease, with equal payments for the duration of the City's loan with a buyout at the end," he said. "A land contract was used at the end as a simpler document."

From that point on, City documents switch between descriptions of "rental payments" and payments toward purchase.

Land contracts are usually the basis for

buying property, not leasing it.

Such conflicts led current commissioners to ask, Which is it, lease or land contract?

"Somewhere along the way it jumped," Dismuke said Monday. What concerns him, and fellow commissioners Dave McDonald and Joe Koch, is that the difference between lease and purchase may also mean a difference in financial liability.

According to Dismuke, recent conversations with Piell indicate he approved the deal with "the understanding that it would be to lease the building."

"He said the question is whether the intent was to sell," Dismuke said.

City records explicitly mention such a sale.

In a May 18, 1994 letter to the PCAC, Walters' description of the plan includes a step wherein "The City sells the building to the PCAC."

That sale could expose the City to financial liability, according to documents Dismuke cited Monday.

He read from a passage in a City contract which says interest in the Comerica loan would be tax exempt, unless the City sold off the property before the loan balance had been repaid.

The land contract sale to PCAC could invalidate Comerica's tax exemption; and if Comerica is made to pay taxes on the interest it collects, a stipulation in the land contract allows the bank to pass on that cost increase to the City.

According to Graham, "That's a pretty unusual thing to find in a land contract."

Dismuke said such evidence suggests "we'll need to look at that issue further."

The debt now

Commissioners also want to examine the financial relationship described in an August 1997 "Construction loan" agreement between the City and the PCAC.

Dismuke, Koch and McDonald were vocal about their concern that no document could be found to demonstrate that the City Commission approved the agreement when it was signed.

The loan, signed by Walters and

What PCAC is, does

Next year, the Plymouth Community Arts Council celebrates 30 years of service to The Plymouth-Canton Community, according to Jennifer Tobin, executive director.

And every year, she said, the PCAC serves about 30,000 people from Wayne, Westland, Livonia and the Northvilles.

The council is directed by a 15-member Executive Board of Directors, with representatives from the Plymouths.

Stella Greene is the Board president.

"There's a wonderful spirit, but it's also a much greater thing than any one person can be," Tobin said. "It's the art experiences."

Tobin listed some of PCAC's most popular aspects.

Music in The Park: brings free, family-oriented music to Plymouth's Kellogg Park every Wednesday at noon during summer months.

Children's theatre: in its fifth season features two big productions each year starring 75 to 100 kids. This year's show, the Velveteen Rabbit, plays 3 shows at PCAC and 9 on the road.

Picture Lady program: volunteer parents check out culture boxes, sculpture units or painting portfolios. The art is organized around a theme, and the parent visits his or her child's classroom and presents it to the class.

"Parents like it as much as kids because they get to be involved," Tobin said.

Such programs are a double success, because with an annual budget under \$200,000 a year, "We're really frugal, even as huge as we are," she said.

But PCAC is about more than money.

"It's the art. It brings humanity together. It feeds the soul. It's a very positive thing happening. The PCAC continues to draw people to the community."

Christiansen, Greene and PCAC member Pat Pulkownik amounts to an expenditure of \$119,700 from the City's general fund. Except in emergency situations, the City Charter requires Commission approval of expenditures greater than \$5,000.

Monday, Walters said Commission approval wasn't necessary because the loan is only a restatement of PCAC obligations dating to 1995 and 1996.

At that time, the PCAC was converting its new building from a church into an arts center. The building was expanded, remodeled and fitted with theater chairs and other features.

Completed in two phases, the transformation cost \$269,000, according to

Please see pg. 22

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Henry J. Czechowski, 79, retired engineer

Henry J. Czechowski, age 79, died Dec. 12, 1998 at St. Joseph Hospital in Clinton Township.

Born July 17, 1919, Mr. Czechowski retired as a Material Handling Engineer for Michcon. He was a retired Commander of the U.S. Navy. He served as an usher at the Queen of Peace Catholic Church. He was also a

member of the Polish American Engineering Society and the Flame Retirees Club.

He is survived by his wife Mary (Repeck); children, Melvin H. (MaryAnn); Michael J. (Margaret Campbell); step-children Paul (Cheryl) Repeck, Marilyn (Stephen) Tyman, Sally (W. Edward) Repeck-Wendover, Patrick

(Debbie) Repeck. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Christine.

Visitation was held at the Kaul Funeral Home, 35201 Garfield Ave, Clinton Township. Services were held at the Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Harper Woods. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township.



Community deaths

Obituaries

For more information on listing a paid obituary notice in The Crier, contact your funeral director, or call (734) 453-6900.

ANNE E. KANGAS

Anne E. Kangas, a Plymouth resident, died Dec. 10, 1998 at the age of 80.

Mrs. Kangas was born May 23, 1918 in Hurley, WI. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her sons, Eugene (Kathryn) W. Kangas of Plymouth, Ronald (Diane) J. Kangas of Canton; sister, Josephine Barowski of Warren; and granddaughters, Kristin Cortright and Karin Kangas.

Arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth. Burial was at Lapham Cemetery in Salem Township. Memorial contributions can be given to March of Dimes, 27600 Northwestern Highway Suite 150, Southfield, MI 48034.

CARL E. SPACE

Carl E. Space, a Canton resident, died Dec. 5, 1998 at the age of 52.

Mr. Space was born March 6, 1946 in Detroit. He was a designer.

He is survived by his wife, Nanci E. Space; father, William Space; sons, Carl Space of Canton, Paul Space of Livonia; daughters, Angela Space of Canton, Carolyn Space of Ann Arbor; brother, William (Gwen) Space of Milford; and sister, Deanna (Dan) Kealy of Detroit. He was preceded in death by his mother, Martha Space; and sister, Evelyn Beckwith.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth with the Rev. George Charnley officiating. Memorial contributions can be given to the charity of choice.

JAMES JOSEPH KELIHER

James Joseph Keliher, a Plymouth resident, died Nov. 29, 1998 at the age of 74.

Mr. Keliher was born April 20, 1924 in Detroit. He was a building inspector. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII.

He is survived by his sisters, Rosemary Janis of Dearborn

Heights, Joan Zeiler of Plymouth; brother, Daniel (Phyllis) J. Keliher of Bay Village, OH; several nephews; several nieces; step-daughters, Donna Whitaker, Gayleene Waldorf; and four step-grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth with the Rev. Leonard Partensky officiating. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. Memorial contributions can be given to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburg Road, Livonia, MI 48154.

JOSPEHINE T. KRUPINSKI

Josephine T. Krupinski, a Plymouth resident, died Nov. 24, 1998 at the age of 76.

Mrs. Krupinski was born Feb. 24, 1922 in Detroit. She was a homemaker and a grill cook for the A.R.A. Food Service at the Ford Motor Company Rouge Steel Mill. She was a member of the St. Theodore Catholic Church and the Polish Women's Alliance. She was an accomplished seamstress.

She is survived by her son, Thomas W. (Aurelia) Piotrowski of Plymouth; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and sister, Irene Plagens of Dearborn Heights. She was preceded in death by her sons, Ronald and James Piotrowski; and sister, Verna Smosarski.

Services were held at the St. Theodore Catholic Church with the Rev. Fr. Gary Michalik officiating. Burial was at St. Hedwig Cemetery. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to the charity of choice.

