

# The Community Crier



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Police take notes at the scene of a crash that killed a 43-year-old woman last week (Crier photo by Scott Goodwin).

## State Supreme Court won't hear school case

BY BRYON MARTIN

After nearly six months of waiting, the response from Michigan's Supreme Court was clear and brief: six of the seven justices denied the appeal Jerry Vorva filed in his lawsuit against the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

"It is denied because we are not persuaded the questions presented should be reviewed by this court," the court wrote simply in the five-line response released Monday.

Vorva's appeal was the last available to him in the state.

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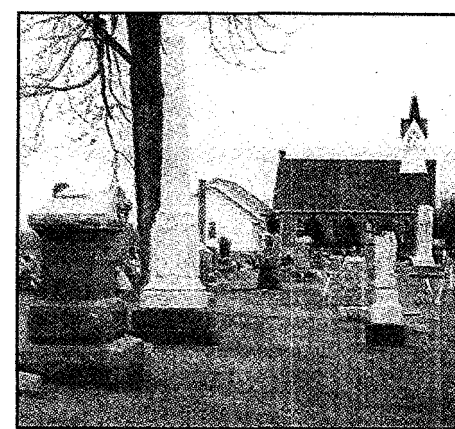
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## School bus wreck kills 1

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

One person was killed, another injured in a school bus accident Wednesday afternoon in Northville Township.

A 43-year-old woman driving a red Ford Probe collided with a school bus carrying six children from Wayne-Westland School District's special education program around 3 p.m. on Sheldon Road just north of Seven Mile Road.

Denise Johnson of Detroit was pronounced dead at St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia one hour later. The front end of her car had caved in from the head-on collision.

The bus driver suffered minor injuries.

None of the children were injured. They were quickly ushered away from the accident when police arrived, according to Lt. John Sherman of the Northville Township Police.

Northville Police said they were themselves heartbroken when Johnson's boyfriend arrived at the hospital later that afternoon engagement ring in hand. He had planned to propose during the holidays.

The accident closed Sheldon Road for several hours while investigators examined the cause of the crash.

Police said the accident is still under investigation.

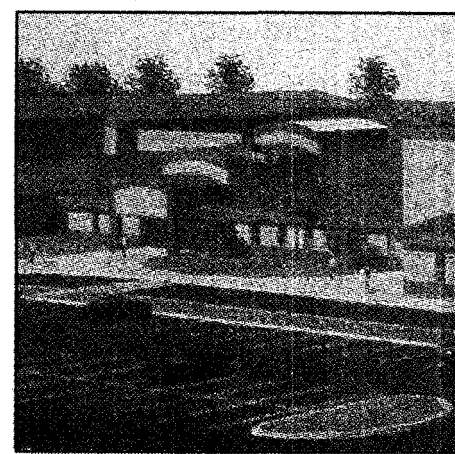
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## 1998 in REVIEW

Understanding that the past is often prologue, this issue of The Crier takes a look back at stories that shaped P-C-N in 1998, and will continue to make news in '99.

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## Courthouse progresses behind scenes

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

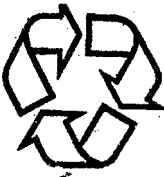
It's been a year and a half since the 35th District Courthouse burned to the ground after a stormy summer afternoon.

And though last year's end saw the

court moving into a temporary facility across the street from its old site, and beginning the planning of a new courthouse, progress toward the new building has taken place behind the scenes.

The site looks the same today as it did one month after the fire — a heating unit juts from a concrete slab on an otherwise empty corner. And while the Court

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# Police seek sexual assailant

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Canton Police are looking for leads in a case of criminal sexual conduct that occurred in a model home Wednesday.

According to Canton Police Ofc. Leonard Schemanske, the victim is a real estate agent working in a model home in the Woodwind subdivision, near Lilley and Palmer roads.

The suspect entered the home and began asking her questions about it, then grabbed the victim, Schemanske said. She tried to fight him off, but could not, he said.

"He punched her in the face and knocked her down when she tried to fight," Schemanske said.

The suspect then dragged the victim to a bedroom and sexually assaulted her.

Schemanske said the police have no leads in the case. He said he was not sure if the suspect was one of the construction workers building the subdivision. The victim described the man as grubby in appearance, and wearing construction-type clothes, he said. He wore a black stocking cap, a black sweatshirt, dark jeans and carried a purple pager, according to reports.

The victim was treated at St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia. She is currently visiting relatives out of state, but will return and help police come up with a better composite drawing, Schemanske said.

## The Community Crier

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# Vorva: court 'didn't see importance'

Continued from pg. 1

"We're hoping that this is it, and we can move forward," said Mike Maloney, president of the P-C School Board. "We're really pleased with what the court said. I think it's decisive."

Vorva has fought his legal fight since June 1997, when 716 electronic ballots were "lost" in a school bond election approved by 96 votes. The \$80 million in bonds would build a new elementary school and third high school at C.E.P., and would pay for computers, buses and remodeling throughout the district.

At every level — from the local board of canvassers, to Wayne County Circuit Court, the Lansing Court of Appeals and finally the state's high court — officials have ruled against

Vorva. And every time, he has appealed.

All told, Vorva said he "probably spent about \$10,000 or \$15,000 out of my pocket," for months of legal representation by attorney Steven Boak. Boak, in turn, has donated as much of his time for free.

If Vorva decides to press on this time, his only option is to petition the U.S. Supreme Court for consideration of his case, an appeal that would raise the legal and financial stakes.

"It's an expensive proposition," he said.

Vorva said he hasn't yet decided what he will do.

"I'm seriously thinking about it, but I've got to review what (the court said)," he explained. "I just got the news yesterday. I was busy doing real estate. I've still got to make a living to pay for legal bills.

"I know that my point is a valid one," he continued. "I'm disappointed that the supreme court didn't see the importance of this issue, because this is the first time that electronic voting has come before them.

"In essence, (the court is) saying you can have up to 7 per cent spoilage of votes in an election, that the people who hold an election can manipulate it by holding it at a different time and cut of sectors of the population from voting," he said, reiterating the charges he has made against the district since March 1997.

"I'm alarmed that (the court) thinks this is okay. Elections need to be as pure as possible. It's fundamental to the way we run our government. It should be given strict scrutiny and (the court) didn't do that."

Maloney said the School Board and administrators will likely meet next week to get advice from school counsel on what the

next steps might be.

The district has been unable to sell the bonds approved in the election as the issue has languished in court. In the meantime, school officials say, the district has been losing money it would have earned from the sale.

"We're kind of caught in the squeeze, because interest rates are lower now," Maloney said.

If the bonds earn less money, the schools will have less to spend. That means it might be time to cut a few corners to bring the price down.

"We need to assess the change in scope necessary to adjust finances of bonds sold within next six months," Maloney said.

Maloney said the district might use money from the Durant case settlement to speed up preparation at the school sites, if the state okayed spending that money and reimbursing the general fund with bond money, once bonds are sold.

The soonest could be built is a year from the coming fall, he said.

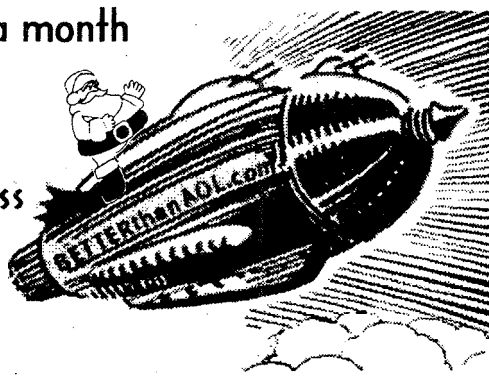
"But even if we can make it for the 2001-2002 school year, that still means another year and a half of serious overcrowding at the park."

Boak said he and Vorva could appeal directly to the U.S. Supreme Court. If four justices agree to hear the case, Vorva would have his final, and potentially most significant day in court. Decisions in the U.S. Supreme Court set precedent for all lower courts.

"To go to the federal system is a tough nut to crack," Vorva said. "Do I want to carry that bale myself? I kind of understand when Chief Joseph said, 'I fight no more forever'."

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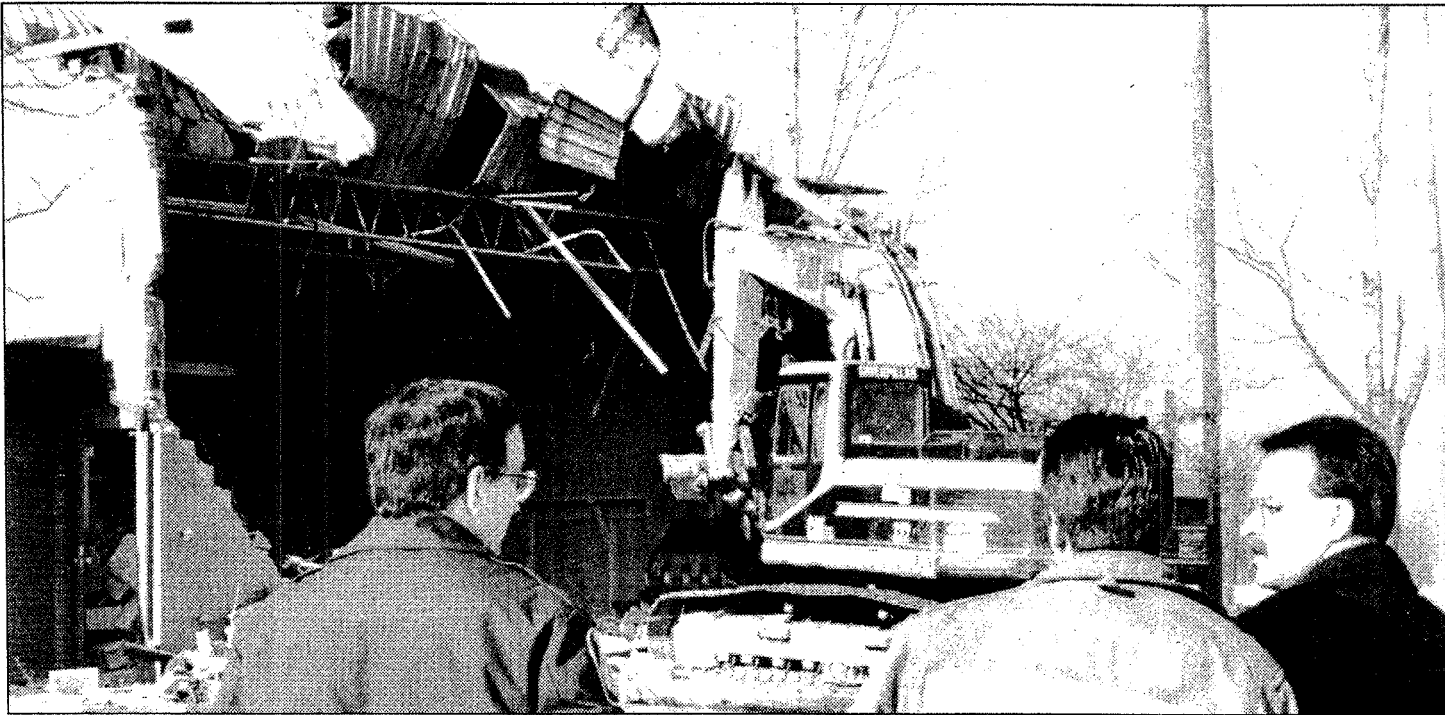
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**Demolished...** Frank Barrett (left) and Chris Stoecklein rehash memories and watch as Canton Fire Station Number One is demolished Monday. The building was built in 1950 and has a long and storied past, host to such diverse services as the Assessor's office and Township Board meetings. Lack of space and an encroaching Canton Center Road eventually spelled doom for the building. (Crier photo by Scott Spielman).

# Courthouse builder hired

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

It didn't take the 35th District Court Building Authority long to decide on a general contractor for the new courthouse.

Wednesday, less than two weeks after bids for the new building were due, the authority voted unanimously to award the project to the lowest bidder, Bedzyk Bros., Inc (BBI) of Livonia.

With a base bid of \$6,765,000, BBI beat out the 14 other firms that bid on the project.

Each of the firms submitted a low bid and prices for several additions such as finishing the fourth courtroom, audio video wiring for one court room and adding lightning protection and a fourth elevator.

To save funds in a project that is already more expensive than anticipated, the board decided against including the \$94,000 to finish the fourth courtroom. They also deferred a decision on the lightning protection and eliminated the cost of the audio-visual wiring, because that will be covered by insurance, according to Court Administrator Kerry Erdman.

After a heated debate, officials voted 3-2 to add a fourth elevator, which will be used to transport prisoners. Tony Minghine, Canton Finance Director and Charlie McIlhargey, Plymouth Township building official, voted against the \$62,500 addition.

Court officials claimed that the elevator was essential to maintaining security in the building. Without a separate prisoner elevator, the public, jurors and court staff would have to mingle with prisoners or other potentially irate court customers, according to Chief Judge John MacDonald.

Eliminating the elevator wasn't consistent with other security measures built into the courtroom, such as a separate garage and entrance for judges, he said.

"We defeat every security system we have with the elimination of that elevator," he said.

But Minghine said he couldn't rationalize spending the money. It would be more economical to transport prisoners through the third elevator, and have court staff use the two public elevators or the stairwell, he said.

He also pointed out that the fourth elevator would be located directly across from the staff elevator.

"The (fourth elevator) was never sold to us as a means to move staff," he said. "You'll have the prisoners in virtually the same place as the people you're trying to secure. That's outrageous."

The board also allocated \$100,000 to BBI for preliminary site work. Bob Bedzyk, president of BBI, said that a lot of work needed to be done before construction could be started in the

## Brew, ha-ha

### Penn Theatre pursues liquor license, comedy acts

BY BRYON MARTIN

Stand-up comics, movie premieres and beer and wine are on tap for next spring at The Penn Theatre, as owners there try to liven up business and nightlife in The City of Plymouth.

Owner Ron Cook said efforts to transfer an existing liquor license to the theater are well underway, and could bring adult beverages to the Penn's concession stand by March.

"We've filed the paper work (with the Liquor Control Commission) and we've already had the inspector down to check out the theater," he said. "I feel pretty confident we'll get it."

But beer and wine sales are only a precursor to programming additions at the Penn, Cook said.

Negotiations are also underway with Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak to bring stand-up comedians to the Penn for performances on weekends, according to Cook.

Movies would play earlier — 5 and 7 p.m. shows — and comics would perform at 9 p.m., he said.

Such changes would meet the growing demand for nighttime entertainment in the City, without compromising the Penn's standards for family entertainment, according to Cook.

"We'll do kids' shows and do the benefits like we did for All Saints Catholic School last week," he said. "We'll still keep it The Penn."

Spring will also bring the premiere of "Destination: Earth," a science-fiction movie Cook is producing with Jim Courtney, another Plymouth businessperson.

"This is Jim's fourth movie and my second," Cook said.

Together, the pair also financed "Moontrap," a "Destination" will star Walter Koenig, best known as Chekov on the original Star Trek series.

Production should begin early next year, and wrap in time to open at The Penn by early summer, according to Cook.

# Agenda

## THIS WEEKEND

- Friday, municipal offices in The Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community will be closed for New Year's Day.
- Saturday, Plymouth's City Commission will hold a special meeting to select candidates in its City Manager search, and discuss Commission relations. Call 734-453-6900, ext. 203 for details.

## NEXT WEEK

- Monday, Canton's Planning Commission will meet at 7 p.m. in Administration Hall, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd.
- Monday, Plymouth's City Commission will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. in City Hall, 201 S. Main St.

## NEXT WEEKEND

- Saturday, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' Board of Education will meet for a special workshop meeting. Call 734-416-2755 for information.
- Saturday, Canton's Summit on the Park begins registration for its winter programs, except aqua fitness, which registers new participants Wednesday, from 6 to 8 p.m. Call 734-397-5110 for details.

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# Friends & neighbors



1998 IN REVIEW

## Your friends, our neighbors, '98 newsmakers

### January

•The Plymouth Odd Fellows celebrated their 150 anniversary. The lodge was chartered Dec. 10, 1947, a group of charity-minded masons who worked in marble instead of stone.

•The Detroit Area Pinheads returned to Autocraft Collision in Canton to hold their annual panel jam for charity. The pinheads are auto detailers and sign painters who specialize in custom detailing and pinstriping. They raise money for children's charities.

