



The Community Crier

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

75¢

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February 18, 1998

Canton pair jailed for 'strong arm' robbery

Elderly Twp. victim breaks hip in mugging

BY BRYON MARTIN

As an elderly Plymouth Township woman recuperates in a hospital room today, her two alleged assailants are in Wayne County lock-up, jailed for their roles in the "strong arm" robbery that led to her broken hip and subsequent surgery, according to Plymouth Township police.

Det. David Hayes said Canton men Brian Jackson, 18, and Michael Smith, 21, were arraigned in 35th District Court Tuesday on charges of unarmed robbery.

The "strong arm" classification, however, indicates that the pair's alleged crime caused injury to the victim, said Det. Jim Jarvis.

Adele Gray, a 68-year-old Plymouth Township resident, was rushed to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Thursday for emergency hip-replacement surgery after she was mugged in the Kmart parking lot at Ann Arbor and Haggerty roads, Hayes said.

The ball in her hip's ball-and-joint socket had to be replaced, according to Gray's daughter, Cyndi Gray.

Adele Gray was walking through the lot when two men in a blue-green Ford Escort pulled alongside her and wrestled her purse away; she was knocked to the ground, breaking her hip, Hayes said. The vehicle then sped off eastbound on Ann Arbor Road.

Please see pg. 6



Plymouth Twp. Det. David Hayes (at left) looks on as Cyndi Gray (at right) addresses a packed courtroom at the 35th District Court Tuesday. A robbery allegedly perpetrated by Canton men Brian Jackson and Michael Smith (center) left Gray's mother, Adele, with injuries requiring emergency hip replacement surgery. Cyndi requested the highest possible bond for the pair at their arraignment. A \$100,000 cash bond was set. (Crier photo by R. Alwood, Jr.)

'Skene is clean' says jury

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

A 12-person jury acquitted former City of Plymouth Parks and Recreation director Chuck Skene on four counts of embezzlement Thursday in Wayne County Circuit court.

In light of the verdict, Skene said he and his lawyer Steven Boak may file a slander suit against the City of Westland.

"We're considering it on several different grounds but we haven't really delved into it too much at this juncture," Boak said.

Charges were filed against Skene after he was fired from his job April 22 as director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Westland. The city alleged he took as much as \$10,000 in city funds from its Parks and Recreation department (P&R).

Skene said he placed personal checks in a P&R safe in exchange for cash.

Skene was involved in divorce proceedings at the time, he said, and did not want to keep cash in his checking account. "You may say that it's morally wrong, but it's certainly not illegal."

Skene said the checks could have been cashed and that no money was missing from the P&R coffers. "Other people did the same thing," he said.

Some \$6,900 the city said is missing from a week's worth of P&R revenue is still unaccounted for, according to Boak. In its case the city tried to tie the missing money to Skene's check-for-cash swapping. The jury found Skene innocent on this charge.

According to Boak, the city didn't have

an estimate of how much money was missing.

"They have yet to prove anything. Even throughout the trial they hadn't performed an audit. If you went to them and asked point blank how much they were missing they wouldn't be able to tell you," Boak said.

Prosecuting Attorney Tom Dawson tried to show that Skene took the money to support a gambling addiction which led to losses nearing \$30,000. Dawson pointed to Skene's banking records which showed repeated withdrawals from an ATM near a Windsor casino.

Skene admitted to having "a gambling problem to a certain extent," but said his losses did not reach the \$30,000 alleged. He also denied any connection between his

gambling addiction and the exchange of personal checks for city cash.

Aides said that Westland Mayor Robert Thomas was out of the office all week and was unavailable for comment.

Deputy Mayor George Gillies did not return calls for comments on the verdict.

The City of Westland hired Skene as P&R director in Feb. 1993. Skene had worked in The City of Plymouth for 18 years in a similar capacity, but left that job under pressure to comply with residency requirements.

"I feel quite justified. This matter should not have been placed in the criminal justice system," Boak said. "In my mind, there was a complete lack of evidence. I felt badly for my client, who had to be put through this."

Classic returns

Plymouth AAUW plays 'Jack & the Beanstalk' fundraiser

See Friends & Neighbors pg. 12

The Liquidator

Joe Carli's auction business celebrates 10 years

See Getting Down to Business pg. 8

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Co-ed squad marks highest ever placing at national competition

See Sports pgs. 22-24

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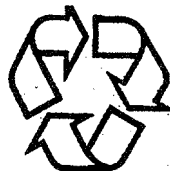


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Courthouse could cost \$4 million more

Court officials balk at \$9 million price tag

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Architects hired to design the new 35th District Courthouse have presented a project slightly more ambitious than anticipated.

About \$4 million more ambitious.

"I think everyone was surprised at the price tag," said Steve Walters, Plymouth city manager. "We were all taken aback."

Southfield-based Coquillard, Dundon Peterson and Argenta, Inc (CDPA), presented the first of their preliminary drawings for a new courthouse to the 35th District Court Advisory Board Wednesday.

The plan was for a 56,173-square foot, four-story structure, basement included. Total cost of the building would run about \$9.1 million, compared to the \$5.5 million 35,000-square foot facility the board had anticipated.

"We really didn't know what to expect," said Kerry Erdman, court administrator. "We found that with 35,000 square feet, it was difficult to get four courtrooms."

That the building's existing foundation will have to be replaced, also came as a surprise, court officials said. The foundation was one of the contributing factors in keeping the courthouse on the same site, with the thought that building up from it would reduce the overall cost of a new structure, Erdman said.

