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December 19, 1998

# City Hall holdouts talk union

### 'Shaky' times in City, lower raises inspire

BY BRYON MARTIN

Talk of collective organization has begun to pass between the handful of Plymouth employes who for years have been the only non-union workers at City Hall.

Following the dismissal of Tom Willette, former recreation director and 18-year City employe, some are looking for more security and stability during a time of transition at City Hall.

Pay raises which continually lag behind those given to unionized workers also inspired the discussions, sources said Thursday. Talk remains informal, but a City employe who wished to remain nameless said he has contacted representatives at The Teamsters and the Association of Federal, State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

Union officials were unwilling to comment directly on the situation, citing a need to protect the anonymity of those City workers involved.

But according to Karen Warner, administrative director at the AFSCME office in Southfield, "if we're talking to employes there it's because we've been contacted by several members, or enough to go ahead with a meeting."

A mix of at least six department heads and clerical workers at City Hall confirmed discussions are ongoing, but also wished to remain anonymous.

"Our priority is to preserve confidentiality," Warner said. Management often retaliates against employes found behind union drives, she explained. "It might be under the guise of something else, but historically you'll see...some sort or discipline during or after the vote directed at the activist (behind a union push)."

The employe who is now organizing the effort said he will send a list of the City's

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For five years now, Ron Finney has become so wrapped up in hanging holiday lights in the 110-ft. tall Maples in his front yard, that passersby on Joy Road have stopped mid-street to ask, How does he do it? (Crier photo by Bryon Martin)

# Holiday high lights

# Twp.'s Ron Finney takes seasonal lighting to new heights

BY BRYON MARTIN

Fire truck?

Patience?

Trained squirrel?

For five years now, Ron Finney has listened to all sorts of theories on how he gets holiday lights over the top of the 110-ft.-tall maples in front of his home.

### Daring escape

Canton man uncovers local Civil War stories

See Friends & Neighbors, pg. 6

White lights drape down from the highest limbs to the ground, to other other tree trunks, into his back yard and across Rocker Street to his neighbors' yards.

The 62-year-old Tennessee native has lived in Plymouth Township since 1943, but it wasn't until 1993, when he began the holiday tradition, that Finney earned a local nickname, he said — "That crazy hillbilly over on Rocker Street."

Finney smiles at the good-natured moniker. But he smiles even more when

Please see pg. 19

#### Drake dominates

Freshman Rock shines at 1st gynmastics meet

See Sports, pg. 20

## Canton pays \$5.5 million for ball center

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Canton Township already has big plans in store for the Canton Softball Center, which it purchased at Tuesday's Board of Trustees meeting.

Already on the calender for this summer are several world championship series, according to Mike Gouin, Canton Parks and Recreation superintendent.

The United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) will bring the U.S. Girls slow pitch softball world series to the facility in August and the boys under-13 world series in July.

In fact, according to Supervisor Tom Yack, by the opening of softball season, the facility will be booked with a regional, state or national tournament every weekend.

By then there will be several changes at the center, Gouin said.

"We're going to do some things to freshen it up," he said. "In general they'll be cosmetic changes."

Gouin said the township plans to repaint the buildings and perform minor maintenance on the ball fields, fences and irrigation systems.

Canton will pay a total of \$5.5 million for the 70 acre site, which includes 12 lighted ball fields, batting cages and the Cleats

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# Canton alley site of rape

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Canton Police are investigating a sexual assault which bears some similarities to others reported in Washtenaw County, according to Ofc. Leonard Schemanske.

Reports said the victim reported the

# Thief takes guns from City home

A homeowner on Byron Street lost money and guns in a robbery that took place Sunday afternoon, according to reports from police in The City of Plymouth.

Six guns, money orders and cash worth about \$5,000 were taken from the home, Sgt. Steve Hundersmarck said.

Police said they don't know how the suspects got into the house, but said there was no obvious sign of forced entry.

Hundersmarck said police have information which points to more than one suspect, but would not elaborate further.

incident at the Canton police station last Wednesday.

She said that around midnight the previous night she was walking westbound on Michigan Avenue in the City of Wayne.

The suspect, driving a light-blue, boxy car asked the victim if she wanted a ride. She agreed, according to reports.

She told the suspect that she was walking to a store and the suspect agreed to drive her there. Upon arriving however, they found the store closed and went looking for another store, according to reports

The suspect then stated he had to go to the bathroom and pulled down Yost Road, off Belleville Road, south of Michigan Avenue. When he first pulled on to the road, he pointed to ADT Transport and stated that he worked there, reports said.

When he returned to the car, he had a knife in his hand, reports said. He threatened to cut the victim and sexually assaulted her, according to reports.

He then drove her back to Wayne, telling her along the way that he had taught her a lesson, because she shouldn't have been walking alone at night, according to reports.

"The Michigan State Police is investigating similar incidents," Schemanske said.

Det. Sgt. Fred Farkas, of Michigan State Police, said he is investigating three incidents with some similarities, but could not confirm if they were committed by the same person. He also was unsure if those three were related to the Canton incident, he said.

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## Hour-and-a-half chase

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

A 20-year old Belleville man assaulted a police officer and then led him on an hour-and-a-half long foot chase Tuesday.

According to police reports, Ofc. James Marinelli was assisting Ofc. David

Boljesic at a traffic stop around 1 p.m.

The driver of the car — a black, 1990 Dodge — reportedly has a suspended driver license. Boljesic advised Marinelli that the passenger could have given a false

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# Holiday Wishes from MILANO

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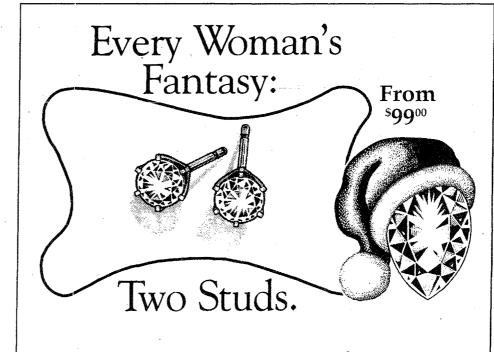
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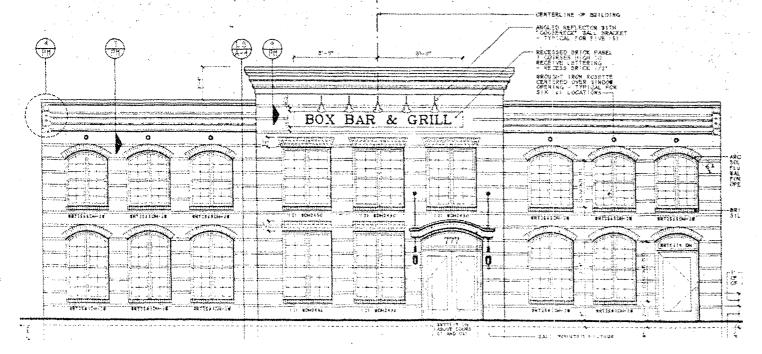


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This architectual elevation shows what the Box Bar could be if owner Chip Falcusan's plans to raze the neighboring building, formally occupied by ice cream shop American Pie, are seen through. The demolished site would be used for parking.

# Parking break for the Box

#### BY SCOTT GOODWIN

The question City of Plymouth officials faced recently was a complex one: how much are they willing to sacrifice history for something historical?

The answer: change is good.

After three years of squashed plans for expansion, the Box Bar in downtown Plymouth may finally get its chance to grow.

The Plymouth Planning and Historic commissions approved the Box Bar's most recent plans which call for a substantial overhaul of the small watering hole on Kellogg Park.

# Twp. announces greens, tree pick up

Plymouth Township has announced its holiday rubbish and Christmas tree collection schedules.

If your normal pick-up falls on Friday, it will be delayed one day during the weeks of Christmas and New Year's.

Christmas trees and natural wreaths will be picked up curbside, on regularly scheduled collection days during the week of Jan. 4-8 for compost disposal. The Township asks residents to remove decorations, including tinsel and other non-organic materials. No plastic tree disposal bags will be taken

Also, the Township's Compost Program will resume weekly curbside collection of yard waste Apr. 5.

But in order to execute the plans, the Box Bar may need to knock down its neighbor, the building which formally held the ice cream shop American Pie, to make room for parking, according to Building Official Jim Penn.

Parking had been the stumbling block in the Box Bar's most recent failed plan last year. Initially, when Box Bar owner Chip Falcusan wanted to build a brewpub, the City agreed to lease the needed parking. After the brewpub proposal fell through, Falcusan came back with another proposal but was denied parking rights by the City.

Earlier this year, Falcusan offered another idea. To gain the necessary parking, he would raze the building directly east of the Box Bar.

The plan required a vote of confidence by the Plymouth Historic Commission. At their Dec. 2 meeting, the commission discussed the proposal and came to an unusual conclusion.

A motion made by Commissioner Mark Oppat allowed the Box Bar to proceed with its plans, but not until Falcusan attempted to gain an exemption from the Planning Commission on the parking stipulation. If the exemption was not given, Falcusan could demolish the building after one month. The motion passed 3-2.

But according to Penn, the Planning Commission doesn't have the authority to give Falcusan an exemption. So, on Jan. 3, the door of demolition will open and Falcusan will have the green light he has sought for three years.

The American Pie building may still be moved rather than razed, but according to Penn, no significant offers have been made.

"It's certainly a possibility under the Historic District's ordinance," he said.

Falcusan has until March to apply for the necessary permits. He was unavailable for comment.

## Still no cause found for Twp. fire

#### BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

What caused the 35,000-square foot building that housed Document Processing, Inc. to burn to the ground Sunday is still uncertain, but the future of the site has already been determined.

"Well, naturally we're going to rebuild the building," said Dennis Walker, general manager of the Plymouth Industrial Park where the building was located.

Larry Groth, Plymouth Community Fire chief, turned control of the site over to Walker this morning, and Walker has been

diligently trying to get everything back up to speed.

At the end of the day yesterday, neighbor Atlas Tube was running 70 per cent of it's operations and Copco Steel was at 50 per cent, Walker said. Both businesses suffered minor damage in Sunday's blaze, when a fire retention wall that separated them from Document Processing collapsed.

Although damage to the neighboring business was not significant, Walker said he had both the gas and electricity to the sites turned off in a precautionary measure.

"I didn't want to take any chances with anything that might have been suspect," he said. "I just didn't want anyone to get hurt."

Fire broke out in the document shredding plant around 4 p.m. Sunday. It spread unfettered, because the old section of the building did not have a fire suppression system.

Firefighters put out the last of the hot spots Thursday afternoon, Groth said. The collapsed roof trapped fire in many places, producing smoldering areas that could only be cooled after wreckage was removed.

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## Agenda

#### THIS WEEKEND

 Today, the Northville Central Business Association holds its Men's Afternoon Out in downtown Northville. All shoppers are welcome, but gentlemen will receive extra attention as they shop for those special folks. Tomorrow, it's Kids Day to Shop, with the same deal for kids. Call 248-349-7640 for details.

#### **NEXT WEEK**

- Monday, Plymouth's City Commission will meet for its regular meeting at 7 p.m. in City Hall, 201 N. Main St.
- Tuesday, Plymouth
   Township will hold a special meeting to approve sales of bonds to finance the new 35th District
   Courthouse. Call 734-453-3840 for details.
- Tuesday, Canton's Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. in Canton Administration Hall, 1150 S. Canton Center Road. Call 734-397-3000.
- Thursday and Friday, government buildings will be closed in observation of the Christmas holiday.

#### **NEXT WEEKEND**

 Saturday, the Our Lady of Good Counsel class of 1980 will hold a reunion. Call 734-455-5475 for info.