•Jennifer Riopelle and Marian Nelson, Plymouth and Northville resident, release their first children's book collaboration, *Priscella's Patch*.

•Brendan Kownacki, aka the Great Brendini, headlines a magic club fundraiser at East Middle School. The 12-year old Plymouth student, a member of the Ann Arbor Magic Club, did his part to raise funds for a new sound system for the school.

•The Plymouth Community Arts Council dedicated its new, remodeled building as the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts. Hulce founded the PCAC.

### February

•The Weldon Petz Lincoln Collection opens at the Plymouth Historical Museum. The collection of more than 1,000 pieces of memorialabilia contains letters, pictures, and even an alleged lock of Abe's hair.

•The late F. Erick Carne's book, *Shorelines of the Great Lakes*, received an honorable mention in the Best Illustrated Book, Three or More Colors Category. The book, a collection of water color paintings, was published in 1997.

•Crier Publisher W. Edward Wendover took over as president of the Michigan Press Association.

•Russell Reed, the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra Conductor, announced his retirement. Reed will retire in March of 1999.

### March

•Canton's Chris Trevas has a long-term job — illustrating Star Wars books for the Little Golden Book Series. His first fully illustrated book, *'Meltdown on Hoth'*, was released last summer.

•E.J. McClendon is nearly through his experimental cancer treatment. The long-time school board member volunteered to be a test subject for a drug to combat a rare form of radiation-spawned leukemia.

### April



**Brendan Kownacki, aka the Great Brendini, headlined a magic club fundraiser at East Middle School in January (Crier photo by Scott Spielman).**

•Connie Lucas, a Canton resident and pre-eminent artist, won first place in the Ann Arbor Women Painters winter exhibition. Lucas is known for her vivid watercolors.

•Plymouth's Cherri Bujik, a fourth grader at Allen Elementary, has her first story published in *Kaleidoscope*, a magazine devoted to young authors in Michigan.

### May

•Canton's Dave Trotter left his day job to follow his dream — finding shipwrecks. He is known as one of the best in the business, and has the equipment to prove it.

•Plymouthites Paul Cusick and Michael Belvitch dominate the Irish Dance World Championship.

### June

•CEP Quiz Bowl team headed to Disney World after taking state honors.

•David Martin assumed the new position

of pastor of Risen Christ Lutheran Church.

•Brandon Hynes of Canton took third in the state competition for McDonald's 'When I Grow Up' contest. Hynes entered the contest on a bet.

•Tim Faas, head of the Western Township Utility Association, prepares for his future — making sure residents of Plymouth and Canton don't have to worry about waste.

### July

•Plymouth's Jill Andra Young's collection of Plymouth postcards hit the stores downtown.

### August

•The Southeastern Michigan Arts Conservatory begins taking shape, and one of the first people hire is Michelle Langley, a Canton graduate determined to make the dance program one of the best in the state.

•Plymouth photographer Jill Andra

Young made the news again, with *Familiar Faces*, a collection of portraits of Plymouth notables, on display at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts.

### September

•The Plymouth Historical Society celebrated its 50th birthday with Civil War reenactors and a concert by the Dodworth Saxhorn Band.

•Julia Kurtyka assumed the helm of the Plymouth Symphony as the new executive director.

### October

•'Walk This Way,' a 30 minute documentary about Northville resident Ron Bachman debuted at the Penn Theatre with less than spectacular results. The film's temperamental projector kept the audience from seeing the second showing. The film, entirely shot in Michigan received positive reviews from those who did see it.

•Virginia Bailey Parker, editor of the Canton Crossings newsletter as well as member of the Canton Historical Society geared up for October signings of her book, *'Ghost Stories of Canton.'* Published by the Canton Historical Society, the book recounts popular tales of Canton folklore.

•Plymouth's John Tregembo shared his lighthouse knowledge through an interview on PBS.

### November

•Canton Public Safety promotes two long-timers to fill vacancies in the police department. Eddie Tanner, who recently finished a tenure as head of the detective bureau, was promoted to Lieutenant. Todd Mutchler, last year's Rotary Policeman of the Year, was promoted to Sergeant.

•Salem Art teachers Judith Braun and R. Graham Martin strutted their stuff with a show at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts.

### December

•Salem Township's Jim Pieczulewski continued to do what he does best — carve animals with chainsaws. His latest project, a nativity scene, was proudly displayed before his North Territorial Road home.

•The Briefcase Drill Team made travel plans to Arizona, home of the Fiesta Bowl, for their third appearance.

•Dave Curtis helps document the lives of Canton's Civil War soldiers, with a little help from the Historical Society's Adopt A Civil War soldier program.

## In the City

# DDA begins director search, again

BY BRYON MARTIN

Based on its success after two months of searching, Plymouth's Downtown Development Authority could write a book on how to locate a new director.

For the chapter on closing the deal, though, they'd need a little help.

Anne Barnett, the City's top choice, has rejected the DDA's offer to succeed Steve Guile as director. Instead, Barnett will remain in Milford, where she is director of that city's DDA.

According to Barnett, though, Plymouth's DDA didn't do anything wrong. Milford did something right.

An eleventh-hour counter offer from the Milford DDA Board of Directors gave Barnett a 50 per cent raise, flex time and a chance to work close to her home and family.

"Ultimately, it had less to do with the communities that with my husband and family," she said. "Professionally it probably wasn't a great idea."

For the Plymouth DDA, it's back to the drawing board.

According to DDA Chairperson Sally Repeck, the question now is: "Where do we go from here?"

"We were so impressed with Anne," Repeck said. "She was our first candidate. But if her heart was in Milford, then that's where she needs to be. It's better for both of us."

The second- and third-choice candidates remain contenders for the position, Repeck said, but the DDA Board will also continue its search.

"We're putting our feelers out," she said.

The board will do that through advertising in national magazines and professional references, including some from Barnett.

"We'll do some recruitment, talk to some experts in the field about potential sources we didn't exploit before," Repeck explained.

According to a composite the board followed during its original search, the ideal candidate will be adept at marketing, economic development, team building, public speaking, business retention and recruitment, technical support for City businesses and promotion of the downtown.

"The experience we're asking for (creates) a pretty lim-

ited pool of applicants," Repeck said.

Barnett had emerged from a field of more than 50 candidates in a search begun in early October.

"We've invested so much time in this we refuse to accept second best," Repeck said. "We'll spend more time to get the best candidate. If it takes two more months, it takes two more months."

Barnett praised the City of Plymouth as whole, and the DDA Board itself.

"The more I learned about the more I wanted to be there. I kept waiting for some kind of sign that would make the decision easier, but nothing did," she said.

Barnett said she is helping to drum up other candidates through professional contacts.

"I've made a few phone calls for them," she said. "I feel obligated. They spent a lot of time with me and made me comfortable. I knew instinctively it would be a good combination professionally."

"Who knows," Barnett continued. "Maybe it's in the cards for me to be there in a couple years when my kids are older."

# Community theater closer to reality

## Grant pays to set up non-profit group, business plan

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

A regional performing arts center long discussed in Canton took another step closer to reality Tuesday.

By accepting a \$26,892 State of Michigan grant, the township Board of Trustees set the stage for the next phase of the project.

"The funds are specifically for us to get a non-profit organization going," said Joan Noricks, executive director of the Canton Community Foundation. "It will also help us pay to develop a business plan."

Canton received the grant through the state's Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Department of Consumer and

Industry Services. It is the latest step in a long process of studies to determine the feasibility of such a project. The latest study, completed last month, suggested that a regional performing center was economically feasible.

Receiving the grant only confirms those results, according to Noricks.

"It's definitely a sign that we do have a viable project," he said. "If it weren't viable, we probably wouldn't have received the grant."

Noricks said she and the center's steering committee center are in the process of identifying potential board members for the non-profit organization, who will be tasked with raising funds for the center.

The theater will be located on Joy Road near Beck, along with the new high school, Noricks said. The theater would lease the the land for \$1 from the school district, a precedent set by the Plymouth Cultural Center, Noricks said.

Coupled with the money saved on improvements to the site — the school dis-

trict will do them for the new high school — the deal becomes a no-brainer.

"It's really the best possible location,"

she said. "It will be a great thing for the school district because they'll be able to use it too."

The City Commission  
& Employees of the City of Plymouth  
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"99"



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## Finance questions persist

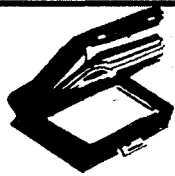
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spring. The funds would go toward other construction drawings, supplies and securing subcontractors, he said.

The board now needs to determine the best way to finance the courthouse. The final cost of the building will top \$8.2 million, according to Bob Bendzinski of Bendzinski & Co. municipal finance advisors.

The court authority could contribute as much as \$4 million to the project, including \$2.2 million in insurance revenues and \$1.8 million of excess court revenues. The authority would sell bonds for the remainder of the cost, as little as \$4.2 million over 20 years.

The court should be ready for use in March of 2000, barring any labor strikes when union contracts come up for renewal in the fall, according to Bedzyk.



# Getting down to business



1998 IN REVIEW

## The new and the late in 1998 P-C-N business

### January

•With the end of Media One's exclusive HBO contract, other cable companies begin to offer the premium Channel.

•The ill-fated Timber Creek restaurant, located on Seven Mile Road in Northville, changed hands yet again. The restaurant's new concept, called Mulligan's was supposed to revolved around a golf theme, but never really materialized. It's currently undergoing another change of ownership.

•T&N PLC, an automotive parts supplier based in Manchester, England consolidated its business products group into one technical center in Plymouth.

### February

• Ashley Capital began work on the Canton Business Park, an industrial business park that will eventually contain more than 2.5 million square feet of office and distribution facilities. Located along Michigan Avenue at Beck Road, the park promises to be one of Canton's largest industrial areas.

•St. Joseph Mercy Canton Health Building opens on Canton Center Road, just south of the Canton Administration building.

•Joe Carli or J.C. Auction Services celebrates his 10th year in the business by expanding into Illinois and Ohio.

•The Donut Scene in Canton closes its doors, giving in to pressure from Tim Hortons, Breugger's Bagels, and Dunkin Donuts. The donut shop had been located on the corner of Ford and Lilley roads for more than 20 years. It remains vacant today.

### March

•A ruling by the Supreme Court limiting credit unions membership doesn't affect the Community Federal Credit Union, which operates under a different type of charter.

•Durr Industries of Plymouth wins a 1998 PACE Award for developing a radiant floor construction oven, which will revolutionize the way cars are painted.

•The mild winter sets a brisk pace for realtors, who find their early spring busier than usual.

•Arnoldt Williams closed its doors after 42 years of service in Canton. The music store is now the location of the Southeastern Michigan Arts Conservatory.

### April

•Henry Ford Medical Centers break ground in the City of Plymouth and Canton. The facilities both replace smaller, existing clinics in the communities and each recently opened to the public.



Bill "Buzz" Buswinka makes music at his Plymouth Studio in November (Crier photo by Scott Spielman).

•The Magic Bus, an alternative clothing store, opens in Plymouth at 895 Wing Street. The Clothing shop, which started in Dearborn, not only catered to teens and young adults, it stayed open until 8 p.m.

•Community Bank of Dearborn offered its stock for public sale at \$14 per share, and quickly sold out.

### May

•Carleigh Flaherty, executive director of the Canton Chamber of Commerce, announced she was heading for a larger ship — the Farmington Chamber of Commerce.

•Rumors begin to circulate about an upscale restaurant developed by the Max & Erma's chain in the long-vacant NBD building at the corner of Main and Penniman.

•When the Picnic Basket Market expanded, it did it the old-fashioned way — they tore down the old building and built a new one right next store.

•The Plymouth Kroger announced plans to level three adjacent apartment buildings and build a larger, new store on the existing site

•McDonald, Blackwell Ford earn North American Customer Service Excellence (NACE) Awards.

### June

•Breadsmith, an award-winning national bread bakery, opened downtown.

•Lower Town Grill closed it's doors

temporarily due to problems with its liquor license renewal. Owner Kim Guenther also used the time to effect repairs on the old building's plumbing system.

•The Paper Parade, a longtime downtown Plymouth business closed up after 14 years.

### July

•Gardner White Furniture opened a Canton location in the old Jumbo Sports building on Ford Road. The furniture chain spent \$1 million in renovating the structure.

•E&E Manufacturing, a long-time Plymouth business, celebrates 35 years in business with yet another expansion

•The Toys R Us distributing Center in Canton announced its imminent closing. The operations at the company, which brought more than \$350,000 in tax dollars to Canton, were redistributed to Youngstown, OH.

•Workers begin to turn St. John's Seminary at Five Mile and Sheldon into one of Western Wayne County's premier golfing venues. Plans include a restaurant and pro shop and more golfing.

•Evola Music relocated from Plymouth to Canton, in a combination showroom and warehouse on Haggerty Road.

### August

•Ryan Ambrozaitus, the new executive director of the Canton Chamber of Commerce started work, only to find his entire staff was leaving.

•The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and the Plymouth Kiwanis Club restart the Plymouth Hall of Fame. The award honors people for community service.

### September

•Bright Jewelers, Inc. relocated from Ypsilanti to Canton.

•Victory Lane Quick Oil Change reopened after an extensive renovation.

•Popular vegetarian restaurant Harvest Moon changed hands, and new owner Deann Szeliag offered to replace vegetarian dishes with down-home cooking.

•The Penn Theatre began to expand it's boundaries by offering a children's concert featuring twin musicians Gemini.

### October

•The Lower Town Grill quietly reopened its doors in Old Village.

•Holiday Market opened an upscale supermarket at the corner of Cherry Hill and Lilley roads in Canton. The market features a coffee bar and a wood-fired brick oven for baking bread.

•Spartan Stores distribution center announced a possible southern relocation, which would put 300 employees out of work. Spartan's lease on their Haggerty-Joy location expires in 2000, which may send the business to Kentucky.

•Jim Cantrell, president of the Community Federal Credit Union, retired after 11 years with the financial institution.

### November

•Bailey's Pub and Grille, an upscale sports bar, opened at the corner of Ford and Canton Center roads in Canton. The pub was the first sign of activity in a long-vacant shopping center completed early this year.

•Bill "Buzz" Buswinka's is making a name for himself through his Plymouth recording studio. Buswinka records everything from voice overs to classical music cds, and will offer a studio class at the Southeastern Michigan Arts Conservatory in January.

### December

•Guitar Center, one of the largest music retail stores in the nation, opened a Canton location along Ford Road.

•Jack Demmer expanded his dealership, purchasing a Lincoln-Mercury dealership in Farmington.

•Brighter Toy Store opened in Canton, just in time for the holidays.

•The Constanze family opened their third restaurant, La Bistecca, on Plymouth Road and Eckles.

*Where do you want to spend New Year's?*

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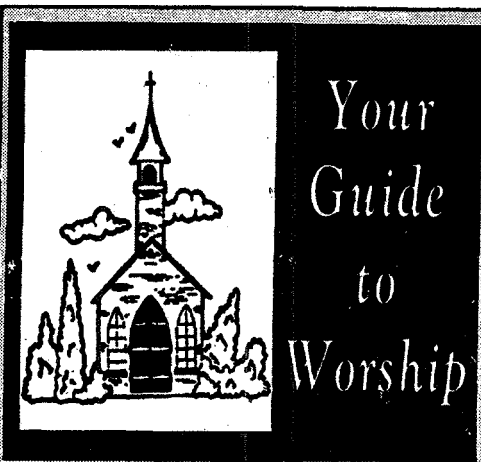
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# Remembering those who died in 1998

**January**

Omar DeBeaudry, Maureen Therese Stocker, Paul R. Noel, Sr., Vincent P. Geoffrey, Edwin C. Beck, Anna Hudak, Virginia A. Pichitino, Bernard McKeown, June M. Hammond, Irene H. Turk, Robert J. Anthony, William C. Parson, Hal Waggoner, Edward S. Wesley, William Slat, Jennie Sambrone, Elizabeth A. Simpson, Patricia G. Reilly, Dorothy E. Moore, John A. Schmitz, William "Pat" Hollingsworth, Hazel Marie Spann, Gary Roberts Olds, Irene May McCartney, Sophie Lydia Fraki, Lillian Lepper, Lary Lomibao.