But according to Dennis Dundon, CDPA

vice-president and project supervisor, keeping the foundation is more trouble than it is worth.

"The needs are different with a three-story structure than a one-story structure," he said. "There were so many modifications and compromises to the floor plans, it's easier just to pull it out and build a bigger one. It's not hard to do and do right."

Walters bases the inflated costs of the courthouse on the earlier, soft estimates of the project. The estimates were based on the court's needs until the year 2025, and on the imprint of the existing foundation.

We were all taken aback.

— Steve Walters
 Court Advisory Board

The Court Advisory board will now examine the feasibility of financing such a project and ways to bring costs down, Walters said. At \$9 million, the project would be very difficult to finance, Walters said.

Possible ways to lower building costs of the building include reducing floor space or, in a worse-case scenario, rebuilding a same-sized building on the site, according to Walters.

"The simplest way to reduce cost is to reduce floor space," Walters said. "We have to examine the plan and see exactly what we need with the eye that anything we take out will be much harder to put back on later."

"The whole plan is to make it meet our needs for at least 25 years from now," Erdman said.

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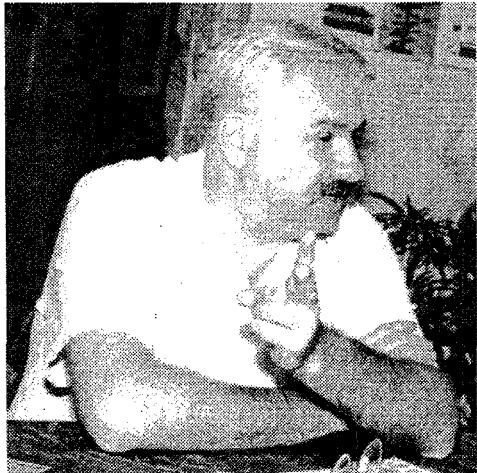
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It's the smart way to start a new year!

Chuck Skene's story:

*False*ly accused!

Jury says 'not guilty,' waits outside to congratulate him



BY W. EDWARD WENDOVER
Being innocent, while being painted guilty with a politically-motivated brush, is tough to take.

Chuck Skene, knowing that his father flew in from Florida the night before and now sitting in the courtroom behind him, tries to hold his composure while the final summations of embezzlement charges go the jury.

Skene, his father, and other family and friends know that he's innocent.

This is the man who was named the "Westland Citizen of the year" just before he was fired and falsely accused. Ten months later, he was sitting through two weeks of trial — his personal and professional life hanging in the balance.

As Skene's defense attorney, Steve Boak said, "It's a lot harder to go through it when you're innocent, than when you're guilty."

Boak understood how his client felt to face the City of Westland's five ersatz felony charges. But he had no choice but to guide Skene through the legal system's maze.

Then, this past Thursday morning, the jury came in after two-and-a-half hours...

"Not guilty," on all counts.

It was hard to hide his father crying in the courtroom — Charlie Skene had supported Chuck all along and flew up from Florida for the final days in court. Even when a search warrant was served by surprise at the Skene parents' house in Northville, they'd stuck by.

Did Charlie Skene now see the 10-month long ordeal for his son end Thursday morning?

It officially ended with the jury's "not

guilty" verdict on four counts. (A fifth count was thrown out by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Timothy Kenny on a directed verdict.)

But, for a man falsely accused, when does it really end?

Does it end when the jury members waited outside the courtroom to shake Skene's hand and wish him well?

Or does it end a half-an-hour later when Skene's friends phone-fanned-out to their "network?"

They changed their story three times in this to try to make something fit.

— Chuck Skene

Does it end when the newspapers run the stories about the "not guilty" verdicts? Will it end once Skene's daughters hug him and tell him they knew their father was innocent all along?

Does it end with a victorious civil suit against the individuals who, in Skene's eyes, were out to get him?

Or, does it ever completely end?

Skene admits that he was warned about the City of Westland's political system when he left the City of Plymouth's P&R position four years ago. "With a city manager form of government, you tend to have a more professional city management and department heads — not your cronies or allies," Skene said.

And, Skene admits, he knew the Westland P&R job was called a "graveyard." No one had ever moved to other, larger community P&R jobs after

Please see pg. 4

EDITOR'S NOTE: Chuck Skene is the assistant advertising director of The Crier. He was hired for that position the Monday following his firing as Westland Parks and Recreation Director and his being charged with embezzlement from that position. As a Board Member and former Board Chair of Senior Alliance, 11 years ago he recruited this article's author, the publisher of The Crier and his daughter, Jess Wendover, to help deliver Meals on Wheels to Senior Citizens in western and downriver Wayne County. Before he became Plymouth Parks and Recreation Director, Skene was the EMU roommate of Mike Carne, general manager of The Crier. Skene's parents have been minor shareholders in this newspaper's publishing parent company for almost six years. Neither Skene, his family, nor his attorneys, reviewed today's Crier articles or opinions before they were printed.

See 'With malice toward none,' pg. 25

Agenda

THIS WEEK

- Wednesday & Friday, Compuware Arena holds public skating hours from 9:10-11:00 a.m., and 12:10-2:00 p.m. Admissions vary by skater age and residency. Skate rental available. Call (734) 453-6400 for other times.
- Market Day pickups at Plymouth-Canton schools: Wed. at Hulsing, 2:30-3:30 p.m.; Thurs. at Allen, 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Fri. at Fiegel, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- Openings are now available for students at New Morning School in the current semester, and for fall 1998, in full- and half-day kindergarten through 5th grades. Call (734) 240-3331.