DONNA GEANNE LETASI

Donna Geanne Letasi, a Canton resident, died Dec. 3, 1998 at the age of 36.

Mrs. Letasi was born March 7, 1962 in Detroit.

She is survived by her mother, Carol Letasi of Dearborn; father, Edward Letasi of Texas; brothers, Edward T. (Chelly) Letasi, Jr of California, Raymond M. Letasi of New York, Richard J. (Tammy) Letasi of New Jersey; and nephews, James and David of California.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth with the Rev. Roy G. Forsyth officiating. Memorial contributions can be given to the Friends of the Wayne Community Living Services.



Community deaths

Obituaries

For more information on listing a paid obituary notice in The Crier, contact your funeral director, or call (734) 453-6900.

Continued from pg. 18

MARION ELAINE YOCKEY

Marion Elaine Yockey, a former Plymouth resident, died Dec. 12, 1998 at the age of 73.

Mrs. Yockey was born June 16, 1925 in Alpena, MI. She was a retired teacher, leaving the profession in 1986. She taught in Northville, Plymouth, Midland and Huntington Woods Schools. She graduated from Alpena High School in 1942 and received a bachelor's degree in education from Michigan State University in 1950. She married her high school sweetheart, Fred Yockey, later a city manager of Plymouth. She was a wonderful singer.

She is survived by her husband, Fred L. Yockey of Hubbard Lake, MI and N. Fort Meyers, FL; children, Michael (Pamela) Yockey of Canton, Patricia Yockey (Larry Schneider) of San Diego, CA, Kurt Yockey (Cheri Chandler) of Farmington Hills, Barbara Yockey (Frank Demske) of Sterling Heights; grandchildren, Zoe Yockey, Michael Jay Yockey, Scott Yockey, Sara Yockey, Kristyne Demske; and brother, Jack (Carol) Par of Saginaw.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home with the Rev. Fr. Robert Schuster officiating. Memorial contributions can be given to the American Cancer Society or Hospice of Michigan, 25911 Middlebelt, Farmington, MI.

JOHN (JOHNNY JOE) HAMBLIN

John (Johnny Joe) Hamblin, a Plymouth resident, died Dec. 11, 1998 at the age of 48.

Mr. Hamblin was born Aug. 12, 1950 in Menden, NE. He worked for family businesses Okie Sons in Fenton and Okie and Mary's Fruit and Vegetable Market on Haggerty Road in Plymouth Township. He came to the Plymouth Community in 1951 from Oklahoma. He was a member of St. Kenneth Catholic Church. He liked to work on cars. His favorite pastime was driving tractors.

He is survived by his wife, Pamela of Plymouth; children, John (Shelly) Hamblin of Lake City, MI, Kenneth (Tina) Hamblin of Southfield, Michael (Renee) Hamblin of Cadillac, Daniel (Melissa Siemieniak) Hamblin of Plymouth; Charles (Jackie Svec) Hamblin of Plymouth; Amanda (James Patrick) Hamblin of Plymouth; grandchildren, Allie, Codey, Miranda, Amber and McKenna; parents Ulos (Okie) and Mary Hamblin of Plymouth; sisters, Adra (Tom) Erwin of South Lyon, Lou Ann Hamblin of Belleville; brothers, Bill (Brenda) Hamblin of Adams, TN, James (Jackie) Hamblin of Dexter, KY, George Hamblin of Richmond, MI, Steve Hamblin of Ashland, TN, Robert Hamblin of Plymouth; five sisters-in-law; four brothers-in-law; and many aunts, uncles nieces and nephews.

Services were held at St. Kenneth Catholic Church in Plymouth with the Rev. Fr. Joseph Mallia officiating. Burial was at Riverside

Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be given to Arbor Hospice or the American Diabetes Association.

MERLE LEO SCHULTZ

Merle Leo Schultz, a Northville Township resident, died Dec. 9, 1998 at the age of 67.

Mr. Schultz was born Dec. 29, 1930 in Peru, IL. He was the owner of Small Business Network, an accounting service located in Plymouth. He retired in 1998. He previously had worked for several firms in the accounting departments. He came to Canton more than four years ago from Macomb County and moved to Northville in 1998. He served in the Korean Conflict in the U.S. Marine Corps and remained in the reserves until 1959.

He is survived by his wife, Frances of Northville; son, Thomas (Lori) Schultz of Greensboro, NC; daughters, Mary Susan Shore of Concord, NH, Tracey Schultz of Ft. Lauderdale, FL; step-daughters, Lisa Moody of Holland, Andrea (Jason) Hall of Shelby Township; five grandchildren; and three sisters.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth with the Rev. Roy Forsyth officiating. Burial was at Rural Hill Cemetery in Northville. Memorial contributions can be given to the National Kidney Foundation.

MARY-CARMEN SUSIE GILLES

Mary-Carmen Susie Gilles, a Plymouth resident, died Dec. 9, 1998.

Mrs. Gilles worked at Hubbs and Gilles Electric Company in Plymouth. When she was young, she was a key punch operator in Detroit at IBM. She also worked in the silverware department of Hudson's at the Westland Mall. Her latest job was working for Beitner's Jewelry Store.

She is survived by her daughter, Ann Lozon of Plymouth; son, Robert C. (Pamela Bary) Gilles of Brighton; grandchildren, Kate Lozon of Westland, Carrie Lozon of Romulus; great-grandson, Brendan Lozon; brother, Donald Glenn Gilles of Hemlock, MI; sister-in-law, Joan Anderson of Plymouth; and brother-in-law Bob Rienas of Plymouth. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert L. Gilles.

Private services were held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home with the Rev. Fr. John Ortman officiating. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to the Salvation Army.

Francis J. Nezol, 86, Caretaker at Nativity of Our Lord in Detroit and St. Paul's on the Lake at St. Claire Shores

Francis J. Nezol, a Plymouth resident, died Dec. 11, 1998.

He is survived by his daughter, C. Lorraine (John) Barry of Plymouth and one other daughter; one son; one sister; and one brother.

Services were held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home. Memorial contributions can be given to VNA Hospice, 25900 Greenfield Road Suite 600, Oak Park, MI 48237.



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 \$150 or best. Also full size futon frame with
 mattress for \$175 or best. Contact Pete at
 (734) 459-5270
 Osburn woodstove insert. Works great,
 \$200. (734) 455-4193. Call to see.
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King waterbed, reading lights, mirrored
 headboard, 12 drawers. \$300 or best offer.
 (734) 453-2825.

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
 \$100.00 or best offer

Computer - monitor - keyboard, Pentium
 166MMX, 1.7 GB hard drive, 16 megabyte
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Bed: brass head & foot board with war-
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 All new, never opened factory boxes.
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 firm (734) 459-7755.

Baldwin organ with Leslie. Very good
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Save \$70 off your Plymouth **Medhealth**
Fitness Center membership! Take over my
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 Roofs, decks, basement,
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A-1 Quality Painting. Interior and Exterior.
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 Quality work. Prompt Installation.

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 experience in this area. Quality Work!
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 Additions and new construction kitchens,
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 12 x 18 \$80.00, 12 x 12 \$60.00,
 10 x 10 \$45.00, (we spackle). Insured (810)
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 Quality interior work. Free estimates. Call
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YOU'VE TRIED THE REST, NOW TRY THE BEST.
 Call MRS. MOP (734) 397-4980.

