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> Community leaders and newsmakers take a look into the crustal ball

A special Crier pullout Plus section – beginning on pg. 11



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The Newspaper with Its Heart in The Plymouth-Canton, MI Community ommunity

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January 5, 1994

Holiday tragedy

New Year's fire guts home; family is OK, but relocated

BY GARY GOSSELIN

The Plymouth Fire Department had its first test of the year Saturday when firefighters responded to a house blaze early New Year's morning.

Officers were called at 4:08 a.m. to a house in the 1000 block of Harding. No injuries were reported.

Fire Chief Alan Matthews said that the fire started in the basement, and that although it's still under investigation, the fire is likely the result of a short circuit or overload.

Matthews said that family was asleep at the time of the fire, and that the parents heard the smoke alarm, and got their three children and overnight guests out safely.

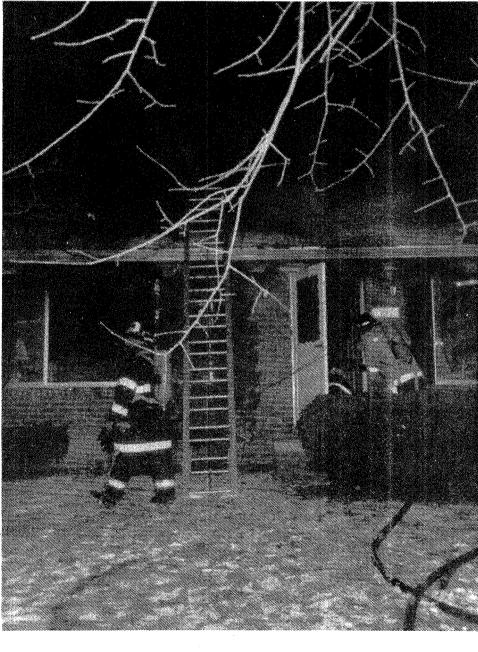
He added that if there had not been a smoke detector, the result might have been disastrous.

The American Red Cross provided emergency food and clothing to the three children and two adults, and temporarily relocated them to the Mayflower Hotel.

Matthews said that the damage to the house was so extensive that the basement will have to be entirely reconstructed, and it will be an estimated three to four months before the familv can return. He estimated damage at \$50,000 to \$60,000.

The city responded with 14 firefighters, two engines and one rescue unit. Plymouth Township provided one

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Plymouth firefighters work on extinguishing flames at a home on the 1000 block of Harding in the early morning hours of New Year's day. (Crier photo by W. Edward Wendover)

Allegations of campaign violations key dispute

McAninch files complaints with state over mailing of City election postcards

BY GARY GOSSELIN

Plymouth City Commissioner Bill McAninch has filed complaints against two local residents alleging possible violations of the state Campaign Finance Act during the city's fall commission election.

Violations of this type are usually handled informally by the Secretary of State's office, and are geared towards preventing further violations, according to a letter from David Boyd of the Compliance and Rules Division,

McAninch said that he's trying to keep any violations from occurring, regardless of where they come from

"My concern is if violations aren't recognized, then they'll continue," McAninch said.

Robert Mundt, of Plymouth, and Jane Bird, owner of Country Charm gift shop were targeted for allegedly sending unauthorized mailings to citizens before the

The first target of allegations, Robert Mundt, had two complaints lodged against - both concerning the mailing of

The first accused him of sending a postcard — without a return address naming party affiliations of individual

That complaint was dismissed by the state because there was no evidence of who sent the postcard.

The second complaint against Mundt involved a postcard on which McAninch

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New Year's blaze guts City family's home

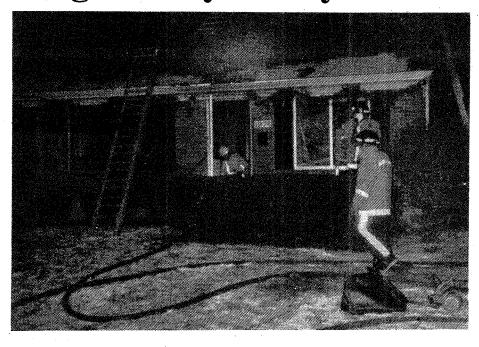
Continued from pg. 1

pumper and nine firefighters as part of a reciprocal mutual aid package.

"We had a real good mutual aid with Plymouth Township," Matthews said.

"They responded in a very expedient manner, their aid was needed and they were used effectively."

Outside Christmas lights were still twinkling as Plymouth firefighters fought to bring the blaze under control. (Crier photo by W. Edward Wendover)



AARP is readying local income tax help for seniors

While the dreaded date, April 15, is still months away, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is offering help to those who are already worrying about their taxes.

The AARP will provide free income tax assistance for seniors in Plymouth, Canton and Northville through the organization through its Tax-Aide program.

The AARP reminds those needing assistance sshould bring last year's tax

returns, this year's tax forms and all other necessary records.

Internal Revenue Service-trained volunteers will be at:

Canton Recreation Center: Mon. 9 a.m. to noon, Tues. 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Call 397-5444 for an appointment

Royal Holiday Trailer Park: Thur. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Call 397-5444

Northville Senior Center: Tues. and Thurs. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 349-4140.

Tonquish Creek: Tues 9 a.m. to noon, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Call 455-3670.

Cultural Center: 9 a.m. to noon, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. call 455-6620.

To schedule a home visit — for the handicapped and shut-ins — call 397-5444 in Canton, 349-4140 in Northville and 455-6620 in Plymouth.

Tow truck driver arrested for taking motorist's money

In a decidedly un-Christmaslike act the morning of Dec. 23, a driver for B&B Towing allegedly took \$210 from the car of an arrested person.

The driver of the vehicle had been arrested for drunk driving in Plymouth Township, and B&B was called to tow the man's impounded vehicle.

The man left his wallet in the car.

When officers asked the man for his license at the station, he advised them that it was still in his car.

Police returned the man's wallet minus \$210

The tow truck driver, a 47-year-old Westland man, was then called back to the station for questioning at which point, according to the report, he denied taking the money.

He then consented to a police search of his vehicle. The search produced a plastic Pepsi bottle with \$210 under the seat.

The suspect was charged by police with larceny over \$100 and released by officers after posting bond. No arraignment date has been set.

According to police, the suspect said he took the money because his boss didn't pay him for the work that he performs, and that he needed money for Christmas presents.

According to police, a warrant will be issued tomorrow, and the arraignment could be as early as tomorrow or Friday.

ST. MARY HOSPITAL

istance should offing last year 3 tax

The maternity program has changed at St. Mary Hospital. We asked you what you wanted in childbirth, and we listened.

You said you wanted privacy for yourself and your family. Now all our rooms are private.

WE'RE CHANGING MATERNITY AT ST. MARY HOSPITAL

Your needs come first

You said you wanted family and friends to visit at your convenience. So visiting hours are determined by you. You asked if fathers could stay the night. Now they can.

You wanted more comfortable surroundings for labor and birth. Our new labor-delivery-recovery (LDR) rooms are fully equipped with the latest birthing beds and other equipment for birth. And the unit is decorated to help put you at ease and create a homelike atmosphere.

More changes

Your desire for the best possible care has resulted in advanced training for our nurses. And a new physician director and nurse director. We even have a new name: *Miracle of Life Maternity Center*.

AL C 1993 P+F

But one thing hasn't changed. The concern and personal care we've always provided at St. Mary Hospital

To learn more about our new *Miracle of Life Maternity Center* call **313-591-2882** for a free brochure, personal tour, or physician referral.



St. Mary Hospital 36475 Five Mile Road Livonia, Michigan 48154 313-591-2882

St. Mary Hospital is affiliated with William Beaumont Hospital

49 years late

Ed Wesley finally gets his medals... a generation after the end of WWII

It's November 1944.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur leads the reinvasion of the Phillipine Islands, held by the Japanese since 1941.

The focus shifts to Pelelieu Island, an island in the Phillipine chain.

The 323rd Infantry, 81st Battalion has been ordered to take the beach.

Infantryman Ed Wesley moves up the beach, surrounded by exploding Japanese artillery and mortar rounds.

Wesley is halfway into his foxhole when, suddenly, a round explodes directly behind him.

Wesley is peppered with shrapnel, two buddies behind him are killed instantly.

BY GARY GOSSELIN

It's late November 1993, the place is

Plymouth.
Ed Wesley is now retired.

And in his home are the eight medals he

received as a result of that grueling day on the beaches in the Pacific.

Medals — including the Purple Heart and Bronze Star — that took 49 years to get where they belonged.

Wesley's story is one of perseverance, patience and friendship; and of pride in a job well-done.

Joining the Army in 1942, Wesley received an honorable medical discharge as a result of injuries sustained during the battle at Pelelieu Island; a battle that had not been his first.

To this day he still carries the shrapnel from that round — in his head, shoulder and back — but no bitterness over the delay in getting his recognition.

In fact, he thinks the delay was more a result of his hospitalization than anything

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ED and MILDRED WESLEY

P-C school board hears from first search firm

BY CRAIG FARRAND

The process of hiring a new superintendent for the Plymouth-Canton School District could cost about half of the \$50,000 that was originally estimated by school officials

And the process may not be quite as public as originally thought.

Those were only two of the revelations that came out Monday night during the first of four school board interviews of potential superintendent search firms.

The board plans to hire one of the firms Monday during its regular meeting.

Two representatives from Hazard, Young and Assoc. of Glenview, IL, spent nearly two hours with the board to discuss their own experiences in compiling and then paring lists of applicants in more than 100 other school districts.

The two — Dr. William Attea of Glenview, and Dr. Robert Docking, superintendent of the Bloomfield Hills school system — told the board that once all possible expenses were totaled, the district could expect to spend between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

The search firm's fee would run nearly \$12,000 — plus expenses — with the rest of the cost coming from lodging and travel accommodations for the finalists, as well as travel arrangements for board members visiting the home of their prime candidate.

Other incidental expenses would include publication and mailing costs of school district brochures and the placement of advertising in national magazines.

For its fee, the consulting firm would provide between 40 and 60 hours of actual time in the school district, as well as preparatory time accepting and screening applications

It was that screening process that prompted some of the most animated discussion, as board members asked Attea and Docking about the impact of making public the names of all applicants for the position.

"The more you can protect the identity of a candidate, the better the people (who will apply)," Attea said. "If you want people of high quality, you're going to have to consider how you want to review them."