WEEKEND

- Saturday at Canton High School, Oakwood Hospital begins its three-week Certified Baby Sitter class. Course helps children ages 11-15 become safe, responsible baby-sitters. Cost \$30. Call (734) 416-2937.

NEXT WEEK

- Monday, mid-Winter break begins for students in Plymouth-Canton schools. Classes resume Monday, March 2.

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Life after 'not guilty'

Continued from pg. 3

...serving in Westland. (In fact, one former Westland P&R director was fired and then ran, and won — for mayor... Charles Pickering.)

But, as City of Plymouth P&R director for 19 years, Skene knew recreation and faced heat there on the City of Plymouth residency requirements. He needed to land somewhere else.

Westland — home of his new wife, Judy, and her sons and daughter — seemed a natural. He took the job.

"I knew what I was walking into was a volatile situation — especially in parks and recreation," Skene said.

Westland Mayor Robert Thomas first fired Skene in June, 1995, but the City Council members (led by Councilwoman Sharon Scott) backed Thomas down. He was rehired.

Then he was fired on April 22. Skene said that three days later the Westland Deputy Mayor George Gillies called Barb Polich of the Westland Civitans to ask them not to give the "Citizen of the year" award to Skene.

"Less than a week before it happened, he was telling them (the Civitans) that I was being charged with embezzlement and that I was guilty," Skene said.

The mayor, who could not be reached for comment, was quoted as saying Skene was not fired because of the embezzlement allegations even though he was fired the day the Westland search warrants were served.

"He can say that all he wants," Boak said. "But I don't think a civil jury will find it a coincidence he was fired seven days before they brought charges."

That's a very strong hint that Skene will be filing a civil lawsuit for being falsely accused, for slander, for back pay and retirement accrual.

Westland residents, taxpayers and employees may feel the bite of Skene's pending lawsuit. Some Westland city employees have already asked whether they'll be cut back; or will Westland taxes be hiked to pay off a Skene lawsuit?

"Maybe they'll take this out of the administrators' salaries," Boak chuckled.

Will the several individuals who worked for Westland be sued as individuals too?

"They should have thought of that before," Skene said Monday.

"Obviously, that's a big topic of discussion over there (at Westland City Hall)," Boak said. "They may have some (personal) immunity on some of the charges, but on others no (immunity)."

A Skene lawsuit against Westland may also seek damages that the embezzlement allegations destroyed his reputation in the P&R profession — even though the jury found him "not guilty." "From a P&R standpoint I still think I've been politically assassinated,"

Skene said after his acquittal.

"I'd be very surprised if I could ever find a recreation job."

But there are other hurts that Skene suffered too. Even a civil suit might not right those wrongs, he admits.

Take, for example, how Skene's 11-year-old daughter learned of the charges against her father.

"I was fired at 11 a.m. on April 22. Somehow The Detroit News heard about it and started trying to find me," Skene said.

It's a lot harder to go through it when you're innocent than when you're guilty.

— Steve Boak
Defense attorney

The second indictment of this is the legal-judicial system. The truth of the matter is that this case should never have gone as far as it did.

— John Thomas
Defense attorney



Chuck Skene (left) and his lead defense attorney, Steve Boak, celebrate with lunch at the Plymouth Landing last Thursday following Skene's acquittal. The restaurant, owned in part by Westland City Attorney Angelo Plakas, is also a favorite spot for Westland Mayor Robert Thomas to hold gatherings. Thomas did not attend Skene's celebration, however. (Crier photo by W. Edward Wendover)

Even though Skene had since remarried, "The reporter, Manny Lopez, called my ex-wife's house in Plymouth and got the recording. He left a message that said, 'Yes, Mr. Skene, I'd like to have a comment from you on your dismissal and the upcoming embezzlement charges,'" Skene said.

"Guess who got the recording first — my 11-year-old daughter, Cathy," Skene said angrily. "I didn't even get a chance to tell her. This didn't endear me to newspapers," he added.

And the charges themselves angered Skene.

Seized in the search of his parents' house was a copy of Spartan magazine. "They tried to allege that was gambling paraphernalia," Skene laughed.

Boak didn't think the "Keystone Cops" allegations were at all funny.

"I specifically asked the officer what it (Spartan magazine) had to do with this case," Boak said. "He didn't have any idea. He just thought it had to do with this case because it had sports statistics in it."

"The prosecution alleged some \$30,000 in gambling (losses). There was no proof that he lost a dime," the attorney argued. "For example, if he went to an ATM at the casino, say he got \$200... they say it was a \$200 loss but they don't know what he did with the money."

"Their whole surveillance (of Skene) was a joke," Boak said.

"From my past experience as a (Wayne County) prosecutor, looking at the number of people they had involved in surveillance and the tactics they used was a waste of taxpayers' money. The only thing they found was him 'possibly' making two U-turns," the attorney said.

The "evidence" submitted by the prosecution offended Skene and Boak. "If there were two ways to look at something, they always construed it against Chuck," the attorney said.

Boak said that the "evidence" offered by the prosecution never even proved money was missing, let alone whether his client had taken any money.

This week will be the first time when I see somebody I won't walk the other way. I can look people in the eye.