**February**

William Joseph Kane, Verna Mary Knuth, Pamela H. Lee, William Fenon Schuhardt, Mary C. Bross, Nona E. Eddington, Gilbert H. Rix, Luella K. Dethloff, Joan R. Scarpulla, Evelyne E. Danahy, Harry C. Rowland, John Paul Alexander, Robert C. Taylor, Ruth V. Honey, Rudolph Kasic, Henrietta V. Lang, Samuel H. Robertson, Pamela Diedrick Regan, Vivan J. Evans Gill, Lee Anderson Owens, Richard G. Wisniewski, Merry C. Nowry, Lucienne C. Magee, Velma L. McMann.

**March**

Mary F. Blaney, Celeste C. Verbos, Kathleen June Kalowick, Walter J. Sroka, Bertha S. Shonvo, John Paul "Jack" Bellmore, Linda Kay Abner, Robert J. Holten, William J. Schulz, Doris M. Bently, Irene I. Taylor, Paul D. Gascoyne, William Curtis Hann, Marjorie Stewart, Carlos M. Symons, Teresa Stowell, Charles E. Diebolt, Lorraine L. Daly, Bruce J. Wotaszak, Dorothy May Henning, John "Jack" Drury, Helen M. Suess, Hugh F. Carpenter, Sarah W. Moore, Bradley James Skaggs, James L. Gothard, Mary Virginia Jamiseon, Jane Wilcox Kovacs, Leah M. Beardsley, Warren P. Basset, James R. Maston, Iris Jean Gill, Harry W. Stankiewicz.

**April**

Richard K. Atchinson, Lorraine Kurczewski, Effie E. Pankow, Richard A. Doherty, Samuel Leslie Johnson, John Young, Elizabeth Virginia Kelly, Ronald J. Clements, Lilliane E. Cleland, Leonard Heidt, Karen Ann McLand, Joseph Albert White II, Robert C. Weideman, Dale J. Montgomery, David Earl Swisher, Virginia Rita Prince, Wayne Bennett Carmickle, Melvin F. Broemer, Kenneth Joseph Ryskamp, Margaret Irene Schroeder, Lexie Clara Wallace, Fanny L. Wyatt, Shirley L. Jirik, Mildred Ellis, Constance Ann Dristy, Leeroy Willington Reeves, Harry E. Miner, Jr., Pauline Aretha Heller, Theodore "Ted" Prebish, Jr., Patricia M. Beck, William Clair Carr, Cynthia O'Day Estermyer.

**May**

Hugo Felix Cronwall, David A. Mynatt, Roger Guy Springsteen, Catherine M. Clyde, Gertrude Z. Sumpton, Harland E. Throne, Melvin W. Griswold, Sr., William Nelson Low, Harold A. Block, Gladys M. Shollack, Guifreida S. Brodrick, Earl K. Cram, Jesse Albert Woodring, John W. Graydon, John J. "Jack" Gilles, Sr., Gail H. Marshall, Vivian M. Kelly, Ralph B. Kelley, Carol Ann Anderson, Ernest W. Wendland, Alice Lucile Schafer, Adeline P. Packer, W. Paul Fielden, Venus V. Savitskie, Faye Stafford.

**June**

Elizabeth S. Nesbit, Catherine E. Elijah, Edward Sydney Hyde, Robert John Bradfute, Neal M. Veil, Bernita Lee, Mae C. Berry, Darlene A. Hickey, Helen "Meme" Oliver, Barabara M. Cartier, Gerald J. Ley, Gary Lee Johnson, Thomas Warren Wooley, Martha "Betty" Lemon, Paul W. Kelly, Roy H. Liddle, Leona F. Vojcek, Norman W. Gilbert, Daniel F. Johnson, Patricia Lee Currier, Florence L. McKelvey, Ruth Ann Heindelberger, Norman Thomas Dowd, Martha Helen Spayth, Irene A. Erickson, Harold G. Wright, Lynn J. Saules, Norma Jeanette Robinson Kenyon, John Demas.

**July**

John A. Hoen, Helen C. Eady, Anastia S. (Bartol) Mazur, Arvid E. Burden, Buddy Joe Bazzel, Emilla R. Truchly, Marion A. Wochuk, Harry Woodrow Taylor, Jeffery Wayne White, Marguerite M. Brown, Alavh B. Traver, Donald L. Nickerson, Gerald James Trylinski, Eleanore M. Neault, Nellie Ruth Cardinal, Helen Legocki, Mary Victoria Wiktor, Joshua David Ostapowicz, Bernice Ann Kopenski, Earl Roy Chriss, Cecile B. Toupin, Robert H. Bachelder, Ivan Joseph Dix.

**August**

Edward Bohanon, James L. Attridge, Ardis E. Edington, Betty Lou Walker-Wroe, Mary Esther Thomas, Thomas A. Palmer, Gene A. Harris, Wesley B. Lane, Margaret M. Zauhn, Channele T. Marsden, Jack O. D'Haene, Josephine G. Movinski, James R. Kearns, Gerald "Bud" Abert Krumm, Lillian E. Green, John E. Savage, Billy Hicks, Rodney J. Smith, Bertha V. Allen, Alice Frances Arnold, Albert E. Nash, Josephine Lillian Ponte, Charles B. Durant.

**September**

Claire Nicholson, Helene M. Church, Mark Allen Oblak, Evelyn May Mitchell, Roberta "Robbie" J. Talaga, Ludwick Stanely Janowski, Joyce Ann Hall, Homer H. Hensley, Henry H. Holcomb, Verne D. Steele, Elaine Alberta Albritton, Carl Zimmerman, George E. Crowther, Leonard A. Sobczak, Donald O. Melow, James Gordon "Pat" Clancey, Eva Lois Thorpe, Jerry Robert Switzer, Verna M. Artman, Sharon Lee Leanhardt, Mabel G. Eshelman, Anthony Bacyinski, Gerald Lee "Jerry" Adams, Wyona G. Clark.

**October**

Lorane Elizabeth Mack, Mary Jane Stewart, Eunice Grace Guilstorf, Frank Charles Denkhous, James R. Owens, Edward A. Gruchala, Minnie V. Wall, Stanely Albert Melmer, Clyde Estey, Elizabeth J. Phillips, Paul Nastoff, Gertrude C. Hodgdon, Elba A. Trowbridge, Micheal Evans, Micheal Evans, Kenneth Dale Rohde, Marye A. Kwarsick, Roy G. Brennan, Roy Franklin Dyer, Christena Fay Teeters, Albert G. Schmitz, Hawley Travis Mills, John H. Hollingshead, Mary S. Godin, Blanche M. Hayes, Howard Kenneth Walker, Simon Ryan, Andrew F. Ferkovich.

**November**

Truda Mae Simmons, Alice Marie McBain, George L. Kallos, Barbara E. Smith, Rosalind Irene Dyer, Carl J. Malik, Sophie Grzywacz, Phila M. Gust, Roy E. Baude, Frank J. Czyl, Maryon L. Norman, Betty Ann Kane, Dianne L. Alff, Anne Catherine O'Shaughnessy, Lawerance Henry McDonald, Mary Elizabeth Stobbe, Carl Albert Raymond Peterson.

**December**

Walter J. Krajewski, Florence McCombs, Shirley Fay Wood, Tiffany Lynn Morante, Ruth Emma Cameron, Phillip Penglase James, David J. Bowman, Levi Henry Lampton, Norma Lizzie Heath, Phyllis B. Rush, Rita Dietz, William F. Adams, Alexander "Alex" Michalak, Anne E. Kangas, Carl E. Space, James Joseph Keliher, Josephine T. Krupinski, Donna Geanne Letasi, Marion Elaine Yockey, John "Johnny Joe" Hamblin, Merle Leo Schultz, Mary-Carmen Susie Giles, Francis J. Nezol, Mary Ross Hill, Harold E. Kendall, Earl George "Joe" Ott, Jr., Edna Mae Terry, Violet F. Strohmaier, Shirley McLellan, Jean Schultheiss, Jean L. Morrow, Constance Lou (Patzwald) Schafer, Merl Charles Kinnamon, Frank L. Pigeon, Helen J. Pilat, Leonard John Mroz, Patricia Ann Wey, Helen Marie Powel.





## What's Happening

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



## Groups

### PLYMOUTH OPTIMIST CLUB MEETINGS

First, third Monday of month, 6:30 p.m. at the Water Club Grill at Ann Arbor Road and I-275. Includes dinner and speaker. Call Felix Rotter, 453-2375.

### 60+ CLUB

Meet every first Monday of month, noon, First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Rd. Bring a dish to pass. Call Lola Schueder, 453-7999.

### PLYMOUTH ORATORIO SOCIETY

Society invites interested singers to join this year's performances, including Brahms' Liebeslieder Waltzes and the Durufle Requiem. Practices held weekly. No audition necessary. Call Clark or Karen Chapin, 453-4765.

### KIWANIS BREAKFAST CLUB

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

### PLYMOUTH SYMPHONY LEAGUE ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

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

### WALTONWOOD NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

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



## Volunteer

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Plymouth District Library seeks individuals, businesses, groups to donate the cost of a subscription to one of over 300 periodicals it subscribes to. Sponsor's name appears on front cover. Donation is federal, state tax deductible. Call 453-0750.

### CHORE PROGRAM

Senior Alliance offers a chore referral program that puts workers in touch with seniors in need of chores and home repairs. Reasonable fee. Call (313) 722-2830.

### SUMMIT SHUTTLE

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

### RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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

### FISH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

### MICHIGAN CANCER FOUNDATION

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

## GUIDE to Entertainment

## Go P-C-N

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

### BOULDERS

734-459-4190; Thurs: *Robert Bougar, Randy Cole and Moosemonkey*; Fri: *Blues Airmen*; Sat: *Robert Bougar*

### CANTON CINEMA 6

734-981-1900, "Rugrats" "A Bug's Life" "Jack Frost" "Star Trek" "Stepmom" "The Faculty"

### CLUB CANTON

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

### ERNESTO'S

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

### GENITTI'S HOLE IN THE WALL

248-349-0522; Live Interactive Dinner Theater: "Clueless at Christmas" ends tomorrow. "Swing Time" begins Jan. 21.

### KARL'S COUNTRY CABIN

734-455-8450; Thurs.: "Witchdoctors"

### LOWER TOWN GRILL

734-451-1213; Thurs: *Clovas Miner* Sat: *Steve Summers with Valerie Barrymore*;

### 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: "Wizard of Oz"

### STATION 885 RESTAURANT

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

### WAGON WHEEL LOUNGE

248-349-8686; Thurs.: *Open Jam*; Sat.: *Marilyn's Fast Dance*.

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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Crier carriers strive to do their best. Your carrier will be stopping by to see you at the end of each month. They would be more than grateful if you pay, but a friendly "I'd rather not pay" will also be accepted. Either way, a valuable lesson is learned: and you can be assured of continuous delivery. As you know, The Crier contains Plymouth-Canton community information and news, local ads, valuable coupons and more.  
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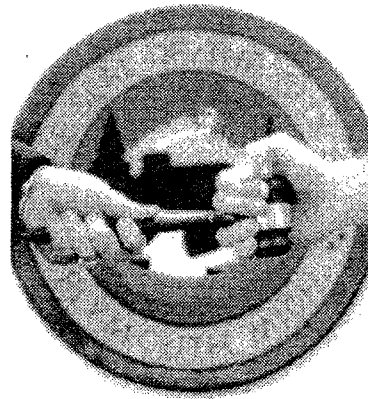
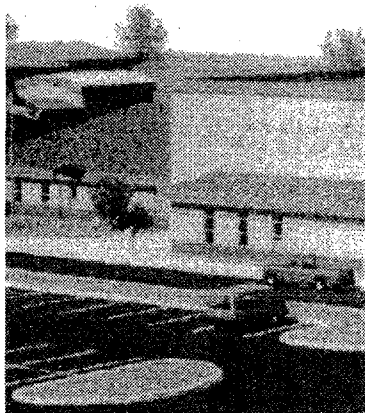
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# 1998



# in REVIEW The Crier plus



Strain from trains at Sheldon Road have long plagued Plymouth residents. But if the Plymouths can decide how they'll cooperate, relief may come next year with the completion of an underpass (Crier photo by Bryon Martin).

## Plymouth Twp.

# Overcoming the underpass issues

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

It's CSX railroad number 234 309 X, and it is latest version of a question that has defined the relationship between the City of Plymouth and the Township for years.

How much are the communities together, and how much are they apart?

In the coming year, the answer to that question, however local officials answer it, will likely decide if and when the Sheldon Road underpass will be built.

The railroad tracks that cross Sheldon Road just south of M-14 have long been a signal of frustration for Plymouth residents. Slow trains seem to come at rush hour or just as drivers need to get somewhere.

Local officials had pursued the idea of sending the road beneath the tracks for years, but couldn't produce the \$10 million necessary for such a project.

A remedy was finally offered earlier this year. In the spring, the federal government committed up to \$5.25 million, followed by an offer from Wayne County and CSX railroad for \$2 million more.

That left the rest — estimated between \$1.5 and \$2 million — to be paid by local

Please see pg. 23



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# Pages for the ages

Big stories from 1998 that gave Crier readers the scoop



June 17

## Downtown deals die

Almost as quickly as the deal was announced, it was off.

Early last summer, The Community Crier and other local heralds trumpeted the imminent arrival of John Vincenti, a Novi-based developer who had his eye on the City

of Plymouth and his hands in \$60 million ready to invest here. His first purchase was the parking lot on Penniman Avenue, a spot he said would likely host the new headquarters for his development and construction firm, Tri-Mount Vincenti.

Mayflower owner Matt Karmo and

Jack Wilcox, who owns the Wilcox house near Kellogg Park, claimed to have deals with Vincenti that would bring hotel and mixed-use development to their highly visible properties.

Summer moved into fall, though, and nothing materialized at either site as Karmo and Wilcox could not finalize



July 15

## Boulerice: can rough play be foul play?

It is a case that has brought the question of violence in sports to the forefront of local and national media.

Plymouth Whaler Jesse Boulerice stands accused of assault with intent to do great bodily harm following an April 15 stick-slashing incident that left Guelph

Storm forward Andrew Long bloodied and convulsing on the Compuware Sports Arena ice.

The incident set off a chain of increasingly serious penalties for Boulerice, including Ontario and American hockey league suspensions.

Legal jeopardy reached its climax in July with his arraignment on assault charges before Judge Ron Lowe at the

35th District Court.

Boulerice still awaits trial, expected to begin sometime next spring.

Long has since recovered from the injuries and is currently playing in the Florida Panthers farm system.

The AHL suspension against Boulerice ended Nov. 15 and he is back playing hockey for the Philadelphia Phantoms.



Nov. 18

## More trash, cash at Canton dump

Looming like a rich but unwanted relative in southern Canton, the Sauk Trail Hills landfill has quietly grown since it reopened in 1993.

In 1998, Allied Waste, Inc. approached the Board of Trustees for permission to add an additional 100 feet

to the top of the dump, leaving officials in an unenviable position.

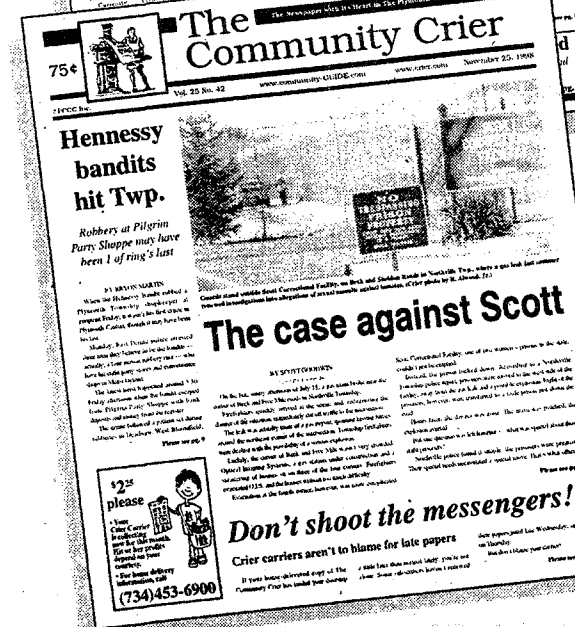
Only slightly less enviable, perhaps, than the 60 or so residents who live in the Canton Hills subdivision next to the dump on Michigan Avenue. They'd had enough of being stuck near the smell, noise and alleged late-night activity at the dump, and they wanted the expansion stopped.