Because of recent Michigan Supreme Court rulings, the school board had intended to make public the names of all applicants for the position, but Attea and Docking argued that by their firm conducting all preliminary interviews and screening all initial applicants, that ruling did not apply.

Because no member of the school board would be

S uperintendent earch

Closed session set for tomorrow night

BY CRAIG FARRAND

The Plymouth-Canton school board has called a special closed meeting for 8:30 tomorrow night — right after it interviews the last of four superintendent search firms — to discuss the issue of applicant confidentiality.

The issue first came to the fore when the board was challenged on its intentions to keep the names of all applicants private.

Please see pg. 4

Search firm interviews continue tonight, tomorrow

The Plymouth-Canton school board will meet with the last three superintendent search firms at special workshops tonight and tomorrow.

The board is expected to hire one of the firms during its Monday night regular meeting.

Scheduled to appear are:

 Tonight, 7 p.m.: Michigan Association of School Boards; Lansing.

*Tonight, 8:30 p.m.: Sockwell and Associates; Charlotte, NC.

*Tomorrow, 7 p.m.: Bickert, Prophet Associates;

The board originally had hoped to hear from six search firms, but two were unable to make scheduling arrangements.

involved in the preliminary screening, he said, there was no requirement to make the names public.

Only after a slate of five or six finalists was derived, would names be released, Attea said.

"If confidentiality can be maintained, you will get a better slate," he said.

Reacting to a December challenge of the board's original intention to keep the screening process private, Errol Goldman — the district's assistant superintendent of employe relations and personnel — has issued his own opinion on the matter.

He declined to talk about that opinion Monday night, however — and the board has scheduled an executive session for Thursday night, following the final search firm interview, to discuss the opinion.

Docking, who is retiring himself from the Bloomfield Hills School District, said he had discussed the matter with his district's own attorneys.

"This is only my interpretation, but basically what they said was that if the applications come into the board of education, then they become public record," he said.

"But if the applications come into our company, the applications become the property of the company — and do not have to be made public.

"Only once the firm sent the district a list of candidates, would they be made public," Docking said.

In summing up, Attea said his company recommends "very strongly, that you develop prototypes and processes that protects the candidates."

"If you want the names of all candidates made public, you do so at your own peril.

"To get good candidates, you have to make sure you don't scare them away; (and) it's almost impossible to find (those) who want to be exposed."

Although he reiterated the need to keep the names confidential during the early application and screening process, Attea did recommend that the board develop the "mechanics" to keep the press constantly informed of the process.

Of the more than 100 school district, Hazard, Young has worked for, only three — Holland, Novi and Wayne-Westland — have been in Michigan.

In comparison to the board's own search process — which it used to solicit search firm bids — Attea said his firm would not present the board with a list of 12 to 15

Please see pg. 4

Board schedules closed session tomorrow to discuss confidentiality

Continued from pg. 3

The board reversed itself — agreeing to make all names public — after being told of a recent Michigan Supreme Court ruling stemming from a president's search at Michigan State University.

Tomorrow night's closed meeting will be to hear the opinion of the board's own legal counsel, Errol Goldman, assistant superintendent for employe relations and personnel.

And while the state Open Meetings Act appears to prohibit such a closed session to discuss his opinion, Goldman told The Crier yesterday that an equally recent opinion by Michigan Attorney General Frank Kelley does allow for the meeting, by the board invoking paragraph (h) of Section 8 of the state act.

That paragraph says that a closed session may be held "to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute."

Goldman said that attorney-client privilege between him and the school board — falls into that

Based on the Supreme Court ruling, the board may be able to keep the names of applicants confidential as long as no member of the board or district either sees or is involved in screening the applications.

Should the board leave the application and screening process to an outside search firm, all names would remain confidential until a final list of five or six names were given to the board for interviews.

At that point, those names would be made public.

Board hears from first of four search firms

Continued from pg. 3

finalists for interview.

Instead, the firm would conduct all interviews until a final slate of only five or six were presented for the

From there, Attea said, the board would narrow the field to the last two or three candidates - and then, he

recommended, would seek complete consensus on the single candidate who would then be offered a contract.

Also breaking with the board's original outline, Attea said that "visitation" of a potential candidate's home district should be restricted to only that final person.

'We've found that visiting the district of a person not getting the job is a devastating experience for that person," Attea said.

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Friends & neighbors

Ice Show '94

Neighbors in the news

Among those appointed to the Personnel Agency Board (formerly the Employment Agency Board) by Gov. John Engler, is Marcia M. Buhl of Plymouth.

Buhl is the public relations director for Ameritech, and also is a member of the Plymouth Township Planning Commission.

Buhl came to the board as a replacement for Raymond Jenkins, whose term expires in 1997.

In other gubernatorial appointments, Gov. Engler appointed Canton Township Clerk Loren Bennett to the Michigan Underground Storage Tank Financial Assurance (MUSTFA) Policy Board.

The board requests for monies from the MUSTFA fund for the repair of underground storage tanks.

Madonna College gave out its honors for the Highest Achievement Awards at the Honors Convocation for the School of Business.

Christine Meyer (Accounting) of Northville, Jill Burt (Financial Administration) of Plymouth, Tracey Kershaw (International Business and Economics) of Northville and Denise Scioli (Marketing) of Canton were honored.

The award is given to the student in each major with the highest gpa who has completed a minimum of 30 semester hours at Madonna, 15 hours within the last three terms and at least 40 hours of the major.

12th annual Plymouth festival gets under way next week

BY ALEX LUNDBERG

It's baack.

For the 12th time in as many years, the streets of Plymouth will be adorned with the only good thing that comes with a Michigan winter: outdoor ice sculptures.

The 12th Annual Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular returns to Plymouth next Wednesday and runs through Jan. 17.

Along with it comes the competitions, the culinary schools and a cast of ice carvers from as far away as Sapporo, Iapan

According to Kelle Morse, of Watts Up Inc., this year will be a little different than last year's shows.

"This year's show is not sanctioned by the NICA (National Ice Carving Association)," Morse said. "Their rules are a little restrictive."

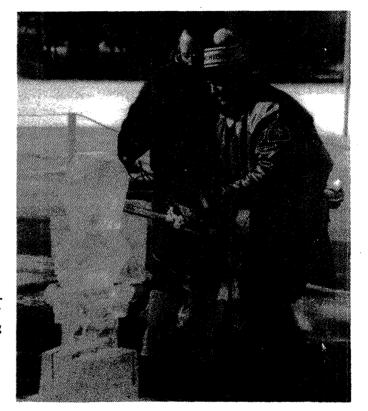
Morse said that, while the NICA isn't a bad group, the ice show's organizers wanted to expand the creativity of the show. She said that more than just ice carvers will take part in the judging of the show

"We're going to have wood carvers and other artists judge the show along with ice carvers," Morse said. "They have different eyes, a different way of looking at a piece of art."

"We wanted to try something different."

One of the different things at this year's show is a new professional competition: a two-man, twenty hour ice carving. The grand prize for that particular event is \$2,000.

Henry Ford
Community College
instructor Richard
Teeple (right) gives
Joe Pagel a hand outlining "Tweety Bird"
during an ice carving
demonstration at
Smith Elementary
School yesterday.
(Crier photo by
George Gentry)



"Each team will get 10 blocks of ice and will start at 6 p.m. on Friday, work through the night, and be judged the next day," Morse said. "we've already got 12 teams signed on for the competition."

Aside from the 20-hour competition, there will be several other events at the Ice Show. There will be individual and team competitions at the amateur and professional levels. The celebrity compe-

tition, which pits a pair consisting of local notables and professional ice carvers against each other, will be fought for \$500 to be given to a local charity.

Another first for the ice show will be the high school and college team competition.

They will have five hours and three blocks of ice to make their masterpieces work.

49 years late WWII veteran finally gets his medals

Continued from pg. 3

else: He took a less-than-direct route to get home after he was injured, spending two weeks on the island, followed by six months of medical treatment in such places as the Admiralty Islands, New Guinea, the Guadalcanal, and New Caldonia

He then spent 22 days on a hospital ship to San Fransisco. Wesley was finally discharged May 1945—and when he asked about the medals a month later, the Army told him that they'd be sent soon.

It would be 49 years before his son would ask about his father's time in the war and about the medals he'd earned.

Wesley, who had stayed busy after the war — building a family of six with his wife, Mildred, and a career with Ford Motor Co. — now thought that it might be time to pursue the issue.

That journey began during one of his visits to the VA hospital. There, Wesley spoke with Charles Mckee of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

McKee, in turn, wrote to the Department of Defense in early October requesting that the appropriate medals be

ent to Wesley.

The Department of Defense said to wait another year, they had a backlog.

Army used Wesley's heritage

Ed Wesley was not only an infantryman during his time in the Army during World War II, he also practiced a skill closely related to his Native American heritage.

In a little-known exercise to confuse the Japanese, Wesley and other Native Americans in different units spoke Chippewa, and would exchange information with other units over the radio.

"They'd (the Japanese) listen in and could connect directly to our lines from the beach inland," Wesley said. "They could break most of our codes, but didn't understand Chippewa."

Wesley said he was proud to be able to use his skills to help win the war, and still gets a chuckle from the story when he tells it. But McKee and Wesley felt that 49 years was long enough: Another letter was sent, this time to the acting Army commander.

Action was nearly instant: A return letter in mid-November said that the medals were on their way.

They were received eight days later.

In all, Wesley received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Good Conduct Ribbon, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge and a WWII Honorable Service Lapel Button.

Wesley isn't bitter or remorseful about either the shrapnel he carries around or the delay in receiving the honors due him.

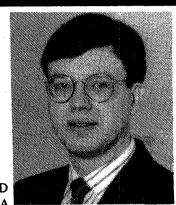
"I was pretty proud," Wesley said of getting his medals. "If it hadn't been for my son asking and Mr McKee really pushing forward, I probably wouldn't have thought of it."

Wesley doesn't mind showing his medals, but isn't prone to telling war stories. He's a quiet man that's finally gotten his due.



Getting down to business

Neighbors in business



DAVID JANDA

Plymouth resident **David Janda**, **MD**, has been appointed to two national task forces that will focus on injury and trauma research.

Janda was named to the International Collaborative Effort on Injury and to the National Institutes of Health Task Force on Trauma Research.

George Pappas, DO, has joined Providence Medical Center-Northville staff. Prior to joining Providence, Dr Pappas was in private practice in Plymouth.

Associate-broker Leon Kelly has



LEON KELLY

recently joined RE/MAX Crossroads, Inc. realtors of Canton. Kelly will serve the residential needs of western Wayne and south Oakland Counties.