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## Public notices

#### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15,1998

Supervisor Keen McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m., and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. All members were present, except Trustee Griffith who was excused.

Supervisor Keen McCarthy presented Fire Chief Larry Groth with a plaque honoring him for his 30 years of service with the Township.

Clerk Massengill amended the agenda by removing under New Business. Item J.5, Reduction of Solid Waste Fee, then moved to approve the agenda for the December 15, 1998, Regular Board of Trustee Meeting, as amended. Seconded by Trustee Arnold Ayes all.

Clerk Massengill moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Seconded by Trustee Arnold. Ayes all.

Mr. Dean Swartzwelter addressed the Board on the issue of the proposed underpass at the Sheldon Road/CSX intersection and the importance of alleviating traffic congestion.

Supervisor Keen McCarthy opened the public hearing at 7:50 p.m., on a request for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate from Tower Automotive. Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:51 p.m.

Trustee Mueller moved to approve Resolution No. 98-12-15-51, granting a four (4) year Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate to Tower Automotive, Inc., located at 43955 Plymouth Oaks Blvd., Plymouth Oaks Business Park, covering an addition to the existing facility, including the cost of machinery, equipment, furniture and fixtures. Seconded by Trustee Arnold. Ayes all on a roll call vote. The Resolution is on file in the Clerk's Office for public perusal.

Treasurer Edwards moved to approve Resolution No. 98-12-15-52, granting a five (5) year Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate to Advantage Technologies, Inc., located at 14731 Helm Street, Lots 129, 130 and part of Lot 128, Metro West Industrial Park No. 5. Seconded by Trustee Mueller. Ayes all on a roll call vote. The Resolution is on file for public perusal.

Clerk Massengill moved that January 26, 1999, be established for public hearing for transfer of Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate No. 92-441 from DiverseyLever to Warner-Lambert Company. Seconded by Trustee Arnold. Ayes all.

Clerk Massengill moved that January 12, 1999, be established for public hearing on Toolco, Inc's, request for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for new machinery and equipment. Toolco, Inc., is located at 47709 Galleon Drive in Metro West-Beck Road Industrial Park. Seconded by Trustee Arnold. Ayes all.

Trustee Arnold moved to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to approve the purchase of one Ambulance/Rescue Unit from R.S.V.P. for the submitted purchase price of \$85,500.00. Seconded by Clerk Massengill. Ayes all.

Trustee Arnold moved to approve the Agreement between Chief Larry Groth and the Charter Township of Plymouth, providing medical insurance benefits as stated in the Open Window Retirement documentation, approved by the Township Board on October 27, 1998, and subject to the documentation being attached to said Agreement. Seconded by Treasurer Edwards. Ayes all.

Reduction of Solid Waste Fee - Administratively removed from the agenda.

Clerk Massengill moved to approve the 1999, Board of Trustee Regular Meeting and Work Session dates, as amended. Seconded by Trustee Arnold. Ayes all.

1999 Meeting dates for the Charter Township of Plymouth are as follows:

Regular Meeti	ng Dates	Work Session Dates		
January	12 & 26		January	5 & 19
February	9 & 23		February	. 2
March	9 & 23		March	2& 16
April	13 & 27		April	6&20
May	11 &25		May	4
June	8 & 22	•	June	1&15
July	20		July	6
August	. 17		August	3
September	14 & 28		September	7 & 21
October	12 & 26		October	5 & 19
November	16		November	2
December 1	14		December	. 7

Trustee Arnold moved to authorize the Supervisor to enter into a contract with Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc., for procurement of Geographic Information System professional services funded in part

by the Rouge River National (RPO) Wet Weather Demonstration Project Grant. Seconded by Trustee Curmi. Aves all.

Clerk Massengill moved to approve SBC's request to transfer the Ameritech New Media Cable Franchise to SBC conditioned upon Federal Communication Commission and Justice Department approval of the SBC/Ameritech merger and conditioned upon SBC's compliance with Section 74.304 of the Multi-Channel Service Provider Regulatory Ordinance. Seconded by Trustee Arnold. Ayes all.

Clerk Massengill moved to pass for first reading, Ordinance No. C-98-10 A, the revised Telecommunications Ordinance. Seconded by Trustee Curmi. Ayes all on a roll call vote. Ordinance No. C-98-10A is on file in the Clerk's Office for public perusal.

Clerk Massengill moved to approve Resolution No. 98-12-15-53, adopting the 1998 and 1999 budget for the Improvement Revolving Fund. Seconded by Trustee Arnold. Ayes all on a roll call vote. The Resolution is on file in the Clerk's Office for public perusal.

Trustee Curmi moved to approve Resolution No. 98-12-15-54 adopting the 1998 and 1999 budget for the Solid Waste Disposal Fund. Seconded by Clerk Massengill. Ayes all on a roll call vote. The resolution is on file in the Clerk's Office for public perusal.

Trustee Curmi moved to approve Resolution No. 98-12-15-55, adopting the 1998 and 1999 budget for the 911 Special Revenue Fund. Seconded by Trustee Arnold. Ayes all on a roll call vote. The resolution is on file in the Clerk's Office for public perusal.

Clerk Massengill moved to approve Resolution No. 98-12-15-56, amending the 1998 General Fund Budget. Seconded by Trustee Arnold. Ayes all on a roll call vote. The resolution is on file in the Clerk's Office for public perusal.

Clerk Massengill moved to approve the installment, purchase of a new IBM AS400 processor and operating system software. Purchase price is \$20,199. Purchase to be financed by a local financial institution at the best possible interest rate currently available. Seconded by Treasurer Edwards. Ayes all.

Trustee Curmi moved to approve Resolution No. 98-12-15-57, accepting the depositories recommended by Treasurer Edwards for the calendar year, January 1, 1999, through December 31, 1999. Seconded by Clerk Massengill. Ayes all on a roll call vote. The resolution is on file in the Clerk's Office for public nerusal

Trustee Curmi moved to approve the amended No Smoking Policy, as submitted. Seconded by Clerk Massengill Ayes all.

Supervisor Keen McCarthy requested that a Special Meeting be scheduled for Tuesday, December 22, 1998, for the purpose of passing a Resolution of Intent to contract with the District Court Building Authority to issue bonds and pledging full faith and credit for the Township portion of repayment of the bonds. There are no scheduled Board of Trustee meetings until January, therefore establishing a date for a special meeting is required. The meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

Trustee Mueller asked the Sign Committee for an update on the entrance signs to the Township. Mr. Anulewicz stated that the Committee recently met and it was determined that Mr. Anulewicz would pull the 1991 Study and update the traffic counts. The Committee would then determine the major and minor entrances to the Township based on the traffic counts. Within the next two to three months the committee will then present a proposal to the Board, as well as recommendations concerning the type of signage desired.

Trustee Arnold stated that the Civitan Club has offered to help with the fishing dock at the Township Park and possibly Miller Park as a project for their club for next year. Mr. Anulewicz stated that he had spoken to the Civitans, as well as other interested clubs, and informed them that the Township would be interested in accepting their assistance.

Clerk Massengill moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Mueller. Ayes all. Supervisor Keen-McCarthy adjourned the meeting at 9:29 p.m.

Marilyn Massengill, CMC Kathleen Keen McCarthy, Supervisor Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth Charter Township of Plymouth

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Publish: December 19, 1998



Canton's first middle school...made its debut at Tuesday's Board of Education meeting at Pioneer Middle School. This computer rendering shows approximately what the building will look like, though some features may change. Groundbreaking is expected Sunday March 14th.

## Jumpers hope to break a leg at CEP's 'Variety is...' show in Jan.

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

Rocky Balboa jumped rope. He became a champion.

So why can't the same formula work for a group of kids from Gallimore Elementary School?

On Jan. 9, a team of 53 students from Gallimore will hop their way to the biggest stage of their lives at the Salem High School annual Variety Show.

Their talent: jumping rope. Not your normal sweating-in-the-gym, training-for-afight, kind of jumping. This is dancing, groovin' and high energy

Led by gym teacher Linda Rotramel, the Gallimore Roadrunner Ropers, as they are known, have been doing their roping routine for three years now, usually at functions like school assemblies and open houses.

This year they hit the big time as the firstever elementary school act to perform at the variety show, and according to Rotramel, they're preparing with jubilance.

'They are all so excited. This is such a big deal for them," she said. "We've added extra practice to get ready."

Currently, the Ropers practice twice a week, once on Monday morning before school and once during an afternoon.

The program is enormously popular at Gallimore, Rotramel said. More than 500 students tried out for the team in October. Only 80 made the varsity and junior varsity teams.

"It's such a unique skill. It's not just something you can readily pick up," said Rotramel, who has a dancing background.

After the talent show, the Ropers will travel to Isbister and Field elementary

schools for assemblies.

But Rotramel said her squad isn't looking past Jan. 9. "One event at a time," she said.

#### A new fine dining experience?

Read Getting down to Business, pg. 8

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## Rape bears resemblances

Continued from pg. 2

"Generally speaking some of the circumstances are the same," Farkas said. "The women were all picked up off the street, solicited in one way or another for sex acts, and when they declined they were threatened and forced.'

In two of the three Washtenaw incidents, the victims were picked up in Detroit. The other victim was picked up in Inkster, Farkas said. All three were dropped off within a square mile of each other, along Rawsonville Road, just over the Washtenaw County border.

Composite sketches drawn according to the victim's memory were similar to others as well, Farkas said. He also stated that the description was fairly broad.

Schemanske said he was unsure if the Canton's suspect's claim that he worked with ADT transport was accurate.

"We've made contact with them but we haven't confirmed it yet," he said. "We still don't have a lot of suspect information.'

Farkas said the reason why the women were willing to get into the man's car was questionable, and could not confirm if the three cases he's investigating involved prostitution.

"It's not as if someone is just coming up and abducting women off the streets. They all got into the car willingly," he said. "Women in general do not need to worry about being picked up and assaulted, especially if they are not looking for a ride.'



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# Friends & neighbors

# Neighbors in the news

Luke Williams, Mike Darling, Evan Leung, Arthur Tomlin, Nathan Roller, Anaradhr Bhama, Samip Mallick and Valerie Taylor, students at CEP, have qualified for the second part of the 41st Annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition sponsored by the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America.

Students qualified for Part II by placing among the top seven per cent out of about 14,000 participants in an examination given at more than 360 schools across the State of Michigan.

Angie Nikolits and Lisa Vogt, volunteers from Bird Elementary School, received the Volunteer in Public Schools Extra Miler Award.

Nikolits and Vogt were commended for the many hours of service they have given to the students at Bird. Through their leadership they have helped more than \$15,000 in three years for the school's computer lab.

Albion College student **Donald Miller**, son of **Jonathon S**. and **Bonnie Miller** of Plymouth, is spending the fall interning with Ideation in the advertising department.

Albion College student **Theron Stinar**, son of **Kyle J. Stinar** of Canton, has been accepted into the Honors Program at Albion College.

Marine Lance Cpl. Nathan M. Branim, son of Debra J. Lehner of Canton, is scheduled to spend the holidays deployed to Okinawa, Japan with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines.

The 1996 graduate of Salem High School joined the Marine Corps. in Feb. 1997.

Marine Cpl. Ronald K. Cullen, whose wife, Tiffany, is the daughter of Mark and Roxanne Smith of Canton, is scheduled to spend the hoidays deployed to Okinawa, Japan with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines.

He is a 1994 graduate of Sålem High School, who jined the Marine Corps in January, 1995.

Navy Seaman Gerald D. Peterson, son of Ted Peterson and Tearesa Garland of Northville, is scheduled to spend the holidays deployed to Okinawa, Japan with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

# Finding Canton's History

Dave Curtis's found Canton's history is connected to his family tree

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

When Dave Curtis moved to Canton in 1956, his great-great-great-grandfather would have approved.