But Canton Township receives free dumping for residents — a benefit

estimated at \$500,000 by Canton officials — as well as about \$1 million per year in host community fees.

Funds such as these from Canton landfills had provided many community improvements, such as road pavings and the Summit on the Park Center.

Canton officials are still considering the proposal, which would be the first step Allied Waste must make before getting county, state and Department of



Nov. 25

## Officials scrutinize Northville prison

What's going on at Scott Correctional Facility in Northville Township?

To hear the U.S. Justice Department say it, it's human rights violations, including sexual

relations between guards and inmates, intimidation and rape.

But the Department of Corrections denies such claims, calling them politically motivated and unsubstantiated.

When the story was first reported by The Crier in November, the Justice Department and the State of Michigan had been entangled in a

web of accusations for more than three years.

Since 1994, Amnesty International and Congressman John Conyers have also entered the case against Scott.

A Justice Department suit and a civil suit filed by several inmates could be resolved in the coming year.

In the meantime, the inmates' story remains behind bars.

## The City of Plymouth

# Commission grappled with strife

BY BRYON MARTIN

It may be difficult to point to any real damage sustained during a year of dysfunction and disagreeability among the elected officials in The City of Plymouth. But even if there wasn't damage per se, neither was there the synergy that has powered previous governments in this City.

Since the most recent Commission election in November 1997, bad blood has boiled beneath the surface at City Hall.

Commissioner Dennis Shrewsbury delivered his self-described "sour grapes speech," after a narrow majority of the Commission voted to elect Don Dismuke mayor. Relations between the pair have

ranged from icy to heated.

Incidents in the last four months of this year, however, widened narrow Commission schisms into chasms.

A September investigation into allegations of personal misconduct against Dismuke initiated a flurry of finger pointing between commissioners before the public and the

press. Secret meetings held to discuss the incident also drew public criticism.

That event also brought gravity to the misgivings some commissioners had harbored over the performance of City Manger Steve Walters. Commissioners Colleen Pobur and Dave McDonald, the two newest members, were the most publicly vocal in negotiations that eventually led to Walter's departure from City government after seven years as its chief administrator.

A search for his replacement continues today. Saturday, the Commission will review applications for the position.

There they will also meet with a counselor hired to help continue the healing most Commissioners say has begun.

Most also agree that's important: commissioners will need to work together in the next year to hire a new city manager, police chief and solve a \$10 million sewer problem.

## Recreation's dismal fate brightens

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

On July 31, 1997, 94 per cent of Plymouth Community residents polled in a survey conducted by the City and the Township said they felt recreation was important to the quality of life in a community.

Today, 17 months later, recreation in the Plymouths latches on to life support, the victim of multiple cuts, reductions and financial pitfalls. The Township still lacks a recreation program, the City has scaled back theirs and many are looking across their respective Plymouth border, asking "What's next?"

It had been coming to a head for years. The City had a significant

recreation program. The Township did not. City residents paid a recreation millage. Township residents did not.

The two, however, were intrinsically linked. Township residents needed the City recreation program because they lacked one themselves. The City needed the Township residents because they didn't have enough participation to fill their own programs.

But the system was struggling. Capital improvements to ball fields and the Cultural Center had been postponed for years because of financial deficiencies. What was once one of the premier recreation

Please see pg. 27

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Canton

# Planning for the future and past

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

It's difficult to recap a year in Canton without mentioning growth, and 1998 was no exception.

Canton remained one of the fastest growing municipalities in the state, with construction sites accenting the landscape in virtually every corner of the once-rural township.

Canton planners reviewed 25 new residential projects, which will bring 2,700 dwelling units to Canton within the next few years, according to Community Planner Jeff Goulet. They've also reviewed 17 commercial projects, totaling about 205,000 square feet and more than 20 industrial projects totaling more than 600,000 square feet, Goulet said.

There were 1,247 building permits issued, up 16 per cent from 1997, according to John Weyer, Canton's chief building official.

As developers continue to turn their eyes to Canton, the township's planning staff meets them with a skeptical eye and a handshake that is as much a welcome as it is a



Preserving historical areas in Canton like Cherry Hill Village (above) while enticing big business developments is a balancing act Canton has practiced much over the last year (Crier photo by Scott Spielman).

Please see pg. 25

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# News views: images of P-C-N



▲ Aug. 12:

CSX crews investigating a train derailment in Northville Township this past summer. A backed up culvert pushed flood waters over the tracks and eventually wiped them away, causing the derailment.

◀ Oct. 21:

Wayne County Sheriffs Mounties on hand for crowd control as the long-delayed renumeration of Newburgh Lake was finally finished this fall.

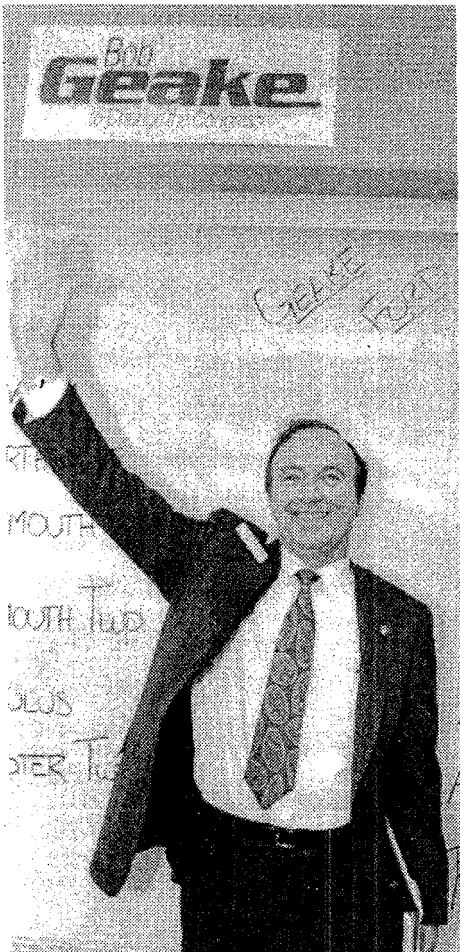


▲ Oct. 3:

Jerry Vorva sat alone at the P-C School Board offices while he and a host of school supporter counted returns in the election that approved construction of a new middle school in Canton.



# in 1998 stories



◀ **Outgoing State Senator Robert Geake** said goodbye to political life, while Canton Commissioner **Melissa McLaughlin** (below) was nearly outgoing to the Wayne County Commission when a Nov. 3 loss by less than 100 votes kept her home. Outgoing, then gone, was the famed Burroughs smoke stack (far below), long a staple of the Plymouth skyline.



▲ **June 22:**

More than 24 years after his disappearance in warring Cyprus, **Andreas Kassapis** was finally laid to rest by his family this summer, ending years of frustration and fruitless hope for the Northville family.

▼ **April 19:**

A plane crash in Canton brought the best out of Canton residents, as neighbors scrambled to remove two passengers from a burning plane. Below, **Doug Kitze**, Mettetal Airport Manager, inspects the damage.





Northville Township officials are trying to acquire park land and green space for its residents in a real estate market where newly developed lots are selling before backhoes can even break ground (Crier photo by Scott Goodwin).

## Northville

# Twp. struggles to control its growth

By Chiara Cannella

Northville Township spent 1998 juggling celebrations of the Township's 100-year history and the trials of development and its repercussions.

The Township spent much of the year trying to break a vicious cycle of high standard of living and development conflicts that don't seem to be subsiding any time soon.

At the Centennial Celebration Kick-off October 1997, some of the Townships oldest residents enjoyed a carriage ride from the historic Gibson farm to the new Woods of Edenderry subdivision, "symbolic of our journey from the old to the new," according

to Township supervisor Karen Woodside. Months later, soil erosion problems at the construction site of the new high school adjoining Edenderry left some residents less enthusiastic about the very expansion developments like theirs have made necessary. Water run-off flooded the yards of many residents and alarmed parents about the safety of their children. County offices eventually forced the halting of construction until soil erosion and water detention deficiencies at the site were corrected.

But conflicts about the new school don't end there. The Township recently entered litigation with the school district because the

Please see pg. 20

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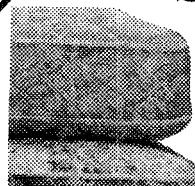
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P-C Schools

# New school, old fight

BY BRYON MARTIN

At any point in the last year, most people active in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools would tell you what they want most is new buildings. Just as in 1997, successful elections and bond issues to build schools topped the school district's wish list.

And events in the final months of the year — even the last few days — suggest the schools will get their way.

On Oct. 3, 69 per cent of those who went to the polls approved a \$19.7 million bond to buy buses and build a new middle school in Canton, the township's first.

The district plans to break ground for the project March 15, near the corner of Hanford and Canton Center roads.

The school will replace Lowell Middle School, which will return to the Livonia Public School District after some 20 years under lease to Plymouth-Canton.

But not all school supporters could celebrate the middle school bond victory without thinking about their last bond



Ohio-based architects produced a computer rendering of the Canton school approved by voters October 3.

election — the vote held in March 1997 which has been the subject of a lawsuit more than 18 months in court.

Monday, the State Supreme Court finally announced it would not hear the most recent appeal in that case, possibly clearing the school district to sell the bonds that would build a third high school and new elementary school in Canton,

among other projects.

Whether the schools can proceed or not is yet to be decided: Jerry Vorva, plaintiff in the suit, may still appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, an even that would surely fuel the existing hard feelings in Plymouth-Canton, and to top news stories in 1999 as the bond saga continues.

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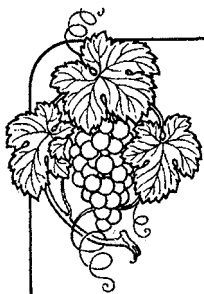
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# Innovative finance for N'ville land purchases

Continued from pg. 18

site plans do not comply with local ordinances. The school district contends that a 1990 State of Michigan Schools code granted sole and exclusive approval of school construction and site plans to the district superintendents exempts schools from adhering to local ordinances.

"The Township thinks the words 'site plan' don't apply to fields and detention ponds around the school," said school district attorney Robert Lusk.

"The Township is not trying to control the building, or classrooms, or anything on the property," said Township attorney James Tamm. "We are concerned with the inter-relationship with surrounding land."

The schools should not be exempt from complying with wetlands protection and other ordinances, according to Tamm. Examples include the slope of the detention pond, and the height of the light posts at the soccer field, which the Township says are too close the adjoining residences.

"We have never tried to stop the construction of the new high school," said Woodside. "We are concerned about the setbacks."

Michigan State police offices always comply with local ordinances said Tamm, as do county government offices.

Previous decisions have been in favor of the schools, and Lusk said the term "site plan" includes all the things in dispute.

The school district is struggling to head off imminent overcrowding that will occur if the new school isn't finished by fall of 2000. The district is addressing overcrowding problems at elementary and middle school levels as well.

A January 22 circuit court hearing will decide the next step for both sides.

Meanwhile, the Township Board is still scrambling to acquire adequate recreational land while it can still find and afford it.

An independent evaluation of the township indicated it should have 107 more acres of land for recreational use. This deficiency spurred the recreational land millage which failed in August, then passed in November.

"We want to purchase land while it is still here and we can still afford it," Woodside said. "We need to keep development in check and keep up with the increasing demand for recreational land and other services."

"The cost of land is up to \$1 million an acre in some places."

Arrangements have been finalized for two new recreation areas totaling 45 acres as part of the recent Planned Unit Development (PUD) with Wayne County. The county gave the Township the Climax Forest delineated as a recreation area. The forest is one of the most unique forests in the area, said Dick Allen of the Planning Commission.

"There are a lot of stories about how it got there," he said. 7

"It contains many trees not indigenous to the region," Allen said. "And there are a lot of mature birches, which you don't usually see, such big ones, this far south."

The forest also boasts ghinko trees planted by writer Pearl Buck, who traveled the country planting trees in memory of her daughter, Carol, who was developmentally disabled and died at a young age.

Walking trails will be built through the forest, and special consideration will be made for the land by developers of nearby projects.

The Township purchased another parcel on Six Mile Road from the county, which will be made into a park.

The Township is still trying in negotiation with the state for the 17-acre Fairweather Center parcel.

All the new parkland does cause it's own problems.

"We are now developing a policy for naming parks," said Woodside. "We have a subcommittee that will hopefully get back to the board soon."

Woodside said the board is trying to find innovative ways to finance land purchases.

A goal to that end may include a municipal golf course, according to Woodside, who said golf courses are one of the most efficient and lucrative ways for local municipalities to maintain recreation areas.

The Township approved its Master Plan

Please see pg. 23

# Still no move-in date

Continued from pg. 1

Building Authority (CBA) chose a contractor last week and allocated funds for preliminary design work, court officials didn't expect another year to have gone by before ground was broken for the rebuild.

"We didn't really think it would take this long," said Chief Judge John MacDonald, "but no one expected we'd have to overcome the hurdles we did, either. When you're working with as many communities as we are it takes time to get everyone on the same page. This is government in action."

At the end of 1997, court architects said they had a 14-month timetable, and expected completion of the building by summer, '99.

Now, the expected completion date has been pushed back to March 2000, but the roadblocks have been plenty.

## High Estimates

When the architects drew up plans for a dream courthouse, the price reflected it. The \$9 million price tag was too big for everyone's stomach. Architects went back

to their offices and came up with four alternates, ranging in scope from a rebuild of the previous building to a decked out model.

Officials eventually decided on a 3 floor, four courtroom design with 44,481 square feet of court, office and conference space.

## A site-mare

When it came to finding a place for the new building, officials said last year that the old site was the most logical location. The existing parking, its central location, and the ability to reuse the old courthouse's footprint pointed to it as the clear answer.

If only life had a rewind button.

"I've said publicly before that if I had known then what I know now, I would have suggested other locations," said Canton Supervisor Tom Yack.

The site, as it turned out, was severely limiting. It wasn't big enough to hold a larger courthouse. The parking had to be reconfigured and the ball field shrunk to provide adequate parking.

Also, a larger courthouse needs a larger footprint, so the existing basement will need

to be re-excavated.

In short, architects need to start over on the site, and most of the benefits that the old site provided have been nullified.

While Yack said he couldn't say that building in another location would have been a quicker process, he said a different location would not have had the same obstacles.

## In the Meantime

Court officials have been far from idle as the site and construction plans were defined and then refined. They formed the CBA, a committee responsible for choosing a construction contractor and determining the best way to finance the new building.

They also filed two lawsuits to recover additional damages from the July 2 fire.

The District Court Authority (DCA) filed suit against Detroit Edison, charging the power company with gross negligence for not shutting off power to the downed wires which started the blaze in time for firefighters to save the courthouse.

The DCA and Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) also filed suit against the court's other insurance company, the Michigan Township Participating Plan (The Par Plan) and the

City of Plymouth, to recoup losses the Par Plan should have paid for.

These lawsuits are currently in the discovery phase, with settlement conference scheduled for late summer. Any funds recovered would go to the new courthouse.

## What's next?

Bedzyk Bros. will begin preliminary site work, and order materials in anticipation of a spring groundbreaking.

The final cost of the structure will be about \$8.2 million and the DCA needs to figure out how much of a down payment they want to make. With about \$4 million in insurance funds and excessive court revenue, they could bond for as little as \$4.2 million over 20 years, a figure which sounded good to municipalities such as the City of Northville and Plymouth.

The lease on the Unisys land is up in October, and the buildings' one month after that, providing a five-month gap that needs.

Judge Ron Lowe said that they plans for where to keep the courthouse between these times has been discussed, but nothing definite has been planned because of the lack of a firm move in date.