Don Zdyrski, secretary treasurer and finance manager of Wade-Trim in Plymouth recently passed the 1993 Certified Design Accountant Examination to receive the title of Certified Design Accountant.

Charles W. Avis, CPA, has announced the opening of his practice as a certified public accountant at 472 Starkweather, Plymouth.

Janet McClintock, ASID, IBD, an employee of Library Design Associates, Plymouth, has received a Presidential citation and first place in the Contract Category for 1993 from the Michigan Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers.

Planning for the inevitable

New business helps people tie-up loose ends, be prepared for death

Things have a terrible permanence When people die.

Aline (Mrs. Joyce) Kilmer

BY GARY GOSSELIN

While many people do their best to avoid any mention of their inevitable demise, death is as much a fact of life as is birth.

Everyone eventually dies.

Not everyone though, plans for their death, which often leaves those they love most in a confusing situation, having to tie up loose ends.

That's where United Estate Planning comes in — before someone dies.

United Estate is an offshoot of United Memorial Gardens Cemetery, said planning manager Alice Brockett, but though they're part of the same company, she said, she works independently from the cemetery.

"We're not limited to that cemetery," said Brockett. "We're here to service our client, and that means their choice is paramount."

Brockett said that her business works with local attorney Charles Lowe, and financial planner Steve Case, to work out personal final estate plans.

She said that anyone older than 40 should consider estate planning, and those nearing retirement should have a plan already in place.

"People don't plan on dying, but they do," Brockett said. "If they have their affairs in order, things are a lot easier on the loved ones they left behind."

She said that her office performs three pasic functions:

The first, she said are wills and trust deeds. Living wills and simple wills are dealt with by Brockett and her office, and trusts or more complicated wills go through the attorney.

Second, is financial arrangements for retirement. Brockett said that Case can work with people to help formulate a financial plan if none is made yet.

Third, is the funeral and/or burial



Alice Brockett (left) and Jean Miller help families plan for the inevitable of life.

process itself. Brockett said that her office will work with the client to best suit their individual preferences and needs. She said that if, for instance, someone has a plot or specific burial site somewhere, her office can help with all the details in between.

Another benefit that United Estate Planning offers is travel assistance. She said that with the advent of easy travel throughout the world, many retirees often travel far afield.

Brockett said that if one was to die in another country, who would know what steps to take to return the remains back home.

She said that her business offers the service in which one only has to call an 800 number, and all arrangements would be taken care of.

When discussing her business, Brockett said that people often think that discussing funeral and burial arrangements is morbid, but said that making a plan now is much easier than trying to make last minute preparations, and manage the estate after someone dies.

"One of the problems lies in the fact that if you don't have anything (will or trust), after probate, there's often little left. Another problem is that if your wishes aren't written down, it inevitably ends in arguments and bad feelings among the survivors."

She also said that if a funeral plan isn't made, the arrangements are often left to those in the worst possible position to make decisions — those closest to you.

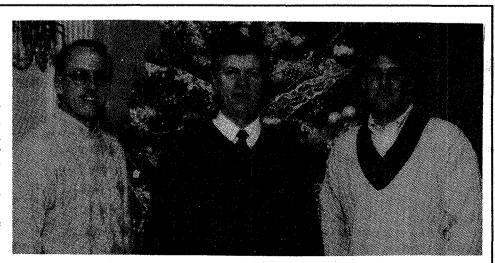
"Your loved ones are in shock when a death occurs, they're not in the best frame of mind to make these kind of decisions," Brockett said.

She said that despite initial concerns by people, her business has been doing well since she first opened in October.

"We've been doing real well," Brockett said. "We get a lot of questions because it's a new concept. I don't know of any other company in Michigan that does what we do. We're filling a niche."

Award winners

Plymouth residents David A. Yeager (left), Ranier L. Mueller, Brian Lizotte and Timothy Feldkamp (not pictured), recently earned Ford Motor Company's highest honor, the Henry Ford Technology Award. The award is given for first-of-a-kind or industry-leading technical achievements. Less than 400 Ford employees have received the award in Ford history.



1994 Guide!



Steve Harper (1992), P.O. Box 401, Plymouth, 455-8484.

The Canton Public Library moved to its independent facility just south of the township Administration Building on Canton Center Road almost four years ago now. Since then the facility has become one of the most widely used library facilities in western Wayne County. The building is located at 1200 S. Canton Center Rd.

The library is open from 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. In the summer it is closed Sundays. The phone number for the Canton Library is 397-0999.

is 397-0999.

Canton residents pay 1.70 mills for the operation of the library.

Canton Public Library Board: library director, Jean Tabor, Katherine Baldrica (1992), 43057 Devon Lane, 981-5102; David Bone (1992), 6849 Carriage Hill, 981-2657; Mary Gyorke (1992), 8451 Orhan, 455-8416; Beverly Polcyn (1992), 1529 Ranier, 981-1445; James Gillig (1992), 4750 Napier, 455-4750; William Simmerer (1992), 39763 Cheviot, 397-3463.

The Northville Library serves residents of Northville and Northville Township. It is located on the lower level of the city's Municipal Building at 215 W. Main St. Due to recent budget troubles the library has had to scale back its hours.

The library is now open from 11 a.m. 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; and closed on Sunday.

The phone number of the Northville Library is 349-3020.

Residents of Northville and Northville Township pay for the library operations, but the funds are appropriated through the gener-al fund budgets of each government. There is no special millage levied to operate the library. Northville

Orthville Library Advisory Commission: library director, Patricia Orr; Barbara Gougeon (1993); chairperson, Paul Dawson (1994); John Buckland (1993); Frances Mattison (1994) Wendy Gutkowski (1992); Sally Williams (1993); and Lynn Parkllaa (1993).



Happenings in the community

The active nature of Plymouth-Canton-Northville residents shows itself all year round as a variety of special events fill the calendar from Eight Mile Road to the north, Michigan Avenue to the south, Napier Road to the west and Haggerty Road to the east.

JANUARY, FEBRUARY: Despite several bad years recently, the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular (now in its 11th season) has carved a niche in the community's winter calendar. Held for one week at the beginning of the year, the ice festival remains one of the premier ice shows in the state, if not nation, drawing competitors and interest from all over the U.S. and the world.

The first two months of the year also offer



tournaments, skating, sledding, skiing at nearby parks, and lots of concerts, plays, fun fundraising events, and school shows to fill the evenings with something new each night.

the evenings with something new each night.

MARCH, APRIL: Spring fever reaches its highest levels during the annual annual Easter egg hunts for kiddies in each of the P-C-N communities. By early April, shoppers are out in force in downtown Plymouth and Northville and Plymouth's historic Old Village gears up for another year of special events.

Those seeking a more natural experience can join in the spring tours at William P. Holliday Nature Preserve in Canton or the annual Miller Woods Walks held in the unique climax-beech forest in Plymouth Township. There are usually two or three each spring.

Executives lower the local theatre group.

For culture lovers the local theatre group, community band, community chorus and symphony wrap up their seasons during these months.

MAY: Northville takes the spotlight this month with the annual community-wide garage sales and historic festivals. Later, Memorial Day is marked with special memorial services in all of P-C-N. There are memorial services in all of P-C-N. There are parades in Plymouth and Northville and wreath-laying ceremonies at local veterans memorials. May is also the time for the annual farmers' markets in Plymouth-Canton-Northville.

Until this year the Canton Challenge Festival also took center stage in May. But the two-week program of athletic and fitness events has been replaced this year by the Liberty Festival planned for June this year.

The ever-popular Canton Memorial Weekend Soccer Tournament, is still planned for May and will again likely draw 200 or so teams from across the state and the country.

teams from across the state and the country.

JUNE: June is a month for light outdoor activities throughout P-C-N, including Friday night street dances or music in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth, concerts at Plymouth Township Park, the Summer Song Festival in Northville and now the Liberty Festival in Canton. Old Village offers a celebration of Dearie Days and local high school seniors put on cap and gown for annual graduation commencements.

The Guide Knows (since 1980) Coming to Plymouth-Canton-Northville March 2 Deadlines Fast Approaching! Community Crier Call your Crier Ad Consultant to reserve your ad space The! 313|453-6900



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Campaign law violation complaints filed

Continued from pg. 1

and others were accused of being "tax and spend" politicians and of "bogging projects down."

The complaint said that the postcard was identified as being sent by "Residents for an Improved Plymouth," but that there was no such committee in existence.

The complaint also states that the postcard didn't say who paid for the mailing and didn't identify a treasurer or candidate authorization.

The postcard had Mundt's return

Mundt told The Crier he had nothing to do with either mailing, and has sent a letter to that effect to the state Compliance and Rules Division.

He said that he was contacted by someone and asked is they could use his address in a letter endorsing several candidates. He agreed.

Mundt also said that he was unaware of the contents of the mailing until he got one in the mail himself.

"I neither conspired, ordered, paid for or distributed any literature," Mundt said. He wouldn't name the party that he gave his address to.

Mundt also said that he would have told McAninch that he was no party to the mailings before the complaint was filed, but that he was never contacted.

"I'm not guilty of anything," Mundt said. "And I strongly resent Mr. McAninch making this accusation, especially since I was never contacted."

Mundt added that McAninch's time would be better spent working on the city's problems, rather than nit-picking honest citizens with these type of com-

McAninch said that he's only interested in stopping any violations, and that if Mundt proves that he wasn't involved, he'll be proven wrong, but until then, he'll stick to his guns.

"His address was on the thing (mailing) that went out and it had an impact on the election," McAninch said. "If these people come forward, he will be proven correct. If he has other facts, I'd like to see them come out."

Commissioner and attorney John Vos represents Mundt, and said the allegations are false.

"I know for a fact that he (Mundt) didn't send these," said Vos. "I think it's just sour grapes."

Vos added that McAninch never followed up with Mundt before filing with the state, and that he may have problems because of it.

"When you accuse someone of something false, it's slanderous," Vos said. "Bob Mundt might want to pursue this through a different attorney."

Vos also said that he feels his client will be vindicated.

"He has filed an affidavit (with the state) and I believe this will be dismissed."

Boyd said that his office has sent a letter to McAninch requesting further information that Mundt is, in fact, responsible for the mailing.

He said if no further information is received, the violation will likely be dis-

In the second instance, Bird was cited for sending a letter on Country Charm

Bird endorsed four candidates which,



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she explained in the letter, she felt were best suited to serve Plymouth residents.