He was one of Canton's first settlers, but Dave didn't know that until 26 years later. He discovered some civil war medals belonging to his great-great grandfather, and began searching Civil War records to find out more about his family's genealogy.

Curtis said he took two research trips to New York before he found the answer.

"My sister called one day and said that she had found him," he said. "He was buried in Cherry Hill Cemetery. I found that very unusual. I didn't even know I had any relationship to Canton."

That was enough to hook Curtis. He joined Canton's Historical Society, and has served on the board for the past four years.

His curiosity about the Civil War did nothing but grow. By researching Canton's Civil War soldiers, he is finding out more about Canton's past, bit by bit.

Curtis begins his search in one of the many volumes of books lining the shelves in his basement study. With volumes indexing every Michigan soldier who served in the war as well as membership directories of social clubs soldiers joined after the war, he can usually find a good solid starting place.

He also uses census data from that time period by comparing the 1880 data with the 1890 data.

Much of his information comes from the National Archives, he said. For \$10 — and about a two month wait, the archive will send out a 15-20 page file on any civil war soldier you inquire about, he said.

"Some times you find a wealth of information, and sometimes not enough," he said. "You never know what you're going to find."

But the information is there, usually in the person's own handwriting, he said. Information such as physical descriptions, what regiment they served in, where they lived before and after the war or where they are buried can all be found.

Curtis has found 86 Civil War soldiers who lived in Canton either before, during or after the war, he said. Among those are some pretty interesting people.

Like Martin Chaffee.

"This guy was quite a character,"



Dave Curtis's basement office displays many indian artifacts both purchased through dealers (above) and discovered by his father while working on roads in Wayne County. (Crier photo by Scott Spielman).

Curtis said. "He first married in 1855 and then again in 1863. But there was no record of him ever divorcing his first wife. His first wife died in 1866 and he married his third wife four months later. There was some debate as to who was entitled to the widow's pension."

That wasn't the extent of Chaffee's shenanigans, according to Curtis. There was also proof that he had joined a second army regiment under an assumed name, and army officials were unsure of what regiment or what name. All this he found in the first 20 pages of Chaffee's Civil War pension file. And there's more where that came from, Curtis said.

While the archive will send out 15-20 pages of pension files, that is often not the entire file. The average file length is about 111 pages; and usually costs Curtis \$45.

Chaffee's file is 664 pages long and would cost \$175, according to Curtis.

"I would like to get his entire file," he said. "I could probably write a book about him."

There are other great stories he's found as well. Like Harrison Berdan, who, with the help of his captain and two other soldiers cut a whole in the floor of the rail car transporting them to a prisoner of war camp and escaped. His file contains a first hand account of how he worked his way back through enemy

said Flaming Cournissioner Bob Wede-

lines and rejoined the northern front.

But the files detail other aspects of life as well. Widow pension files often contain testimony of life during that time period, he said.

"They contain affidavits of neighbors talking about what kind of conditions the widows are living in," he said. "It really gives you a good flavor for life after the wor."

So good in fact, that it sparked a new interest in Curtis: how the causalities of war effected life in a small community.

Curtis said that he initially paid for the records himself, but has since received donations through the Historical Society's Adopt a Civil War Soldier Program — not bad for someone who said he couldn't stand history in high school.

Curtis provides copies of the information to the Canton Historical Society, and is considering publishing them in book form. The society gets one or two requests each week from people who want to find out about their Canton ancestors, Curtis said.

And while he said documenting soldiers is a good way to preserve Canton's history, he does it for other reasons as well

"It's like putting a big puzzle together," he said. "It's a challenge and a reward when you find something."
"notice the high off in soom a chi shift!"

# Henry Ford 'sister' clinics open in P-C

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

Two new Henry Ford Medical Centers have opened their doors to The Plymouth-Canton Community.

The Plymouth center is located on Beck Road just north of M-14, Canton's on Haggerty Road north of Ford Road.

Both facilities were opened within a week of each other. Canton's clinic, smaller by about 3,000 square feet, opened Monday.

Described as "sister facilities" by Sally Bertoia, administrative manager for Henry Ford's western Wayne region, both will feature internal, family medicine and pediatric

Plymouth hosts an obstetrics and gynecology lab and Canton offers dermatology services.

Each has urgent care clinics as well. Plymouth's is open seven days, while Canton's is available only on Sunday.

The new clinics replace smaller ones in downtown Plymouth and along Ford Road.

Those older clinics "were bursting at their seams," Bertoia said. "We knew we needed to build with the growth of Plymouth and Canton in mind.'

Each is similar in style and decor inside and out. According to Bertoia, the two new buildings may serve as templates for future

Because Plymouth's is a bigger site, it has already added 16 new positions, mostly for the extra lab and data work, Bertoia said. Plymouth may eventually house 50 employes, while Canton, which currently has 25, mat ramp as high as 40, she explained.

In addition to medical services, both buildings also feature community rooms available for groups such as the Boy Scouts or Brownies, Bertoia said. Initially, they hope to use the community rooms as public education centers for subjects like first aid and childbirth.

While its client base is well established, Henry Ford has been active in attracting new business, particularly the corporate

"Those are the types of relationships we'd like to build," Bertoia said,

# Canton Taco Bell crosses Lee border

#### Trustees request different exterior design

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

It's like killing two chihuahuas with one stone.

The Canton Board of Trustees approved a request that would allow the demolition and reconstruction of the Taco Bell restaurant on Ford Road, just east of Canton Center.

The proposal allows for the demolition of both the Taco Bell restaurant and its neighbor, the Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken which closed earlier this year.

Taco Bell will combine the two sites and spread a larger restaurant across it, according to Bill Beckett of WT Development Corporation.

"The old, outdated buildings would be removed and replaced with with a new brick structure that would greatly improve the look of the area," he said.

The developer will also add visual improvements. They will fill one of the Ford Road curb cuts and install streetlights and brick walls in accordance to with the Downtown Development Authority features, Beckett said.

The proposal also calls for improvements to the look and water quality of Fellows Creek, which bisects the 2.1-acre site.

The new Taco Bell will be constructed of sand-colored brick with darker, red brick accents, according to Beckett.

During site plan review last week, Planning Commissioners suggested reversing the color scheme to provide red brick with a sand colored trim, to make the building look similar to the Don Pablos restaurant, further east on Ford Road.

'We've had a lot of success in getting companies to break with their corporate identity," said Commission Chairman Vic Gustafson. Fast food restaurants recently built along Michigan Avenue have raised the level of such restaurants, and provided a benefit for business, Gustafson said.

Jim Avery, construction manager for Taco Bell, said he was wiling to consider the

"These accents are already beyond our standards, but we would be willing to work with planning staff," he said.

Avery said the company will start working on the project "as soon as possible." He said a tentative groundbreaking for the new restaurant was scheduled for early March.

It could be open as soon as late April or early March, he said.

"I think it's a move in the right direction," said Planning Commissioner Bob Wade.



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574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth 734/453-0190

#### Christmas Eve:

- .\*4:00p.m. Family Holy Eucharist ...\*7:00 Festival Holy Eucharist of the Nativity
- ...10:30 Christmas Carols
- ...11:00 Solemn Holy Eucharist of the Nativity

Christmas Day: ...10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

\* (Nursery Care Available)

#### **Risen Christ Lutheran Church**

(Missouri Synod) 46250 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth (734)453-5252

Dec. 24... 4:30, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Dec. 25... 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Day Worship Dec. 31... 7:30 p.m.

New Years Eve Worship Everyone Welcome

Trinity

#### Resurrection Catholic Church

48755 Warren Rd. Canton, MI 48187 734-451-0444

Rev. Richard A. Perfetto, Pastor CHRISTMAS EVE-Dec. 24th

4:30 o.m. Children's Mass (All Saints Gym) 4:30 & 10:00 p.m.(Church) CHRISTMAS DAY-Dec. 25th 10:30 a.m.

NEW YEAR'S EVE- Dec. 31st 4:30 p.m. NEW YEAR'S DAY-Jan. 1st

10:30 a.m.

#### Presbyterian Church 10101 W. Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170

(734) 459-9550

Dr. William C. Moore Preaching 'The True Spirit of Christmas' 3:30 & 5:15 p.m. Family Celebration with Christmas Pageant \*\*7:30 p.m. Praise Celebration 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Celebration \*Nursery for age 3 & under \*\*Nursery for age 5 & under

#### St. Michael Lutheran Church,

7000 N. Sheldon, Canton Township (just south of Warren Rd.) (734)459-3333

7:00 p.m. \*Family Service 9:00 p.m. \*Communion Service 11:00 p.m.Candlelight & Communion Service

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day "The Nativity of Our Lord"

5:30 p.m. Worship

Dec. 27.... 8:00, 9:30\*, 11:00\* a.m. Worship -\*Nursery Provided-

#### First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth

Main and Church Streets, Downtown Plymouth 734/453-6464

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

3:00 & 5:00p.m. Family Service 8:00 & 11:00p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols (special music begins 30 min. prior to each service)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27** Service of Worship 10:00a.m...

## Temple Baptist Church

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4:30... Family Worship Service

8:00... Traditional Candlelight Worship 10:00 Traditional Candlelight Worship Nursery care provided at 4:30 and 8:00 p.m.

We'll make you feel like FAMILY



## Getting down to business

# Neighbors in business



Mary Hauk of Canton, was one of 20 farmers from across the state serving on Michigan Farm Bureau's State Policy Development Committee.

Committee members, representing a broad range of agricultural backgrounds, were charged with reviewing more than 900 resolutions this year, brought to them by 68 county Farm Bureaus in Michigan.



Jack F. Moores, Jr, president and CEO of Medhealth Systems
Corporation, presented a \$32, 916 check to Sister Linda Willette,
Administrator of Our Lady of Providence Center.

Our Lady of Providence Center, located in Northville Township, provides residential, educational and vocational opportunities for developmentally disabled women and children.

# La Bistecca opens Monday

### Restaurant is third upscale venture for the Costanza family

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

La Bistecca, located at the junction of Plymouth and Eckles roads in Plymouth Township, bears no resemblance to its previous restaurant incarnations.

The booths and big screen television are gone, replaced by tables and chairs of luxurious, lustrous wood. The previous large dining room and been divided into a dining room and bar area which are separated by French doors.

It's all part of a year-long renovation project by the new owners the Costanza family, who also own and operate Station 885 restaurant in Old Village.

From top to bottom, La Bistecca is designed to be a one of a kind operation, according to Jerry Costanza, Sr

"It's the only Italian steakhouse in the vicinity," he said.

The type of beef it sells is also unique, according to Jerry, Jr. He said the restaurant will be the only one in the country to sell Piedmontese beef exclusively.

That beef comes from a naturally leaner breed of cattle from Italian Alps in Italy, and has less fat per serving than skinless chicken, pork or traditional beef

"It's even been endorsed by the American Heart Association as a heart smart product," Jerry Jr., said.

But beef dishes aren't the only thing on the menu at the upscale restaurant. Jerry Jr said their will also be a selection of veal, lamb, a daily selection of fresh fish as well as some Costanza original recipes. They will also feature a wide assortment of fine wines to complement the meals, he said.

"We'll have an extensive selection of wines as far as price range and style, either by the bottle or glass," Jerry, Jr said. Dinners range in price from \$15-\$35, and bottles of wine begin at \$25, according to Jerry, Jr.

On the far side of the elegant dining room is La Bistecca's bar. Separated from the main room by a French door, the room is cigar-friendly, and even has a humidor built into the bar.