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 PIANO STUDIOS of LEIGH JENKINS and
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 Call (734) 414-9844

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Found - Ladies caravelle watch, William
 Street area, Plymouth. 459-8858

FOUND: Darling silver and white long-
 haired female cat. Beautiful and sweet.
 Found near Wilcox Rd. & Shadywood. Call
 (734) 455-5171.

FOUND - Gray cat, green eyes, male,
 neutered. Found near Gottfredson & Warren.
 (248) 471-1174.

Girl: "Mommy, my cat ran away."
 Mom: "We should put an ad in The Crier."
 Girl: "Don't be silly. Kitty can't read."

Photography

RAWLINSON PHOTOGRAPHY
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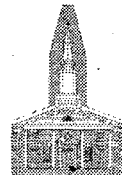
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I can fix any VCR for less than \$50.
 Also, used VCRs for sale under \$50.
 Call Fred at (734)455-9364

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Any household clean-up.
 Easy to load containers,
 sizes 10, 20, 30 yards
 All odd jobs done. (734)844-0141

Curiosities



St. Peter's Lutheran Church

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

Gabrialas,
322 S. Main St., PLYMOUTH,
(734) 455-8884.

CRIER CARRIERS - Call Maura NOW if
 you plan on picking up papers at the Crier
 office on Saturday, 12/19
 deadline's tomorrow!! (734) 453-6900

Curiosities

**Dear
 Martha,
 et. al.**



By Geneva Guenther

Dear Martha et al:

Didn't get to talk to you yesterday. Missed
 our connection, I think. Still a lot going on in
 good old Plymouth. The Plymouth Garden
 Club had a Christmas tea in a local "Bed and
 Breakfast" home. The people who own the
 house invited the ladies to use it, and a special
 experience it was. Of course I can't remember
 the name of the owners, but the house is on
 Penniman. Many wonderful changes have
 been made since Ken Harrison and his wife
 lived there. How gracious of the owners to
 share their beautiful home.

Worked at the Museum a week ago, the
 decorations were lovely - the trees were deco-
 rated to the period, unique and great they
 were. Sat in the little chapel you and your
 family gave. Always feel a bit more serene
 when I have done that. I'm impressed with the
 generosity of the gifts people have given to
 the Museum. I always look for Pat Whitesell's
 beautiful fire extinguisher and wonder if any-
 one sees it, or indeed knows what it is.

Must close. My "charm" is wearing pretty
 thin, afraid my social life is "out of whack"
 again, or I'm reading too many Murder
 Mysteries - "Dick Francis," stopped at our
 beautiful library one day and discovered arm
 loads of his books in alphabetical order.
 Manna from heaven!

Bless you,
 Geneva.

CRIER
HOLIDAY DEADLINES!
CLASSIFIED ADS: AND DISPLAY ADS:
 Thursday, Dec. 17 -4 p.m.

EDITORIAL:
 (Letters, What's Happening, Obituaries,
 General News):
 Thursday, Dec. 17 -4p.m.

We love Lee!
 Now, quit scaring us (and yourself!)
 Darla: Did you know Denise is really nice?
 (Now, give her a raise)

ATTENTION CRIER READERS
 Are you without a carrier in your neighbor-
 hood? It is now possible to receive The
 Paper With Its Heart In The Plymouth-
 Canton Community, by mail, at a SAVINGS.
CALL NOW! (734) 453-6900.

It's so nice to feel wanted!
 (Thanks Bry. and Bri.)
 It's only a matter of days...

Crier carriers will have some great surprises
 awaiting them at the 12/29 Whalers vs.
 Knights game. They must bring in the most
 amount of collections on 12/21 & 22, to win!

Roger that, Plymouth, the F.O.M.P.
 has landed.
 Congratulations Santa coloring contest
 winners! And a Happy Holidays to all those
 who entered!

SENIOR ACTIVITY PROGRAM,
 5710 McClellan, Detroit. (313) 372-1653,
 offers meals & activities. Fee \$25.00.

CRIER CARRIERS:
 Will you become one of the select few to
 bring in the most amount of December
 collections? If so, you better be prepared to
 see the **Whalers** swallow the London
 Knights on December 29!
 (and, there's a few more surprises in store!)

Crier Classifieds

\$7.50 for the first 10 words, 20¢ each additional word.

Deadline: Monday, 4 p.m. Call (734) 453-6900

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS!
WE ACCEPT VISA & MASTERCARD



Also-see Crier Classifieds on the internet at www.crier.com

Curiosities

Nancy Morman says about The Crier, "I greatly appreciate your reliable service and all the information pertaining to my community that you compile."
Thanks Nancy! We appreciate you!

The Crier carrier who does the greatest job, with the greatest amount of December collections will win **Whalers Tix!**

Plymouth Librarians; That's "Curious George" riding in the front seat of my car, and he is wearing Beauregard's Christmas hat. Bless Beauregard.

Morgan - I haven't heard one thing you want for Christmas. - Santa Claus.

EARLY DEADLINES for Classified ads, The Crier will publish next Wednesday's paper this Saturday.

Classifieds, News, and Ads:
Must be in by 4p.m. Thursday.

Curiosities

Typo: That wasn't the "Battle" of Kamchatka... it was the "bottle" of Kamchatka on Ann Arbor Trail.
- Bob Mundt won - the BATTLE not the BOTTLE (he insists it was Southern Europe.)

Pam Lamarsh really cooks! (was that a secret meeting?)

Alex Freund is big SEVEN! H.B.D.

"If I was wearing panties, I'd throw 'em on the stage." - Amy LowerTown liked the band, we guess. 1998

Lisa Filar hits 45 - and that's not the speed limit.

Congratulations to Linda Kochanek on her graduation from Eastern Michigan University, National Honor Society and all! We're so proud of you!
Love, Your Family.

Curiosities

Check out the Aluminum Christmas tree at Jill Andra Young Photography. (It's complete with the color wheel, don't you miss the '60's?)
"It's not a question of locking your door, you just have to keep your house clean."
- Anonymous about "neighborliness" in Plymouth-Canton-Northville.

"The ornaments of a house are the friends who frequent it." - Ralph Waldo Emerson
DAVID & MARILYN KOCHANEK

Thank you cannot express my gratitude for all you have given me. You are the reason for my success. I LOVE YOU BOTH! Linda

THANK YOU
to all my CRIER & COMMA friends - your encouragement helped me through the rough spots- Linda

Curiosities

(Goodbye EMU...hello???)
Yahoo! I DID IT!!) Comma's longest running intern.

Michelle Wilson, Happy Belated Birthday!!! from your friends at COMMA, and The Crier

To whom it may concern: Beauregard was a Black Labrador, sixteen years old (112 in dog years) and would that all human beings were as well behaved as he was. I am a receptionist at the front door of The Crier, and Beau and I would greet everyone who entered. We, no doubt, were the oldest couple on the whole Penniman block. -Geneva

Ronnie Bonum: I think that "Roger" thing Tim keeps saying has something to do with a Yooper schoolteacher guy with bushy eyebrows(one goes up, one down). -Mike

Help Wanted

The Crier is Now Accepting



MUSIC TEACHER

Someone to teach beginning band and vocal music to elementary and middle school students. Part-time position, two half days per week. Please contact new Morning School 734-420-3331

BUILDING CLEANERS needed 10 p.m. to 1a.m.