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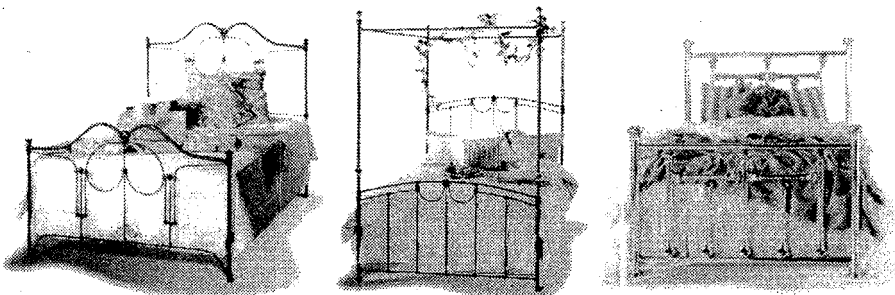
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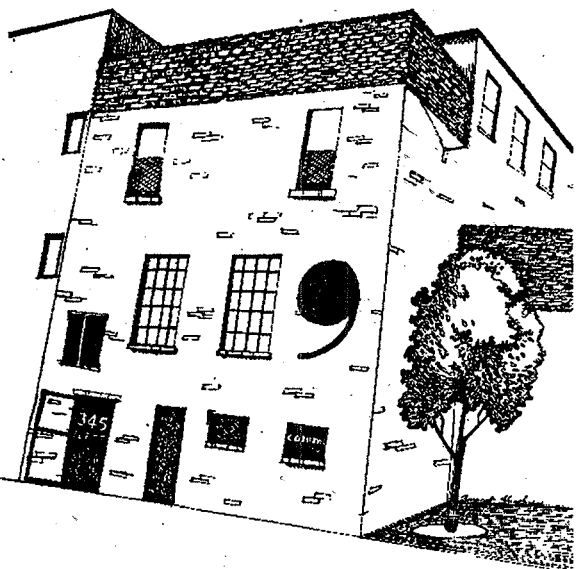
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## Twp. could seek spring millage

Continued from pg. 12

municipalities. Who those municipalities would be, and how much they would pay, however, was not specified.

The City-Township border slices directly through the potential underpass project. Thus, the problem of extra funding fell to Plymouths.

The City acted quickly in September, calling upon the Township to share the local costs.

But the Township was still licking its wounds from a trio of millage failures in August.

Contending that they didn't own the roads within their

borders, and therefore shouldn't be expected to finance any road projects, the Township was initially unwilling to commit a dime.

"The county has responsibility of all our roads," said Township Supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy. "I can't even put up a stop sign when I want to and they want us to commit \$1,000,000 to an underpass?"

City officials didn't buy their neighbor's argument. "We don't own Sheldon Road either," said City Manager Steve Walters, stating the City was still committed to the project.

The Township's position gradually softened. In

November, the Township announced it would contribute to the project by seeking its own millage increase, but for no more than 50 per cent of the local match.

The City said that still wasn't enough. They wanted a community-wide millage request, with every household in the Township and City paying the same. Because of vast population differences, if the City were forced to seek their own millage, they would be asking their residents to pay four times as much as Township residents, according to Walters.

"I think the City Commission would have a hard time convincing their voters to do that," he said.

So far, however, the Township has held firm.)

City Commissioner Dave MacDonald has suggested a joint-community public hearing on the matter, hopefully, he said, to find out if Township residents would support a joint millage increase.

"My gut feeling is that they would," he said.

No public hearing has yet been announced, but at next Wednesday's joint committee meeting, the underpass is again likely to be a topic of discussion.

County engineers are expected to begin creating drawings and designs of the project this winter. The Township could seek their millage as early as spring.

If that passes, only the City piece of the financial puzzle would remain, ultimately, the piece that may prove most difficult to fill.

## N'ville tries to maintain history

Continued from pg. 20

in September. The plan regulates utilities, ordinances, zoning, woodlands protection, and other aspects of development and growth.

"We are trying to ensure carefully managed development. We anticipated this growth, so we started years ago to get the ordinances in place to guarantee string and controlled growth," said Woodside.

Whether the Township will succeed in controlling its own development remains to be seen.

But compromise has been managed in the past. The new Arnold Palmer golf course will be under construction soon. But builders are not tearing down all the buildings on the land. They will leave some silo's and other remnants of the land's former uses.

"We are trying to maintain a little history," said Woodside.

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1998 IN REVIEW

# Quality of life: Canton's focus

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Commercial and industrial development in Canton have virtually assured a vibrant tax base for the township's future.

Organizations such as Yazaki North American have invested heavily into Canton's future by establishing and constructing their world headquarters at Warren and Haggerty Roads. Several business parks are in the works, including the monumental Canton Business Park at Michigan Avenue and Beck Road.

But these are not the only types of development going on in Canton. Officials have also stepped up efforts to ensure Canton is a well-rounded community, with adequate recreation, park land and arts.

### Recreation

Perhaps the biggest tangible sign of

raising the quality of life was the township's purchase of the Canton Softball Center on Michigan Avenue.

Canton had planned to add to its aging diamonds with six new fields in Independence Park, one of two new parks developed in the township last year.

But when the cost of those new fields — about \$1.5 million — was higher than officials expected, they began to consider other alternatives.

The softball center, with 12 lighted fields, batting cages and a restaurant, was the perfect one. It had recently been put on the market, and Canton officials quickly and quietly discussed purchasing the facility.

That deal, approved two weeks ago, was unimpeded by an unsuccessful attempt to put

Please see pg. 26

## Lower Town Grill

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# Planners retain historic elements amid growth

Continued from pg. 15

responsibility.

It's obvious at planning commission meeting that there is no such thing as a rubber stamp approval. Whether it's a national fast food restaurant, gas station or drug store, developers can usually count on constructing facilities beyond their typical standards.

Planners have turned their attention to other crucial areas of undeveloped Canton, locations of either high visibility or historical significance.

With the Corporate District Overlay, the planners have set the stage for one of Canton's prime undeveloped commercial and industrial real estate.

The land is two square miles in the Lotz Road corridor, bounded on the west by I-275, Koppernick Road on the north, the Township boundary on the east and Cherry Hill Road on the south.

The overlay is designed to maximize the land use and promote excellence in building and site design, according to Goulet. It will set a common theme for development, but still allow buildings to have some individuality, as well.

Smack in the middle of the effected area is 120 acres of low-quality wetlands that was the subject of intense scrutiny last year.

Located along I-275 between Ford and Lotz roads, the land was the proposed site of a mega development, with plans for a multi screen movie theater, several restaurants, as well as a shopping mall, apartments and condominiums.

The developers of that project toiled long and hard and dazzled Canton's DDA Board with a presentation detailing how the project would improve the quality of the creek flowing through the area as well as provide a substantial boon to township taxes.

Then they asked for \$4 million.

The site needed too much work to get off

the ground, according to the Burton-Katzman, the developers. They proposed that the township sell bonds to finance a road and some other preliminary sitework.

The Board of Trustees declined the offer before they were even officially asked. If you lure one developer in with funds, then you've got a lot of greedy developers out there.

But Goulet said the project's failure had nothing to do with the overlay district, which was in the works before the developers brought the project to the public.

The ordinance was enacted in the fall, and the Koppernick Corporate Park, also developed by Burton Katzman, is being developed to the standards.

In the southern end of the township, another sensitive area is being sought by developers.

Centered around Cherry Hill and Ridge roads, it is the site of Cherry Hill village,

one of Canton's most historic settings.

Little more than a collection of old farmhouses, Canton's first school and Cherry Hill Methodist Church, the village could be susceptible to negative impact from development.

But Canton planners are working to make sure that the site retains its small village feel, regardless of how big it gets.

Already a developer is planning three residential projects within the two-square mile Cherry Hill Village, and those subdivisions will be developed along with Canton's newest overlay, the Cherry Hill Historic District.

Goulet said the intent of the zoning is to preserve the small hamlet setting, by developing a small downtown that is pedestrian and bicycle friendly.

All developments within the district, either residential or commercial, will emulate the historic flavor of the area, he said.



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# Canton: more parks and art

Continued from pg. 24  
the issue before the voters.

Slightly less tangible, but as significant, is the ice rinks proposed for 20 acres of land on Haggerty, north of Michigan Avenue.

The ice rinks were first discussed in 1997, and were to be located on land purchased from the township.

Developer Scott Griffin of Griffin Properties, Inc. thought that the 20 acre site was large enough for other uses as well, and the project quickly took on a life of its own.

Before long, Griffin had a league of interested parties, enough for a sports complex he said would be the jewel of southern Michigan.

Trouble is, he didn't have enough land. Efforts to purchase the land directly north of his site were unsuccessful, and after nearly a year of wrangling, Griffin decided to go ahead with the original, smaller project.

Included in the complex will be two ice rinks and indoor soccer fields.

"It will fill a real void for a winter sports

facility," said Mike Gouin, Canton Parks and Recreation superintendent.

Griffin said he will submit a site plan to Canton's Planning Staff in January, and hopes to break ground in the spring.

## Park land

Spring will also see the opening of Freedom Park, at Sheldon and Palmer roads, a 20-acre facility with basketball courts, walking trails and a playscape.

Independence Park, at Proctor and Denton roads, is an 80-acre park with several soccer fields. The fields will be used in Canton's Memorial Day Tournament, then preserved for the fall, Gouin said.

Canton's push for park land stemmed in part from its Five Year Recreation Master Plan, Gouin said. The plan identifies what recreational resources exist in the community and tells what standards are in other communities, Gouin said.

Lack of park land was one shortfall the plan identified, he said.

"We're catching up on land, but we did

have a great shortfall in the past," he said.

That plan will be revisited in 1999, and a survey may be part of determining what is next for recreation, Gouin said.

"We may take a survey to see how satisfied the residents are with recreation and what they'd like to see," Gouin said.

Gouin said the survey was still in the planning stages, and he didn't know exactly what form it would take.

Canton also received a grant for \$1.2 million to purchase the Coleman Trust Property, a 215-acre plot of land near Ford and Napier roads that could be purchased strictly for recreational uses.

Canton is in the process of appraising the value of the land, and could make an offer to purchase it in 1999, if the price is right.

## The Arts

But additional park land and baseball fields aren't the only way the quality of life improved in Canton in 1998. The year also saw the continuation of a study to locate a regional theater within Canton's borders.

The theater was originally proposed two years ago, and groups such as the Canton Community Foundation as well as arts groups have been trying to find a way to make it happen ever since.

With Canton unofficially pledging \$2 million to the construction of the theater, and a recent study which concluded that funding the project was possible, the proposal has stepped up the pace.

The Community Foundation as well as interested groups such as the Plymouth Theater Guild, the Plymouth Symphony and the Southeastern Michigan Arts Conservatory (SMAC) have formed a steering committee and are beginning the process of forming a non-profit group and a business plan to run the theater.

Locations for the theater have also been discussed, with an early favorite being along Joy Road, near where the new high school should be constructed at Beck road.

With a theater in the works, and more park land on the way and more and diverse services being offered at existing facilities such as Summit on the Park and Heritage Park, Quality of Life will be a recurring theme in 1999 and many years to come.

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# Chance for a fresh look

Continued from pg. 14

programs in Western Wayne County had slowly reduced to a government eyesore.

In need of a recreation overhaul, City officials were forced to look beyond their borders for help. The Township had been studying the possibility of a recreation program for years, but never seriously.

The July 1997 survey was the first sign the two communities were considering a joint recreation program. The Plymouth YMCA was also involved in the survey.

Throughout the next six or seven months, a coalition of Township, City and various recreation personalities met to discuss how a joint recreation program would be run. By April 1998, decisions had been made, how the program would be financed but not who would have control over recreation decisions.

The Township announced a massive millage package, including increases for police and fire, a new township hall and recreation to be voted on Aug. 4. While the new township hall request was dropped, the collective tax increase still constituted a 55

per cent jump in Township rates.

"We are presenting what we think are the needs of the Township," said Township Supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy.

Throughout the spring and early summer, as the Township geared up their campaign to educate voters (including the controversial move of hiring Plymouth politico Bill Joyner to write the Township newsletters), talks continued on the make-up of a joint recreation board or third-party program.

In June, those talks were finally dissolved. The committee decided to create a joint board, but nothing else. Many believe later that the ambiguity of their decision led to the recreation millage failure.

On Aug. 4, all three Township millages were soundly turned down by Township voters. Recreation failed by more than 800 votes, with 6,300 cast.

Jerry Trumpka, the most vocal opponent to the Township millages, echoed many of the comments made by other residents.

"They didn't have a (recreation) plan," he said. "People aren't going to give up their hard-earned money if they don't know what

they are paying for."

In the weeks following, the City Commission scrambled for ways to salvage their dying recreation programs. After the Township refused a last gasp effort to provide matching funds, the City raised non-resident fees, fused the Recreation Department into the Municipal Services Department (MSD) and fired Recreation Director Tom Willette.

Recreation "is largely going to be a maintenance operation" under the MSD, said City Manager Steve Walters. "It will be an experiment for the first few months."

Willette left in October, while the five full-time and handful of part-time employees remained on-hand. According to Paul Sincock, MSD director, recreation in Plymouth hasn't lost much beyond its Willette since the millage failure.

"For the most part, things are running normally," he said.

Spring soccer registration begins next month, right on schedule. While some fees have raised for soccer (\$15 more for non-residents in the 9 and over group), it's far better than the total elimination some had predicted last summer.

Currently, the City budgets \$150,000 for recreation, most of which goes toward salaries and public utilities, Sincock said.

There is still very little left for capital improvements. "Only what we can squeak out," he said.

Thus far, there are no major cuts planned for 1999. In fact, Sincock said the City should begin new classes at the Cultural Center soon, duties which had fallen to the YMCA last year.

The impact of the Township's millage failure may not be felt until budget sessions next year, when the City Commission decides if further cuts are necessary.

But at least some in the City are optimistic about recreation's future, defying the dismal predictions made in August.

"We're actually in much better condition than we thought," said Mayor Don Dismuke. "We expect we will have a better program than we have had in the past few years."

While the possibility of privatizing soccer still exists, Dismuke said he anticipates the bulk of City recreation to remain and strengthen.

"This is our chance to take a fresh look at everything," he said.

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**30:** Chamber Concert-Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, 8:00pm, Plymouth Canton Little Theatre. Call 451-2112 for more information.

## CANTON

— December —

- 1:** New Year's Day. Government offices closed.
- 4:** Planning Commission meeting. 7 p.m.
- 7:** Summit general registration and Aquatic Fitness registration. 6-8 p.m. Call 397-5110
- 9:** Summit registration. Call 397-5110.
- 11:** Canton Homeowners Advisory Council meeting 7p.m.
- 12:** Board of trustees meeting. 7pm
- 12:** St. Joe's volunteer information session. Call 397-6450.
- 14:** ZBA meeting 7:30pm
- 16-31:** Focus Hope Photography Exhibit. Summit. Call 397-6450
- 18:** Planning Commission meeting.
- 21:** 3rd Thursday Government-Business Breakfast. 7:30 am Old Country Buffet. Call 453-4040.
- 26:** Board of Trustees meeting. 7pm.



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# Jean Morrow, 76, City Commission watcher

BY W. EDWARD WENDOVER

Jean L. Morrow, a long-time Plymouth resident, died Dec. 21, 1998 at the age of 76.

He was a favorite of Plymouth City Commission watchers — though not necessarily of City Commissioners. Mr. Morrow was a frequenter of the "citizen comments" section of Commission meetings.

Mr. Morrow even ran for the commission, as part of a "citizen, clean up" slate and lost. But it didn't dampen his enthusiasm for politely "telling them what's what" even after he lost. He was an important part of the historic ranks of unofficial local government watchdogs.

Born July 10, 1922 in Piggott, AR. Mr. Morrow retired from the Malleable Steel Co. in Monroe after nine years of

service. He was a member of the Baptist church, and came to Plymouth 32 years ago. He loved being a Deacon in the church, had a great sense of humor and loved to laugh. He served in the Navy for nine years in WWII and in the Korean Conflict. He attended the School of Photography in Dallas, TX.

He is survived by his wife, M. Olline Morrow of Plymouth; son, Dean

Morrow of Plymouth; and sister, Junell Nettles of Kansas.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Local arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to the American Heart Association, West Metro Region, P.O. Box 72119, Berkley, MI 48072-0129.



## Community deaths

### Obituaries

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

#### EDNA MAE TERRY

Edna Mae Terry, a Salem Township resident, died Dec. 25, 1998 at the age of 78.

Mrs. Terry was born June 4, 1920 in Laurel, MD. She was opened the Happy Hours Day Care School. On June 14, 1953 she married Edward and in 1966 they moved their family to Plymouth. She was a 4-H Club leader of the 4-H Dog Club and for the Plymouth Paw Prints. She was a homemaker and also a dog breeder of sunshine shelties. She loved to garden and had a particular love of flowers.

