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THE WEEK AHEAD

Tax time: Remember that today (Sunday) is the last day to pay your real estate taxes in order to claim them on your 2000 federal tax return. They must be postmarked by tonight. The Charter Township of Plymouth has a drop box located adjacent to the treasurer's office. All payments dropped off before Tuesday will be considered received by Dec. 31.

The city offers the same deal, with drop boxes located at the Church Street entrance to city hall and at the Plymouth District Library.

TUESDAY

Whaler of a day: Members of the Plymouth Whalers will drop in at the library to answer questions from youngsters at 2 p.m. The program is open for kids from 6 to 12 years old.

WEDNESDAY

Here we go again: The Plymouth City Commission meets at 6 p.m., and on the agenda is the city manager vacancy. The commission will hold interviews with two holdover candidates and one new hopeful.

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Top 10

2000 an eventful year for Plymouth

You can't tell the players without a scorecard around Plymouth City Hall. Plymouth Township got a new supervisor, and the school district got a new superintendent. A Plymouth icon passed away, leaving a legacy yet to be determined. And a quaint downtown got an infusion of life from the opening of several restaurants.

Those were among the top news stories in Plymouth during the year 2000, a year that saw change — positive and negative. Your crack Plymouth Observer staff spent countless minutes compiling this list of our Top 10 stories of the year.



Brad Kadrich

1. Confusion reigns at City Hall — Dave Rich signs on to replace Steve Walters as the city manager, then resigns 18 months later. City commissioners take months figuring out how to replace him, then get stiffed by their top choice. Turns out he may have been playing them, because shortly after turning down Plymouth's offer, he got a huge raise and bonus to stay in Hazel Park.

Then there's the situation at police headquarters, where Plymouth had had three supervisors in the past 10 years. Police Chief Steve Mann and his wife, Lisa, celebrated Mann's departure as incumbent supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy became the new township supervisor.

2. Plymouth Township gets a new leader — Steve Mann was everywhere during the campaign season; incumbent supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy was invisible. The combination was deadly for Keen McCarthy, and Mann wound up winning a relatively easy election to

become the new township supervisor. Mann, who had been in the job for 12 months, E.G. Nick's, Compari's, 336 Main (the Piano Bar) and the addition of a comedy club at the Penn Theater have changed things.

There are now places to go after



Steve Mann and his wife, Lisa, celebrated Mann's departure as incumbent supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy became the new township supervisor.

3. Night life signals downtown shift — Times were some of the old standbys — the Box Bar, Dunleavy's, Station 885, Boulders, etc. — were about all downtown Plymouth had to offer in the way of nightlife. During the last 12 months, E.G. Nick's, Compari's, 336 Main (the Piano Bar) and the addition of a comedy club at the Penn Theater have changed things.

There are now places to go after



Convicted: Azizul Islam of Plymouth was convicted in the murder and dismembering of his estranged wife, Tracy.

Please see TOP 10, A3

1 more time

City set to interview candidates

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

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Plymouth city commissioners publicly say they're optimistic a new city manager can be chosen Wednesday night with a consensus vote.

Privately, however, the same group is wondering if they can cross the lines drawn in the sand and come up with a candidate that will lead the city, despite the possibility of a split vote of support.

"I'm confident we can start over again," said Mayor Dave McDonald. "I would be concerned about the message we would be sending hiring someone on a 4-3 vote.

On the other hand, I would question a candidate who would take the job on a 4-3 vote."

'I'm not sure why we are reinterviewing 12 if we're trying to get a consensus 31'

has been without a

when David Rich left the job he held for nearly 18 months.

Assistant City Manager Paul Sincock has been acting city manager since then.

City fathers thought they had a top candidate hired in K. Joseph Young, city manager of Hazel Park. However, Young's idea of a salary range and the commission's wage offer weren't compatible, leaving the city commission to start over.

On a 4-3 vote, commissioners rescinded a Nov. 28 resolution which required the city to negotiate with City Manager Michael Overton of Roosevelt Park, Mich., in the event Young didn't take the job. Instead, commissioners have invited three candidates to the commission's Wednesday ses-

Dan Dwyer
—City commissioner

Please see MANAGER, A3

City fights cold to fix water mains

BY TONY BRUSCATO
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City of Plymouth Municipal Services crews braved the cold weather for nearly 10 hours while repairing one water main break and attempting to fix a second leak.

Shortly after 1 a.m. Friday, a crew was called out to the Palmer and Evergreen area, where they remained for approximately six hours in repairing the broken main. During the break, several streets flooded as crews worked to clear the catch basins.

Acting City Manager Paul Sincock said residents in the area of the water main break may experience rust-colored water.

"This is the result of the natural build-up of minerals in the water main system," said Sincock. "Residents who notice the rust-colored water should simply run the cold water tap for a few minutes and the water should clear up. The water system remains safe and secure."

Sincock said crews also responded to a leak on Ann Arbor Road near the old Colony Car Wash.

"Unfortunately, while the water is flowing on the curb lane of westbound Ann Arbor Road, we can't find where it's leaking," said Sincock. "Since that part of the road is a low spot, the leak could be coming from just about anywhere. We may have to call in a leak detection company."

Sincock said a depleted municipal services crew as a result of vacations, along with the overtime created by the water main problems and snow removal, have taxed his crews during the holiday season.

Residents unhappy with district's latest compromise

BY TONY BRUSCATO
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Plymouth-Canton school board trustees have decided to move forward with a revised plan for the Plymouth High School construction project, designed by the administration to alleviate objections by North Pointe Subdivision residents who don't want high school sports facilities constructed in their back yards.

However, despite the nearly \$340,000 in modifications, North Pointe residents say the battle to keep a junior varsity football field from being constructed near their property lines isn't over.

"They weren't interested in a compromise, a win-win situation," said North Pointe resident Terry Chen. "It's not over by a long stretch. We're definitely not giving up. It's too important."

North Pointe residents, whose properties border the school district's 305-acre Educational Park at Joy and Beck roads, were mainly concerned about the aesthetics of a football stadium and bleachers to be built within 50 feet of their property lines, foot traffic through their yards, plus noise and lighting from the stadium.

School board members, after several meetings between administrators and residents, voted 6-0 to move the football field and track an additional 60 feet to the east, planting 148 trees on a six-foot high berm, and constructing a six-foot fence.

The plan also calls for building an additional prac-

tice field for soccer and band practice, as well as putting synthetic turf on the present football field to accommodate all three high school varsity teams.

However, North Pointe residents remain adamant they want the football field moved to another area of The Park because they're not convinced that band practice and varsity football games will be kept off the new junior varsity football field in the future.

"If we ever build a fourth high school, that field will be a varsity high school field," said Trustee Roland Thomas. "We have to be open and honest. We can't create a win-win for everybody."

Chen said her biggest concern is the eyecore, seating bleachers and lights from their yards.

"If you stand in the second story of my home, it will be like looking down at Wrigley Field ... we'll be able to watch the game," said Chen. "It will also have a devastating impact on our home values."

"That stadium doesn't need to be in someone's backyard," Randy Pistor, North Pointe resident, told school board members. "There's plenty of room on that site. You talk about the future use of the land, but you don't have a master plan."

To which school board president Darwin Watts responded, "We can't encumber future boards as to what becomes of that field."

Chen said the battle will continue through the Canton Township planning commission and writing letters to the state board of education.

When asked about the possibility of a lawsuit, Chen said "I don't want to talk about that. We'll just have to wait and see."