— Chuck Skene

After Skene's acquittal:

Westland Citizen of Year to sue?

Continued from pg. 4

The prosecution tried to imply that Skene's gambling had resulted in losses and that he embezzled money from the city's funds.

"They changed their story three times in this to try to make something fit," Skene said.

"Now you tell me they weren't trying to throw something against the wall and see if anything would stick."

The jury didn't buy it.

Key testimony that apparently swayed the jury toward Skene came from his former secretary, Nora Herbert. Although she was called by the prosecution, she testified that monies from recreation funds were handled by many Westland employees in both the P&R and finance departments.

... they (the jury) felt Chuck (Skene) had been targeted, perhaps intentionally, and they wanted him to know they believed in him.

— Steve Boak

Herbert, whose husband, Kent, was recently fired as Westland's personnel director, has repeatedly said she believed her former boss was "targeted" unjustly.

Now, with the jury acquitting Skene, is Nora Herbert in danger of her Westland job?

"I'm really concerned about Nora (Herbert) and Margaret (Martin, the therapeutic recreation supervisor)," Skene said. "I've seen this administration

can be very vindictive. These were two people who stood by the truth under 10 months of pressure."

Skene said Martin was threatened with dismissal if she didn't turn over records of the non-profit Therapeutic Recreation Boosters Club. "It's pretty scary stuff that the city thinks they can get away with that."

Skene warns his Westland neighbors.

"I think it's time for the citizens of Westland to take a good look at what this administration has caused with division of different parts or sections of the community," he said, citing the current feud between Thomas and the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

"It's an 'us' versus 'them' mentality," he added. "It's not everybody working together. You're only right if you're working with us."

Obviously, Thomas felt Skene was no longer on the "us" side.

If and when a civil lawsuit is filed, one fact that will likely come out, said Boak, is that Skene offered to take a lie detector test on one condition: when he passed, the city would drop its investigations into him.

Under court rules, that lie detector test offer was never presented to the jury.

But they didn't need it.

After the four "not guilty" verdicts, the jury waited outside for Skene.

"For most of the trial, they (the jurors) had seemed impassive," Boak observed.

"Their waiting outside I took as an indication that not only did they feel the prosecution had failed to prove its case, they felt Chuck had been targeted, perhaps intentionally, and they wanted him to know they believed in him," Boak smiled.

And as if the jury congratulating the defendant wasn't rare enough, one juror congratulated Skene with a handshake and then turned to Boak and said, "If I ever need a lawyer, I'm calling you."

The defense attorney laughed. "Now that was a first."

I used to be that way too. I'd read (something) in the paper and automatically believe it. I learned how the (Westland) Police Department used the newspaper as almost a voice.

— Chuck Skene

Thursday WK 2

- * Wake up about 4:30 am can't sleep
- * 5:15 go buy Free Press, News, Baseball Weekly (It has statistics I hope they don't think its gambling paraphernalia)
- * About 7:30 start thinking about what happens to my life if this doesn't go right
- * ~~After~~ No Food couldn't eat
- * Father + I leave for court about 8:15 Dad tries to have general conversation but I really don't want to talk
- * 9:00 am One of the jurors is not there (they maybe they'll have to call the alternate)
- * 9:15 am Missing juror shows up + they go into deliberation
- * Steve not there yet so Dad + I go to cafeteria Coffee for him nothing for me Buy USA Today read article about Tom Izzo + Spartans but really not interested
- * Go back down to lobby outside courtroom This is the worst time I pace can't sit I walk the back stairs. Each minute seems like 15 minutes
- * What do I do with my life?
- * Jurors ask for coffee cups
- * Jurors ask for evidence
- * 11:15 Jurors have verdict
- * We go into court room waiting for jurors I knew this is the worst time
- * Jury comes in with some smiles I think thats a good sign
- * Judge asks for verdict (Eyes closed can't look@ Jury)
 - Count #1 Not Guilty
 - Count #2 Not Guilty
 - Count #3 Not Guilty
 - Count #4 Not Guilty
- Steve says that's round #1
- I thank God
- Jury waits outside to congratulate me + with me well
- One juror says Mr. Boak if I ever need an attorney I want you (I agree)

Thanks Steve Thanks Dad Thanks Friends + Family

This page from Chuck Skene's journal represents the final day in his trial for allegations he embezzled from the Westland Parks and Recreation Department. Note his feelings when the jury returned with a complete "not guilty" decision.

Painful ties to Valentine's week for victim, family

Continued from pg. 1

Friday, the Gray family posted a \$1,000 bond for tips leading to the arrest and conviction of her assailants. That amount doubled when family friend Creon Smith matched it, Hayes said.

Reports of the crime, and a description of the suspects and their vehicle were televised on Metro Detroit-area stations Friday. The coverage paid off, said Hayes. Police received their first break in the case Saturday.

"They basically said I know this person who drives this car, and he's having problems right now," Hayes said.

Canton recreation facility coming?

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Canton's Board of Trustees met in a study session last night to discuss the feasibility of a recreation facility on Haggerty Road north of Michigan Avenue.

Proposed by Griffin Properties of Southfield, the center would consist of two ice rinks, and possibly other facilities, according to Tom Yack, Canton Supervisor.

The ice rinks may be joined by basketball courts, soccer fields and softball

Sunday evening, police got their second break.

City of Farmington police sent out a be-on-the-lookout warning about purse snatchers whose descriptions matched those of the suspects in Gray's attack. The warning also included a blue-green Escort.