Two days a week in the Plymouth area. We pay more. Call 1-800-794-1011
GOV'T POSTAL JOBS
Hiring for 1999. For info & appl., call 1-818-569-3736, x.6051.

Small, friendly company seeks person for delivery of light packages, plus light assembly. M-F, approx. 9:30-2:30. (734) 451-7300.

Get the help you need with an ad the
The Crier! Call
(734) 453-6900
today!

City of Plymouth Parks & Recreation Division

SPORTS SCOREKEEPERS GYM SUPERVISORS

The City of Plymouth is seeking minority and other qualified applicants for sports Scorekeepers/Gym Supervisors.

Apply in person at:
Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth, MI 48170-1392
or contact the Plymouth Recreation at (734) 455-6620 \$7.50 per hr. Games are held weeknights.

CONCESSION WORKERS

The City of Plymouth is seeking minority and other qualified applicants for Concession Workers. Apply in person at:
Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth, MI 48170-1392
or contact the Plymouth Recreation at (734) 455-6620. Shifts are weeknights and week ends. \$6.50 per hr.
The City of Plymouth is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender or disability.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER AIDS

Teacher substitutes and summer class teachers needed for private pre-K thru 8. Call or send resume (734) 420-3331, New Morning School, 14501 Haggerty, Plymouth, 48170.

LIVING SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Living Science Foundation - animal keeper 20 - 30 hrs. per week, \$5.50/hr. to start, in Plymouth (734) 207-8291, 1320 Goldsmith, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Hiring - Lower Town Grill - All positions. Apply in person between 1-5 p.m. 195 Liberty, Plymouth

HELP CHILDREN SUCCEED

consultant needed, work 20-30 hrs./wk., income \$20,000. Training allowance, commissions, plus bonus. Homemakers, teachers and community volunteers do well in our work. Call C. Knapp (734) 464-0931. EOE

BUILDING CLEANERS

needed in the Plymouth area. Monday thru Friday 6-9 p.m. We pay more! Call 1-800-794-1011.

Get the help you need with an ad the The Crier! Call (734) 453-6900 today!

McDonald's

Grand Opening
Dec. 29
Come join the team.
All shifts available.
Interviews M-F, 9-5
at 220 Ann Arbor Rd.

DRIVER NEEDED

MUST BE:
RELIABLE

AVAILABLE on Tuesday
evenings & Wednesday mornings
AT LEAST 18 YRS OLD
ABLE TO LIFT APPROX.
20LBS.

MUST have own transportation
CRIER CIRCULATION
DEPARTMENT
(734) 453-6900



A BABY DESIRED - ADOPTION. Mom's at home, Dad's a business exec. Together we laugh a lot, love cooking, music, getting together with our wonderful, large family, and life's simple pleasures. Please let us give your baby a lifetime of love and opportunity. TIM & SUE, 1-800-956-8323.

I BUY REAL ESTATE NOTES! For Best Price Call Me LAST! (616) 627-2901.

WORLD'S FINEST MATTRESSES. Pain & Pressure Relieving. Swedish & European. Temper-Royal & Supple Pedic, www.ring.com/betterback/1-800-310-9507.

SOUTH CAROLINA WATER. FRONT! Point lot with 400 feet frontage on 50,000 acre recreational lake. Only \$79,900. Waterfront from only \$59,900. Unbelievable bargains!! Now 1-800-715-5533.

BE YOUR OWN BOSS Restocking stores. Multi Billion \$ Industry' Investment Secured from \$4,995. Natures Choice Aloe. For Free Info., call Mfg. Direct 1-800-322-2563.

#1 CAMPGROUND MEMBERSHIP AND TIME-SHARE Resale Clearinghouse!! Don't want yours? - We'll take it!! Buy! Sell! Rent! Resort Sales Int'l 1-800-423-5967.

\$\$\$ WE BUY \$\$ *Seller Financed Notes *Insurance Settlements *Land Note Portfolios. Colonial Financial 1-800-969-1200 Ext. 57. M&M MARS/NABISCO. Established Vending Route. Will sell by 12/30. - \$8,500 Minimum Investment. \$3,000+ monthly income potential.

Lease -Available With Good Credit. Ready Routes Inc., 1-800-637-7444.

YOUNG WOMEN/MEN 16-24. Free Job Training (lots of career choices), earn your GED/HS Diploma. Paid Training, live on or off campus, and receive free job placement. Job Corps - U.S. Department of Labor Program. Call 1-800-774-5627.

SAWMILL \$3795. Saws logs into boards, planks, beams. Large capacity. Best sawmill value anywhere. Free information. Norwood Sawmills, 90 Curtwright Drive, #3, Amherst, NY 14221. 1-800-578-1363.

NEED CASH? Immediate cash paid for future settlement payments, and lottery winnings, insurance. Call Singer Asset 1-800-605-5007. www.singerasset.com

YOUNG WOMEN/MEN 16-24. Free Job Training in computers, nursing, welding and building/apartment maintenance. Earn your GED/HS Diploma. Paid Training, live on or off campus, and receive free job placement. Job Corps U.S. Department of Labor Program. Call

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OWN A DOLLAR STORE. 1-800-227-5314.

\$\$\$ OVER DUE BILLS? Credit problems? Consolidate Debts! Same day approval, Cut monthly Payments up to 50%!! Become Debt Free. NO APPLICATION FEES!! 1-800-863-9006, Ext. 973.

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AVON PRODUCTS - Start your own business. Work flexible hours. Enjoy unlimited earnings. Call Toll-Free 1-888-942-4053.

MEDICAL BILLING. Nationwide Company seeking billers. PC required, no experience necessary. Earn \$31,500+ potential. Call 1-800-624-1478.

PLACE YOUR STATEWIDE AD HERE!
Call (734) 453-6900 for details.

City retreats from closed-door counseling

BY BRYON MARTIN

Acting on advice from the heights of Michigan's legal community, Plymouth's City Commission has decided it will not meet in a private retreat to work out internal conflicts.

"The Attorney General gave the thumbs-down on doing it in private," Commissioner Colleen Pobur said Monday. And regarding the alternative — moving the reconciliation talks into a public forum — she said she sensed a "general reluctance" among the rest of the Commission.

Initially, none of the commissioners at Monday's meeting lept forward to support or oppose holding the talks in public. As they did, most reiterated the positions they've taken in previous discussions of the retreat.

"I'd be in favor of going forward, but with some modifications," Commissioner Dave McDonald said. "Citizens have expressed to me that they are uncomfortable with us spending taxpayers'

money on this."

Originally, commissioners approved spending up to \$3,600 on consultations with counselor Maryann Hastings. According to Pobur, who arranged the meeting with Hastings, the bill currently is at \$1,200.

"I've got one seventh of that (total)," McDonald said. "I will not participate in anything I don't pay for as an individual."

Commissioners also had entertained holding the meeting in private to address the personal conflicts which stymied them during the autumn months.

In lieu of the private meeting, City officials will discuss their expectations of one another and the mayor in an open forum at City Hall Jan. 2.

Prior to that, Hastings will phone each commissioner to give them feedback on the questions she asked them in telephone interviews in October.