The complaint said that the letter didn't contain a statement about who paid for the mailing, nor did it identify a treasurer or other authorization by any candi-

Bird said that she paid for the materials and mailing fee out of her personal funds in an effort to inform about 800 of her Plymouth customers about who she felt was best qualified.

"I didn't mean to break any laws," Bird said, "I didn't realize that I was. I'm now aware of this and will not do it again."

Bird said that she was aware that her business couldn't foot the bill, so she wrote a personal check to cover expenses. She added that this was an entirely personal decision, and not really on anyone's

"We did this on our own," Bird said. "We go to a lot of meetings, and the debates. I'm informed and wanted to help my customers keep informed."

Bird added that many of her customers thanked her for the opinion, and was shocked that McAninch took the issue to the election commission.

"If he would have sent us a letter explaining what the violations were, we would have responded," Bird said. "Rather than wasting tax money, he could have treated us like good citizens rather than criminals."

McAninch wouldn't say why he didn't contact Bird before filing with the state, and only defended his actions.

Boyd said that he sent a concilliatory agreement to Bird's attorney Monday which, in effect says she did nothing wrong, and won't do it again.

He has not heard from Bird yet, but said he expects to resolve the matter

McAninch defended his actions. regardless of the eventual outcome.

"If this kind of unlawful and unfair action is stopped," McAninch said. "then my actions are supported."

McAninch said that his efforts are in the best interest of The Community.

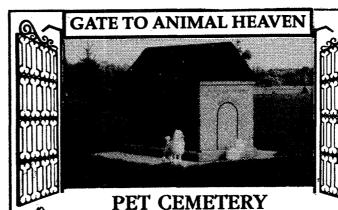
"It was not an easy thing to do," McAninch said.

"But I've spent 20 years in this town and have always tried to keep things

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Gateway to Animal Heaven is located just north of Plymouth-Ann Arbor Rd., on Curtis Road. In the United Memorial Gardens. FOR INFORMATION, CALL (313) 662-8902



Community deaths

James Tomlinson, 69, retired Ford foreman

James William Tomlinson, a retired Foreman for the Ford Motor Co., died Jan. 2, 1994, at the age of 69. Funeral services were arranged by Vermeulen Funeral Home.

Harry Schrader, 75, retired worker

Harry F. Schrader, maintenance worker at Evans products, died Dec. 25, 1993, at the age of 75. Funeral services were arranged by the Shrader-Howell Funeral Home.

Clarence Priebe, 83, retired truck driver

Clarence A. Priebe, a retired truck driver from Best Concrete Co., died Dec. 30, 1993, at the age of 83. Funeral services were arranged through the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

Michael Telleck, 84, Ford employee

Michael John Telleck, a master mechanic for the Ford Motor Company, died Dec. 30, 1993, at the age of 84. Funeral services were arranged by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

Robert Pierce, 84, Michigan Bell supervisor

Robert J. Pierce, a supervisor at Michigan Bell Telephone Co. for 30 years, died Jan. 2, 1994, at the age of 84. Funeral services were arranged by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home

Mary Butler, 67, retired bookkeeper

Mary E. Butler, a retired self-employed bookkeeper, died Jan. 1, 1994, at the age of 67. Funeral services were arranged by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

Obituaries

For more information on listing a paid obituary notice in The Crier, contact your funeral director or call (313) 453-6900

Norman Berger

Norman Berger, 73, formerly of Warren (across from the Hazel Park Race Track) died Friday, December 31, of cancer.

Son of Peter C. and Mary Berger, he was born in Hazel Park, and moved to the family produce farm on Dequindre in 1923, where he lived until his move to Plymouth Township in 1990. At the Dequindre location he sold produce, seed potatoes, and Christmas trees for over fifty years.

A regular face at the Produce Terminal and Eastern Market, as well as various Detroit area potato chip companies, including Better Made, Gold Chip, and New Era, Norman was known for procuring and delivering potatoes for most of the potato

chips produced in the area. He was owner of Mr. Chips Potato Chips, Inc. in the late 1960's and early seventies.

Norman is survived by his wife Josephine, his two daughters, Gail (Mrs. Robert) Witt, and Darleen Flaig; as well as his sisters Louise Rapp and Helen (Mrs. Harry Schultz.

Visitation at Vermeulen Funeral Home 46401 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, MI • Sunday 4–9 pm • Monday 1–9 pm. Scripture Services Monday 7:30 pm at Funeral Home. Prayers Tuesday 9:45 am at Vermeulen Funeral Home Liturgy of the Resurrection at 10:30 am at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church (Plymouth). Memorials appreciated to Capuchin Missions or to Angela Hospice. Envelopes at Funeral Home.



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Mary Zamenski, 65, mother of seven

Mary A. Zamenski, a mother of seven children, died Dec. 29, 1993, at the age of 65. Funeral services were arranged by Vermeulen Funeral Home.

Joseph McDermott, 70, retired estimator

Joseph R. McDermott, retired chief estimator at Dearborn Manufacturing and Engineering, died Dec. 31, 1993 at the age of 70. Funeral services were arranged by Pawlus Funeral Homes.

Louis Martiniano, 82, retired tile setter

Louis Martiniano, retired tile setter, died Jan. 1, 1994 at the age of 82. Funeral services were arranged by Pawlus Funeral Homes.

Josephine Anna Wenzel, 86, waitress

Josephine Anna Wenzel, a waitress at Stockbridge and Clothier for many years, died Dec. 25, 1993, at the age of 86. Funeral services arranged through the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

Salvation Army reaches dual goals for 1993

Salvation Army officials say they raised more than \$96,000 during this year's kettle drive — falling only \$4,000 short of their 1993 fund-raising goal.

The actual figure was \$96,000.04.

In addition, Lt. Jeffrey Beachum said that while final figures weren't available yet, the response from the Salvation Army's mail appeal was "on par" with last year's levels.

Two factors played a strong role in the reports, however: Beachum said that

three kettle locations that had previously been figured in the Plymouth totals were moved this year into other areas.

In addition, late in November the Army's mass mailing was temporarily misplaced by the Postal Service, delaying delivery until late in December.

Nevertheless, Beachum said that the mail appeal was still successful because the publicity over the post office problem made the public aware that the request was coming.

Your Guide to Worship

Calvary Waptist Church

43065 Joy Road, Canton 455-0022

Dr. David A. Hay, Senior Pastor

Sunday School for All Ages 9:45 am Sunday Services 11:00 am, 6:00 pm

> Wednesday Bible Study & Clubs 7:00 pm Plymouth Christian Academy (313) 459-3505

Risen Christ Lutheran Church

(MIssouri Synod) 46250 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth (one mile west of Sheldon) (313) 453-5252

Sunday worship 8:30 & 11:00 am Family Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

> Rev. K.M. Mehrl, Pastor Hugh McMartin, Lay minister

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Rev. Wm. Branham - Associate Pastor
Nursery Provided
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ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Saturday Worship 5:30pm Sunday Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9:30 & 11:00am Nursery & Transportation Available

Rev. Dr. Jerry Yarnell, Senior Pastor
Rev. Drex Morton Rev. Dave Woody
Rev. Abe deVries

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9:30 am - 6:00 pm

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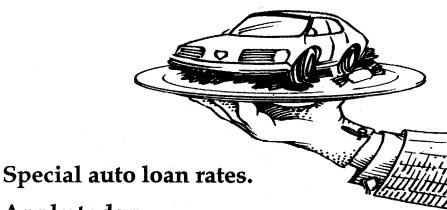
470 Forest Street Plymouth, MI 48170 (313) 459-0440

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What's Happening

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).

FAMILY SKATE NIGHT

Canton Parks and Rec presents its first family skate night on Jan. 20 at the ponds behind Canton

Township Hall from 7 to 9 p.m. There will be warm refreshments and the ponds will be lighted.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW CONTEST

The Knights of Columbus will be holding a free throw contest at Our Lidy of Good Counsel Catholic Church on Jan. 16, the contest is open to boys and girls ages 10 to 14. For more information on rules and registration, call the Knights at 453-9833 or 453-3966.

CO-OP NURSERY SCHOOL OPENINGS

Suburban Children's Co-op nursery has immediate openings in their toddler with parent (Wednesdays 12:30-2 p.m.), 3-year-olds (Mon. and Wed. 9:15-11:15 a.m.) and 4-year-olds classes (Tuesday and Friday morning and afternoon). For more information, call Nancy at 729-1495.

SPORTS CARD SHOW

The Canton H.S. Baseball Parent's Club will hold its third annual Sports Card Show on Jan. 16 at Central Middle School in Plymouth. There will be a raffle, door prizes, a radar-timed pitching range and Detroit Tiger First Baseman Rick Leach. For more information, call 455-3564.

"KINDERMUSIK" CLASSES

Arnoldt Williams Music in Canton will be offering children 15-week "Kindermusik" classes, by a licensed and certified instructor. The classes begin Jan 10 and will run through May 2. For regis-

tration and more information, call Sharlene Borke at 459-5515.

AMERICAN LEGION MEETING

Passage-Gayde Post 391 will hold a regular business meeting on Jan.13 at 8 p.m. For more information, call Jim Maahs at 455-5541 or Jim Barbour at 451-8659.

SMOKE STOPPERS FREE INTRODUCTION

The Arbor Health Building will be effering free introduction to Smale Storage Legisland.

The Arbor Health Building will be offering free introductions to Smoke Stoppers by appointment. Patch users are invited to attend. For more information call Pat Harris at 712-4141.

HEALTH BUILDING OPEN HOUSE

The Arbor Health building will be holding an open house during the Plymouth Ice Show providing hot cider, shelter and entertainment. The health center is located at 990 W. Ann Arbor Road and will be open from noon to 6 p.m.

12th ANNUAL PLYMOUTH ICE SHOW

The annual Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular will be returning to the streets of the city Jan.14, 15 and 16. There will be several competitions and a light show. For more information, call Kelle Morse at 459-6969.

TALENTED AND GIFTED PROGRAM

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will begin screening students for its 1994-95 Talented and Gifted (TAG) program. There will be an informational meeting at Allen Elementary today at 7 p.m. For more information, call Allen School at 451-6500.

WOMEN'S RACQUETBALL LEAGUE

Canton Parks and Rec will be sponsoring a women's racquetball league at Rose Shores of Canton with games for all ability levels beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Jan.11. The fee will be \$100 per person. Space is limited, so register by mail or in person. For more information, call Canton Parks and Rec at 397-5110.