She is survived by her sons, Edward H. Jr (Anne Curtis) Of Tallahassee, FL, Gilbert of Canton; daughter, Mary Lynn (George) Smock of Wyandotte; son-in-law, Gary Stuebben of Novi; grandchildren, Ted and Ellie Terry, Terri, Allen and Cara Smock, Jeffrey, Michael and Ern Steubben; sister-in-law, Irene Gilbert. She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward H.; daughter, Carol Stuebben; and brother, Roland A. Gilbert.

Services will be held at First United Methodist Church 777 Eight Mile Road, Northville, MI Sat. Jan. 2 at 4 p.m. with the Rev. Thomas Beagan officiating. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to the American Cancer Society or the Huron Valley Human Society.

#### VIOLET F. STROHMAIER

Violet F. Strohmaier, a Livonia resident, died Dec. 23, 1998 at the age of 94.

Mrs. Strohmaier was born April 17, 1904 in Detroit. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her daughters, Beverly A. Rodda of Canton, Ruth Ivosic of Westland; son, Gerald A. Strohmaier; nine grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren

Arrangements were made by and services held at the

Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth with the Rev. Gary D. Headaphol officiating. Burial was at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia. Memorial contributions can be given to St. Matthew Lutheran Church 5885 Venoy Road, Westland, or Community Hospice.

#### SHIRLEY M. McLELLAN

Shirley M. McLellan, a Farmington Hills resident, died Dec. 26, 1998 at the age of 82.

Mrs. McLellan was born Dec. 28, 1915 in Detroit. She was a homemaker. She loved to play bridge, bowl and garden. She loved traveling with her husband.

She is survived by her son, Donald (Judith) McLellan of Livonia; grandson, Kevin (Kristie) of Westland; and granddaughter, Kristen (Matthew) Yule of Livonia. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dayton L.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth with Pastor Jerry Yarnell officiating. Burial was at Parkview Cemetery in Livonia. Memorial contributions can be given to the Alzheimer's Disease Association.

#### JEAN SCHULTHEISS

Jean Schultheiss, a Plymouth resident, died Dec. 25, 1998 at the age of 76.

Mrs. Schultheiss was born Jan. 23, 1922 in Madison, WI. She was a homemaker. She was very active in the community. She also worked as a library secretary at Middle School East, retiring in 1975. She was a very active member of the First United Methodist Church. She was formerly active as a scout leader with the girl scouts.

She is survived by her sons, Wade (Judy) Schultheiss of Franklin, MI, Mark Schultheiss of Wading River, NY; daughter, Gail Luise (Walter) Scherer of Plymouth; sister-in-law, Luise Schultheiss Jordan of Eau Claire, WI; sister, Joan (Ted) Dahlberg of Fort Myers, FL; and many nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

Please see pg. 30



# Community deaths

## Obituaries

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

Continued from pg. 29

### CONSTANCE LOU (PATZWALD) SCHAFFER

Constance Lou (Patzwald) Schafer, a Westland resident, died Dec. 20 1998 at the age of 46.

Mrs. Schafer was born July 5, 1952 in Chippewa Falls, WI. She worked in production assembly at the Ford Michigan Truck Plant for 10 years. She served in U.S. Navy in the Vietnam era. She was a member of the UAW at the Ford Plant. She enjoyed bike riding, reading and traveling. She also liked to crochet and did interior decorating.

She is survived by her ex-husband, Jurgen Schafer of Westland; father, Harvey Patzwald of Woodbury, MN; son, Adam Carter of Westland, daughter, Gina Carter of Westland; and brothers, David Patzwald of Brier, WA, Terry Patzwald of Sault Sainte Marie, Richard Patzwald of Chippewa Falls, Jeffery Patzwald of Ellerbe, NC, Ronald Patzwald of Chippewa Falls, WI.

Arrangements were made by and services were held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home with Pastor Steve Little officiating. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to the Michigan Human Society, P.O. Box 21482 3600 Auburn Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48231-4182.

### MERL CHARLES KINNAMON

Merl Charles Kinnamon, a Clay Township, MI resident, died Dec. 13, 1998 at the age of 69.

Mr. Kinnamon was born June 5, 1929 in Detroit. He was a machinist with a tool and die company.

He is survived by his nieces, Terry (Denis) Fago of Livonia and Barbara Rohde of Canton. He was preceded in death by his wife, Bernadine.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home with the Rev. Fr. John Sullivan officiating.

### FRANK L. PIGEON

Frank L. Pigeon, a Canton resident, died Dec. 20, 1998 at the age of 77.

Mr. Pigeon was born Nov. 25, 1921 in Detroit. He was a switchboard repairman. He served in the Air Force during WWII.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Pigeon of Canton; son, James (Colleen) Pigeon of Livonia; granddaughters, Kelly Pigeon, Shannon (Tony) Schmaus; grandsons, Michael (Peggy) Pigeon, Patrick (Jennifer) Pigeon, Sean Pigeon; great-grandson, James Schmaus; and great-granddaughters, Brandy and Amber Schmaus, and Jessica and Meredith Pigeon.

Services were held at Risen Christ Lutheran Church with the Rev. David Martin officiating. Burial was at Acacia Park Cemetery in Beverly Hills, MI. Arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to Risen Christ Lutheran Church Building Fund, 46250 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170-3446.

### HELEN J. PILAT

Helen J. Pilat, a Plymouth resident, died Dec. 19, 1998 at the age of 90.

Mrs. Pilat was born June 30, 1908 in Detroit. She was a medical secretary.

She is survived by her son, Ron (Sharon) Pilat of Northville; daughter, Patricia J. Mahaz of Plymouth; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth with Carl M. Leth officiating. Burial was at Evergreen Cemetery in Detroit. Memorial contributions can be given to the Michigan Human Society, 37255 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185.

### LEONARD JOHN MROZ

Leonard John Mroz, a Hudson, MI resident, died Dec. 18, 1998 at the age of 71.

Mr. Mroz was born Sept 5, 1927 in Detroit. He was an inspector.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Mroz of Hudson, MI; sons, Leonard Mroz Jr of Hudson, MI, Steve M. Mroz of Canton; daughters, Lori Mroz of Manitu Beach, Dianne (Mark) Ulmer of Canton; sister, Joanne Krupa of Dearborn; and brother, Frank Mrozinski of Canton.

Services were held at St. Thomas A'Becket Catholic Church with the Rev. C. Richard Kelly officiating. Burial was at United Memorial Gardens in Plymouth. Arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth. Mass offerings can be made.

### PATRICIA ANN WEY

Patricia Ann Wey, a Westland resident, died Dec. 16, 1998 at the age of 58.

Mrs. Wey was born March 17, 1940 in Detroit. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband, Harold Ray Wey of Westland; mother, Cassie Chrzanowski of Dearborn Heights; son, Raymond Walter Wey of Westland; brothers, Robert (Marilyn) Chrzanowski of Dearborn Heights, Richard (Cheryl) Chrzanowski of Plymouth; and grandson, Nicholas Raymond Wey.

Services were held at St. Richard Catholic Church with the Rev. Terence Treppa officiating. Burial was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock. Arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth. Mass offerings can be made or memorial contributions given to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburg Road, Livonia, MI 48154-5010.

### HELEN MARIE POWEL

Helen Marie Powel, a Canton resident, died Dec. 20, 1998 at the age of 79.

Mrs. Powel was born Sept. 22, 1919 in Wayne, WV. She was a teacher.

She is survived by her daughter, Jane (Hugh) P. Thomas of Plymouth; and grandsons, David, Hugh and Clay Blake-Thomas.

Arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth.



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Licensed Home Day Care in Plymouth.  
Immediate Openings. Degree in early  
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Childcare needed for three elementary  
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3 or 4 days a week (Monday through  
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5 piece children's swing set. Good condition  
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Macintosh II Si with modem and printer  
\$150 or best. Also full size futon frame with  
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Bed: brass head & foot board with war-  
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All new, never opened factory boxes.  
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FOUND: Darling silver and white long-  
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Found near Wilcox Rd. & Shadywood. Call  
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FOUND: Peach-faced love bird, Sheldon &  
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FOUND - Gray cat, green eyes, male,  
neutered. Found near Gotfredson & Warren.  
(248) 471-1174.

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

## Photography

**RAWLINSON PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Elegant Wedding Photography  
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## Real Estate for Sale

Plymouth Professional Office Building.  
Prime location; Remodeled, Barrier-free.  
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I can fix any VCR for less than \$50.  
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Any household clean-up.  
Easy to load containers,  
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## 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.

The obituaries will say Jean Schulteiss died  
the Thursday before Christmas, but that isn't  
true. Something died in Jean when her hus-  
band was taken many years ago, and ever  
since she has been in limbo waiting for her  
time to leave. I can imagine that she simply  
rose, never looked back, and ran to meet  
her own true love who would be waiting for  
her. Bless you, Jean and Carl. We weep not  
for you but for ourselves without you. God  
bless us all. — Geneva

Dear  
Martha,  
et. al.



By Geneva Guenther

Dear Martha et al:

It's cold — really cold in Plymouth, but  
that only applies to the temperature. The sun is  
shining. The stores are aglow with the spirit of  
Christmas. People are walking very briskly —  
it's really cold — but there is something that  
pervades the whole town, a certain serenity, a  
certain excitement, and all of us are as one.  
What a delight it is to be in a community like  
Plymouth and having happiness enfold you  
like a warm cloak. Being alone isn't the worst  
thing that can happen to us. We love and were  
loved, and nothing can take that away from us.

Bless you,  
Geneva.

## Curiosities

Geneva Stewart: How nice of you to say  
otherwise, but the truth is I am extra-ordi-  
narily ordinary. — Geneva

Aunt Mil — Please teach your neice to  
make pie crust, or should I say "nectar of  
the gods." Never have I tasted anything that  
compares.

Carriers needed to deliver The Crier each  
Wednesday in Plymouth, Plymouth Twp.  
and Canton. Call Maura 734-453-6900.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus, and all  
six feet of him is in the window of my gaze-  
bo, blithely waving at those who enter  
Plymouth.

Now, the question is, what does one do with  
a six foot Santa between seasons?

**"CUT THEM UP, BUILD THEM A STRUC-  
TURE MAKE THEM A RULE. KNT FROM  
START TO FINNISH."**

"It doesn't matter, just go."

"Part of learning a trade is understanding its  
boundaries." — K.L.

Sellin' cars & cutting bodies in the Lone Star  
State, Happy New year to all! Love, Tom &  
Kris K.

PHYLLIS AND BOB CAMERON were  
caught trying to sneak back into town.

LA BISTECCA is a tasty new addition.

DIANE HERBRUCK is best boss in G.R. —  
we knew that (she's the best aunt, best sis-  
ter, etc.)

HEIDI & PETE: It's about time it's official ...  
(?)

"THEY'RE DRINKING IMMATURE WINE  
and loving it." — Mom, 1998

DONNIE BIDWELL watched The Plymouth  
Whalers host the Erie Otters.

MOLLY MUNDT really cooks.

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

AMANDA PASSED chemistry!

ASK THE RUSTY NAIL for extra pickles.  
HOLD THE PICKLES; don't hold the lettuce;  
special orders don't upset us." — The Rusty  
Nail Crew.

# Crier Classifieds

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Also-see Crier Classifieds on the internet at [www.crier.com](http://www.crier.com)

## Curiosities

JIM JABARA strips down on Penniman Avenue — talk about giving the shirt (or insulated suit) off your back to a fellow bell ringer.

Patti Carne — We must check out the swanky new "La Bistecca!" — Your dinner pal

ROB: swell carving

FRED HILL gets his stocking stuffers FREE from the Post Office.

The Christmas master breakfast chef Brought low by "flu-Formosa" While hungry hordes swarmed up the stairs Demanding, "Quiche! Mimosas!" The girls (not known for kitchen skills) Made breakfast with aplomb With dash, with style, with wondrous taste (And lots of help from Mom!)

## Curiosities

Talk about tame pets! Accidentally left the door open on the bearded dragon's cage. Three days later he finally climbed out & took a nap ... in front of the cage.

DOROTHY BURKE: I'm sitting back watching a rented movie & eating barbecue meat-balls and saffron cake. It doesn't get any better than this! Thanks! — Mike

May your New Year be every bit as new as last year was at this time....

JASON GOLDMAN uses gerbil stamps ... what grad school will accept THAT application.

(answer to above: maybe that agricultural outfit in East Lansing.)

It is said that Lanny Falvo's first PR assignment was to sell dirigible tickets after the Hindenberg disaster...

## Curiosities

The Ice Sculpture Spectacular is coming soon, and the Russian participants were on CNN the other night practicing in Moscow. (Thank goodness it finally got cold or we might have had to have Jell-o sculpting!)

Anybody want my Furby? Or 17,642 Beanie Babies? What's next year's hot toy? Sigh.

Wendy, please come back, I'm trapped in typesetting H-E-double-hockey-sticks! —the fill-in classified guy.

Hey Geneva — you may think the holidays "make us all as one" but nobody came out to help me spill wine on the ground for the solstice celebration!

—Possibly The Only Pagan In Plymouth

Your aunt in Anchorage can read your Crier Cuiosity at [www.crier.com](http://www.crier.com) ...so keep it clean, bunky!

## Curiosities

Don Schneider: Your ornaments were received with delight. Thank you for helping! —Mike

"The GUIDE to Plymouth-Canton-Northville-Salem-Superior" is coming! (Think that name is long enough???) The only complete Community resource! It's time for businesses, governments and groups to update your information and messages. Call The Crier at 734-453-6900 for information.

Scott Smith and Jill Andra Young - Everybody seemed to love a gift of art this year. Thanks to you both. — Your smokey neighbor

"Kevin, you are giving Public Relation's bad name a good name. Better shape up, youngster!" —Lanny Falvo

# Help Wanted

The Crier is Now Accepting



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

City of Plymouth Parks & Recreation Division

### SPORTS SCOREKEEPERS GYM SUPERVISORS

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

Apply in person at:

Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth, MI 48170-1392

or contact the Plymouth Recreation at

(734) 455-6620 \$7.50 per hr.

Games are held weeknights.

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### HELP CHILDREN SUCCEED

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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

Maintenance Help Wanted. Full time with benefits. Must be self motivated. Call Frank at (734) 453-0326.

### ADMINISTRATOR/CLERICAL

Administrator: Includes phone work, customer service, order processing, and typing/word processing. Must be customer-oriented and have excellent communication and telephone skills. Typing speed over 30 wpm. Familiarity with Excel and Word helpful. (Job Code: 5-98)

Client Service Administrator: Order processing, customer service, and record-keeping. Must be customer-oriented and have excellent communication and telephone skills. Typing speed over 30 wpm. Familiarity with Excel and Word a definite plus. (Job Code: 6-101)

Administrator/Typist: Must be over 40 wpm. Duties include using typewriter and PC to type and revise documents. Some phone work, customer service. Familiarity with PC helpful. (Job Code: 3-47)

Excellent benefits, including 401(k) and tuition reimbursement. Fax resume and salary requirements to (734) 416-2683 or mail to:

Gage Marketing  
101 Union Street  
Plymouth MI 48170  
Attn.: ADM-(Job Code)  
EOE

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Your ad here reaches a statewide audience! Call The Crier today to place your MichCan ad! (734) 453-6900.



## Plymouth Historical Museum

invites you to  
 "Celebrate the Century"  
 with Special Exhibits and Programs  
 throughout the coming year.

•The Special exhibits on the  
 Decades of the 20th Century  
 opens Jan. 31, 1999

•The Special Programs related to the exhibit  
 all meet at the Museum at 7:30 p.m.