During those calls, she asked the officials about what they perceived to be

the Commissions' problems. Common among most responses, she said, was the lack of a common goal.

Commissioner Ron Loiselle supported holding the reconciliation talks in public, and hearing back from Hastings with results from her previous interviews.

"I think it would be good to hear what she has coalesced of what other commissioners think," he said.

"I don't see any benefit" in holding the talks in public, Mayor Don Dismuke said. "In an open session I don't want to hear anybody hammer on me, and I don't want to hammer on anybody in public."

Dismuke has said as much before, and also restated his unwillingness to pay for a share of the counseling bill the Commission continues to incur.

"I have no intention of paying for this out of my pocket," he said. "Just to make that clear."

Commissioner Stella Greene said she will direct the \$10 she receives as a

commissioner for each regular meeting toward her share of the counseling costs. She also said she is ambivalent about where the talks are held, so long as they are held.

"There are still commissioners who don't talk," she said. "Public or private, it has to be dealt with. There has to be some uniform understanding of how we're going to conduct business, and I don't think we're there yet."

McDonald said Commission relations are not as bad as has been reported. Going back over meeting minutes he found 97 per cent of all votes were 7-0, he said.

Monday, the commissioners showed unanimity again, agreeing to the Jan. 2 forum. Dennis Shrewsbury — absent at a prior engagement, according to Greene — was the only commissioner who did weigh in on the issue.

"Unfortunately Dennis isn't here," Pobur said. "We waited for everyone to be here to make a decision, but we need to go forward."

As officials head out, questions persist

Continued from pg. 16

Christiansen. Renovations were well under way when Christiansen took over in 1996.

As the work was done, it became apparent the arts council did not have enough money in its coffers to pay for the renovations.

According to Walters, the City Commission agreed to seek state grants to offset those costs, with the provision that the PCAC would pay the rest of the bill. After the grants were awarded, \$119,700 in costs remained.

But according to Walters, "In the second phase of construction that (PCAC) money did not materialize." The PCAC could not pay off the balance of construction costs. So the City Commission, which was obligated by the grant to see the project through, was left to pay for the \$119,700 with City money, he explained.

This, according to Dismuke and McDonald, violated commissioners original agreement to help.

"According to what it says here, 'The City's involvement would be administrative, and not financial,'

Green space

Continued from pg. 1

current fire station at the corner of Lilley and Ann Arbor roads — severely limited the boards options, Mueller said.

Township Supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy would only say that funding for the new property came from the general fund. The Board could still purchase a fire station site if it tapped other general fund monies, she said.

The board may be considering building a new fire station on the current site, Mueller said, but those plans are only preliminary.

The new property will likely be used for recreation, but the Board has made no plans how or when they will develop the property, Keen McCarthy said.

"Right now, we just wanted to preserve the open space," she said.

Dismuke said, reading Commission notes from Feb. 7, 1994.

McDonald questioned whether the Commission knew its obligation could total more than \$100,000.

According to its agreement with the City, the PCAC is obligated to repay the loan in monthly installments of \$5,250. At that rate, the loan would be payed off by June 1999, Christiansen said.

In August 1997, Walters and Christiansen and Commissioner Stella Greene signed the "Construction loan" agreement.

"My understanding from the very start was that this was going to be a short term solution to get PCAC over the hump," Christiansen said.

In October 1997, the PCAC made its first — and only — payment.

According to City records, more than 14 months have passed without a payment from the arts council. Six months before the final payment is due, more than \$119,700 in City funds remain outstanding.

"Obviously, if we're floating that kind of loan it hurts our cash position," Christiansen said.

Dismuke and McDonald agreed the amount was substantial, and asked why neither Christiansen nor Walters have advised the Commission about the outstanding debt.

Christiansen said the City is "waiting on them attempting to secure financing."

Future debt

PCAC members at the meeting bristled at talk about the loan's default status.

Jennifer Tobin, PCAC executive director, said City officials have advised her to wait to refinance the loan with the City, lumping the land contract balance and construction loans together.

Since Piell counseled the original transactions, she said, officials told her to wait for him to recuperate from recent surgery before refinancing.

She also pointed out that Commissioners Colleen Pobur and Greene sit on the PCAC Board, and could have advised the City Commission of the debt.

The commission conflict

Such discussions appeared to reach some commissioners as revelations. They had been unaware other City officials advised the PCAC to wait on refinancing, they said, agreeing it must happen more quickly.

"If it's broke, we need to fix it," McDonald said, reiterating he awaits the report Dismuke requested from City Attorney Sarah Osburn on the matter.

McDonald also said he wants feedback on a conflict of interest shown in the documents, but did not specify what that conflict was.

Greene who was also a city commissioner at the time, signed the construction loan agreement on PCAC's behalf.

That presents no conflict, she said.

"I always advise the Commission of my connection to the arts council when these issues come up," she said.

Minutes from Feb. 7, 1994 show the Commission has voted not to let Greene abstain from votes concerning the PCAC in the past.

"I always have, and always will take my ethics very seriously," she said.

Answers to come

The Commission expects Osburn's response to its questions by the next meeting or the first of the year.

And as 1999 approaches, so does change for The City of Plymouth. The new year will bring a new City Manager and, in the fall, at least three new City Commissioners. Outgoing officials are about to round the final turn of their terms, but as they do, the old questions still following close behind.

Tobin said she recognized this fact.

"I know that some of this because of Steve Walters is leaving and people are asking around," she said Monday. "We need the City's help to continue. It has not only allowed us to have a facility, but to continue to offer wonderful programs."

Dismuke and other commissioners were quick to distinguish between their inspection of the City's actions and their feelings about the PCAC.

"This to me really isn't about the arts council," the mayor said. "It's about procedural issues."

Sports

Sports shorts

*** WHALER CONTEST ***

Hey kids. How would you like to have lunch with a Plymouth Whaler? Better yet, how would you like to have a Whaler bring you lunch at your school?

Well, you might have your chance, if you can get those creative juices flowing and produce a poster that shows your Whaler spirit.

The contest is open to all boys and girls in kindergarten through sixth grade.

There are three age groups and a winner will be chosen from each. The winners will receive a pair of tickets to a Whaler game and T-shirt. They will also be introduced to the crowd on the Dec. 29 game.

Plus, a Whaler will bring them lunch at their school.

So get those pens and pencils rolling. The Whalers need your help.

Entries can be dropped off either at Compuware Sports Arena on Beck Road or at The Community Crier offices in Downtown Plymouth, 821 Penniman Avenue.

Every entry should include the artist's name, school, grade and favorite Whaler.

The deadline for the poster contest is Dec. 23.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON CO-ED VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS

As of 12-14-98:

East Division: Back Again, 6-0; Crows Nest, 6-0; We Dig, 5-1; Toe Jams, 4-2; Progressive, 3-3; Single Spirit #1, 0-6; Team 3, 0-6; Back Yard Gang, 0-6.

West Division: Thud, 5-1; CRRC, 4-2; Lost B's, 4-2; Buddy's, 3-3; Single Spirit #3, 3-3; Six Pack, 2-4; Crossfire, 2-4; Single Spirit #2, 1-5.

HORSE RACING BEGINS JAN. 2

Northville Downs will begin Standardbred racing on Saturday Jan. 2 and run through Saturday, Apr. 3 for a total of 66 races.