Patrons needn't worry about the smoke, however. The bar operates on a completely different ventilation system than the main dining room.

"There are more than ample smoke

filters, and it's completely sealed from the dining room," Jerry Jr said.

The luxurious bar room also features

a separate piano bar, with a pianist playing live music Wednesday through Saturday.

Even though the restaurant fronts Plymouth road, it is not exactly a high profile location. That doesn't worry the Costanzas however — it's a

situation they've been in before, when they opened Station 885 on Starkweather Street in 1985. "That was the worst location we could get. No one even knew we were there," he said. "A lot of real nice, top-

notch restaurants are not as concerned with their location. People are going to come to the restaurant because of reputation, good food and service, not because of where it's located."

Costanza said La Bistecca will be open Dec. 21 at

11:30 a.m. Seating will be open for lunch, but dinner reservations will be required, he said.



La Bistecca

39405 Plymouth Road

Open: lunch and dinner Mon.- Fri.

Plymouth Twp.

(734) 254-0400

Dinner Sat.

Closed on Sundays

Golden goodies for the holidays... Piles and piles of donated toys aren't enough to keep Mark Dowell of Mel's Golden Razor from doing his job this week. The toys are part of the Mel's annual toy donation program, that according to owner Mel Bobcean, "seems to keep getting bigger each year." (Crier photo by Scott Goodwin)

#### In Canton:

# Non-union workers get 4% more in '99

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Tuesday, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a 4 per cent increase in base salary and salary grade ranges for Canton's non-union employes.

The raise is based on a recommendation from the Merit Commission, and part of a vearly evaluation process according to Dan Durack, director of Administrative and Community Services.

'They take a look at other communities and make a recommendation," he said. "In most years it's just a wage increase, but this year the fringe benefits changed, too."

Non-union employes are department heads and administrative workers such as planners, engineers and managers. In addition to the base 4 per cent salary increase, they also received increased dental coverage.

The Merit Commission looks at comparable communities to establish their recommendations, Durack said. Municipalities of similar size and organization are studied such as Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield,

Shelby Township, Livonia and Redford Township, but it's not an exact science, he

"There are no precise matches," he said. "There is no community exactly like Canton. We've tried to refine it to a group of about eight or 10 communities somewhat similar in size."

Those communities may have a different organizational structure than Canton, as well, he said. A community planner may have responsibilities in Farmington different from its counterpart in Canton, for example.

Rather than survey every position, the commission uses a group of eight positions that are similar throughout all communities as benchmark positions.

The commission then factors in not only what they are paid in other communities, but where they fit into Canton's organizational structure, Durack said.

'We don't want to be the top and we don't want to be at the bottom," he said. "We try to stay slightly above average."



Workers begin the long process of cleaning up the wreckage Thursday at Document Processing (Crier photo by Scott Spielman).

## Family fought flames

Continued from pg. 3

Groth said the fire was reported by an employe who happened to stop by the business with his family. They were returning from the plant's Christmas party, which was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Schoolcraft Road.

"The family made a brief effort to put the fire out, but it was just spreading too quickly," Groth said.

Groth said the investigation was still open, although it doesn't appear to be anything suspicious about the fire's origins. It caused an estimated \$5-\$6 million in damage, including those sustained by Atlas and Copco, Groth said.

Document Processing has since relocated its offices to Livonia and has sent Plymouth employes to work at other locations, according to John McDonnough, vice president of Document Processing.

McDonnough said he found work for all Plymouth employes. Production workers helped unload the trucks and other employes worked at other locations, he said.

The plant's operations — shredding confidential documents — were moved to one of Document Processing's four other plants, McDonnough said. The company has plants in Indianapolis, Columbus, Grand Rapids and Chicago.

McDonnough said transportation to those plants was a major concern, but is eased by the lack of snow and ice on the road.

"We didn't miss a beat," he said. "That's a good thing, especially in the Christmas season. We didn't want anyone to suffer hardship.

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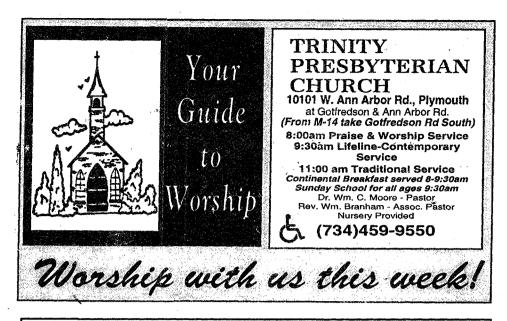
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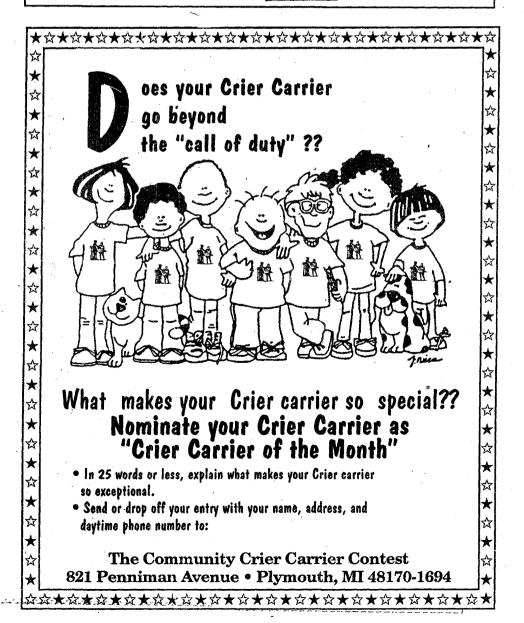
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# Applicants aplenty in Canton DDA Director search

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Last month, Canton Supervisor Tom Yack didn't think it would be an easy task to hire a Community Development Director

Now, however, he said the township has received so many applications that it is adding another screening process to help filter some out.

"We're going to send out a questionnaire to test them on their attitude and knowledge," he said. "A lot of people go through want ads and just send out resumes everywhere. When they see a questionnaire, the strong ones sort of bubble to the top. These are the ones we're interested in."

Yack first proposed the position to the DDA board this summer. After refining the duties and responsibilities of the community development director, the new position was proposed to the Board of

Trustees last month, and approved.

The director would split their time between Canton's DDA and the remainder of the community. He or she would help oversee construction projects along the Ford Road corridor, help build business relationships along Canton's longest commercial strip and help attract diverse businesses.

He or she would also be responsible for retaining Canton's industrial base and attracting other developers to the area.

Yack initially thought the position, which has a salary range of \$35,000-\$50,000 would be difficult to fill because of the strong economy.

The City of Plymouth received more than 50 resumes during their recent DDA Director search, and Canton seems on its way to receiving at least that many.

Yack said the position could be filled as early as February.

## Long and winding chase

Continued from pg. 2

name. That name, Frank Kyle came back from the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) with a felony warrant out of Ypsilanti for possession of cocaine, according to reports.

Marinelli attempted to handcuff Kyle, but Marinelli pulled away and fled from the car. Marinelli gave chase, and Kyle fell down in a nearby ditch. Marinelli also fell, but managed to grab the suspect's left ankle.

Kyle then kicked Marinelli's hand, breaking his grip, and renewed his flight to the east, according to reports.

Marinelli chased the suspect on foot through the Academy Point mobile home park to the I-275 freeway, where he lost sight of Kyle.

Canton dispatch contacted the Wayne Police Department and asked for assistance from their canine unit, according to Ofc. Leonard Schemanske. Canton's canine unit works during the night shift, and was unavailable that afternoon.

Dispatch also informed Marinelli that several drivers had reported the suspect fleeing across the freeway. He was later reported to have been seen in the backyard of a house on South Lotz Road.

Marinelli and Wayne Ofc. Foley and canine Ofc. Axel began to track Kyle. The track first led east through the woods, then went along the fence of a recycling center. It then turned north and circled back south a short distance later. Finally the track turned back to the west, back to I-275, according to reports.

Marinelli and Foley found the Kyle's white shirt along the track. Marinelli was informed that the suspect ran into a junk yard at Maple and Hannan roads.

Marinelli and Foley found him hiding under a large amount of scrap metal, reports said. The canine bit the suspect on the leg, and he was taken into custody without further incident, 90 minutes after the chase began.

Kyle was transported to Canton Public Safety, then to Oakwood hospital by the fire department to have the dog bite treated.

Marinelli was treated at St. Joe's Hospital for a fractured pinky finger.

Kyle was charged with resisting arrest — injury inflicted, which carries a sentence of two years in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine, Schemanske said. He will appear in 35th District court Jan. 14.



## What's Happening

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



## **Events**



 $The\ Waiting...$ EMI recording artist The Waiting will be in concert on New Year's Eve at Calvary Baptist Church Gymnasium. The Waiting is an Atlanta-based band that will release their third album. Unfazed, on December 22. They have three number one singles to their credit and hav earned several award nominations and critical accliam. Tickets are \$12 and are available by calling Brad Cannon at Solid Rock Bible Church: 734-455-7711.

#### **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.

#### 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. ara adicembio



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' Happening

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"

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

#### GENITTI'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

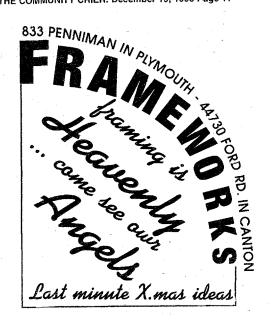
#### STATION 885 RESTAURANT

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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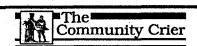
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PLYMOUTH-CANTON'S RADIO STATION

## Staff turnover at CSC

Continued from pg. 1

restaurant. It also includes a 15-acre plot of vacant land fronting Michigan Avenue.

Canton will tap \$1.6 million from the Community Improvement Fund, \$1.5 million from the General Fund and \$2.5 million in building authority bonds for the center.

Although Canton officials had hoped to retain Canton Softball Center employes to continue to run the center, they opted for a severance buy out as part of the purchase agreement, Gouin said.

Gouin said Canton will hire an operations coordinator to run the facility and a sports specialist to coordinate league games, and some part-time employes to help with the day-to-day operations of the facility.

"We put in the 1999 budget the cost of those positions," Yack said. "We're going to treat them as non-township employes for one year. We'll hire them on a contractual basis because we want to see how the facility operates."

Canton's purchase of the center precipitated the name change of the Plymouth-Canton Junior Baseball Association. The organization will be call ed the Canton Community Junior Baseball Association (CCJBA).

According to CCJBA president Harry Hill, the name change doesn't reflect any change in policy over who can play ball.

"That's never been an issue," Hill said.
"We don't believe in turning anyone

away. This isn't the first time the league has changed its name. It's nothing new."

Hill said acquisition of the 12 fields at Canton Softball Center is a boon to both Plymouth and Canton, because it will provide better fields for play. The fields currently used by the league can now be used for practice fields, something the league didn't have before, he said.

Richard Shook, vice president of the league, agrees.

"It will give us more fields to play on," he said. "It will be a benefit to everyone in the Plymouth-Canton Community."

## Non-union raises lag behind

Continued from pg. 1

non-union workers to AFSCME and the Teamsters.

The unions will then mail those employes information about their organizations, and invitations to meeting in the near future.

After the meeting, workers who support organizing will send AFSCME a card declaring their interest.

"If we get 30 per cent of the cards saying they want us to come in, we'll call (the state) for an election," Warner said.

The election would need one vote more than 50 per cent in support of unionization to pass, according to Warner.

As most City employes get raises at higher percentages, non-union workers are "disgruntled, but not militant," about unionization, one department head said.

A clerical employe who is among the newer hires at City Hall said she is willing to hear what benefits unionization could provide. "All the employes are looking for is to be treated fairly," one department head said.