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

Schoolcraft College will be offering a group of classes in physical fitness for the winter. There will be different fees and starting dates for each activity. For more information about the classes, call the Continuing Education Services office at 462-4413.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

St. Mary's Hospital will be holding a cancer support group at 7 p.m. today. The featured speaker will be Linda Millard, R.D. speaking about "Cancer and Nutrition." For more information, call the hospital at 591-2600 ext.2459.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The Red Cross will be holding a series of blood drives all over the Metro Area Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. There will be a drive at the Red Cross Donor Center in Westgate Plaza in Canton. Later there will be a bloodmobile at Northville High School tomorrow; at the Calvary Baptist Church on Jan. 22, and at St. John Neumann Catholic Church on Jan. 23 and at the First Church of the Nazarene in Northville on Jan. 26. For more information about the blood drives, call

MEN'S RACQUETBALL LEAGUE

Canton Parks and Rec will be sponsoring a men's racquetball league at Rose Shores of Canton with games for all ability levels beginning at 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan.12. The fee will be \$105 per person. Space is limited, so register by mail or in person. For more information, call Canton Parks and Rec at 397-5110.

STOP SMOKING/WEIGHT CONTROL

The Plymouth Community Family YMCA will be offering a seminar on stopping smoking and weight control hosted by hypnotherapist David Rowe. The seminar will be on Jan.17 at the Plymouth City Hall. For more information, call the YMCA at 453-2904.

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

St. Mary Hospital in Livonia will be holding a Diabetes Support Group on Jan.12 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in conference room B. For more information, call the hospital at 591-2922.

GOD'S GOLDEN GIRLS

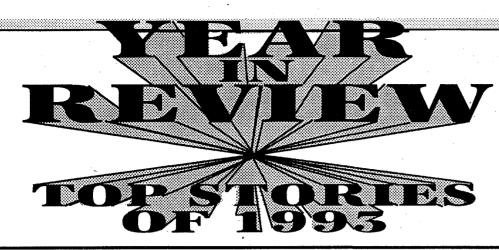
Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church invites women over 50 to join "God's Golden Girls." The organization meets the third Friday of each month, at noon. Lunch is free but reservations are a must. For more information, call Pattie at 981-0286.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

The Festival of Lights — Michigan's longest drive through a holiday light display — is open for traffic on Hines Drive. It is open nightly from 7 to 10 p.m. and will run through Sunday. A donation of \$5 per car goes to benefit the Wayne County park system. For more information, call

HOME FIREARM SAFETY COURSE

The Western Wayne County Conservation Association and the National Rifle Association will be offering a home firearm safety course. The five-hour course will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Jan.



Part II

IN BUSINESS

Two final stories dominated the scene in 1993:

Highland Appliance

BY GARY GOSSELIN

The electronics war hit Plymouth full force in 1993, when powerhouse retailer Highland Appliance finally fell to stiff competition from the likes of Fretter, ABC and Best Buy.

For Highland, that meant the end of 60 years of doing business.

For Plymouth, it meant the loss of its largest single taxpayer, as Highland had to leave its home on Sheldon Road and put it up

Highland Appliance, in business for 60 years, with 30 stores in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy in August, 1992.

The business, located on 34 acres, occupies 532,000 square feet of office and warehouse space at Sheldon Road and M-14 tries to reorganize. The 1993 tax bill for the site totals \$465,000.

After six months of treading water, trying to regain lost market share, the creditor's committee rejects a reorganization plan submitted March 16.

Highland officials announce that the chain has closed all stores and will reopen to liquidate inventory.

While Highland outlets have been steadily selling off merchandise, the Plymouth office/warehouse facility has been preparing for the retailers swan song — a week-long auction to sell off \$8.5 million in assets.

The week of June 30 sees bargain-hunters swarm to the Sheldon Road facility looking for deals. Merchandise is selling for an estimated 20 to 50 cents on the dollar.

With the auction over, the facility is mothballed and up for sale to the highest bidder. Estimated sale price \$10 million.

Livonia-based Fretter Appliance announces plans Sept. 20, to acquire U.S. operations of Silo and YES! electronics stores from Dixon Group Inc., and purchase the Highland site for \$10.1 million.

Easy come, easy go. Fretter exercises their 30-day option on Highland property withdraws their bid on Oct. 13.

City officials aren't surprised at the move, saying that Fretter never approached the city to discuss specifics. City Manager Steve

Please see pg. 14

St. John's Seminary

BY GARY GOSSELIN

As 1993 came to a close, the future of the St. John's Seminary property remained just as cloudy as it did 12 months ago.

The site covers 175 acres — with an estimated value of \$3 million — at the corner of Five Mile and Sheldon roads.

Although grandiose plans have been announced and re-announced for development of the project, the land remains undeveloped for the foreseeable future.

But that's not how it was earlier this year: In February, the first good news was heard when rumors abounded that a buyer had been found for the property.

Rumors persisted throughout early spring that 40 to 50 acres of the 175-acre site might become a major retail shopping center.

And on April 21, Detroit Archdiocese spokesman Richard Laskos said that there were negotiations underway with a party that would "retain the Catholic identity of the

Speculation was that the site might become a Catholic high school or university. There were also rumors that the site might also become a retirement community or retail outlet.

Then on May 5 plans were officially announced that there would be a St. John senior citizen housing complex: "St. John's Plymouth Village Life Care Retirement Community.'

The proposed \$175 million project called for the creation of 1,500 apartments to be built on the entire site over a 10-year period. The existing seminary was to be renovated, and split into 250 additional housing units.

The 18-hole golf course was to remain at the site, virtually unchanged.

After months of planning, Windmill Pointe Interests, developers of the St. John site drop a bombshell: The developer suggested adding a 24-acre retail and health club

The new proposal, made to the township planning commission on July 21, was to include a a shopping center, a 60,000 squarefoot grocery store, less housing and possibly reducing the golf course to 9 holes.

The proposal caught trustees completely

Please see pg. 14

CRIME STORIES

Unfortunately, Community had its share of tragedy, too

BY ALEX LUNDBERG

With crime bills and gun control measures the issue of the day in Washington D.C., crime is a big concern all around the country.

But there is a perception that crime is something that only happens in the big cities, not in the small towns.

Unfortunately, the Plymouth-Canton Community proved this wrong in 1993, with a violent murder-suicide in an affluent neighborhood of Plymouth Township leading the list of tragic news.

THE MADSENS

It was on May 25 that Donald Madsen, who was involved in divorce proceedings with his wife, Janette, shot his way into their Plymouth Township home and killed his wife by shooting her three times with two different guns.

Both of the Madsen's children were at home at the time of the

Don Madsen worked for Pioneer Electronics, Janette was a kindergarten teacher at William Ford Elementary.

Don had been under a restraining order which specified that he could not physically assault his wife. In the past, Janette had complained of her husband's harassing actions such as cutting phone lines, altering the house alarm and taking her car.

After the shooting, Madsen contacted a network affiliate and admitted to shooting his wife. He said that he had killed his wife because he had been unable to get custody of his children.

Less than 24 hours after the shooting, Donald Madsen took his own life in the garage of his Northville Township condominium.

RAPE

At the beginning of the year, Plymouth Township police were still on the lookout for a suspect in connection with the December 1992 rape of a 16 year-old girl.

According to police reports, the victim was waiting at a school bus stop when a man approached her with a knife and forced her into the woods. The report said that he assaulted her and fled the

After the assault, the victim went home and was then taken to St. Mary Hospital for treatment. She described the rapist as a white male, 25, 5-foot-9 and 165 pounds.

There has yet to be an arrest in the case.

GANGS

What started out as a possible fistfight on Harvey Street in Plymouth quickly deteriorated into gunplay, and finally ended in the arrest of two 18-year-old men — and raised the specter of gang activity in The Community.

Canton residents Christopher Frank Weycker and Jonathan A. Bartush, both 18, were arraigned in 35th District Court.

Please see pg. 14



What's in store for '94

Comments and observations on the top issues for the new year by The Community's leaders

"I think the impact of the new school board and the new superintendent will dominate. But if you want to look at broader issues. I think it's got to be the resolution of

the shared services issue – throwing schools in there, too."

- P-C school Supt. John Hoben

"Education is going to be the major issue. Funding and then the ripple effect on all local communities. That jumps up as the major issue.'

— Twp. Supv. Kathleen Keen-McCarthy

"I see that in 1994 there will be a concerted effort to continue the restructuring of the welfare system in the state. A lot of people disagree with what (Gov. John) Engler is doing, but from our vantage point we can see it will help people in the long run.

going to be the gubernatorial election;

who will influence this state for the

next four years. I also think it will be

very close - again."

County."

-Salvation Army Lt. Jeffrey Beachum away, is that with the help of fellow Plymouth residents, (former) congressman Carl Pursell will be elected to the U.S. Senate."

— Randy Lorenz

"The answer, far and

"I expect that there will be a higher level of cooperation between communities in North-Western Wayne County than ever before."

— Twp. Police Chief Carl Berry

"In our own community, I think it's going to be the selection of a new superintendent of schools — who it will be and how we go about the selection process. It's going to be a real dog and pony show — and I'll tell you, I'm already uncomfortable with (Supt. John Hoben) leaving right now." — Jim Vassallo

"I think we're going to have a crisis in the "I think the central issue in 1994 is

tax structure in Michigan because of what's happened with school financing. I wish I could be more positive."

> — state Rep. Deb Whyman

"I think we'll see a lot of unemployment. I think a lot of layoffs are coming with more competition (in the business community) and I think unemployment is going to rise."

— Joe Bida

– state Sen. Bob Geake "I think we'll see a continuation of growth in Canton and cooperation between the five communities. I feel that what you see in The Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community will set the tone for governmental cooperation in Wayne

-Canton Public Service Dir. John Santomauro

"I see a good outlook as far as culture and economy. I think the Civil War Monument will be moved, and a proper place will be found for

> - John **Pappas**

"One thing I'd like to see get off the dime is the DDA. Downtown (Plymouth) has a great potential, but we have to have uniform hours, and if we're going to get streetscape - let's do it and get it over. With the taxes in question, people are waiting for the shoe to drop; we have to be pro-active.

before."

— Tom Caviston

"I guess the thing I'd point to is the

level of cooperation we've not seen here

"I think it will be that Plymouth will become the hometown of the state's newest U.S.

consolidation of some police services — not

totally, but a first step. At first blush (that step)

may not be dramatic, but I think it will lead to a

"I think there will be more cooperation in shared events between the arts groups in town."