It was a few hours later that township police made their arrest.

"About 1 a.m. Monday, Ofc. Steve Cheston was on routine traffic patrol and saw a vehicle fitting the descriptions and stopped it," Hayes said.

The stop led to the arrest of Jackson and Smith. Questioning produced confes-

facilities, according to Yack.

"These things we feel pretty solid about," Yack said.

Canton would donate the portion of the land for the ice rinks, and Griffin would pay fair market share for the remainder of the portion, according to Yack. Canton originally paid about \$10 for the land, Yack said.

"In exchange for the land, we can get a \$15-\$20 million recreational facility with no risk to us," Yack said. "I think that's a tremendous opportunity."

sions from both men, not only to the township and City of Farmington purse snatching, but to one in Farmington Hills Hayes said.

Standing before Chief Judge John MacDonald, Jackson and Smith were bound over for unarmed assault, a charge that if convicted, could put them in jail for up to 15 years, according to Jarvis.

During the arraignment Cyndi Gray addressed MacDonald and the capacity-filled courtroom.

"I requested the highest bond legally possible because of the violence of the crime," she said.

"The injuries seem to be pretty flagrant," McDonald said. "And one of them had a history of not sticking around."

Following Cyndi's request for the Jackson's and Smith's stern punishment, MacDonald bound over each on a \$100,000 cash bond.

MacDonald said he wanted to send a strong message with the bond amount.

"I was very happy to get a six-digit (bond) amount out of it," Cyndi Gray said. "They've screwed up her life."

Much of the Gray family is from or lives in Plymouth, Cyndi said. "We've got deep roots here," she said.

Her father, Donny, was a barber in Old Village at Curly's Barber Shop. It was during Valentine's Day week that Donny died in 1989.

Cyndi said that on the day of the robbery, two days before Valentine's Day,

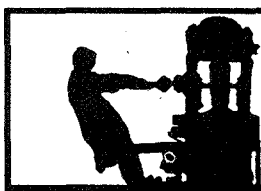
her mother had gone to Kmart to buy a diamond pendant. According to Cyndi, Adele bought it as a pick-me-up for a week associated with her husband's death. The pendant was in the purse Jackson and Smith allegedly took.

"They traded it to some crack heads," Cyndi said. "They've got 15 years coming."

"I'm pursuing this. They're going to be sorry they messed with my mother."

Jackson and Smith are scheduled to return to the 35th District Court for a preliminary trial Feb. 27 at 9 a.m.

I'm pursuing this. They're going to be sorry they messed with my mother.
— Cyndi Gray



Public notices

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1998

Supervisor Keen-McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led in the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. All members were present except Trustee Curmi (Excused).

Mrs. Massengill amended the agenda by removing under Community Development Item No. H.2 Approve Rezoning from IND, Industrial District and ARC, Ann Arbor Road Corridor to R-1-A, Multiple Family Residential as requested by the Community Development Director. Mrs. Massengill then moved to approve the agenda for the February 10, 1998, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees as amended. Seconded by Mrs. Arnold. Ayes all.

Mrs. Massengill moved to approve the consent agenda as submitted for the February 10, 1998, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all.

Supervisor Keen-McCarthy asked for comments from the public. Mr. Roger Kehrier questioned if Plymouth Township had considered applying for available federal or state grants to off-set the hiring of new police officers or had considered hiring retired Detroit police officers.

Supervisor Keen-McCarthy opened the public hearing at 7:40 p.m. on the request to establish Plant Rehabilitation Industrial District for Key Plastics, Inc. Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:41 p.m.

Mrs. Mueller moved to approve Resolution No. 98-02-10-06, granting a Plant Rehabilitation District to Key Plastics, Inc. located at 40300 Plymouth Road, Plymouth, Michigan. Seconded by Mr. Griffith. The entire resolution is on file in the Clerk's Office.

Roll call

Ayes: Arnold, Griffith, Mueller, Edwards, Massengill, Keen-McCarthy

Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted.

Mr. Edwards moved to approve the Final Plat for Application No. 1034F/797, country Acres of Plymouth Subdivision No. 2, located north of Ann Arbor Road, south of Powell Road, east of Napier Road and west of Ridge Road, subject to the provision of financial guarantees in the amount of \$825,750 as recommended by the Township Engineer. Seconded by Mrs. Massengill. Ayes all with Mrs. Mueller voting no.

Mrs. Massengill moved to establish February 24, 1998 for the public hearing concerning the Community Development Block Grant funds for 1998. Seconded by Mr. Edwards. Ayes all.

Mr. Edwards moved to approve the salary of \$3,900.00 for the position of Deputy (Clerk and Treasurer), and further move to amend the 1998 budget by adding \$3,900.00 to the Salary-clerical line (Acct #707) in both the Clerk and the Treasurer Department budgets - Resolution No. 98-02-10-07. Seconded by Mrs. Massengill. Ayes all on a roll call vote.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Ms. Arnold at 7:56 p.m. that a closed session be called for the purpose of discussing Firefighters Local 1496 Contract.

This is a permissible purpose under Michigan's Open Meeting Act, Public Act No. 267 of 1967 as amended by Act No. 256 of 1978 Article 15.268, Section 8, Paragraph (e). Ayes all on a roll call vote.

It was moved by Ms. Arnold and seconded by Mr. Griffith to reconvene the regular meeting at 8:46 p.m. Ayes all on a roll call vote.