There are currently four unions—three for police department employes, one for municipal services staff—to represent the vast majority of the 70-some workers employed in the City.

Roughly 20 of them are not unionized, mostly clerical workers, a few municipal services employes and heads of the City departments, such as the building department, and the clerk's and finance director's offices.

Over the last five years, unionized employes were given contracts that included 3 and 4 per cent raises. At the same time, increases for non-union workers have clung to cost-of-living levels — 1.7 per cent this year.

The City budget includes another 1.3 per cent to fund raises for non-union workers based on merit, or expanded responsibilities, according to City Manager Steve Walters.

Typically five or six of the roughly 20 non-union workers are given merit-based and other increases each year, according to Carol Stone, administrative services director.

One department head said merit-based and other increases are difficult to get, because there is no set criteria to aim for.

Walters said all raises beyond the 1.7 per cent increase depend on his approval, including those department heads recommended for their employes.

As the head of City management, Walters has also been its chief negotiator. He has represented the City during the bargaining process each union enters at the end of every contract. Most contracts run for three years.

Conditions for non-union workers are set annually when the City Commission drafts its budget in April.

At that time, Walters proposes to the Commission a pay increase for non-union workers. The City Commission can then accept or modify that

Percentage	pay i	ncrea	ises fo	or City	y emp	loyes
	7/98	7/97	7/96	7/95	7/94	Avg.
Dispatchers	4	4	4	4	3	3.8
Command	2	2.	4	3	2.5	2.7
DMS	3	4	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.66
Non-union	1.7	2.3	2.8	3	2,5	2.46
Police officers	4	2	2.1	0*	2.5	2.12

\* In '95, police employes opted for an increase in retirement benefits in lieu of a pay increase (Carol Stone, City of Plymouth)

figur

City documents show that in five years, only the police officers union has received a lower average increase than non-union workers. The average raise for officers is skewed, however, by data from 1995, when officers chose to forego a pay raise in exchange for an increase in retirement benefits.

Police dispatchers, police command officers and Department of Municipal Services employes all took home raises that were, on average, calculated at a higher percentage than those of non-union workers, according to City documents.

"It's hard to feel bad about asking for more money. It's not like we're out ahead of the others," a department head said.

Unionizing is not the only approach to more equitable raises though, the department head said.

A large portion of the City's non-union employes have worked at City Hall for years, long enough to remember the last union push in the early 1980s. That vote failed, and in the 18 years since, they've continued to hold out. Until about 1991, a department head said, non-union wages were in-step with union pay.

Walters will leave his post as City Manager in January. Non-union workers might wait to see what kind of deal the new City Manager will offer them.

After all, the department head pointed out, workers have avoided unionization for 18 years. "We could always just do it letter."

The employe behind the union talks said organizing could bring more than just a higher wage to employes.

Unlike the vacation time usually fixed in union contracts, non-union workers' time off is subject to management's whims, he said.

Now, the worker said, a number of variables have aligned to suggest the time is right for organizing.

But the strongest sign came in August, he said, when the City fired Tom Willette while slimming its already anemic recreation department.

"We are truly at-will employes," he said. "And the way it's been shaky lately, we want some support, some backing.

"We've got a commission that's really gung-ho to change house," the worker said. "Even the senior secretaries are like, Yeah, this is crazy."



The Residents, Staff and Commissioners of the Plymouth Housing Commission would like to take a moment to extend most heartfelt thanks to everyone in the Plymouth Community who contributed in some way to the residents of

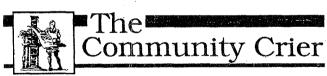
### Tonquish Creek Manor

Thank you one and all. Our warmest wishes to you and yours for a healthy happy holiday season.

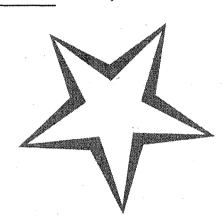
# Gear in Reviews 1998

Top Stories in The Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community





Year in Review 1000



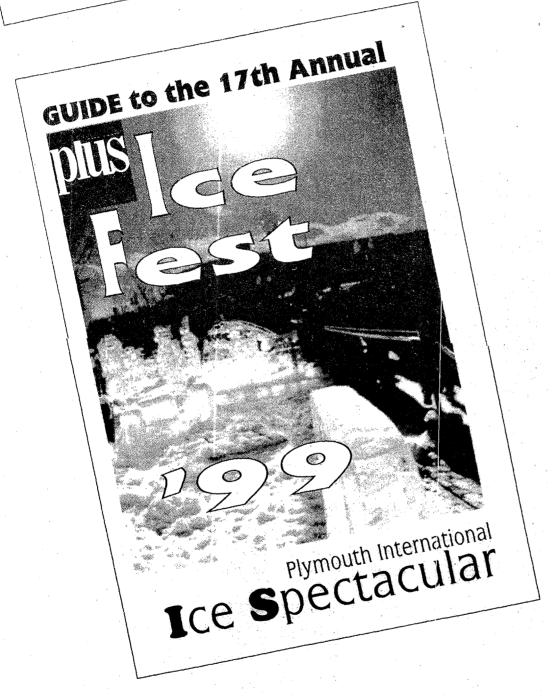
Call your Crier Advertising Consultant for information on Advertising in... The

Year in Review Section December 30TH (734) 453-6900 COMING SOON!

# The Crier's Guide to the

17th Annual

Ice Fest



Expanded
Circulation During
the Ice Sculpture
Spectacular,
and to
Surrounding
Communities.
It's a great
opportunity
to reach
local folk, and
visitors too!

Deadlines are fast approaching, call your Crier Advertising Representative today...

(734)453-6900

## Where do you want to spend your Christmas...

# Don't drink and drive

The following businesses in our community want you to have a HAPPY AND SAFE holiday season!

#### Plymouth Marketplace

110 W. Ann Arbor Rd. • Plymouth (734)453-1100

#### **Blackwell Ford**

41001 Plymouth Road Plymouth • (734) 946-6200

#### Puckett Co.

412 Starkweather Plymouth • (734) 453-0400

#### Arden's Complete Auto Service

219 W. Arbor Trail Plymouth • (734) 459-2525

#### Jack Demmer Ford

37300 Michigan Avenue Wayne • (734)721-2600

#### Petix

Men's Fashions & Formal Wear

340 S.Main St Plymouth • (734)459-6972

#### COMMA,

345 Fleet Street Plymouth • (734)453-6860

# Silent Night.







#### Plymouth Coffee Bean

884 Penniman Plymouth • (734)454-0178

#### **Horton Plumbing**

1382 S. Main St. Plymouth • (734)455-3332

#### The Community Crier

821 Penniman Avenue Plymouth • (734)453-6900

## Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce

386 S.Main St

Plymouth • (734)453-1540

#### **Central Distributors of Beer**

distributor of Anheuser Bush for Western Wayne County (734)946-6200

#### **Pet Supplies "Plus"**

Discount Pet Supplies 43665 Ford Road 8 Canton (734)981-9191

#### McMurray insurance

Auto & Homeowners 5773 N. Canton Center Rd. Canton • (734)455-3200



# Community deaths

## **Obituaries**

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

#### MARY ROSS HILL

Mary Ross Hill, a Plymouth resident, died Dec. 12, 1998 at the age of 86.

Mrs. Hill was born Dec. 22, 1911 in Scotland. She was an executive secretary at the Chrysler Corporation. She was a member of Risen Christ Lutheran Church.

She is survived by her daughters, Carol Ann Benner of Elm Grove, WI, Patricia (Bob) K. Conrad of Plymouth; sisters, Barbara Cole or Royal Oak; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth F. Hill; and sister, Nan Cash.

Services were held at Risen Christ Lutheran Church in Plymouth with the Rev. David W. Martin and Mr. Hugh McMartin officiating. Burial was at White Chapel Cemetery in Troy. Arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to Risen Christ Church—Building Fund, 46250 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170-3446 or the Salvation Army, P.O. Box 384, Plymouth MI 48170.

#### HAROLD E. KENDALL

Harold E. Kendall, a Plymouth resident, died Dec. 14, 1998 at the age of 79.

Mr. Kendall was born April 27, 1919 in Cadillac, MI. He was a supervisor at the Michigan Bell Telephone Company for 44 years. He retired in 1982. He came to the Plymouth community in 1955 from Standish, MI. He was a member of the Pioneers

Barber Shop Quartet. He loved to fish, hunt, and sing with the barber shop quartet. He also sang at wedding and funerals with his sisters. He was active with his son in the Boy Scouts — an interest that he continued for many years after his son finished.

He is survived by his wife, Madeline of Plymouth; son, Jay (Mercedes) of Romulus; brother, Robert of Jackson; sisters, Natalie Koch of Jackson, MI, Loraine Sulpher of California, Aunt, Annabelle Moffit of California; and many nieces, nephews and cousins

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home with Pastor Drex Morton officiating. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to the Parkinson Foundation, 3990 John R. Detroit, MI 48201.

#### EARL GEORGE "JOE" OTT, JR

E.G. "Joe" Ott Jr, a former Plymouth resident, died Dec. 12, 1998 at the age of 76.

Mr. Ott was born May 17, 1922 in Fostoria, OH. He was a controller for Essex International in Detroit for more than 30 years, retiring in 1979. He was a WWII Navy Veteran and a former member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, and the Plymouth Rotary. He was also a member of AARP.

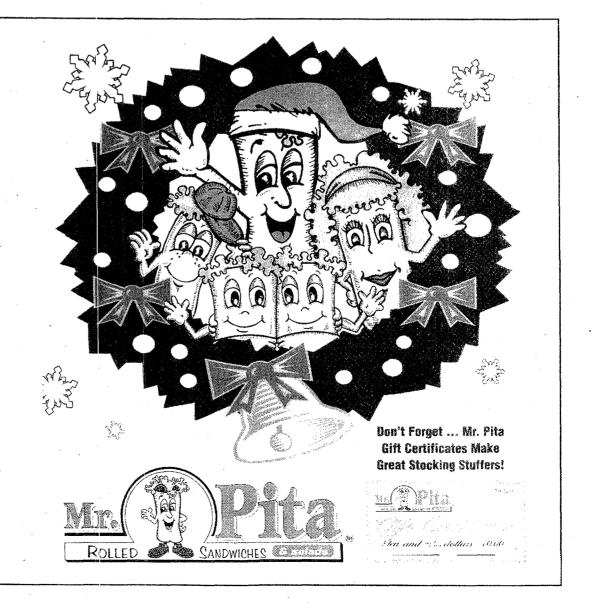
He is survived by his son, Richard J. Ott of Glendale, AZ; daughters, Mary Beth (John) Gilles of Plymouth, Denice A. Ott of Oak Park, IL; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild; sisters, Shirley (Tom) Dale f Denver, CO, Eileen Huber of Napoleon, OH, Mary Lou (Bill) Peper of Holgate, OH, and Dorothy Baringer of Melvindale, MI. He was preceded in death by his son, Stephen Ott.

Services will be held at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Napoleon, OH with Father Patrick Scharf celebrant. Internment will be made at St. Augustine Catholic Cemetery in Napoleon, OH. Arrangements were made by Walker Mortuary, Inc. Memorial contributions can be given to the American Lung Association or to the charity of choice.



525 Ann Arbor Rd. E. Of Main Street In the Riverbank Square, Plymouth

(734)354-3900





# Prier Classifieds

7.50 for the first 10 words, 20c 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

## PLEASE

- Crier Carrier is collecting now for this month. His or her profits depend on your courtesy.
- For home delivery information, call

**HOLIDAY WISHES** 

Wishing you

Seasons

Greetings

& Thank You

for the

past ten years!