> — PCAC director Christine Ilas

"School finance reform. I think it's going to be there; it's not going to go away. The lawmakers stuck their foot in it and now they're in trouble. Another issue that could crop up is equity and equal educational opportunity — it ain't there now.

senator (Carl Pursell)."

— P-C school board President Roland Thomas

levels of) government extracting more and more money to line their pockets, the silent majority will become quite a bit more action - resulting in the wholesale dumping of incumbents in November."

combined going to be the services will be increase in the top issue in '94, particularly citizen

— Ted Bohlen

"The big story for 1994? The silent majority

"I think

from the police

perspective.

will react this year. With (lawmakers at all

'Centralized dispatching' will also play a major role." - Plymouth Police Chief Robert

Scoggins

government. In 1993, people were concerned about taxes and about what and how government was doing; in '94, they'll want to be involved." -P-Cschool Trustee Dave Artley

"I think it's

involvement in

all levels of

"I think it will be a real exciting political year in 1994, and that there will be a record number of people voting. I think it will be real exciting." - Twp. Clerk Marilyn Massengill

> "The thing locally is education; its financing and rules. It's not a dead issue by any means. What we've seen (to this point) is just the beginning of the battle."

— Canton Supv. Tom Yack

— state Rep. Jerry Vorva

"Getting the state taxes straightened out so people can plan. You have to know what to expect so you can plan ahead."

> - Jack Wilcox

— Plymouth city attorney Ron Lowe

St. John's Seminary

Continued from pg. 11

by surprise, said Jim Anulewicz, director of public services.

"The commission was astonished," he said. "(The new proposal) came totally without notification, after a considerable amount of conceptual planning for the first plan."

On again, off again.

Windmill Pointe Interests goes back to the Township Planning Commission on Aug. 8 to change - again - plans for

Original plans for a retirement community are back on the board, retail plans are out.

Anulewicz suggests that this move is necessary, saying that the new plan likely wouldn't pass the planning commission.

"They need to get (their plan) clear in their mind before they bring it back in front of the commission," said Anulewicz.

The deal is off.

In a letter dated Nov. 24, the Archdiocese of Detroit has told Windmill Pointe Interests, Inc., that the sale of the St. John property is "terminated"

In a letter to the developer, church

spokesman Ned McGrath said that the sale was contingent upon the buyer providing evidence of financing. A provision which, McGrath said, wasn't fulfilled.

McGrath said that the property, with an estimated value of \$3 million, is hoped to retain much of its original identity if any future offers are considered.

The church said that no other offers

CANTON FOUNDATION

Monthly Economic Club luncheons featured who's who list of speakers

The Canton Community Foundation through its monthly economic club meetings — was host to some of the biggest movers and shakers in Michigan during 1993.

Among those who spoke to gatherings of Community residents were the likes of Joe Stroud, Detroit Free Press Editor; George Googasian, president of the Michigan State Bar; Doug Ross, president of Michigan Future Inc; Edsel Ford; Macomb County Prosecutor Carl Marlinga; TV economist David Sowerby; Michigan Gov. John Engler; and Detroit Mayor-elect Dennis



David Sowerby (standing) was one of the speakers at the Canton Economic Club luncheons. Foundation Executive Director Bill Joyner (sitting) was one of the hosts. (Crier photo by Gary Gosselin)

HIGHLAND APPLIANCE

Continued from pg. 11

Walters said that there are other possible buyers which have offered between \$5 and \$10 million for the site.

Just before the Highland site in Plymouth went up for sale (below), the public was invited inside its doors for a true warehouse sale of stock, inventory and equipment. (Crier photos by Gary Gosselin)





RIME IN 19

Continued from pg. 11

Plymouth Police Sgt. Wayne Carroll said that the two men and a female and another man went to the house on Harvey to fight the complainant there.

The complainant refused to fight but allegedly told the group that he would get his "gang" to resolve the matter.

Then, Carroll said, one suspect fired a gun.

The complainant said that the suspect fired at him, but the suspects told police that the shot was fired over the

The two suspects claim that the complainant is a member of the D(etroit)Kings gang, an allegation that the man

Nevertheless, gang activity in The Community got the attention of law enforcement officials during 1993, prompting officials from Canton, Plymouth and Plymouth Township, Detroit Police Special Crimes Section, Downriver Gang Task Force and Plymouth-Canton Schools to meet and discuss the rise of gangs and how to deal with the problems they cause.

From that meeting, officials established an eight-step plan of attack to deal with the situation — especially in

ROBBERY

According to police reports, on Aug. 25 two men entered MacAllister's party store, each carrying handguns. One of the men was wearing a blue nylon mask covering his face from the upper lip down.

The report said that the two men ordered the store's employees into the back room while they emptied the two cash registers and the safe underneath the counter.

According to Plymouth Township Police Chief Carl Berry, a significant amount of money was taken from the store.

No one was ever arrested.

KIDNAPPING

According to Canton police reports, Scott David Goleniak, 19, of Westland abducted his ex-girlfriend — a 19 year-old Canton woman— and drove her to his apart-

But that's not where the story ended: according to police, it was there that the other felonies — sexual assault and larceny — were committed.

Police went on to say that Goleniak took his victim back to her house, where she called Canton police immediately.

"Larceny over \$100 and third degree CSC are both felonies," Canton Ofc. Tammy Colling said. "But kidnapping carries a possible life term."

Colling said that because of the other crimes allegedly committed, the CSC charge was upgraded from fourth

The CSC was for fondling and kissing," Colling said. "But because it went on while the other felonies were being committed it became a more serious offense."

DRUGS

On Sept.3., employees at the Stow And Go inspected a storage unit that was more than 60 days past due on rent.

What they found was 11 full garbage bags and a clothes dryer. No big deal, right?

Wrong: They immediately called Plymouth Township

"I thought I'd find a baggie of marijuana," Ofc. Erik Mayernik said. "I was very surprised to find those garbage bags.'

Bags completely filled with pot — with a street value

Unfortunately, all the information known about the renter turned out to be false: the driver's license used was a forgery, the address was fictitious, and the license number belonged to an 18-year-old California female.

Mayernik said that this is the largest haul ever for the Canton Police Department, and that the department will continue searching for the suspect.

VIDEO SURPRISE

When Robert Brewer viewed a video tape of his 35th District court victory with his 12-year-old son, little did he expect the civics lesson to shift into a lesson about the birds and bees.

Brewer had ordered the tape from the court, which videorecords proceedings in the courtroom of Judge Charles Kaufman. The duplicate tape was copied by Video Vista, under contract with the court.

When he viewed the tape, it apparently began with "a few minutes" of court proceedings, but then showed "a couple having sexual intercourse in a closet," according to Brewer's attorney J. Michael Hill.

The tape that Brewer had requested was the official transcript of the proceedings of his own Aug. 23 court case, in which a jury found him not guilty of unlawful entry and trespassing.

He said that he was "proud to be acquitted" and wanted to show his 12-year-old son how the system worked.

He got more than he bargained for.

Mettetal Airport

Meeting set for tomorrow night to discuss name change of site

BY ALEX LUNDBERG

The search for a Fixed Base Operator (FBO) will go perhaps a month beyond the Jan. 1 tentative deadline, as the Mettetal Airport Advisory Board will consider a possible name change for the state-owned airport at tomorrow's meeting.

According to Randy Coller, manager of Licensing for the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the process of choosing the FBO is still on-going.

"We're still looking at the requests," Coller said. "We haven't done any of the interviews yet."

The method of choosing the FBO will be done in two steps. First, the review team — composed of state officials, a member of the airport advisory committee and two airport managers — will interview applicants and rank their proposals for the FBO position.

Second, the top-ranked applicant will sit down with MDOT and negotiate a deal to run the airport. If no agreement can be made, MDOT will negotiate with the next-highest ranked applicant.

According to Coller, the review team plans to begin the interviews this month.

Coller also said that the possibility of shifting the runway to the south would also be discussed at the meeting.

As per the agreement between the state and Canton Township, the township board must give express written permission to the state before any change in the runway will be made.

"The move (of the runway) has been on the airport's 'wish list." Coller said. "Since it is a major piece of work, it would be handled by the state rather than the FBO."

Another point of business that is expected to be discussed at the meeting is a possible name change for the airport.

"This was initiated by the chairman (of the citizen's board, W. Edward Wendover)," Coller said. "We'll be reviewing suggestions at the meeting."

Suggestions for a new name of the airport have fallen into two distinct categories; those submitted by supporters and those by opponents of the airport.

Some of the suggestions already received by The Crier are "Lilley Field Airport," "Do Drop In Airport," "Taxpayer Ripoff for the Special Few Airport" and "The Metro Airport Spillway."

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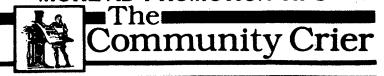
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What's Happening

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).

10 and 17. The cost of the course is \$5. It will be held at the WWCCA building in Plymouth Township. For more information, call 535-0436 after 6 p.m.

PLYMOUTH YMCA

The Plymouth Community Family YMCA will be open three evenings to take registration for their winter classes. The office will be open 5 to 7:30 p.m. today, Jan.10 and 11. For more information about the classes and registration, call 453-2904.

STOP SMOKING CLASS

St. Mary hospital will be offering a Stop Smoking Class on Mondays and Thursdays Jan. 17, 20, 24, 27, 31, and Feb. 3. There will be day and evening classes, the course will cost \$20 per person. Deadline for registration is Jan.12. For more information, call 591-2922.

S.A.F.E. (SETTING ADDICTS FREE ETERNALLY)

Main Street Baptist Church in Canton has started a ministry to help substance abusers. The S.A.F.E. recovery group meets at 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday for the chemically dependent and their families. For more information, call 453-4785.

ENTERTAINMENT '94 COUPON BOOKS

The Plymouth Optimists Club is selling Entertainment '94 coupon books. The coupons offer up to 50 per cent savings on dining, movies and special events around Michigan. All of the proceeds will go to Children's Causes throughout Michigan. The books will be on sale through Jan. 15 and will be delivered to your door. For more information, call Bill Von Glahn at 453-8253.

ADULT DAY CARE

Child and Family Services will be opening an adult day care center in Canton. The center is designed for the victims of Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders. The center will have recreational and therapeutic programs to build self-esteem, promote social interaction and maintain patient independence. Call Cindy Lockman or Kristin Witte at 397-8665.

ROAD TO RECOVERY

The American Cancer Society is seeking volunteers to drive cancer patients living in Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties to and from medical facilities. If you have a car and are willing to offer some of your time, please call the patient Services Department at 1-800-925-2271.