Racing shall take place everyday but Wednesday and Sunday.

Rock grapplers place fifth at Salem 8 Tournament

The Salem wrestling team has something to build on.

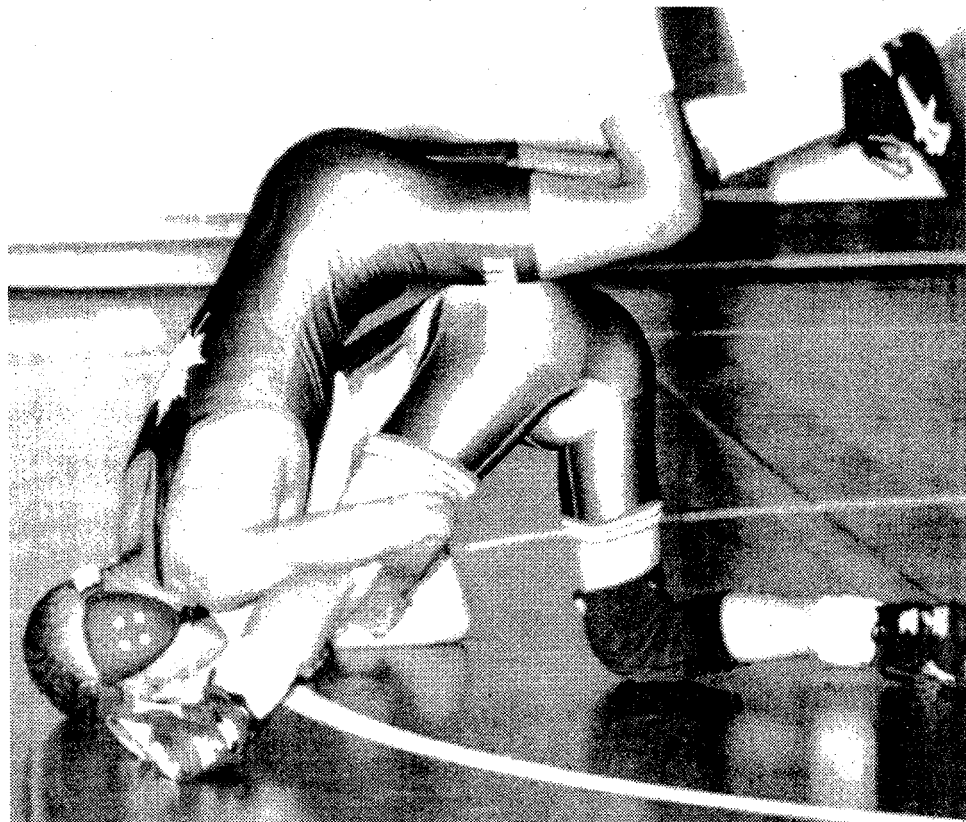
Despite a fifth place finish (out of eight teams) at this weekend's Salem 8 Tournament, the Rocks had a trio of second place finishes.

Holt won the tournament with 322 points. Salem scored 175, just below Saline who had 187.

Second place finishes went to John Mervin (112 pounds), Josh Henderson (135) and Jeff Bennett (189).

Greg Smith grabbed third place honors in the 140 pound category, while Ronnie Thompson (119), Greg Eizans (152) and Pat O'Conner (171) all fell in at fourth.

"They're still inexperienced kids," coach Greg Wolchuck said.



Although Holt High School was the clear winner by more than 110 points in Saturday's Salem 8 Tourney, less than 40 points separated second and fifth. Salem showed the potential, giving teams like Adrian (above) a rough time. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

Salem holds on versus Huron for 2nd win, 54-46

BASKETBALL

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

The Salem boys basketball team could be 0-2, winless heading into last night's game against last season's state runner-up, Belleville.

But they're not. They're 2-0, undefeated. The survivors of two tough games, against two tough opponents.

On Friday it was Ann Arbor Huron who couldn't run past the Rocks. Salem shut down the River Rat offense with tough inside play and rebounding. Rob Jones led the way for Salem with 15, while three other Rocks scored in double figures.

Wednesday, Salem dropped Monroe 62-57 at home behind the offense of Aaron Rypkowski and Tony Jansevski, each who had 22 points.

"Those were two quality opponents we beat," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "But there are definitely some areas we can improve on."

In particular, Brodie mentioned the team's tendency to score in streaks.

"We need to be more consistent," he said.

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Whalers still unbeaten at home

Winning streak extended to 6 with wins over the Soo and Erie

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

They were gone Sunday. Harold Druken, Dave Legwand, Paul Mara and Nik Tselios. Dropped out of the Whaler roster like a bad leak.

Combined, they've accounted for 75 goals and 87 assists in 30 games this season, helping the Whalers to their best start in franchise history. With the exception of Adam Colagiaco, they constitute the core of the Whalers' offensive might.



For the next few weeks, all that offensive might will be someplace else. Winnipeg to be exact, at the World Junior Championships. Suddenly the Whalers are reduced to a team of role players and inexperienced potential.

But Coach Pete DeBoer isn't too worried.

"These next few weeks will be interesting," he said. "It's great opportunity for a lot of our younger players"

like Kyle Chapman, Andre Robichaud and James Ramsey.

Unlike last year, however, the Whalers will keep their star goaltenders, including Robert Holsinger and his division-leading 2.15 goals-against-average.

The first test for this newly anemic team comes Saturday at Missaguaga, Don Cherry's struggling expansion team, who have only one win this season.

DeBoer is looking forward to the match-up.

"The plus for that game is we've gone from a team that has enough talent to win even if we have a bad game to a team of younger, inexperienced players," he said. "I don't think we'll take them lightly."

Plymouth 7, Erie 2 — Before a hefty home crowd, the Plymouth Whalers were all show Saturday night, blistering the Otters with 37 shots and seven goals.

Unlike many of the other recent games where scoring had been dominated by their top scorers, the Whalers pushed the points around Saturday with six different players recording goals.

Leading the charge was overage player Rick Smith,

who scored his eighth goal in the first and his ninth of the season in the second period.

"Those are big goals for him," DeBoer said. "We're going to need him to step up offensively in the next few weeks."

Jamie LaLonde, David Legwand and Harold Druken also added scores. For Druken, it was his 38th of the season, still the league leader by seven goals.

Rookie Kyle Chapman notched the first goal of his OHL career with the less than five minutes left in the third to round out the scoring.

For fans Saturday night, the game was much more than a festival of scoring. It also included big hits and big fists.

After a mid-period lull in the second, the Whalers bombarded Erie with shots, fists and swagger, looking every bit the part of a confident team and every bit a team hoping to entertain its fans.