Joe (JC) Carli,

Auctioneer/Appraiser

J.C. Auction Service, Inc

(734) 451-7444

Autos For Sale

1995 SATURN SC-1. Low mileage

5-speed, air, power windows, power locks, CD player. Will consider all offers. (248) 777-7832

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Need extra CASH? Children's Orchard pays cash for children's clothing, toys and equip-

ment in excellent condition. Call (734)453-4811 for appointment

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Child care needed in my Novi home Tuesdays 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Salary negotiable. (248) 449-1491

Childcare needed for three elementary

school aged children in our Plymouth home. 3 or 4 days a week (Monday through

Thursday), from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Additional hours may be available. A unique opportunity. Call (313) 577-8353 during the day and (734) 459-9302 during the evening.

For Rent

Plymouth Historic Village. 1000 sq. ft. plus full basement. \$1000 per month.

Dennis (248) 349-3816

For Sale

#### For Sale

Bed: brass head & foot board with war-rantied, queen size mattress set and frame. All new, never opened factory boxes. Sacrifice \$325. (734) 524-9280
1950 Ford N8 tractor. Runs good, good condition. \$2,150 or best, (734) 453-0581.

Lowery organ - very good condition \$400 - firm (734) 459-7755.

Baldwin organ with Leslie. Very good condition, \$500 (734) 453-3621.

#### **Health & Fitness**

Save \$70 off your Plymouth Medhealth
Fitness Center membership! Take over my membership (I'm moving) instead of joining anew. If interested, call Joan (734) 454-1603.

#### **Home Improvement**

HOME IMPROVEMENTS Roofs, decks, basement, kitchens and more. Licensed Paul (734)451-0106

DECORATING SERVICES PAINTING - WALLPAPERING Molding; drywall -- plaster repairs. CALL (734)451-0987

PAINTING & DRYWALL Commercial and residential. Call Chris at (734) 459-6620

**BRATTON PAINTING & DECORATING** Prompt professional service. Plaster & drywall repairs. Wallpaper removal. Tom (734) 482-7224

KITCHENS-BATHS Cabinets, Vanities, Formica & Corian countertops. 20 years in Plymouth area. Complete Design and Installation. Licensed Builder, Insured.

Mayflower Kitchens (734) 459-2186 JOHN'S PROFESSIONAL PAINTING

Interior/Exterior. Free estimates. References

Call John (734)425-4529

Mr. Fix it— Home Maintenance Inside and out, jobs big & small. Plumbing, Painting, Carpentry, Electrical, Phone jacks (734) 454-3576

Kitchen and Bath Remodeling, siding, additions, dormers, all home improvements.

SANTILLI BUILDERS (734) 453-0955

YOUR PERSONAL HANDYMAN. All types of work. Repairs and remodeling. 25 years experience. Lic. & Ins. (734)572-0859

A-1 Quality Painting. Interior and Exterior. Seamless Gutters installed. Power Washing available. 15 years experience. Free estimates. Call John at (734)699-7924, pager 1-810-912-3526

Brian's Painting, interior & exterior, 15 years experience, 248/349-1558.

SCOTT ADAMS
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#### For Free 5 piece children's swing set. Good condition (734) 414-9405.

New construction, tear off & reroof Licensed & insured. Free estimates. Financial assistance available. Call Scott (313) 422-6042

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Quality work. Prompt Installation. Nancy (810) 229-4907 or Barb (734) 455-1348

REMODELING & NEW CONSTRUCTION
Roofing, siding, decks, additions, and
drywall. All home repairs and
improvements. Licensed and insured, James Fisher, licensed builder, (734)455-1108.

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#### Housecleaning

YOU'VE TRIED THE REST, NOW TRY THE BEST. Call MRS. MOP (734) 397-4980. Lessons

PIANO LESSONS

PIANO STUDIOS of LEIGH JENKINS and ASSOC. Now accepting new students. Call (734) 414-9844

#### Lost and Found

Found - Lacies caravelle watch, William Street area, Plymouth. 459-8858 FOUND: Darling silver and white longhaired female cat. Beautiful and sweet. Found near Wilcox Rd. & Shadywood. Call (734) 455-5171.

Peach-faced love bird found Sheldon, and

Saltz Roads. Call 734/416-0600 between 10

and 6.

FOUND - Loving, shorthair, grey cat—male.
Found near W. Ann Arbor Trail & W. Ann Arbor Road intersection. Found approx. December 5 Call: (734) 459-1178.

Kitty wants to go home!

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 Elegant Wedding Photography (734) 453-8872

#### **Real Estate For Sale**

Plymouth Professional Office Building Prime location; Remodeled; Barrier Free 1490 sq. Ft. \$300,000 Firm 9440 Sheldon Brokers Protected (734) 459-2402

#### Services

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

#### Canton Disposal

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. MICHELLE WILSON sneaks her birthdays

by...HA! Caught!-Your "Friends"

#### Curiosities

## Dear Martha.



By Geneva Guenther

Dear Martha et al:

'Tis the season to be jolly," Maybe so, but certainly hard. What do you do? You cry, if you can. Some of us are English and don't break down very easily. I can still hear my father comforting me over an imaginary ill, saying, "Now don't cry. Be a little soldier, And I didn't.

Sometimes it would have been helpful if I could have howled a bit. Once I remember Peter and I were in Sparrow Hospital in Lansing-he had been taken there in emergency. Actually, we rode ambulances so often. we became good friends with their crews. The difference this time was Peter and I were in Lansing. His brothers and his Dad were in Plymouth and it was Christmas. It was then that I learned the real meaning of the Holiday. Not Santa, not vacation, not food, not gifts. It was the spirit of Christmas we needed. We loved and were loved. Whether our dear ones were near or far away was not important. The key to it all was we loved and cared about each other. Space or time could never change us. "Love" was the key, and isn't it strange it still is?

Leo & Shirley Kubik read The Crier in Gladwin. Merry Christmas!

Jack: Do the nurses at Plymouth Court know you are really Adolph Menjou? If not, they'd just better watch their step.
ATTENTION CRIER READERS

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

To Whom It May Concern: I knew it would be like this when you moved into Independence Village. We never see you. Don't you have a bus or something that will bring you to the City?

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! TERI ROBY (and Hannah and Emily):

thanks and Happy Holidays!-Jess, Sally &

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!)

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!

TOAD WARTS DAUGHTER: HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Love Mom

Macintosh II Si with modem and printer \$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. 1998 McDonalds Teenie-Beanie Babies \$50 per set. Call Judy (734) 451-2024.

King waterbed, reading lights, mirrored

headboard, 12 drawers. \$300 or best offer. (734) 453-2825.

# rier Classifieds

\$7.50 for the first 10 words, 20¢ each additional word. Deadline: Monday, 4 p.m. Call (734) 453-6900

#### ATTENTION ADVERTISERS!





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

#### Curiosities

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

ICE FEST

JAN. 13-19

"Funny how people have their peculiarities about bed."—Ted Boloven, 1998 (Yes, an accountant said that! Ask him!)

"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 If LINDA L. decides to quit clerking, she's

got a fallback gig-Music Promoter. -Bryon Manilow

KIM: furnace: ? Call BVP, A.S.A.P.

#### **Curiosities**

"SHE CAN TALK almost as well as I can stand."-Anonymous from the floor after the party.

LIAM KIRKBRIDE writes his wishes to Santa and sends them over the fax machine waves-thanks Ed for the consideration.

MINNESOTA CADY'S & ILLINOIS PEAR-SON'S: We await your arrival!

TO EVERYONE: Have the best holiday ever!

Santa told me Liam has been the very best kid on the block!

To my favourite kids, Zak, Darcy and Scott: Merry Chirstmas from GRAMMA

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes to all!

Mom: Happy Birthday Love, Żak

#### **Curiosities**

CRIER MAIL SUBSCRIBERS:

Did you know that if you move and not tell The Crier about it, that The Crier's charged a postal FEE? Write, call or email The Crier PRIOR to you move (please).

> The Community Crier 821 Penniman Avenue Plymouth, MI 48170

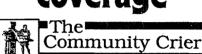
(734)453-6900

email@CRIER.com

LIAM OPENS A BIG PRESENT--THANK YOU MIKE FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT AND THE THOUGHTS--Happy Holidays

Thanks to everyone in The Crier/Comma, staff for being playmates and foster parents while Liam's mommy works from time to time.

## MISS complete Whalers coverage



Subscribe By Mail ™ (734)453-6900 **€** 

## 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

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

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

#### City of Plymouth Parks & Recreation Division PART-TIME 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. • Must be 17 or older. Games are held weeknights. 6:30-10:00 P.M.

The City of Plymouth is an equal opportunity employer and does not discribminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender or disability.

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

#### 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

McDonaid'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

## **\$2**25 please

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

• For home delivery information, call

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I AND CONTRACTS PURCHASED ... Short Term/Low Balances our specialty... Quick Closings / No Hidden Fees ... (A Michigan company) Gold Financial toll-free 1-888561-7210. **ALL STEEL BUILDING SALE.** Clear Span. Winter Production 30% Discount for Immediate Delivery or No Storage Charge for Spelivery! Husky Steel Buildings. 1-800-467-Charge for Spring 5582. FAX: (416) 443-3233.

HOMEOWNERS! Credit Problems? We Can Help! . Debt Consolidation o Income Property Home Improvement ,, Quick Closings - Call 7 days, 24 hrs. Allied Mortgage Capital Corporation. 1-800-611-3766 or (616) 977-7660. PALM SPRINGS-CA., 200 Vacation Rentals -Wkly. Monthly. 1-4 Bedrooms - Golf Tennis -Pools - Casinos. Call Now 1-800-248-2529.
\*\*\*MORTGAGE LOANSGood credit or bank turndowns welcome! Best rates anywhere. Purchase/refinance. Bill consolidation, improvements. Land Contract payoffs. Easy loans by phone/mail. CITIZENS MORTGAGE 1. 800-910-5626, 1-800-6734200, 1-800-324-7872 **DRIVERS.** ADS is growing the Flatbed Division! 98 Trucks arriving daily! \$1,000 Sign On bonus & Paid Orientation! Need experienced drivers to start today! Call for 1 hour approval! 1-800-646-3438, ext. 1021. I HAVE \$5 MILLION AVAIL. ABLE for Mortgage Lending." First Time Home Buyer Purchasers. Refinance Existing Loans. Debt Consolidation. Cash Out. No Income

Verification. Bruised Credit. "No One Has Ever Been Declined." Call Thomas Chandler, Agent, Toll Free 1800-866-1336, This money must be used before Jan. 1, 1999.

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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-

#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.

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@\$\$ for a variety of longterm Income streams. J.G. Wentworth 1-888-

OWNADOLLARSTORE. 1-800-227-5314. BANKRUPTCY \$79+. Stop garnishments! Guaranteed valid since 1991. Divorce @99+! Low cost Foreclosure Avoidance available without bankruptcy. Also fast homeowner/equity loans. FreshStart 1-888-395-8030 toll-free. AVON PRODUCTS - Start your own business' Work flexible hours. Enjoy unlimited earnings. Call Toll Free 1-888942-4053.

## Curiosity drove lighting

**6** My nephew came by

after deer hunting one

afternoon. I looked up

him, Get your bow out

at the tree and I told

for a minute.'

Continued from pg. 1

he talks about the response his lights inspire from those driving by.

It's hard to imagine he's not exaggerating at least a little bit when he talks about "bumper-to-bumper" traffic through his neighborhood. But those who slowly drive beneath the branches are sure to find others doing the same, drawn like moths to the lights they see high above the rooftops along Joy Road and Main Street.