STRESS MANAGEMENT

St. Mary Hospital in Livonia is hosting a stress managements program on Mondays, beginning Jan 10 and running through Jan. 31. The course is \$60 per person or \$90 per couple. You must register by Jan 3. For more information or to register, call 591-2922.

KIWANIS RAFFLE

The Kiwanis Breakfast Club of Plymouth is sponsoring a raffle drawing each month of 1994 for a \$1,000 prize. Each ticket holder will have 12 chances to win. Tickets are \$100 and there will only be 300 tickets sold. For more information, call 455-3340 or 454-9555.



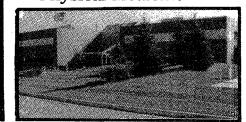
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47659 HALYARD DR. PLYMOUTH 459-1800 In Metrowest Technology Park, off Beck Rd., between N. Territorial & 5 Mile

Lots of activities for Community residents in '94

BY ANNE SULLIVAN

Activities abound in the Plymouth-Canton-Northville communities for the new year. There is plenty on the agenda to satisfy the interests of all.

Many programs are long time favorites and a couple new ones are in store through the Parks & Recreation departments, area parks and the Plymouth Community Family YMCA.

Organized activities are open to area

residents from preschool to seniors.

Individual winter activities can be found throughout the community at many local parks.

Parks:

Cross country skiing, ski skating, hiking and winter walks dominate the activities at Maybury State Park. Anyone interested in cross country skiing can call 348-1190 to check if the cross country trails are open at the state park.

The park is open noon-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, with the last ski rental at 5 p.m. All rentals must be in by 6 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday, skiing opens at 9 a.m., closing time is the same.

Cost for rental is \$4.25 for the first hour, \$2 for the second hour.

Concessions and a fireplace at the equipment rental spot are available for warming.

The farm is open daily 10 a.m-5 p.m.

all year.

March at the state park hosts the maple syrup demonstration.

On April 30, in conjunction with the Northville Parks & Rec department, the park hosts an Earth Day Celebration with a fun run and recycling.

May 14, a boomerang demonstration and clinic is scheduled. Sheep shearing at the farm will be May 14, 15, 20, 21.

Sports

Please see pg.17



lookin' good

Skill, experience and a little luck will lead the Salem Volleyball team

BY ANNE SULLIVAN

With a crew of dedicated, focused players, many with experience returning to the Salem volleyball team this year, it looks to be a promising season.

Coach Allie Suffety's goal is to keep the team healthy, build game experience throughout the season, cash in on a little luck and challenge for the league title and beyond at the end of the season.

Two seniors, eleven juniors and two sophomores form the Rocks team this year

Jamey Viau is back for her fourth season on the varsity squad and is captain. Viau is an outside hitter an plays back row. "She's our go to player," said Suffety.

Amy Ruthig is in her second year on the varsity squad and plays back row.

Two of the eleven juniors and one sophomore on the squad this year started last season.

Juniors Karen Gundry and Paula Dembrowski and sophomore Shellye Sills are returning to starting position with the Rocks.

Wendy Graves, Erin Koch and Julie McGurrin moved up from junior varsity during the playoffs and lettered with the varsity squad last year.

Kelly Johnston is a junior who transferred from Ladywood last year. She becomes eligible to play in the second

Kim Sheldon is back for her second year on the varsity squad, she saw playing time last year.

In the Western Lakes, Suffety expects Walled Lake Central, Stevenson,

Farmington Harrison and Churchill will be tough opponents.

"We're a real skilled team," said Suffety. "Our skill level and commitment from the players (is our strongest asset). They are committed to Salem volleyball and are real focused. Our team has set goals and is real focused on achieving

Salem finished 37-13-4 last year with its best record ever. Suffety hopes this

year's team will surpass that record.

He is looking for solid leadership from Viau, and good floor leadership from setter Koch.

"It looks to be a good season," said Suffety. "I'm real excited.

"We have some good passers and good skill players."

The Rocks are 4-1 overall as they head into the Portage Northern Invitational this weekend.

The week ahead:

Varsity action leads the way as sports year ignites

BYANNE SULLIVAN

Coming up this week in varsity

Tonight: Canton gymnastics are at Farmington for their first dual meet of the

Thursday: Canton wrestling battles Churchill at home, Salem grapplers travel to Farmington and face off with North Farmington.

Friday: Canton and Salem basketball teams open their league season with a face off in the Salem gym.

Saturday: Salem wrestlers host the

Salem Varsity Invitational tournament, Canton grapplers will compete in it..

Canton and Salem gymnasts travel to Troy to compete in the Troy Athens Invitational. Salem volleyball competes in the Portage Northern Invitational.

Monday: Canton gymnastics hosts Walled Lake Western.

Salem gymnasts travel to Farmington.

Tuesday: Canton basketball and swimming host Ann Arbor Huron. Salem basketball hosts Brighton.

Salem swimmers head to Livonia and face off with Stevenson.

EMU hockey kicks off year against MSU at Cultural Center Fri., Sat.

Eastern Michigan club hockey will host the Michigan State club hockey team in two games this weekend at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The Eagles will face off against MSU at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday night.

EMU is 14-5-1 overall and in second place in the Eastern Division of the Central States Collegiate Hockey League, one point behind Illinois.

The Eagles are ranked fifth nationally in the American College Hockey Association.

MSU is 9-1 overall.

Cost is \$4.50 for adults, \$2.50 for students and \$1.50 for senior citizens.

The previously scheduled Jan. 10 game with Colorado has been canceled.



Jamey Viau, a four-year veteran on the Salem volleyball team will lead the squad this year (Crier photo by Scott Breithaupt).

Parks and Rec, YMCA and area parks offer year 'round activities

Continued from pg.16

The fall will see the honey extractions Sept. 10 and 11, Oct. 9 will be the harvest fest, and the haunted forest walk will be Oct. 28 and 29.

Admission into the park is \$4 per vehicle, \$18 for an annual pass.

Cross country skiers can also make tracks at Township Park. Although there are no trails, skiers have taken to the rolling hills at the park.

Ice skating, sledding hills and ice fishing are popular winter activities at the park, according to Park Ranger Susan Opatrny.

A fireplace is lit on the weekends at the park's pavilion, and a park ranger is on the grounds.

The park is closed Mondays and Tuesdays until April 1.

Edward Hines Park also offers sledding and skating in many areas of the park.

Parks & Recreation:

Plymouth kicks off the year with soccer registration in January, for the spring league. One of the most popular activities in the community, the league is open to 5-17 year olds and play begins in April.

Registration for all winter session class begins in January, including tot painting, drawing, gymnastics, and ballet. These are always popular and fill up quickly.

Beginning skating lessons start at the Cultural Center Ice Arena.

Back for its second session is a Phonics First class which was introduced in September. The response was overwhelming and class will start in February. Its open to anyone who has a problem with reading, writing or spelling.

Many senior activities are offered, including many senior leisure trips throughout the year.

WSDP radio to broadcast Canton-Salem

WSDP, 88.1 FM will broadcast the Salem vs. Canton basketball game this Friday night.

The Rocks and the Chiefs open their league play against each other Friday night in the Salem gym.

Canton Parks and Rec offers men's league racquetball

Registration is underway for the Wednesday night men's racquetball league with Canton's Parks & Recreation department.

The winter season begins Jan. 12, runs 15 weeks at Rose Shores in Canton.

Court times are 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. cost is \$105 per person and includes league court time, prizes and t-shirt.

The league is divided into divisions based on player ability.

For more information call 397-5110.

In addition, two seminars will be offered on living trusts and retirement. Paul Leduc will lead the seminars. Living Trusts is Jan. 24, 1-3 p.m. and retirement is Jan 31, 1-3 p.m.

Back by popular demand is the daddydaughter and mommy-son dances set for Feb. 4.

The daddy-daughter dance is 6:15-7:45 p.m. and the mommy-son dance follows 8:00-9:30 p.m.

The annual arts and crafts show is set for March 11-13 at the Cultural Center.

Adult classes in line dancing and country dancing are scheduled throughout the year.

Northville packs its winter season with a variety of activities for all ages.

Swimming classes are available for all ages from three through adults. Water fitness and scuba diving classes are offered.

Youngsters can enjoy classes in baton twirling, gymnastics, ballet, bowling, floor hockey and jazz dancing.

Soccer registration is Jan. 15 and 22 for boys and girls born before July 31, 1987

Many team activities are offered. Teen activity nights are offered and a living science foundation camp.

For adults there are volleyball, softball, basketball and floor hockey leagues.

Lunch with the Easter Bunny headlines the spring activities.

One of the biggest events in Northville is the May Day 10K race, set for April 30, at Maybury State Park. Canton also offers many programs and classes all year long.

YMCA:

For the winter months, the biggest events are the basketball league and skill

laccec

A week of field trips is planned for winter break, Feb. 14-18 and Easter break, April 4-8.

Popular at the Y are karate, step aerobics for adults and juniors, and yoga classes. Most classes begin next week.

Beginning Jan 22. is a six week course on women's self defense and rape prevention. The class is Saturdays 10-11:30 a.m.

The Y is also sponsoring a stop smoking, weight control seminar, Jan. 17, in the city commission chambers at city hall. New this year will be a youth instructional soccer class starting Jan. 11, for 4-7 year olds.

Both organized and individual activities abound this winter in The Community, with offerings for most



Parks and Recreation offers floor hockey league play

Canton Parks & Recreation and the Wayne-Westland YMCA are sponsoring youth floor hockey clinics this month.

The clinics are open to boys and girls in grades 1-6 and will be held at Hulsing, Eriksson and Miller schools in Canton.

There are no residency requirements. Cost is \$30 per child.

Six skill clinics and five games are on the schedule. Clinics begin the week of Jan. 24 and will be held Mondays at Hulsing, Tuesdays at Eriksson, Wednesdays at Miller. Games will be at Miller

Registration began yesterday at Canton Parks & Recreation, 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

For more information call 397-5110.

Ski trip to Alpine Valley open to Community teens

BY ANNE SULLIVAN

Canton Parks & Recreation is sponsoring its first teen ski trip to Alpine Valley, Friday, Jan. 14.

The trip includes an all-areaa lift ticket, bus transportation and rental equip-

ment if needed.

The bus leaves Canton Township Administration Building parking lot at 5 p.m. and returns around midnight.

The trip is open to Plymouth and Canton teens 13-18. Costs \$19 per person

if you own your equipment, \$27 if renting equipment.

