

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**New digs?** *The Plymouth Township offices are generally criticized for being too small and too scattered. The Plymouth Observer takes a peek inside and looks at options in Thursday's paper.*

### MONDAY

**Dinner and a meeting:** *The Plymouth City Commission meets in its final "On the Road" meeting, this time at Kiwanis Park at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend as the Kiwanis Club, celebrating the completion of renovation to the park, will be providing dinner, hot dogs with chips and the like.*

### WEDNESDAY

**Final notes:** *Marc Thomas and Max the Moose close out the Plymouth Community Arts Council's Music in the Park series with a noon concert.*

### THURSDAY

**Finalists on display:** *The Plymouth Township Board of Trustees gathers at township hall to interview four finalists for the vacant police chief's position. Lt. Bob Smith, who has filled in since Larry Carey left in July, is one of the finalists. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.*

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## Board allows tower antennas

■ **Whether residents in the Lake Pointe subdivision like it or not, Nextel reached agreement with the Plymouth Township board this week to attach up to a dozen antennas to the landmark water tower.**

BY KURT KUBAN  
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One of Plymouth Township's most recognizable landmarks is about to take on some added baggage.

Wireless telecommunications provider Nextel reached an agreement

with the township to attach up to a dozen antennas on the Lake Pointe water tower. In return, the company will pay the township \$1,650 per month for the space.

The 10-year lease agreement calls for the monthly rent to increase by 4 percent each year. The company also

retains the right to extend the lease for four successive five-year periods, once the initial 10 years expire.

The agreement allows the company to install a maximum of 12 antennas on the tower, plus build a house-like structure next to it, which will shelter support equipment. According to Nextel spokesman Randall Reeves, the antennas will help the company provide better service to area customers.

"We intend to use 12 antennas. That's what our technology calls for, and is about standard for our indus-

■ **'The tower is an icon for the township. We recognize that.'**

Randall Reeves  
—Nextel spokesman

try," Reeves said.

Nextel engineers are in the process of determining whether to place the antennas on top of the tower, or

Please see ANTENNAS, A3



PHOTOS BY DONALD J. ALLEY

**Eating up:** *Terri Bloom and Terry Grumme are attending their second Restaurant Crawl in Lower Town Plymouth on Wednesday evening. The Lower Town Grill was one of nine restaurants participating.*

## On the crawl

### Food lovers find Old Village to their liking

BY BRAD KADRICH  
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When he heard about the first Old Village Restaurant Crawl sponsored by the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce last year, Ming Cheng wanted to get his restaurant involved, but was a couple of days late.

When the event came back around this year, Cheng made sure Shelley's on Starkweather was in the mix, and he was glad he did.

Shelley's laid out their best thing, a Philly cheesesteak sample, along with chicken, fish and onion rings.

"It was worth the money," said Cheng, who has owned Shelley's for 18 years. "It's great advertising."

That's pretty much how everyone viewed it as the second-annual crawl drew 130 people to nine different participating restaurants. Everything from pizza and fish to ribs and chicken wings were available throughout Old Village.

"It's really a great event," said Fran Toney, the chamber's executive director. "The people I talked to were absolutely excited. People were telling me they didn't know there so many restaurants in Old Village."

Please see CRAWL, A3



**Food lovers:** *Colleen and Chris Meyer enjoy the buffets at their first restaurant crawl on Wednesday. The pair were among 130 people who bought tickets for the second-annual Old Village Restaurant Crawl.*

## Expert: 150-year-old Beech tree 'looks wonderful' despite delays

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
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It's been about a month since work began toward moving the 150-year-old copper beech tree to make way for a five-story condominium complex on the Wilcox property.

And, even if all goes well, it's still going to take another two weeks before the tree is moved to its final resting place.

Bryan Williams, of Worldwide Tree Moving in Shelby Township, said the preliminary work is taking longer than he anticipated. However, he expects no problems to go along with the delays in moving the Plymouth landmark.

"It may take us another week or so to get the sleds underneath the tree, but we're not pushing it," said Williams. "A lot will depend on the weather. We want to be very careful."