"Kids come by and they get out of their cars and start playing in the yard," he said. Part of the fun for those who stop to talk, Finney said, is trying to guess his secret.

"The first year I did it, I saw a guy uptown I used to run around with," he said. "He asked me, 'How'd you get 'em up so high? I told him, Well, I used to have a trained squirrel, but somebody ran him over."

The friend had to pause for a minute when he found a dead squirrel in the back of Finney's pickup (he had cleared it from the street in front of his house). And since then, it's been hard to get a straight answer out of The Lightman. Creating fabulous answers brings a playful light to his eyes that's as bright as his trees.

One night, Finney was in the yard when a father and son stopped as they drove by. What's your secret, they asked.

"First I told them about the trained squirrel. Then I said I put the lights in the trees when they were little, and waited for them to grow," he said.

Neither father nor son looked convinced, so Finney gave up the secret. "Bow and arrow," he said.

The dad scowled from one fantastic answer too many, but Finney's answer was true. The son began to smile: "See dad, I told you."

"Kids are creative and have the right idea when they're young," Finney said. "It's not until they get around 14 or 15 that they start dreaming up these complicated explanations."

Finney understands. His inspiration for the lofty lighting display came from the same engine that drives childhood discovery—curiosity.

"My nephew came by after he was out deer hunting one afternoon," Finney said. "I looked up at the tree and I told him, Get your bow out for a minute."

Finney nocked an arrow on the high powered compound bow, took aim for the treetops and let loose.

After a bit of searching, he and his

nephew found the test arrow about a block away near Main Street.

While mindful of public well being, Finney still thought his idea would work. With a little ingenuity and fewer footpounds of firepower, Finney developed the technique that has taken holiday lighting to new heights in Plymouth Township.

A small section of metal piping weights the arrow down, improving control and reducing its range. At the tip he tapes some 12-pound fishing line that leads back to a rod and reel.

Then, it's fire away.

The arrow soars up over the tree, and back down to his yard.

Finney untapes the arrow, and ties the fishing line to a length of sturdy nylon rope with about 100 feet of white lights at the other end. Then, he simply reels in the line and the rope, and watches the lights go up.

When they're stretched out straight, he cuts the fishing line and lashes the nylon rope to a tree or another anchor point in his yard. In years past, Finney has run as many as 35 separate lines from ground to treeton

treetop.
"I have more fun for \$100 worth of lights than anybody in

- Ron Finney
The Lightman

Plymouth," he said. So much fun, in fact, others have volunteered their help over the years.

"I came out once and found a box of lights on front porch with a note saying, 'Please Mr. Lightman, install us'."

Finney's friend Carl Pursell, a Plymouth resident and longtime U.S. Congressman, also had a hand in the design. One segment of blinkers hangs above Finney's driveway.

"That was Carl's idea," he said.

All told, the display adds about \$60 to Finney's electric bill each month, he said. It requires a bit of work to string them up, a gradual process that begins sometime in November and ends when he takes them down sometime in January. In between, Finney replaces strings blown out by the wind or torn down by the occasional rowdies.

But he says he plans to keep up the his work, literally. Driving down Rocker beneath the lights is becoming a tradition for those who know.

Besides, he points out, unlike the icicle lights and luminescent deer that appear in several of the Township's posh western neighborhoods, Finney's display is one of a kind.

"That's what really amazes me," he said. "Nobody's copied it."

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Marche Crier



# **Sports**

# All-American Pioneer too much for Canton hoop

## Chiefs fall to 1-2 with loss

#### BY SCOTT GOODWIN

How often can you hold an opposing player to 29 points and feel that you controlled him pretty well?

When that player is LaVelle Blanchard, the 6-7 Ann Arbor Pioneer forward with all-American potential.

Nonetheless, Blanchard did score 29 Thursday night, pushing his state-title contending team past a young Canton squad, 71-57.

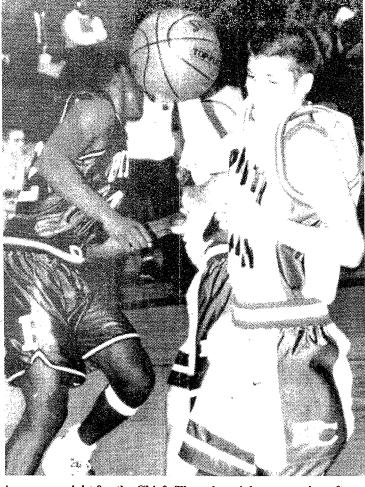
Chief Junior Jason Waidmann continued his early season scoring surge with 21 points, while Joe Cortellini and Mike Major each added 10.

"We played well at times," said Canton coach Dan Young. "But we were inconsistent."

The loss drops Canton to 1-2 on the season, the only win coming against Wayne Memorial in an overtime opener. "I think we're still figuring out how to win in the big games," Young said.

Canton will drive north next Monday and Tuesday to compete in the four team Traverse City Tournament.

The other teams include Holland, Traverse City Central and Saginaw.



A common sight for the Chiefs Thursday night, recovering after a Pioneer basket. The Chiefs had their moments, according to coach Dan Young, but they were too far and few between to overcome Pioneer's talent. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

# WHALER of the WEEK



## #36 RIGHT WING Tommy Valtonen

A rookie forward chosen by the Detroit Red Wings in the second round of this year's NHL draft Valtonen is the Whalers leading scorer for rookies. He was chosen by team Finland this past week to play at the World Junior Championship.

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

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## Salem freshman Drake debuts strong as Salem places second, Canton third in season's first meet at Ann Arbor Pioneer

#### BY SCOTT GOODWIN

Canton Gymnastic coach John Cunningham doesn't want to mince words about his crew's third place finish at Thursday's quad meet in Ann Arbor.

"We just weren't mentally in the meet," he said. "We had a really good practice (Wednesday), but today they looked they just came off the street."

Cunningham said he had hoped his team could have topped the 130 point mark, a score that would have given them a first place finish.

But instead, they came in at 123.65, four points behind meet champion Pioneer and second place Salem. Ann Arbor Huron was last with 118.65.

Freshman Melissa Drake showed all her potential and more for the Rocks, taking first in three of four events. She was second in bars with a score of 8.8.

Despite only a few weeks of practice, Canton junior Liz Fitzgerald took third on the vault with 8.5 and fifth on beam with a 7.75

#### **GYMNASTICS**

"Everybody but Drake fell off the beam," Cunningham said. "It was like they were being blown off."

Amy Driscoll had a pair of third place finishes on floor and uneven bars, with scores of 8.75 and 8.45 respectively.

Salem's April Aquinto took fourth on floor at 8.7 and fifth on bars at 8.15.

Cunningham said he was impressed with some of his younger performers, although they didn't place. In particular he mentioned Maggie Bette, a freshman expected to do great things in the future.

Despite his team's lackluster performance, Cunningham is still confident.

"I've seen teams play terrible one day and two days later play like olympians, "he said. "We'll get better. I think we'll be a top ten team by the end of the year."

Canton will play a rematch with Freeland today that was cancelled last week.

# 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.

#### RACQUETBALL LEAGUE

Canton parks and recreation department is sponsoring a Men's winter racquetball league at Body Rocks in Livonia.

The league begins Jan. 13 and will run for 13 weeks. Court times are from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$100 per person. Call 397-5110 for more information.

# Ambassadors drop two, but stay in first

#### BY NICK GISMONDI

One of the things that makes the NAHL such an exciting league is that from game to game there are no certainties in the outcome. All the teams are talented this season, making every night a challenge. The Ambassadors found this out over the weekend hitting a chip in the ice going 0-2 against Cleveland and Springfield.

On Saturday the Ambassadors took on last year's biggest rival: the Springfield Jr. Blues. The Blues have a talented team up front that taunts such offensive power as Nic Boileau, who leads the team in goals (16), assists (21), and points (37). And T.J. Latorre, who has 13 goals this year.

Early on, Saturday, it was the Ambassadors that struck first when Mark Mink netted his 15th goal of the season at the 5:14 mark of the first period. They increased the lead to two when they scored again at 10 minutes later, when Steve Jackson found the net for his 16 goal of the season, tying him for the team lead. J.J. Swistak was credited with the assist on a perfect neutral-zone pass.

The second period was back and forth with the Jr. Blues applying most of the pressure. Springfield closed the gap when Bo Chessman netted one at the 13:39 mark, off the pass by Latorre.

WEST

In the third, Springfield tied the game at two apiece when Latorre scored his 14 of the season. After a five minute overtime the game was sent into a shoot out. Compuware hasn't had much luck in this area all season with three losses in all three attempts. Jackson, Shounevia, Vogt, and Redwood shot for the Ambassadors, but came up blank against Brian Rogers who stopped 15 shots. Boileau and Tony Giaclone found the net for the Jr. Blues and boosted them to their 18 win of the season, defeating Compuware 4-2. Compuware did pick up a point on the

On Friday the Ambassadors were matched against the Cleveland Barons who have been a tough team all season long. And, as it seems to be a matter of custom this year for the Ambassadors, they again fell in overtime, 2-1.

Ambassador rookie goalie Tom Fortunate got his first start in the NAHL this night and performed well turning

The first period was a slow one for both teams. The Ambassadors fired eight shots on Will Hamele, who played extremely well, and in the first Cleveland only found the net twice.

In the second period, Baron's star Ryan Fultz, who also leads the league in goals opened the scoring on a blast

from the point which gave him his 18 of the season, off the pass of Joe Rakowicz to make it 1-0. Then six minutes later Andre Robichaud (who will be playing for the Plymouth Whalers over the next several weeks) tied the game for the Ambassadors when he scored his second goal of the season when he let a rifle go from the point that caught the inside post at the 14:36 mark.

The third would go with out any scoring, and at the end of regulation, it was tied at 1-1, with the shots in favor of Compuware 30-12.

The teams were headed for OT. The Ambassadors got the first rush down on Hamele but the puck was poked away and Nick Jardine made a pass out of his own zone to neutral ice for Jim Slater who then brought it up the middle as Colin Shields broke in wide to the left. Slater threw the pass across and beat a sliding Fortunate for the OT game winner to give the Barons their 15th win of the sea-

Despite the 0-2 weekend for Compuware, they did get one point for the shoot out loss, and are still in first place in the NAHL with a record of 19-6-3 and 41 points, still three ahead of the Soo who lost to Grand Rapids over the weekend. Compuware's next games will be this Friday and Saturday in Chicago against the fourth place Freeze.

# WHAL

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#### OHL STANDINGS

(Through Dec. 17)

PLYMOUTH	24	4	2	8-2-0	50
S.S. MARIE	17	10	3	5-3-2	37
SARNIA	17	11	3	8-1-1	37
LONDON	13	19	0	5-5-0	26
WINDSOR	10	19	3	3-6-1	23
EAST	W	L	Т	Last 10	Pts.
OTTAWA	26	4	2	8-2-0	54
PETER.	20	12	0	7-3-0	40
BELLEVILLE	16	11	6	5-2-3	38
OSHAWA	16	12	2	7-3-0	34
KINGSTON	10	21	1	3-7-0	21
<b>MIDWEST</b>	W	L	Т	Last 10	Pts.
GUELPH	23	10	Ó	7-3-0	46
OWEN SOUND	16	15	3	4-6-0	35
ERIE .	16	15	1	3-7-0	33
KITCHENER	9	21	2	2-8-0	20
BRAMPTON	4	25.	1	1-8-1	9
<b>CENTRAL</b>	W	L	Т	Last 10	Pts.
BARRIE	25	5.	2	8-1-1	52
NORTH BAY	12	18	3	3-7-0	27
SUDBURY	10	17	4	2-7-1	24
TORONTO	10	18	4	4-6-0	24
MISSISSAUGA	1	28	2	0-9-1	4

#### Around the OHL

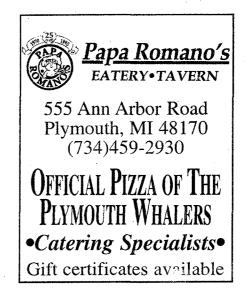
- The clear leader in the rookie of the year race this season is Sheldon Keefe of the Toronto. St. Michaels. Keefe is second in the league in scoring (behind the Whalers' Harold Druken) with 31 goals and 29 assists.
- The OHL Bell All-star Cup will be held Jan. 27 at new Sarnia Sports facility. The 40 all-stars will be selected in January.