Regisration is underway at Canton Parks & Rec, 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

For more information call 397-5110.

Canton Parks and Recreation offers ski program

Canton Parks & Recreation is offering a learn to ski program at Riverview Highlands ski area.

Three sessions will be offered in

Adult classes (16 and older) are at 7 p.m., juniors (8-15 years) are at 5 p.m.

Cost is \$49 per person and includes four lessons, four lift tickets and four equipment rentals, \$39 if you have your own equipment.

Lessons are directed to beginner and intermediate skiers and last 45 minutes with free skiing available after the

lessons.

Skiers must provide their own trans-

For more information call 397-5110.

Registration is ongoing at Canton Parks & Rec., 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

\$4.50 for the first 10 words, 20¢ each additional word. Deadline: Monday, 4pm. Call (313) 453-6900

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Curiosities

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JIM JABARA - You must take after your mother - professional cook and baker that you are! Your bread is "out of this world," and your mother and I are here to tell it so.

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Thank you. The Holidays are over. Great hot chocolate at The Coffee Bean Co. 884 Penniman Ave.

Curiosities

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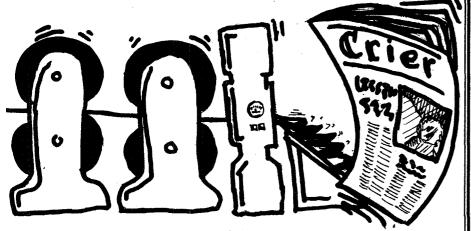
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Community opinions

Closed meeting

Tomorrow's executive session by P-C school board runs counter to need for openness

Once again, the Plymouth-Canton School District finds itself in the midst of unexpected — and potentially uncomfortable — legal complications, thanks to its decision Monday night to hold a special executive session tomorrow night.

And once again, the potential for problems stems from the school board's attempts to find a replacement for Supt. John Hoben, who will step down from his post June 30.

The school board's initial problem was that of keeping the names of those who apply for the post a secret: A recent Michigan Supreme Court ruling — stemming from a Michigan State University search for its own president — says that such searches must be made in public. And that means making the names of the applicants public.

If.

If any member of the governing body takes part in the screening process and therefore is privy to the list of names.

After being informed of this development, the school board decided two weeks ago that it would make all names public — which brings us all to this week.

On Monday, following the board's interview of one of five superintendent search firms, the trustees decided to call an executive, closed session for tomorrow night to discuss the Supreme Court ruling.

The actual topic will be the discussion of the opinion rendered by the district's own legal counsel, Errol Goldman — the district's assistant superintendent for employe relations and personnel.

And therein lies the latest problem: The Michigan Open Meetings Act does not allow for such a session for such a topic.

Section 8 of the Act says that public bodies can meet in closed session for only eight reasons — none of which are to discuss an attorney's opinion on a legal matter.

The reason that comes closest to the district's excuse is paragraph (e), which says that a public body may meet in closed session:

"To consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation, but only if an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the public body."

Not only is there no trial, there is also no "pending litigation" concerning the matter of making the applicants' names public. And the fact is that nothing the board is considering has the slightest financial effect on anything.

However, Mr. Goldman says that an equally recent opinion issued by Attorney General Frank Kelley allows for the closed meeting.

Specifically, he said, paragraph (h) is applied in this instance:

"To consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute."

Mr. Goldman's reason? Attorney-client privilege.

Ironically, though, very little of what Mr. Goldman could possibly tell the board will be new information — which therefore begs the question of why go closed session in the first place?

So far, the board has been most responsive to public calls to keep its process open and above board. Now is not the time to change that attitude.

Should a search method be found that can comply with the Supreme Court ruling while also creating an environment of confidentiality, fine. But even the search for *that* process should come in the full light of public scrutiny.

THE COMMUNITY CRIER

Code confusion Contrary to continued references, the 810 area code does NOT follow 8-Mile boundary

The new telephone area code boundary does NOT follow Eight Mile Road!

As the switch begins to the new 810 code, there is still much confusion about who is affected and when. Even the national media has reported on the confusion.

Ameritech blames this confusion on smaller independent phone companies and phone time resellers who haven't programmed in the new 810 code. And that may be most of the problem.

But Ameritech itself has added to the confusion because its own press releases still refer to Eight Mile Road as the boundary.

Thus, even though the local newspapers have pointed out that The Northville Community, Salem and Livonia are cut apart by the new boundary, the Detroit media took Ameritech's word and have repeatedly used Eight Mile Road as the line.

In the I-275 corridor, the new area code boundary is a disaster. Ameritech argues that the revised boundary line (public hearings were held on the originally-proposed boundary, but not on the revised one) follows telephone exchanges in a way that least disrupts phone users.

That point can be argued.

But the more important point now is the confusion along I-275 about just who gets the new area code. Ameritech should do better to point this out

THE COMMUNITY CRIER

Here's a leaf collection plan...

FDITOR

The 1993 City of Plymouth Plan for leaf removal and composting was not a good one:

- 1. Collect fee/tax for administration of program.
- 2. Watch leaves fall.
- 3. Let leaves rot in streets.
- 4. Winter will come and hide the mess.
- 5. Mess will disappear by the spring.
- 6. Let residents guess about leaf pickup.

My ammendment to this plan:

- 1. Collect leaf removal tax.
- 2. Watch leaves fall.
- 3. Pick them up.

My alternate ammendment to this plan:

- 1. Collect tax after leaves are adequately picked up.
- 2. Provide a map and calander detailing exactly when I can expect to recieve my leaf removal services
- 3. Inform me that there are too many leaves for Plymouth to pick up, so that I may Alternate ways to compost or remove my own leaves.

To help city planners for next fall, here are some facts from mother

- 1. Typically, leaves do not fall off trees in the spring, summer or winter
- 2. Leaves begin to fall the first week of October.
- 3. Majority of leaves have fallen by Nov. 17.

GLENN KREMER



Community opinions

Brace yourself:

You're going to hear a lot about the new tax proposal from me

Brace yourself, 'cause you're going to be hearing about this for the next three months from me: The March 15 ballot proposal to shift education funding from property taxes to the sales tax stinks.

Well, because the plan as it stands works out to a tax increase for many of us and a spending increase for education — and I thought that wasn't the plan.

(Silly me.)

In addition, the plan also shifts far too many tax dollars from Michigan to Washington — adding to tax dollars that already give us very little return.

(Before March, I'll go into greater detail on numbers, but for

How does this happen? Simple.

By eliminating the bulk of property taxes we homeowners pay, the state also eliminated the bulk of federal income tax deductibility we can claim on our 1040.

Lose the deductibility (remember, sales tax isn't deductible) and not only are you paying more taxes — but those extra dollars are going to Washington, not Michigan.

That's stupid.

I mean, Washington already wastes billions of dollars a year as it is, and we're going to feed the monster more?

Besides, if the idea was to raise money for Michigan schools, why isn't the plan designed to capture as much tax revenue as it can and keep it here?

That means: Shift the tax burden from property taxes to the income tax — both of which are deductible — prevent any further money from reaching Washington, and still provide for a stable education tax base here.

Fortunately, there is a way to accomplish this to some point: Vote "no" on Gov. John Engler's March tax proposal.

It's that simple: By voting no, you'll force a shift from one deductible tax (property) to another (income) — and do one other

You'll finally create a tax system based on an individual's ability to pay; an ability based on income.

Not based on owning a home.

Not based on buying things.

Instead, you'll pay because you're working and because you have an income. And you'll pay a little more when you make a

That's a far cry from having to pay more property taxes because someone built a more expensive home in your neighborhood — even though you might be on a fixed income and have no intention of selling your own house.

That's also a far cry from having to pay a larger percentage of your income out in more sales taxes than that rich guy down the

Remember: sales and property taxes are regressive taxes; because they're not tied to an ability to pay, they can take a larger proportion of the incomes of those in lower brackets than those in

Income tax, on the other hand, is progressive: the amount you pay grows only as your income grows; its proportion never changes.

Let me explain this another way, using two people as an exam-

•The first person makes \$20,000 a year and has a \$40,000

•The second person makes \$80,000 a year and has a \$120,000 home.

•The property tax millage rate is 40 mills.

•The sales tax is 4 per cent.

Gatekeeping By Craig Farrand

Property tax increases

Now, for person A, property taxes in Michigan would be \$1,600 — all of it deductible on his (or her) federal income tax. Person B would pay \$4,800 — all of that tax deductible.

For person A, however, his property tax is equivalent to 8 per cent of his annual income.

For person B, his property tax is equivalent to only 6 per cent. See what I mean?

Assessment increases

Now let's see what happens when assessments jump 10 per

Person A's home is now worth \$44,000, and his property tax is \$1,760 — or 8.8 per cent of his annual income.

For person B, his home is now worth \$132,000, and his property tax is \$5,280 — or only 6.6 per cent.

As you can see, the relative impact of property taxes falls heavier on those earning less (and especially those on fixed incomes) — and likewise, any property tax increases also fall heavier on those in lower income brackets.

State sales tax

Now let's shift to the current 4 per cent sales tax:

Person A buys a digital piano for \$5,000 and pays \$200 in

Person B buys the same piano and pays the same \$200.

You can see that the \$200 accounts for a larger percentage of person A's income than person B's: that \$200 amounts to 1 per cent of person A's income; but only 0.025 per cent of person B's.

Sales tax increase

And what happens if the sales tax increases by 2 percentage points?

The same \$5,000 piano now has a sales tax of \$300 — or 1.5 per cent of person A's annual income; but only 0.0375 per cent of person B's income.

Now, certainly it may be the case that person A would never buy such a piano, because they couldn't afford it.

That doesn't make any difference: simply keep a running count of everything else person A buys and it has the same

One final point

And let's not forget one last thing in this upcoming March election: If you vote against the sales tax and accept the income tax increase instead, you'll also increase the amount of your personal exemption — from \$2,100 to \$3,000.

Further reducing the amount of money going to Uncle Sam.

Washington's cut

And that's the whole point here.

If Michigan taxpayers lose the tremendous power of deductibility, there will be shifts of tens of millions of additional dollars from Michigan wallets to Washington coffers.

And that's not necessary.

Which is why you should vote "no" on March 15.

From the "oops, my Freudian slip was showing" department: In last week's column I inadvertently referred to Plymouth's DDA as the Downriver Development Authority.

Well, as you probably know by now, I'm a Downriver rat whose computer failed to save me from myself.

Of course, I was referring to Plymouth's Downtown Development Authority...

Community



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