It was moved by Ms. Arnold and seconded by Mr. Griffith that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth ratify Firefighters Local 1496 Contract as recommended by the Township attorney, Mr. Lange. Ayes all.

It was moved by Mrs. Massengill and seconded by Mr. Griffith to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. Ayes all.

Marilyn Massengill, CMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Kathleen Keen-McCarthy, Supervisor
Charter Township of Plymouth

The foregoing is a synopsis of the minutes of the Board of Trustees held on February 10, 1998. The full text is available in the Clerk's Office for perusal. They will be submitted for Board approval at the next regular meeting on February 24, 1998.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township Meetings, to individuals with disabilities at the Meetings/Hearings upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the following: Supervisor's Office, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone number: (313) 453-3840 x 200. TDD users: 1-800-649-3777 (Michigan Relay Services)

Canton, others begin planning for joint Rouge River cleanup

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Representatives from six nearby boards of trustees agreed to develop a plan within 14 months to clean up the Rouge River, following a joint board of trustees meeting Thursday.

Held at Canton's Summit on the Park, the meeting brought together elected officials from Canton, Plymouth, Salem, Superior, Van Buren and Ypsilanti townships to discuss issues regarding the clean up of the Rouge River.

"This is the first time six communities have come together to address a common resource," said Jim Murray, director of Wayne County's Department of Environment. "It's going to take a long time to get the Rouge River in a condition to be proud of, not embarrassed by."

Murray and Kelly Cave, director of Wayne County's Watershed Management Division, gave a presentation about upcoming issues with the river. A case now in federal court will ultimately name the communities responsible for the river's condition, and will outline a plan for cleaning it up. Cave also discussed a storm water general permit, which will be required of all communities within the watershed by 2001.

The Thursday conference was a chance for participating communities to proactively plan for upcoming river issues.

"By working together voluntarily we think we can find a more cost-effective alternative to federal or court mandates," Cave

said. "It makes sense to share resources."

By showing progress before the 2001 deadline, communities will send a message to Judge John Fiekens, who oversees the case involving pollution control in the Rouge River. Fiekens will allow the communities to set their own plan for cleaning up the river, providing they make bimonthly progress reports, Cave said.

"It's a win-win situation," Cave said. "We'll do a better job working together from the local level up than working from the top down."

Within the 14-month time period, communities must find possible pollution points such as illicit sewer connections and abandoned landfills and address how they will clean them up, Cave said.

Cave also stressed the importance of filing for the storm water general permit before the 2001 deadline. Eventually, the permit will be a requirement for communities and involves a storm water drainage map, illicit discharge elimination plan, public education plan and a long-term watershed management plan, she said.

"Applying for one now will give more local control and flexibility and show good faith toward complying with future regulations," she said.

Canton Supervisor Tom Yack said the communities agreed to meet again and continue discussions. "We should demonstrate that we have the capacity and the wherewithal to solve these problems on a local level."

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Public notices

1998 CITY OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF HEARINGS ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW

The Board of Review for the City of Plymouth will convene in the City Commission Chambers, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170, for an Organizational Meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 1998 at 12:00 Noon.

The Regular Board of Review session will begin:

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 1998

12:15 TO 6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1998

3:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed.

Hearings are by appointment only. COMPLETED 1998 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY and must be submitted to the Front Office, located on the First Floor of City Hall before an appointment can be made. The "DEADLINE" for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in person before the Board of Review is Wednesday, March 4, 1998 by 9:00 P.M.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer or a representative, an agent must have written authority to represent owner, by Monday, March 16, 1997.

Copies of the notice stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted on the official public bulletin boards of the City and also in the local newspapers.

All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions regarding the March Board of Review, you may call (313) 453-1234 x 223.

CITY OF PLYMOUTH
MARK R. CHRISTIANSEN
CITY ASSESSOR

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Getting down to business



Getting
down to
business

The liquidator

Joe Carli celebrates 10 years of auction services by expanding into Illinois and Ohio

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Joe Carli has found his calling.

Carli, an ex-General Motors executive, founded his business, J.C. Auction Services, Inc. 10 years ago in the Plymouth Antique Mall owned by Carol, his wife.

The store had been prosperous for about five years when Carli saw the potential in providing auction services, he said.

"I started out doing it just part-time," Carli said. "But the business just started growing. There was an unbelievable demand."

J.C. Auction services has prospered for 10 years primarily by word-of-mouth advertising, he said. It's a fact he attributes to being a Plymouth resident for 38 years, and a member of the business community for more than 15 years.

It has also brought him a lot of local business, such as last year's auction at the Mayflower, and the Hoben Estate Auction, the first part of which took place Saturday at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

"Ninety per cent of all work I do is in Plymouth," Carli said.

That may be changing. Carli has applied for licenses in Illinois and Ohio, with plans of expanding into the two states.

"I would be doing an auction in Saginaw and someone would say, 'It's too bad you don't go to Chicago, because this is just a summer home,'" he said. "I would have to turn them down."

J.C. Auction services provides complete liquidation services, Carli said. He appraises and tags everything from household belongings to property abandoned in storage facilities.

Here's how it works: Carli will go into a house or business and assign a value to everything. Drawing on both experience and the courses required for appraisal certification, Carli estimates both the



Joe Carli, of J.C. Auction services is celebrating 10 years of operating his own business. The auction services are based out of the Plymouth Antique Mall, but, as Carli advertises, he 'has a gavel and will travel.' (Crier photo by Scott Spielman).

value of the property and what he thinks people will pay for it.