Jan. 14.....Celebrate the Century,  
 .....1900-1919

Feb. 11 ....Celebrate the Century 1920's

.....Roaring Twenties Fashion Show

March 11..Celebrate the Century 1930's

.....Jazz Night & Bread Line by The Breadsmith Bakery

April 8.....Celebrate the Century 1940's

.....WW II and the Jeep

May 13 ....Celebrate the Century 1950's

.....Car Show & Burgers & Shakes at The Soda Jerk

June 3 .....Celebrate the Century 1960's

.....Program presented by the Advanced History Class

.....Salem High School



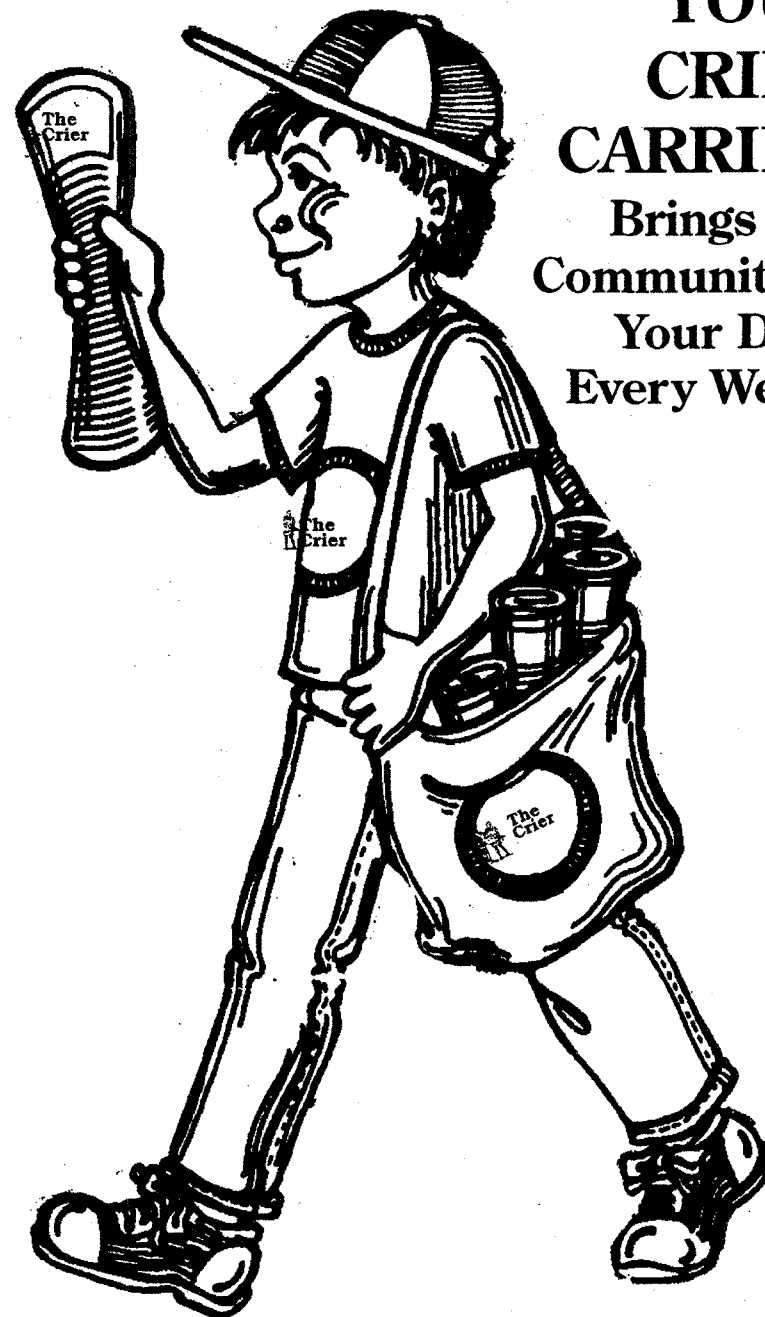
Programs will continue in the Fall  
 with the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's  
 and a look "Back to the Future"

For additional information,  
 please call the Museum  
 155 S. Main Street  
 Plymouth, MI 48170  
 (734) 455-8940

Hours:  
 Wed.  
 Thurs.  
 Sat.  
 1-4 p.m.  
 •  
 Sun.  
 2-5 p.m.

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**The Crier**



## Your Plymouth District Library



Wishes all  
 a Happy 1999

& recommends the following

### 1999 Resolutions

- Visit Your New Library
- Join a Book Club
- Learn the Internet
- Join the Writer's Group
- Bring a Child to Storytime
- Check out an Audio
- Book
- Watch a Classic Video
- Use S&P on the www
- Adopt-a-Magazine

**Plymouth District Library**  
**Year Round Seven Day Service**

M-Th 9:30-9:00  
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# Sports



1998 IN REVIEW

## 1998: the year of near-misses in P-C-N sports

Close-calls, big plays in small games, small plays in big games, no-hitters and few championships. That was 1998.

But for many Plymouth-Canton-Northville athletes, it was still a year to remember and a promise of better things to come.

A month-by-month breakdown:

### January

- Canton wrestling team loses Kevin Stone, one of the teams top wrestlers, for the season with a broken ankle.

- Whaler Coach Peter DeBoer sets a new team record for regular season victories (87)

### February

- The Plymouth Stingrays, an 11-12 year-old hockey club, endure a nine overtime game with a 1-0 victory in rout to district championship. The game is believed to be the longest in league history.

- The Salem co-ed varsity cheerleading squad places 10th at 300-team national tournament, their highest ever.

### March

- Salem dominates the WLAA men's swimming conference finals, while Canton places fourth. Salem's Nick Corden wins both the 100 and 200 freestyle races.

- Dave Legwand becomes first Plymouth Whaler rookie to score 50 goals.

- Salem rockets past John Glenn to win WLAA conference basketball tournament on last second shot.

- Whalers finish regular season with second place finish in OHL's Western Division.



Chief hurler Patty Snook helped lead her team to a Cinderella bid in the state-semi finals last spring. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

- The Salem boys basketball season ends on disappointing loss to Northville in district tourney.

- Whalers cruise past Sarnia in first round of OHL playoffs.

### April

- The Salem boys track team lives up to its early top ranking with a victory at the U-M Indoor meet.

- After dropping the Belleville Bulls 4-2, the Whaler's season ends against the eventual OHL champion Guelph Storm in the semi-finals. In the final game of the four-game sweep, Whaler Jesse Boulerice

severely injures Storm forward Andrew Long with a stick to the face. The incident leaves Long with facial fractures and Boulerice with a slew of legal troubles (see story page 13).

- Canton drops Salem twice in baseball doubleheader, 4-3, 2-0.

### May

- Dave Legwand is named the OHL player of the year, following a 54 goal, 51 assist season. He was only the third rookie and second American-born player to win the Red Tilson Trophy.

- The Canton boys track team win their first division title in five years.

- Heavily-favored Salem boys track team blows through regional track meet, nearly doubling the points of their closest opponent: Detroit Cody. Canton places eighth.

- After 1,200 career pitching victories, Canton softball legend Al White is inducted into Softball Hall of Fame. Later in the year, he would be named head coach of Madonna's softball team.

### June

- Salem's Amanda Sutton tosses a no-hitter in a softball district tournament game versus Stevenson, but her team is still eliminated 1-0. Canton eventually wins the tournament and advances to regionals.

- The Salem girls soccer team is eliminated from the regional championship by defending state champ Livonia Stevenson, 4-0, for the second year in a row.

- Rocks place eighth at state track meet behind Ian Searcy, who misses gold by 1.3 seconds in 800 meter final.

- Whalers draft a bevy of young talent including six or seven players that will see significant action come fall.

- Behind the pitching of junior Gretchen Hudson, the Canton softball team eliminates number-one ranked Brighton to advance to the state's elite eight. They would eventually lose in the 4-2 in the semi-finals to Waterford-Kettering.

- Canton hires new football coach Tim Baechler.

### July

- Whaler Dave Legwand drafted second overall by the expansion Nashville Predators in the NHL draft. After training camp, Legwand would eventually return to the Whalers in October.

- The Women's Pro Billiards Tour comes to the Shark Club in Canton.

### August

- The U.S. National Archery Championships come to Canton for the second year in a row. Canton does not invite them back for a third year.

- Canton begins process of purchasing 70-acre softball center.

### September

- Coming off last year's state final loss, Salem boys soccer opens season with 5-1 ripping of Northville.

- Salem golf drops Canton in Hilltop match-up, 195-197.

- Rocks soccer lose first regular season game in two years, falling to Brighton 3-1.

### October

- Chief football gets first win of

Please see pg. 35



Season's Greetings  
from the  
Plymouth Whalers

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# Thinned-out Whaler crew takes 2 of 3

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

The schedule gods must have been shining on the Plymouth Whalers when they planned this one.

Less than one week after losing more than half of their offensive output (in terms of goals), the Whalers were looking down the barrel at a three game road swing, normally a daunting proposition. But when that swing includes match-ups with teams like Mississauga (one win in 33 tries this year) and Brampton (only four wins), the word "slump" suddenly disappears from conversation.

Riding their anemic schedule through the Ontario winter nights, Plymouth avoided meltdown last week with a pair of victories over the two expansion teams and a tough loss to second place Sarnia.

**Plymouth 5, (at) Brampton 3** — Although they outshot the host Battalions 50-17, the Whalers only eked away with a two goal victory Sunday night.

Just as Whaler Coach Pete DeBoer had hoped, the rookies stepped up well into their recently expanded roles as three found the net for Plymouth. Rookies Kyle Chapman, Andre Robichaud and Justin Williams all scored for Plymouth, as did veterans Eric Gooldy (his sixth) and Adam Colagiaco (20).

(At) Sarnia 3, Plymouth 1 — Undefeated in eight

games, the Sarnia sting were primed and ready to host the deflated Whalers last Saturday, as was their goaltender Greg Hewitt.

The games number-one star, Hewitt was the difference according to DeBoer, as the Whalers failed to mount a third period comeback.

Captain Randy Fitzgerald scored Plymouth's lone goal.

**Plymouth 4, (at) Mississauga 2** — Colagiaco grabbed four more points (one goal, three assists) as the Whalers held back the feisty Don Cherry-owned Ice Dogs.

Rick Smith added a pair of goals, while Fitzgerald continued his recent offensive surge with another. Colagiaco's four points brings him into a tie with absent Harold Druken for the team lead.

## Soccer, band, Steelers, big news in '98

Continued from pg. 34

Baechler era, 22-7 over Northville.

- Salem boy golfers set new conference record en route to conference championship.

- Whalers drop the OHL's number one ranked team Ottawa 67s 3-1. Plymouth opens their season with best start in franchise history.

- Canton boys soccer avenges early season loss to Salem by eliminating the Rocks 2-1 in the district finals. The Chiefs would continue that string defeating number-one ranked Stevenson and earning a final-four bid. The season would end there, however, with a 6-0 loss to Brighton.

November

- CEP band takes second place at national championship.

- The 12-13 year-old Plymouth Steeler football team finishes first-ever undefeated season with Superbowl championship.

December

- Five Whalers, the brunt of their offensive might, depart to World Junior Championships in Winnipeg. They will miss eight regular-season Whaler games.

- Salem freshman Melissa Drake makes her gymnastics debut winning three of four events at a four-team meet in Ann Arbor. Salem still takes second, however.

# WHALER WATCH

### OHL STANDINGS (Through Dec. 28)

WEST		W	L	T	Last 10	Pts.
PLYMOUTH		26	5	2	8-2-0	54
SARNIA		18	11	3	9-0-1	39
S.S. MARIE		17	12	3	3-5-2	37
LONDON		13	20	1	5-4-1	27
WINDSOR		10	21	4	2-7-1	24
EAST		W	L	T	Last 10	Pts.
OTTAWA		28	4	3	7-2-1	59
PETER.		22	12	0	8-2-0	44
BELLEVILLE		17	12	6	5-3-2	40
OSHAWA		17	13	3	5-4-1	37
KINGSTON		12	21	1	5-5-0	25
MIDWEST		W	L	T	Last 10	Pts.
GUELPH		24	10	1	7-2-1	49
OWEN SOUND		17	15	4	4-5-1	38
ERIE		17	15	1	3-7-0	35
KITCHENER		9	23	2	2-8-0	20
BRAMPTON		4	29	1	1-9-0	9
CENTRAL		W	L	T	Last 10	Pts.
BARRIE		26	6	2	8-2-0	54
NORTH BAY		14	19	3	5-5-0	31
SUDBURY		12	18	4	3-6-1	28
TORONTO		11	19	4	5-5-0	26
MISSISSAUGA		1	30	2	0-9-1	4

### Around the OHL

- World Junior Championships update from Winnipeg: Perhaps mesmerized by the Northern Lights, Teams Canada and USA were not sharp in their respective opening games this past weekend. USA captain Paul Mara and fellow Whalers Dave Legwand and Nik Tselios saw their team fall to defending gold medalist Finland, 6-3, while Harold Druken's Canadian team settled for a disappointing scoreless tie with Slovakia.

### WHALER STATISTICS

Team Leaders:  
Goals: Druken (38)  
Assists: Colagiaco (44)  
Points: Druken & Colagiaco (64)  
PIM: LaLonde (99)  
+/-: Druken (+30)  
GAA: Holsinger (2.14)

### CATCH OF THE DAY

The Whalers don't have one player in the top ten, probably top fifteen, in the OHL penalty minutes standings. Adam Nittel of Mississauga has 207 penalty minutes through 29 games. Jamie Lalonde, the Whaler leader, has 99.

### UPCOMING GAMES:

- Tonight at home versus Sarnia (7:30 p.m.)
- Friday at Belleville (7:30 p.m.)
- Saturday at Barrie (7:30 p.m.)
- Sunday at Oshawa (6:30 p.m.)

### League Leaders

Assists	
NAME, TEAM	#
Campbell, OTT	48
Sarno, SAR	45
Colagiaco, PLY	44
MacKenzie, SBY	38
Snyder, OS	38
Colley, OSH	35

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# Is this the season for the Whalers?

*They are on pace to set a bevy of team records, but will it be enough for a Memorial Cup championship? The second half will tell*

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

There's always room to improve. That's what the Whalers have to keep telling themselves. That's what Coach Pete DeBoer must convince his team of during the second half stretch of the OHL season.

It may be a tough argument. At 26-5-2 the Whalers are off to their best start in franchise history. And as the records continue to fall, concurrently so do the hopes rise for an OHL and Memorial Cup Championship.

With recent loss of five star players to the

## MID-SEASON REPORT

World Junior Championships, the Whalers winning percentage is surely to drop. But in the long run, this eight game stretch will only benefit this team as their rookies and role players are forced into more opportune positions.

"When those guys left, I think the rest of this team wanted to prove that there were more than five guys that contribute," DeBoer said.

There are too many good teams in the OHL season for the Whalers to merely rest on their laurels. Franchise record or not, they still have only the second best record in the OHL (behind Ottawa) and the Barrie Colts aren't far behind.

The league's best record could be crucial come playoff time, particularly for the Whalers who haven't lost once this season at home.

So far, few could complain. The amazing emergence of Harold Druken — a league-leading 38 goals through 33 games — and line-mate Adam Colagiacomo (acquired from Oshawa this summer) have allowed DeBoer to establish two, maybe three, solid scoring lines, where last year they had only one.

"To say we are anything less than ecstatic of where we are wouldn't be honest," DeBoer said. "Now we just have to make sure we can build on it."

DeBoer said he doesn't feel his team has any added pressure because of the good start.

"Nothing has changed since the beginning of the year," he said. "This group has put pressure on themselves to win since day one."

The pressure has worked. The Whalers and their fans expect them to win, night-in, night-out. Eventually that pressure morphs into confidence, and no team has ever won a championship without that.



Third-year forward Harold Druken is having one of the greatest OHL seasons ever. In a league that has sported such names as Gretzky, Lindross and Yzerman, that says volumes. Druken will likely shatter the Whaler record for goals and may even pursue the OHL record of 88. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

The first half is only the first half, however. The second half will determine more about this team, more about its character, more about its resiliency and more about its determination heading in the playoffs come March.

At this point last season the Whalers were 20-9-3, a formidable start, but a record that may have been over-reaching.

Last year's team wasn't expected to win. This year's team is. This is the year they've been building for. And in the OHL, like college, one year is often all you get.

The biggest surprise this season has been the play of the goaltenders, DeBoer said. The Whalers used a pair of their higher draft picks this summer hoping to solidify the net. They got more than they bargained for. So much so that they had to trade away one of their rookies (Bateman) because a three-goaltender rotation was too much.

After a shaky start with a loss to Sault Ste Marie, Robert Holsinger, expected to be the number one net-minder this season, has proven his worth against the upstart rookies. With a goals-against-average just above 2.00, Holsinger has grown into a mature, stable presence, one the Whalers can count on come playoff time.

Right behind him, rookie Rob Zepp has amazed the coaching staff with his poise. A la the Detroit Red Wings from two seasons ago, the Whalers have employed the two-goaltender rotation because they simply can't sit someone like Zepp.