Williams admits the project is being a bit more

obstinate than he expected, but the tree remains in good shape.

"The tree looks wonderful. If it wasn't, the top of the tree, the farthest from the water source, would change color and start dropping its leaves like it was fall," he said. "That would show the tree was stressed out and not coping with the situation."

Williams said that despite the recent hot weather spell, the tree was getting enough water from the underground water shelf connected to the root system, as well as from the water being fed to the root system above ground level.

"It may look like we're not doing anything, but in reality we just want to make sure we're doing it right to keep the tree from going into shock," Williams said.

The relocation will entail sliding the 32-foot diameter root ball and 80-foot-high tree more than 100 feet. Williams estimates it weighs nearly a half-million pounds.



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHMANN

**Move delayed:** *A view of the Copper Beech tree on the Wilcox property, as it appeared recently. The move could still be as much as two weeks away.*

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STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER

**Scrub down:** Hazmat team members are scrubbed down after leaving the area of contamination. The Aug. 2 morning exercise, held at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus, gave Hazmat teams, the Oakland County Sheriff's Special Response Team, local police and fire and advanced life support teams the chance to practice skills needed to respond to a domestic terrorism incident.

## Mock terrorist attack helps police agencies practice skills

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM  
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Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus turned into a scene of terrorism Aug. 2 when two men, apparently representing a right-wing group, released mustard gas into the auditorium during a foreign dignitary's speech.

In all, 31 people were injured, including five who were transported to area hospitals. Three people died as a result of two explosions set off outside the auditorium.

That's what *would* have happened had the scene been real and not merely a mock disaster staged by the Farmington Hills police and fire departments, in cooperation with police and fire agencies from throughout the region. The mock disaster drew 140 emergency workers to the campus.

### Getting prepared

As a fire drill prepares students and school staff, the mock disaster was intended to help police, fire and paramedic professionals prepare for a life-or-death emergency.

The speech started a chain reaction during which two men representing a right-wing political action group released mustard gas into the auditorium. People fled the building, complaining of burns to the mouth, throat and eyes.

As the "victims" trickled outside and collapsed on the ground, there was an explosion just south of the auditorium, originating in some bushes. A burst vehicle airbag provided the popping sound, and talcum powder provided the "smoke," which gave the humid air a baby powder smell.

Adding to the touches of realism was some carefully applied makeup simulating victims' injuries and wounds.

Farmington Hills Police secured the scene with police tape, while Oakland County Sheriff Department's Special Response Team worked its way inside — to get victims out and apprehend any suspects. Two were taken into custody, one wearing camouflage pants.

Mike Kisch, Farmington Hills Fire Department's hazardous materials coordinator, gave observers a play-by-play while the "events" unfolded behind the police tape.

"There's going to be an explosion shortly. Normally this would pan out for hours."

Instead, the exercise was wrapped up by 11:15 a.m., about two hours after it started.

The explosion, called a secondary explosion, was similar to one during the Atlanta Olympics.

"(The explosion) is designed to injure or maim the responders," Kisch said.

The "burn victims" were taken to a decontamination area, where they were given three sep-



**Beating the heat:** Oakland County Sheriff Department's Special Response Team participated in a mock terrorist exercise at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills. Despite the sultry temperatures and high humidity, SRT members have to wear heavy camouflage, body armor, masks and helmets. After the exercise, SRT members cooled off in the spray from a fire truck.

arate showers to remove contaminants.

Shadd Whitehead, training coordinator for the Livonia Fire Department, explained the process.

First, victims are hosed down while fully clothed. Next, they strip and take two more showers, including one with antibacterial soap. Workers administering the showers wore protective suits to prevent cross-contamination.

### Decontaminating

The mock victims got to wear swimsuits for the last two showers, but real victims have to give up all their clothes, Whitehead said. Those clothes wind up being destroyed.

"In real life they come out of the showers naked." Real victims are given cloth gowns to wear until they can get other clothing.