He then totals it up to get a final figure and assess his fee, a flat percentage he charges regardless of the amount of funds raised by the auction. Generally, the higher the dollar amount, the lower the fee he charges, he said.

Carli's fee includes pick-up, storage and the actual auction services, he said. He employs eight people who can haul and store inventory in a 10,000 square-foot storage facility Carli uses.

"When someone loses a family member, they've got a lot on their mind. They don't want to spend time worrying about what they're going to do with their property," he said. "I can go into a house,

tag everything, pack it up, store it and sell it. They don't have to worry about any of it."

It was a practice that came in handy for the Hoben auction, he said. Former P-C Schools superintendent Mike Hoben's belongings were so numerous that they required two auctions, one held Saturday and the other, consisting primarily of furniture and antiques, to be held Saturday Feb. 21.

Carli, who also calls all of the auctions, said his favorite part comes before the auction.

"I like going in to someone's house and seeing something I've never seen before and figuring out what it is," he said. "I like that kind of research."

Karmanos Cancer Institute moves

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

The Plymouth office of the Karmanos Cancer Institute is moving from its current location on Wing Street to the Mayflower meeting place, according to Kathy St. Onge, regional director of community outreach.

"We hope to become a little more visible," St. Onge said.

The office will continue to provide the services that make Karmanos a refuge for those suffering from Cancer, St. Onge said.

Although the clinic dispense free bandages and other low-cost medical supplies, it is not a clinic, she said.

"The Plymouth office won't have any medical staff on hand, but they will be able to help someone get the proper medical care," she said.

The office will focus primarily on community outreach, and offer educational services to people who wish to learn more about cancer, St. Onge said.

Staff member will also be able to

help arrange transportation for cancer patients, distribute low-cost nutritional supplements. The office also features cancer brochures as well as other reference materials available on a rental basis, she said.

The Karmanos Cancer institute formed when Wayne State Medical School, the Detroit Medical Center and the Michigan Cancer Foundation merged, according to Jerry Sowick, chairman of the west regional board of directors.

The Plymouth Community Chorus, as part of its continuing music education program, is offering three vocal scholarships to students pursuing an education in performing arts.

The scholarship was established in 1984 for the purpose of assisting worthy and promising students in the pursuit of a career in the field of vocal music.

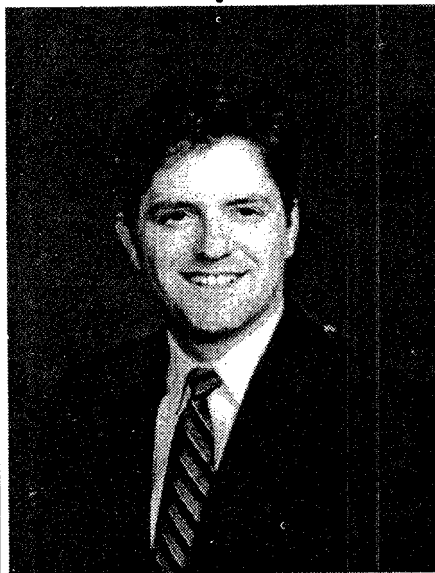
For applications or more information call (313) 533-4796.

Maria A. Marcantonio has joined the senior management team at MEDHEALTH Wellness Centers of Plymouth as corporate director of Marketing and Communications.

Marcantonio, a Northville resident, will direct all marketing and communications functions and staffing for MEDHEALTH. She is also an Ambassador of the Northville Chamber of Commerce, serves on the directory committee of the Women's Economic Club of Detroit, the DIA Founders' Society and Gamma Phi Beta Sorority.

Connie Gilman and Martha Satwicz of Plymouth have received the Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ).

Gilman and Satwicz are staff members of Michigan Peer Review Organization in Plymouth, an independent, statewide organization that leads and coordinates efforts to improve the quality of health care.



Willmarth & Tanoury, a Detroit-based law firm, has expanded its staff with the addition of Wayne Walker (above) as an associate. Walker will concentrate in medical malpractice defense litigation and health care corporate law.

Exam testimony reveals alleged plan in Martell murder

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Three Canton teenagers will face trial for the Nov. 19, 1997 shooting death of 21-year-old David Martell.

The preliminary examination for the three suspects was held Wednesday in 35th District Court before a courtroom filled with teens from the trailer parks where the incident occurred.

Witnesses testified that James Blanchfield, 17, Matt Leonard, 17, and Mark Edwards, 16, met before Martell's death and allegedly planned the shooting days in advance.

Chad Aho, a resident of neighboring

Sherwood Village trailer park, testified that Blanchfield, Leonard and Edwards knew Martell.

"I met him through Jimmy (Blanchfield) in the summer," he said. "We had been hanging out for a couple of months."

Aho testified that Martell was shot because he put a friend up to stealing from the teens. He said that on an occasion two days prior to the shooting and the day before the shooting, the three had discussed the plan in Blanchfield's bedroom.

"They were talking about killing David Martell," he said. "They said they were going

to shoot him."

According to Aho's testimony, he saw Blanchfield, Leonard and Edwards with guns while they planned the ambush. Edwards had a .25 caliber handgun, Leonard had a .380-caliber handgun and Blanchfield had a chrome .22 caliber handgun.

The day before the shooting, the three had a hand-drawn map of the area where the attack occurred, Aho said.