The playoffs will offer the real test for Zepp. The Whalers may choose to stick with Holsinger if Zepp shows any slip.

With the return of Paul Mara from his

NHL camp earlier than expected, the Whaler blue line has emerged not only stingy, but a major offensive threat as well.

Combined, Mara and Nik Tselios have contributed almost 60 points. And there on-ice vision has been essential to the offensive explosion of Druken and Colagiacomo. Shawn Fisher has been a pleasant offensive surprise as well.

Third-year player Kevin Holdridge is described by Assistant Coach Steve Spott as a "defensive defenseman, a real stay-at-home guy." Along with rookies Jared Newman and Max Linnik, Holdridge has been a neutral zone stalwart all season.

Up front the Whalers are all skill.

Besides Druken and Colagiacomo, the Whalers post a slew of quick, talented third and fourth liners: Kris Vernarsky, Julian Smith, Rick Smith.

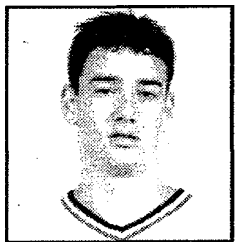
Captain Randy Fitzgerald has picked up his offensive game of late and often rises to the situation (he had four game winning goals in last season's playoffs).

And then there's Dave Legwand, last year's Mr. All World in the OHL. With Druken and Colagiacomo hot, the spotlight has been taken away, but not the luster. Although Legwand isn't anywhere near last season's pace, he remains one of the most dangerous players in the junior hockey. DeBoer can only hope he's saving his best stuff for the playoffs.

As with any great team (is it too early to say great?) the Whalers must withstand the unpredictable sands of time.

So far, so good, but there's always room to improve.

## WHALER OF THE WEEK



#22 RIGHT WING

Justin Williams

With the departure of five Whalers to the World Juniors last week, Coach Pete DeBoer needed his rookies to step forward. Some did, including Williams who recorded a goal and an assist versus Brampton Sunday.

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

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# Community Opinions

## Those were the days

*Canton fire station held many memories for one-time cub*

Once upon a time (31 years ago) in a land far, far away (at the corner of Canton Center and Canton Center roads)...

Local government was different then.

A cubbiest of cub reporters for a newspaper that was since gobbled up by a chain showed up to cover his first Canton Township Board meeting.

This was how the meeting went:

The Canton Fire Chief Mel Paulun fired up the pumper truck in the first bay of Canton Fire Station #1 and pulled it outside.

Then Mel and (the late great) Canton Clerk John Flodin set up a folding table where the fire truck usually sat, put chairs around it, and everyone sat down.

The Canton Board, the fire chief and a cub reporter sat around the folding table to weigh Canton's important matters (What were they? who can remember now?).

With malice  
toward none

By W. Edward  
WENDOVER



That was it.

Canton — and all local government — has certainly changed in three decades.

This past Monday, they tore down the old Canton Fire Station #1.

No plaque will be erected to recall those days of local government (heck! Tom Yack didn't even know where Canton was then.)

But the ghosts of local government will linger at Canton Center and Cherry Hill (Richie Constantino can watch them out the front window of Rose's).

## Above all, holiday spirit

I thought this was the holiday season. I thought this was a time for peace and understanding among people and their many cultures. I thought we'd come some distance in learning to accept one another.

But like they say, one step forward, two steps back.

Inconsiderate and unreasonable remarks from a member of our community were overheard during the Christmas Eve rush at a City bakery.

It was a busy morning, and a long line of customers curled up and filled the bakery like the smells wafting from the fresh, warm loaves.

The impatience that often accompanies such long lines was in short supply then. Most folks were in the grip of holiday cheer. Like a flock of birds, they chatted with one another about their holiday plans with friends, family and others.

The bakery employes were glowing a little, too. They had crafted a modest, hand-made sign wishing their customers "Happy Kwanza, Happy Hannukah and a merry Christmas." People of all kinds celebrate a holiday or two at this time of year.

But apparently, one customer had escaped that holiday grip. Unhappy with the syntax of the sign, she asked the employes to take it down because Christmas

was mentioned last.

Really.

Christmas was last, and that was an offensive rank.

And speaking of rank, there's no better term I can think of for such an attitude (except for the words exclusive, arrogant and ignorant),

particularly during the holidays.

What ever happened to Goodwill Toward Men? What about understanding and inclusion for all the people who live, work, pay taxes and pray here? What have we missed?

Have we forgotten that this was the year The City of Plymouth finally added a menorah to the nativity scene, snowman and wise men in Kellogg Park? Apparently, at least one of our neighbors missed that point.

And if the menorah was a step toward a more inclusive Plymouth, then the sign censorship was two steps back.

How ironic in a season that is supposed to be about love and understanding that someone could so terribly misunderstand a cheerful message.

It goes to show there's still some distance to go toward acceptance in the City, even at Christmas time.

Some might say

By Bryon Martin



## Hold off on City unions

Sometimes, it's just better to wait.

In the case of City of Plymouth employes who are now discussing unionizing, it is in their interest to wait for results from the current city manager search before making any decisions.

It's a matter of timing, and time is on the employes' side. Consider their situation.

Today, roughly 20 of the City's 70 employes are not represented by a union. Those workers — mostly department heads, City Hall staff and a few municipal services employes — say their pay increases and bargaining ability lags behind those of unionized City employes. Outgoing City Manager Steve Walters, some say, has not kept non-union raises at-par with raises for union workers.

Indeed, City Hall figures indicate non-union workers receive smaller raises on average than members of the City's four unions do.

But it hasn't always been so.

Some employes now talking union have been in the City long enough remember their treatment under previous city managers, Hank Graper, for instance.

Back then, the logic was: give everybody equal treatment, and those who aren't in a union now won't feel the need to organize one later. This kept management happy too — one less union to worry about in City Hall.

Many of the City's current non-union workers have been and remain reticent to organize now, especially after as many as 20 years without one.

So, why do it now, especially with management changes in the works?

Answer — there is no reason to do it now, to hurriedly grab for a union card.

Within the next two months, the City Commission will choose a new city manager. If employes want a better shake from management, they ought to wait and see how the City's new chief executive approaches bargaining, and whether its an approach like Walters' or Graper's.

If it's like Walters', then consider unionizing.

If it's like Graper's, then non-union employes can get a fair shake, equitable raises and the same sort of deal their union counterparts have received all along.

The only way to know, is to hold from unions for now.

THE COMMUNITY CRIER





# Community opinions

## *Celebrating the season their way*

*Cherry Hill Methodist and Congregation Bet Chaverim share a historic Canton church*

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

It's been another year of peace and harmony for the two congregations that share Cherry Hill Methodist Church.

And while it may not be surprising that two religious groups could share the same building, these are two very different congregations, with very different beliefs.

Cherry Hill Methodist was established in the 1834, and is Canton's oldest church. For the past four years this church in the heart of Canton's historic district, has also served as the gathering place for the Congregation Bet Chaverim (CBC), Western Wayne County's only Reformed Jewish Congregation.

The congregation itself is a young one, according to Jay Miller, president of CBC. They formed six years ago, and met in the homes of members in the area for their first year and half.

"We just grew too big," Miller said. "We needed to find a better place."

Enter Cherry Hill Methodist, and Reverend at the time, Marge Munger. The Methodists were working on renovating the church at the time, and providing a place for a nursery school to meet, she said. One of the school's board members was also a member of CBC.

Attracted by the church's ambience and sanctuary, she approached Munger to see if the growing congregation could use their facilities.



The Wiegman family takes part in the lighting of the ChristCandle (Crier Photo by R. Alwood, Jr).

"That's really all it took," Munger said. "There was no problem from any one in our congregation and there's never been any problem with Jewish people working in the Christian space."

In fact sharing the facility has been educational to both congregations, Munger said. It has provided the Methodists with a better understanding

of Christianity's roots in the Jewish tradition.

The church is no newcomer to diversity, Munger said. Although the congregation is small, it as diverse as

any melting pot.

"You have people who are still part of the farming community and have had

Continued



Singing (above) and family (right) are a part of any church service, and the Cherry Methodist and Congregation Bet Chaverim are no exception. (Crier photo by R. Alwood, Jr.)





# Community opinions

Continued

ancestors who settled the area, and you also have some of the new suburbanites," Munger said.

CBC meet once a month and on the third Friday in the church, carefully covering the cross for their services.

Although the congregations occupy the church at different times, they also get together for cross-denominational community benefits, according to the Rev. Larry Wick, pastor of Cherry Hill Methodist since July.

"We've worked on things like World Aids Day," Wick said. "Things that affect people regard less of their religion."

Munger said the two congregations also get together in August to donate school supplies to Field Elementary.

Wick said that being new to Cherry Hill Methodist, he had not yet had a lot of exposure to Bet Chaverim, other than meeting a few people. Working on common goals would be something to pursue in the future, he said.

Miller agrees.

"We'd like to be able to give cross-denominational help for the community," he said. "That's the direction we're heading in."

Cherry Hill Methodist's openness is reflected in the philosophy of CBC, as well.

A reformed Synagogue, they are more open to new members than a conservative synagogue, Miller said.

A conservative synagogue will only accept anew member if both of their parents are Jewish, he said. Someone from an interfaith marriage could not join, he said.

Reformed synagogues are a little more lenient, according to Miller.

"We're geared more towards enlightenment for anyone seeking Jewish knowledge," Miller said. The congregation is open to people of interfaith marriages as well as their children, he said.

The philosophy seems to be working. The congregation has grown from a handful of members meeting in their homes to about 100 members today.

The congregation has their own Cantorial soloist, who sings during services and also performs all the functions of a larger congregation, such as bar mitzvahs and weddings, Miller said.

They've grown to the point where they share other facilities as well, Miller said. Sunday mornings they borrow space from Northville Montessori school for their own religious school.

Miller said that he hopes someday



Sam Kaufman (left) lights a menorah during services at Cherry Hill Methodist Church.

Below is another common theme at religious get-togethers: the pot-luck buffet table.

Congregation Bet Chaverim has been sharing the historic Cherry Hill Church for the past four years, a relationship that has proven as unique as it is educational. (Crier photos by R. Alwood, Jr.)



CBC will be large enough to have their own facility. But that is a long time in the future.

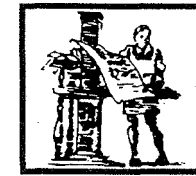
"We have to have a much larger congregation for that," he said. "I know there's a large Jewish base in the area, but we want to go slowly."

But there is no hurry. And the working-relationship the two people of different faiths feel should be inspiring, she said.

"It's a small place. It's an outdated building," she said. "But there is quite a light emanating from those people."

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## The Community Crier



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2.0L DOHC 16V zetec engine, 5 speed manual transaxle, floor mats, front and rear heat, rear window defroster, CFC-FREE air, AM/FM/cassette.

WAS \$13,265 BUY FOR **\$10,495\***

OR 36 MO. LEASE ZERO DOWN \$189\*\* \$1500 DOWN \$142\*\*

## 1999 CONTOUR SE

0.9% Financing Available 68 Available



**Stock #91240 4 DOOR**  
2.0L DOHC 4 cyl., auto. overdrive transaxle, power antenna, front/rear carpeted floor mats, AM/FM/cass., premium sound, remote keyless entry system.

WAS \$17,795 BUY FOR **\$14,295\***

OR 36 MO. LEASE ZERO DOWN \$249\*\* \$1500 DOWN \$204\*\*

## 1999 TAURUS SE

130 Available



**Stock #90087 4 DOOR**  
3.0L EFI V6 engine, auto overdrive trans., P205/65R15 BSW tires, 6-way pwr. driver's seat, front/rear carpeted floor mats, 5 pass., power heated mirrors & more.

WAS \$19,920 BUY FOR **\$16,265\*†**

OR 30 MO. LEASE ZERO DOWN \$268\*\*† \$1500 DOWN \$216\*\*†

## 1999 F150 STYLESIDE

175 Available



**Stock #90340**  
AM/FM stereo/clock, 4.2L EFI V6 engine, 5 speed, LT245/75R-16D BSW all season, sliding rear window, spd. control, tilt, CFC Free air, argent wheels.

WAS \$17,850 BUY FOR **\$13,355\*†**

OR 24 MO. LEASE ZERO DOWN \$265\*\* \$1500 DOWN \$197\*\*

## 1999 EXPEDITION XLT

45 Available



**Stock #90449**  
V-8, auto, oxford white, med graphite cloth, cruise, PW., A/C, styled wheels, running boards, illuminated, skid plate package, tow hooks, AM/FM/cass., trailer tow package.

WAS \$33,790 BUY FOR **\$27,995\*†**

OR 36 MO. LEASE ZERO DOWN \$347\*\*† \$1500 DOWN \$302\*\*†

## 1998 MUSTANG GT 2 DR. CONV.

Stock #84138



Rio Red, Black leather, V-8, auto overdrive, speed ctrl., black convertible roof, anti-theft system, GT sport group, anti-lock, mach 460 elec. AM/FM stereo cass, leather seating.

10-'98 Mustangs Still Available. Final Closeout Pricing. GT, Convertibles, Coupes.

WAS \$28,040 BUY FOR **\$22,895\***

## 1999 WINDSTAR LX

0.9% Financing Available 111 Available



**Stock #90717 LX 4 DOOR WAGON**  
Auto, 7 pass., hi-back buckets, speed control, tilt, AM/FM cassette, power windows/locks, power mirrors, rear window defrost., CFC Free air, convenience group, alum. wheels.

WAS \$25,690 BUY FOR **\$20,995\*†**

OR 36 MO. LEASE ZERO DOWN \$299\*\* \$1500 DOWN \$250\*\*

## 1998 TAURUS SHO 4-DOOR

DEMO Stock #84042

3.4L 8 cyl. engine, automatic overdrive, power antenna.

WAS \$29,550 BUY FOR **\$22,955\***

## 1998 CROWN VICTORIA LX

DEMO Stock #81629

Electronic instrumentation, 6-way power seats, anti-lock brakes/traction control, climate control A/C, AM/FM stereo cassette, 12-spole aluminum wheels.

WAS \$26,295 BUY FOR **\$20,929\***

## 1998 EXPLORER XLT AWD

DEMO

Pacific green, preferred equipment pkg. 945A, fog lamps, automatic, V-8, trailer towing package, cassette, CD, sport bucket, running boards..

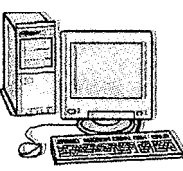
WAS \$32,285 BUY FOR **\$25,895\***

## 1998 EXPLORER XLT AWD

DEMO Stock #84763

Bright red clearcoat, platinum clearcoat, med graphite cloth, preferred equipment pkg. 945A, fog lamps, automatic, V-8, trailer towing package, cassette, CD, sport bucket.

WAS \$31,330 BUY FOR **\$25,495\*†**



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1,500 Down	\$195	\$1910
99 ESCORT ZX2		
0 Down	\$275	\$ 388
1,500 Down	\$295	\$2081
99 CONTOUR SE		
0 Down	\$360	\$ 630
1,500 Down	\$250	\$2121
99 TAURUS SE		
0 Down	\$400	\$ 613
1,500 Down	\$250	\$2148
99 F-150 XL		
0 Down	\$300	\$ 650
1,500 Down	\$225	\$2103
99 EXPEDITION XLT		
0 Down	\$375	\$782.64
1,500 Down	\$255	\$2254.17
99 WINDSTAR LX		
0 Down	\$325	\$ 745
1,500 Down	\$275	\$2233



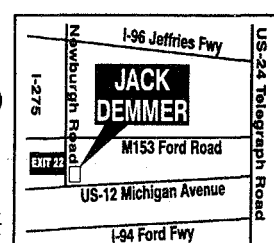
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\*Plus tax, title, destination and any applicable rebate assigned to dealer. \*\*24, 30, & 36 month closed-end lease (36 months Taurus & Explorer). Rebates assigned to dealer. 12,000 miles per year, 15¢ per mile over limit. Lessee has no obligation to purchase vehicle at lease end but may arrange to purchase at a price to be negotiated with JACK DEMMER at lease inception. Subject to approval. Lessee is responsible for excess wear & tear. Payments do not include monthly use tax. To figure total payments, add 6% tax and multiply by term. Price reflects off lease incentive.