In Livonia, there have been plenty of real-life hazardous materials emergencies. The McGean-Rohco Co., which manufactures industrial cleaning chemicals, has had three incidents in the past 10 years — one in the past three weeks, said Jon Unruh, a Livonia firefighter/paramedic.

"We're no strangers to these incidents," Unruh said.

Mock victim David Mojica of Clarkston, who has been working for American Medical Response Ambulance for a couple months, said he enjoyed the experience, despite having nearly died.

His instructions as a mock vic-

tim were to become dizzy and lightheaded and experience difficulty in breathing aggravated by a history of asthma.

"In real life, I probably would have died," Mojica said.

### Great learning

Another "victim," Wendi Mancuso, also of Clarkston, is a student at Oakland Community College's EMT Academy. She wasn't scared off from her prospective career.

"It was a great learning experience," Mancuso said. "I've never seen anything like this."

Sgt. Don Ostrowski with the Troy Police Department, said it's important to practice emergency response, especially in large cities such as Troy.

"In Troy, we have a lot of world headquarters," Ostrowski said, mentioning Kmart and Delphi, among others. "There are a lot of possible (terrorist) targets."

The annual Woodward Dream Cruise is another public event that might draw terrorist attention, he added.

Other communities represented at the exercise were Canton, Livonia, Westland, Dearborn Heights, Dearborn, Northville Township, Plymouth, Garden City, Redford, Romulus, Wayne and Inkster — all part of the Western Wayne Hazardous Materials Response Team.

Kisch said he was pleased with how the exercise played out.

"I thought it went great," Kisch said, looking at his watch. "We're ahead of schedule — it went better than we planned."