Rookie James Ramsey, already developing his reputation as an OHL bruiser, showed why he is also becoming

Please see pg. 25

WHALER WATCH

OHL STANDINGS (Through Dec. 7)

WEST	W	L	T	Last 10	Pts.
PLYMOUTH	24	4	2	8-2-0	50
S.S. MARIE	17	9	3	6-2-2	37
SARNIA	16	11	3	7-2-1	35
LONDON	13	19	0	5-5-0	26
WINDSOR	10	19	3	3-6-1	23

EAST	W	L	T	Last 10	Pts.
OTTAWA	26	4	2	8-2-0	54
PETER	20	11	0	7-3-0	40
BELLEVILLE	15	11	6	5-2-3	36
OSHAWA	16	12	2	7-3-0	34
KINGSTON	10	21	1	3-7-0	21

MIDWEST	W	L	T	Last 10	Pts.
GUELPH	22	10	0	7-3-0	44
ERIE	16	14	1	3-7-0	33
OWEN SOUND	15	15	3	4-6-0	33
KITCHENER	9	20	2	3-7-0	20
BRAMPTON	4	25	1	1-8-1	9

CENTRAL	W	L	T	Last 10	Pts.
BARRIE	24	5	2	8-1-1	50
NORTH BAY	12	18	3	3-7-0	27
SUDBURY	10	17	4	2-7-1	24
TORONTO	10	17	4	5-5-0	24
MISSISSAUGA	1	28	2	0-9-1	4

WHALER STATISTICS

Team Leaders:
Goals: Druken (38)
Assists: Colagiaco (39)
Points: Druken (64)
PIM: LaLonde (92)
+/-: Druken (+30)
GAA: Holsinger (2.15)

CATCH OF THE DAY

Check out the Whalers updated Web site at www.plymouth-whalers.com. It features updated reports, player interviews and even a Santa cap on the Whalers logo.

UPCOMING GAMES:

• Fri. at the Mississauga (7:30 p.m.)
• Sat. at Sarnia (7:30 p.m.)

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Whalers increase first-place lead

Continued from pg. 24

a crowd favorite at Compuware Sports Arena. Under echoes of the Rocky theme song, Ramsey reveled in the crowd's cheers after one of his fights, pumping his fists, playing to the fans and even busting a move in the penalty box after a Chapman scrape 30 seconds later.

"He's a real character," DeBoer said of Ramsey. "He has a role and he enjoys it."

Judging by fan reaction, it's clear many of those attending Whalers games at this point in the season are returnees. They know the players and they know what to expect. And this season's Whaler team is happy to deliver.

Even a fire alarm, apparently caused by a small blaze in a vent above the concession stand, wasn't enough to startle the Whalers or their fans, most of whom stayed seated throughout the screeching alarm.

Only the Erie Otters left burned Saturday night.

Plymouth 4, (at) Sault Ste. Marie 3

It was a match-up of the two top teams



Whaler Paul Mara makes mash of an Otter Saturday night at CSA. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr)

in the Western Division Friday night at the Soo, and the Whalers proved they deserved their king of the hill status.

Behind a pair of goals from Adam Colagiacomio and a trio of assists from Harold Druken, the Whalers left the clear leaders in the division, and for that matter, Western Conference race.

Again it was the Whalers special teams that stalled their opponent. Colagiacomio got the scoring started on a power play at 6:16 of the second of a feed from Shaun Fisher. After a Julian Smith goal, his seventh of the season, made it 2-0 Whalers, Colagiacomio notched another, this time shorthanded.

"The key to our special teams is not only the power play but the penalty kill as well," DeBoer said. "If that weren't as good, they would just cancel each other out."

After a pair of goals by the Soo made it a one goal game, Fisher gave the Whalers the insurance they needed on another powerplay goal with less than seven minutes left in the game.

Rookie goaltender Rob Zepp stopped 29 Greyhound shots, and according to DeBoer, was instrumental in keeping Plymouth in the game early.

"If he hadn't made a few key saves in the first period we easily could have been down by one or two goals," he said.

Chatter: Both the Krises are absent from the Whaler lineup. Kris Purdy had knee surgery and Kris Vernarsky is out with a broken hand suffered in practice. Purdy could be back within a month, while Vernarsky is out indefinitely, DeBoer said.

WHALER OF THE WEEK



#16 LEFT WING

Rick Smith

As an overage player, Smith has stepped into a leadership role this year for the Whalers. And proving that role, he scored a pair of goals in a win over Erie Saturday night.

Whaler of the week chosen by The Crier editorial staff and Brought to you by:

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Thursday at home versus Ann Arbor Huron, 7 p.m. Saturday at home for the conference relays, noon.

SALEM WRESTLING

Friday at home versus Catholic Central and Clio, 6 p.m. Saturday, junior varsity at the Melvindale Invite, 9 a.m.

SALEM GYMNASTICS

Thursday at Ann Arbor Pioneer versus Ann Arbor Huron, Pioneer and Canton, 7 p.m.

CANTON BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday at home versus Ann Arbor Pioneer, 5:30 p.m.

CANTON BOYS SWIMMING

Thursday at home versus Dexter, 7 p.m. Saturday at Salem for the Conference relays, noon.

CANTON WRESTLING

Saturday at home for the Canton Invite.

CANTON GYMNASTICS

Thursday at Ann Arbor Pioneer versus Ann Arbor Huron, Pioneer and Salem, 7 p.m.

CANTON VOLLEYBALL

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Community opinions

Joyner: you gotta have art

EDITOR:

Recognizing the important role artistic endeavors play in defining hometown quality of life, I am pleased to announce that I have agreed to donate \$2,000 to the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

This money will fund the Arts Council Damaris Program, a middle school multi-art discipline competition with emphasis placed on providing audition experience for middle school students.

The competition will take place in the

spring of 1999. This program came about because of the tremendous effort of Damaris "Dee" Schulte, who for years has worked hard to see that this program was a success. Thank you, Dee.

In addition, the funds will provide scholarships to the arts council for a scholarship program to provide opportunities for young people to hone their skills through summer enrichment programs.

It has been such a tremendous benefit

to this community to have a home for the arts council. The Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that public-private partnership can and will work to enhance the arts. My compliments to former mayor Doug Miller and to City Manager Steve Walters for working together with the City Commission to unanimously approve this creative venture.

In walking through this building on Sheldon Road, it is really great to see the

names of individuals and corporations who have joined with the City, the Arts Council and art lovers to provide art programming and to help define the quality of life in our unique community.

Thank you arts council for asking me to participate in this way. It is a small token, considering the work that has gone on before by true art leaders such as Joanne Hulce, for whom the building is named.

R. WILLIAM JOYNER

Talk of one Plymouth P.D. still hot

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the Dec. 2 edition of The Community Crier, we asked readers what they thought about the proposed merger of City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township police dispatch services, and about the prospect of a full police merger. Last week, responses poured in, some anonymous, some signed. This week's mail contained more of the same:

On dispatch merger:

Absolutely. This is a no-brainer.

The Plymouth tax payers are financing duplicates of almost everything. Both governments are too small to continue this terminal possessiveness.

On full police merger:

Yes, no question!

If you explained that one department was hired, trained, supervised and financed to patrol and service one square mile

area, and another to service the outer circle in an area half the size of a normal township, they'd think you were making it up.

On dispatch merger:

Yes, and I hope they do change the policy of issuing traffic tickets to innocent drivers in order to make money (offset police department costs) and look important as a contributor of driving safely.

On full police merger:

Yes — with additional savings, maybe they can afford to hire at least one honest police officer.

On dispatch merger:

No — we have a wonderful department that can react within minutes to all our needs right here. They have all they need to handle in our town.

On full police merger:

No — we are a small town with fine officers. We want them in town, not out in Canton. That would cut our services. It is a good feeling seeing our officers all through town. Leave Plymouth alone!

Unification group organizing

EDITOR:

The letter I wrote this past week seems to have generated some interest in the idea of unification of the two Plymouths.