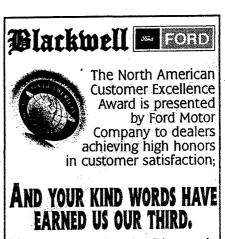
roun acquers.
Goals: Druken (38)
Assists: Colagiacomo (39)
Points: Druken (64)
PIM: LaLonde (92)
+/-: Druken (+30)
GAA: Holsinger (2.15)
CATCH OF THE DAY  The Plymouth Whalers are currently ranked sixth in the CHL's Top Ten poll. Two other OHL teams are ranked higher: Ottawa and Barrie.
URCOMING COMES.

WHALER STATISTICS

- **UPCOMING GAMES:**
- Tonight at Sarnia (7:30 p.m.) • 12/27 at Brampton (6:30
- p.m.)
- 12/29 at home versus London (3







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# Community opinions

# Underpass debate misses point

Faster Sheldon Rd. would open 'floodgates' in residential area

EDITOR.

In response to your request for "Whaddya Think" feedback, regarding the split between Plymouth City and Township responsibility for the Sheldon Road railroad underpass, I respectfully submit — given all the rhetoric of late — everyone is overlooking a critical consideration.

In the area of Sheldon Road around Ann Arbor Trail, eighteen wheelers are now tearing up the road, throwing pieces of concrete roadway up to and beyond the sidewalks. SOme are piec es small enough to put out an eye, some are large enough to seriously injure or perhaps even kill a small child. Drivers regularly speed at 50 and 60 miles per hour in this area, totally disregarding the speed limit, even when it's supposedly reduced and police-enforced during to/from school travel times.

Because grossly increased traffic has unfortunately evolved Sheldon road to this current state, what are we going to do to assure the safety fo our children who walk along Sheldon on a daily basis to Bird and West schools?

In the name of progress, the entire community is missing the fact that we have created a very dangerous

corridor along an area of Sheldon, which is essentially a residential neighborhood. Consequently, I maintain we should be looking to spend some of these federal, state, county, Township and City funds to alter the way traffic flows through this area. This, versus opening the

In the name of progress, the entire community community is missing the fact that we have created a very dangerous corridor along an area of Sheldon.

floodgates, so to speak, with a railroad underpass before we address badly needed safety reforms and someone gets grievously injured or killed. Granted, the underpass is needed. I have been inconvenienced as much as any Plymouth resident by Sheldon trains. However, there are more important considerations here! When will we ever learn that while growth is good, we need controlled and responsible growth? Where has the urban planning been while the Sheldon corridor in Plymouth has gone ballistic? In fact, where has the urban planning been while the entire Metro Detroit area is evolving into gridlock? The metro area is fast approaching a Chicago-like situation where it's going to be extremely tedious to get from one side of the area to the other because we aren't being smart about how we are managing our traffic flows as a result of our rapid growth.

Plymouth is no exception.

Most importantly, of course, is what we can do to make the Sheldon Road corridor between Junction and Joy roads safer; especially around Ann Arbor Trail, where the schools are. The proximity of pedestrians to the road in this area demands many traffic reforms that are beyond the scope of this letter.

But, it remains that we must do something to ensure the safety of these pedestrians, especially our children, and this should take priority, planning-wise and spending-wise above any consideration for a railroad underpass.

ERIC V. THUMA, SR.

# The swallows of San Juan Plymouth

The sun seems to set so early this year, earlier than other years, although I know that's not true. And despite the recent un-winterlike temperatures, the cold season for me is defined as much by the chill as it is by the darkness.

But the early sunset provides a unique opportunity. On clear days, when I leave for work, the sky is already turning orange, pink or both.

My truck is usually parked on the second level of the parking deck in downtown Plymouth, and from its lofty height, I can see above the trees and most of the buildings. Even on winter days, the sunset beams bright up there.

It was on this parking deck that I found myself during a recent sunset. It had just begun and much of the sky was still a bright blue, but there was promise of more spectacular color to come.

Unfortunately I was in a rush, as I had been all day. Hectic, hectic, busy, busy, move. I had a whole schedule of events planned for the evening and I couldn't spare a minute to pick a dollar from the ground.

I jogged to my truck, put the key in

the door and was all ready to drive away from a day's worth of mind-twisting work when I heard a whoosh sound and froze.

It sounded like an empty garbage bag dragging on the ground. I turned around. It was a bit windy, but I could see no bag. The lot was mostly empty with only a spattering of cars and no whooshing-type devices.

I brushed the sound off as my imagination and opened the door. But before I got into the truck the noise came again. Whoosh, then flutter, flutter, flutter. I turned around again and again there was nothing. But this time, I caught something from the corner of my eye.

They moved in such perfect sequence, that, at first, I thought they were one giant being. Mind you, I only thought this for a second. A giant, 30 by 30 foot black creature hovering over downtown Plymouth probably would have appeared on the front page of this paper. No, instead, I saw that it was a flock of birds, very active, athletic birds.

They turned and twisted, rose and fell, and never landed. I had seen birds fly

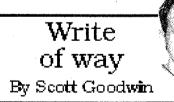
like this before. But I had never heard birds fly like this. It was a strange sensation, the soft Doppler effect of a hundred flapping wings.

During the summer, Kellogg Park fills with a symphony of bird calls, so much so that by August it almost becomes blasé. But in December, when most of our feathered friends have gone to their respective southern retreats, noises of nature stand out like blast of warm wind.

So there they were, out over the Mayflower Hotel, then whoosh past the parking deck, diving around the post office, then whoosh over the parking deck again. Not one bird wavered from the complicated flight path.

To compare them to a squadron of fighter planes would be too simple. No human could emulate this trick. This was instinct, millions of years of evolution at work.

I hopped up into the back of my truck to watch. Several other people came out to their cars as I sat there, business-type folk with suits and other professional gear. They probably thought I was some bohemian freak, staring at the sky and



taking notes. But I paid no attention and neither did the birds.

Over the next several weeks, I saw the birds again and again, always at dusk, never before. I didn't know what type of birds they were, pigeons for all I knew. But like a good friend, they greeted me everyday with their twilight terpsichore.

That first night, the sun fell below the horizon, but I could still see the birds in the purple light. They hopped on the cold, holiday air, bounced over the holiday lights and and did their own avian two-step to the downtown Christmas carols.

It was dark by the time I left and the moon had risen over Kellogg Park. I jumped down from my truck bed and got into the car. I was late for something. I had forgotten to what. But by then, I didn't care.



# Community opinions

## 'Short on sellers, long on spirit'

Editor's note: This letter was written in response to 'Goodfellows: 1st time charm' which appeared in the Dec. 9 Community Crier and recounted Scott Spielman's experience as a Goodfellow volunteer

EDITOR:

Just a note to thank you not only for the article you wrote in The Crier, but mostly to thank you for donating your time (a precious commodity these days) to "stand around" selling Goodfellows papers in

Canton. As you know, we were short of sellers, but long on spirit and all of you did a fantastic job.

I think you really emphasized a point that I have always tried to stress — if you give of yourself to help others once, the feeling you get is a real "warm fuzzy" and you'll want to come back again and again.

All of the Goodfellow volunteers are folks who believe that the real Christmas spirit is about helping those who need a hand at Christmas time. We think that all kids, not just our own, should have a great holiday.

I thank you again most sincerely, and I'm happy to welcome you to the Goodfellows club — a really fun way to get in the Christmas spirit.

NANCY SPENCER

P.S. We're up to 120 households to gift this year! God bless you!

## Thanks for clean-up

EDITOR:

I am writing on behalf of the staff of the Old Village Development Authority to express our appreciation to the students at Starkweather Education Center.

Once a week a group of students come out and clean up the whole Knights of Columbus Park which surrounds our office (the old Fire Station #2).

I am impressed by their enthusiasm for this community service work and for keeping the Old Village area looking neat and inviting. I look forward to seeing them outside my window each week with their rakes and shovels.

SHERRIE PRYOR **OVDA STAFF** 

## I believe in father Christmas

First of all let me apologize to you for the late letter. I know the sleigh is probably already overburdened with toys and goodies for all, and you are willing your skin to grow thicker as your psyche yourself up for your miraculous, midnight ride.

My letter is late this year because of the unseasonably warm weather. As I'm writing it, there is a fine dust of snow on the ground, and Christmas is only a week away! Pretty short order, I know, but I do have a short list, and I hope you can fill it because the things I ask for are not for me.

Okay, not just for me.

•First of all I would like to see some faster progress along Canton Center Road. It was supposed to be finished by Thanksgiving, and workers had barely started it by then! Then the county said they were going to call off the project until spring. Now they're still working on it.

Maybe what I really need is Wonder Woman's magic lasso, so I can get the truth from the public relations flunkies at the Wayne County Department of Roads.

Barring that, perhaps you can conjure up a small patch of ice not enough to cause any serious damage, mind you - just enough so my car will slide off the precarious edge they have so thoughtfully excavated for us nervous winter motorists. Again, not a serious accident, just enough to damage my typing finger and ensure I could no longer perform my job effectively. (I would enjoy an early retirement on the Wayne County payroll, if you get my meaning.)

•I'd also like you to bring a little more good cheer, especially to property owners. The owner of the Speedway gas station lot on the corner of Ford and Lilley, for example, could use some. All that is halting the widening of that intersection is the acquisition of his right of way, and he refuses to sell it.

I admit, Santa, to a little bit of naivete in this area. I don't think if I was a property owner I would be so stingy about my borders. Off the cuff

By Scott Spielman

people cutting through the parking lot.



And I also don't see the purpose of refusing to sell, or holding out for an unreasonable sum. The township has the right to condemn a property or in this case an easement) for the public good, and offer the owner a fair market value for it. They're going to get it anyway; being a little less difficult saves everybody time and money. It could even save some lives - especially at that

have the intersection improved. A wider, more efficient

intersection means improved traffic flow, increased safety and less

•More volunteerism. The Goodfellows has a smaller crowd of paper sellers than usual this year, and I can't remember when I've seen so many empty Salvation Army stands. There are a lot of needy families, even in our own prosperous area. (It's infectious, too. My brief stint with the Goodfellows left me craving more. I hope when The Crier staff goes on its annual Christmas shopping spree for needy families, that Ed lets me push the cart).

•Peace on Earth, and the safety of everyone from our community — and all others — who are facing conflict in the Middle East. Maybe your portliness can engineer an end to it as quickly as possible.

Well, that's it for me. As I said, a short list, and nothing your elves actually have to build. Its something to think about as you bring holiday cheer to all of P-C-N.

p.s. I'll leave out some cookies, but the milk will be in the fridge.

'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



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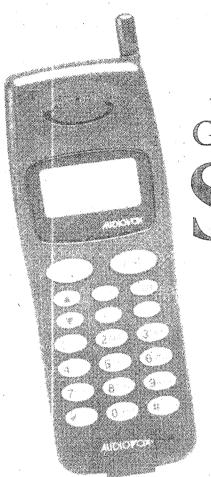
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