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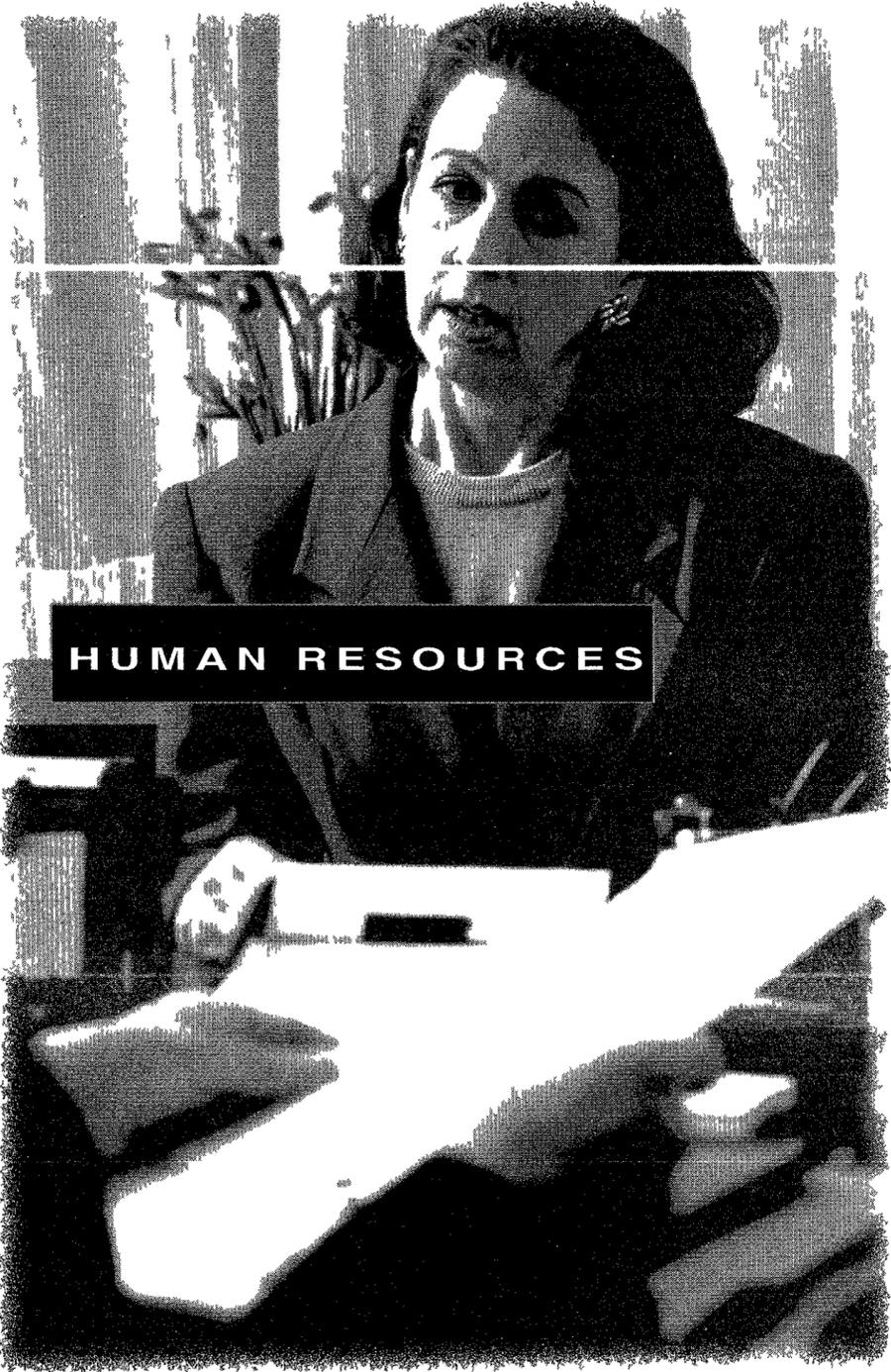
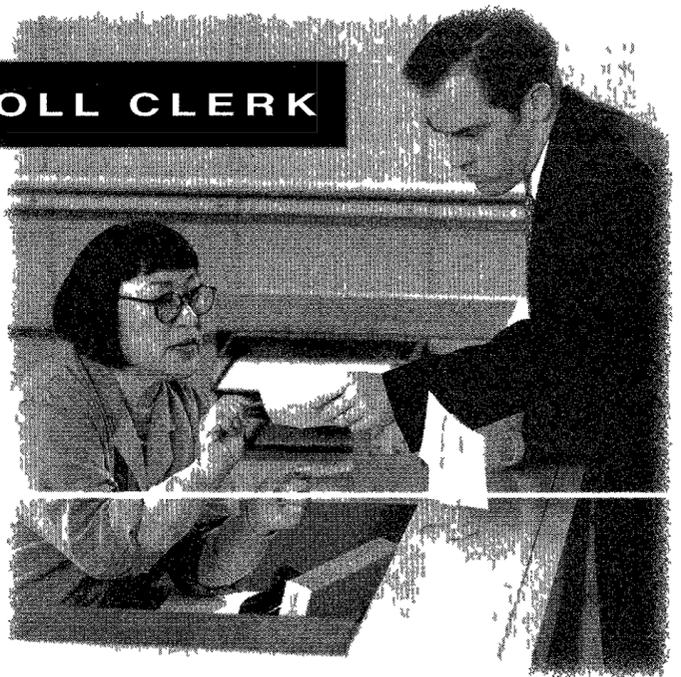








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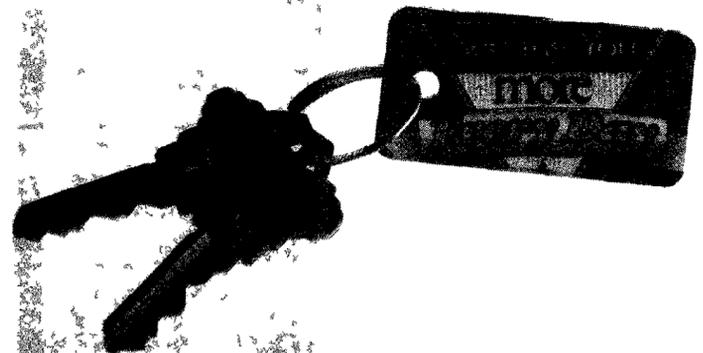
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