I am interested in putting together a committee of citizens who are willing to volunteer some time to truly look at the idea of unification, what it would mean to us and maybe put together a method of accomplishing it.

If you are interested in being on such a committee, please

contact me at 734-354-6075, or by e-mail at xcop97@mindspring.com. Please leave your name and phone number and I will get back to you. If there is enough interest, the first meeting will take place in January.

CARL BERRY

EDITOR'S NOTE: Berry is a former Plymouth Township chief of police, and a Wayne County Republican leader.

'Twp. speed is quick (!) in response'

Of what conceivable use is a public relations guy to us regular folks?

Isn't their job to fool us, to apply the spin? Jimmy Buffett, in a musical collaboration with Herman Wouk, has his Public Relations leading man sing, "...oozing and schmoozing, that's what I do."

The other day I called Plymouth Township's new public relations specialist. He isn't new to town — his previous incarnation was as Plymouth Observer reporter Kevin Brown. I told Kevin that I thought the Township could garner bundles of money by ticketing speeders in front of

my house. I offered my driveway to the cops and my lawn for one of those "Speed limit is 25, Your Speed Is XX" trailers.

My house is on Haggerty Road, on a blind hill leading down to Hines Park. The posted speed limit is 25, but as I try to back out of my driveway most cars seem to be doing 40 or 50. Frankly I don't care if those speeders run down the herds of joggers that litter my block, but there *are* children about, and we *do* have to back out of our driveways now and then.

One phone call, to a government public relations guy, and guess what? The very next morning a Plymouth Township patrol

car was in my driveway monitoring car speeds passing my house (the officer professionally refused my offer of a cup of coffee.) Two days later the "Your speed is..." trailer was parked on my lawn.

The result? Instead of cars streaking past my house I was treated to the wonderful vision of lines of cars proceeding at a stately 25 mile per hour. I easily found a hole in traffic to get out of my driveway.

So you can howl about problems at Township Hall (and this newspaper howls with the best of them.) And you can grumble about public relations guys. But fair is fair, and when it works, it deserves



The bait shack
By Mike Carne

credit.

So large THANK YOUs to Plymouth Township Police Lt. Robert Smith, and to the new Plymouth Township public relations guy, Kevin Brown. And thanks, too, to Supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy for hiring good people and letting them do what they do best.



Community opinions

City needs answers

Wisdom of deal in question, not PCAC's value

The questions arising from the City of Plymouth's "deal" with the Plymouth Community Arts Council (PCAC) need answers.

Why has the sale of the property on Sheldon Road been termed a "lease" in some instances and a "sale" in others?

Where was City Commission approval of the "sale"?

Where was City Commission approval of the "loan"? Was that "loan" legal?

Did the City transfer its full faith and credit standing to a non-profit organization legally?

Why haven't the City Manager and the City Finance Director alerted the Commission to problems with the "loan"? Why wasn't the deficiency mentioned in the City's audit of 1997? (And why is this year's City audit now two months late and counting?)

Did City Commissioner Stella Greene act ethically in her dual roles for the City

and for the Arts Council? Why didn't she bring out the deficiency? Should she have signed the "loan" for PCAC when she was a City Commissioner?

Was Greene's vote to retain City Manager Steve Walters clouded by his "bending" rules for the Arts Council?

Is the City's ethics policy sufficient if it only speaks to financial gain when there may be other types of conflict of interest? Doesn't the City Charter call for a higher standard?

Why are PCAC supporters afraid to examine the arrangement and resulting questions without accusing those raising questions of "not supporting the arts"?

The PCAC has been a wonderful addition to The Plymouth-Canton Community. Over the years, its school programs, children's theater, art rental program, Rockwell sculptures lead and art classes have contributed much to the quality of life here. Its arts center on



Sheldon Road has provided a great home for arts activities and for community gatherings.

There is no argument that the center has served a public need.

But the unanswered questions and the City Hall deliberate obfuscation of the issues surrounding the purchase, sale and remodeling of the building do a disservice to the PCAC's good causes.

It is imperative that the City Commission demand answers to the questions and correct any problems so both the City and the PCAC can get on with the work at hand. That is truly the best way to continue support of the arts for The Plymouth-Canton Community.

THE COMMUNITY CRIER

A Daly reminder

At about 2 p.m. Thursday, the inside of Daly's looked like a restaurant that was about to close.

Most of the booths were empty, the counter cleaned off. Only a few tables were occupied, and one of them with staff, hashing over old memories.

The Crier's editorial staff decided to grab a bite of lunch at Daly's, just for nostalgia's sake. I was determined to absorb as much of the ambiance as I could, not because I felt liked I owed anything to Daly's — I could count on one hand the number of times I ate at the restaurant throughout the 18 or so years I lived in the area — and not because I felt it was my duty as a Plymouthite. I felt like a biologist might, chronicling the last of a nearly extinct species.

Certainly it was not without its charm. With the large fireplace in the center, the dining room was more like a family gathering room than a restaurant.

The now-empty counter was a perfect place for regulars to sit and talk with staff or other patrons. And although schmaltzy Christmas music was blaring through a bad speaker as we sat awaiting our Daly Burger plates, I couldn't really blame the restaurant for that — 'twas the season for it, after all.

Now that Daly's is gone, will the community really miss it?

Surely its contribution to the American food scene will not go down in history. If you like burgers, fries and a good, rich shake Daly's was a place to go. But there are enough places to find similar food that the average consumer won't mind that they have been diminished by one.

If Daly's is missed it will be because a gathering place is gone.

Off the cuff

By Scott Spielman



Daly's was at its best on a summer night, when the cars were lined up along the drive-in as well as facing the street, where teenagers could congregate and not worry about being hassled. With Daly's gone, they are left with street corners and other parking lots — many of them labeled 'No Trespassing' during nighttime hours.

Plymouth will have other restaurants. Several of them are in the planning stages now. E.G. Nicks is being built along Forest Avenue, The Box Bar is trying to expand its operations and landlord Jim McKeon wants to secure a restaurant for his Main Street building.

With projects such as these in the works, its doubtful that Daly's the restaurant will be missed. It was, however, a link to the past, a distinguishing landmark. While it may not have been the Taj Mahal, it certainly wasn't a drug store.

It could be that the Rite Aid eventually built on the site will be very distinctive in appearance. It's possible the Plymouth planners can coerce the company to break their corporate identity the way Canton planners have.

I hope so.

Because I'd rather see something that symbolizes a small town, rather than something that symbolizes everytown.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

The Community Crier



THE NEWSPAPER
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PUBLISHER:

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GENERAL MANAGER:

Mike Carne

EDITOR:

Bryon Martin

PHOTO EDITOR:

Richard Alwood Jr.

REPORTERS:

Scott Spielman

Scott Goodwin

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR:

Chuck Skene

ADVERTISING CONSULTANTS:

Michelle Tregembo Wilson

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BUSINESS MANAGER:

Linda J. Szyniszewski

BUSINESS ASSISTANT:

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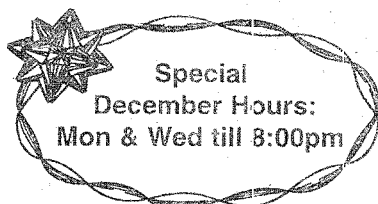


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