According to Cheryl Loewe, assistant medical examiner for Wayne County, Martell suffered bullet wounds in the chest and in the elbow. Shot while driving, Martell also sus-

tained a head injury when his car crashed into a mobile home.

The fatal shot was a "large-caliber, jacketed bullet," she said. The other bullet had apparently ricocheted off the bone.

Canton Police Ofc. Brian Schultz, an evidence technician, testified that he recovered five spent shell casings from the murder scene.

A report from the Michigan State Police crime lab identified the spent casings as coming from .380, .22 and .25 caliber handguns, Schultz said.

Blanchfield's attorney, Robert Simmons, tried to debunk Aho's testimony alleging Aho told a different story every time he was questioned by Canton detectives.

Simmons also said that Aho's testimony could not be trusted because Canton Detectives threatened to charge him with involvement in the crime. Aho didn't know what was on the statement he had signed because he can not read or write, according to Simmons.

Chief Judge John MacDonald found enough probable cause sufficient to bind over all three suspects for trial in Wayne County Court. They are being held without bond.

Collaboration brings M-14-Beck Rd. signal closer

Plymouth businesses working with the Chamber of Commerce, the township and Wayne County, are one step closer to a long-awaited goal: another light at M-14 and Beck Road.

"With the business community expanding there is definitely a need," said Michele Ruppall, a member of the chamber's Industrial Advisory committee and employe at Diversy-Lever.

Ruppall said the fight is half-won. In agreement that the intersection requires a new signal, Wayne County committed half of the \$120,000 price tag for the light.

The complexity of the intersection, involving two exit ramps, side streets and a railroad crossing, requires a more complicated stop light which results in a higher-than-normal price tag, Ruppall said.

"We're trying to come up with a local match," said Kathleen Keen McCarthy, Plymouth Township supervisor. "I know the intersection is very busy and the businesses are very frustrated. I wish I could pull it magically out of the budget."

Fran Toney, executive director of Plymouth's Chamber of Commerce, said the light was one of the chamber's top priorities this year. By working with local business leaders, she said they hope to come up with a plan to make the local match and ease congestion at M-14 and Beck.

"A lot of business are thinking of expanding in the area and with the traffic situation the way it is, they may not want to."

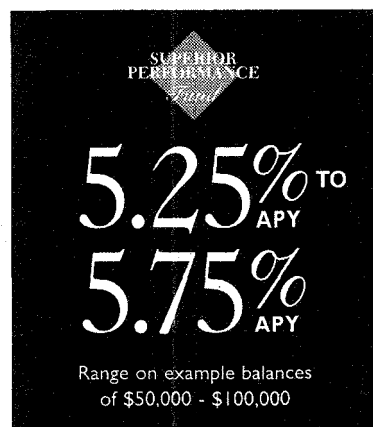
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than 1.60%. As of 1/14/98, the interest rate for this tier is set at 5.60%. The APY is 5.75%. The interest rate for the portion of the balance that is \$25,000 or more but less than \$100,000 is tied to the 13-Week Treasury Bill rate less not more than 1%. As of 1/14/98, the interest rate for this tier is set at 6.08%. The APY ranges from 5.25% to 5.75%. The interest rate for the portion of the balance below \$25,000 is tied to the 13-Week Treasury Bill rate less not more than 5%. As of 1/14/98 this interest rate is set at 4.17%. The APY is 4.25%. Fees may reduce earnings on these accounts. Offer is available to individuals only. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender. For individuals with a TDD device, service is available from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., M-F at 1-800-289-4614. ©1998 First of America Bank Corporation.

Twp. OKs F.D. raise, names top-paid staff

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

After nearly a year of negotiations, the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees last week approved a three-year contract and raise schedule for unionized fire department employes, according to township supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy.

The township also released a list of its top paid officials last week. Although the list does not include the fire-union raises, it does reflect increases in other salaries, including those for the township's finance director, police sergeants and public service director.

Even with the increases, township employe wages remain in line when compared to similar benchmark communities, according to the figures.

"We look at what the salary ranges are for similar communities, and we try to stay in the middle of that range," said Keen McCarthy.

The township checks itself against governments of similar structure in communities of size and tax value comparable to Plymouth Township, Keen McCarthy said.

Final salary figures include base salary plus benefits, including medical, retirement pension and, where applicable, scheduled overtime and longevity pay, according to the report.

Plymouth contributes 15 per cent of base salary to employe retirement funds and about seven-and-a-half per cent for FICA match.

These amounts are added into final salary totals, according to the report.

Because the salaries are projected, they may not reflect exact final totals for the year, according to Keen McCarthy. Firefighters and police employes normally work more than a 40 hour week. Although scheduled overtime is included in the totals for fire and police officials, unscheduled overtime is likely, she said.

The fire-union contract includes a total nine-and-a-half per cent raise over three years, said Keen McCarthy.

"The three fire lieutenants will also receive a \$300 bonus and the three fire captains will receive a \$750 bonus," she said.

According to Larry Groth, Plymouth Township fire chief, "The union wanted a larger span between firefighters' pay and lieutenants' and captains' pay because of the greater responsibilities that (lieutenants and captains) take on."

The three-year contract is retroactive to April of last year, when the last contract had expired. The contract also includes an increase in the longevity pay cap, from \$840 to \$1000, and more money for exercise equipment for the stations, said Groth.

One segment of township government didn't receive a raise this year: elected officials.

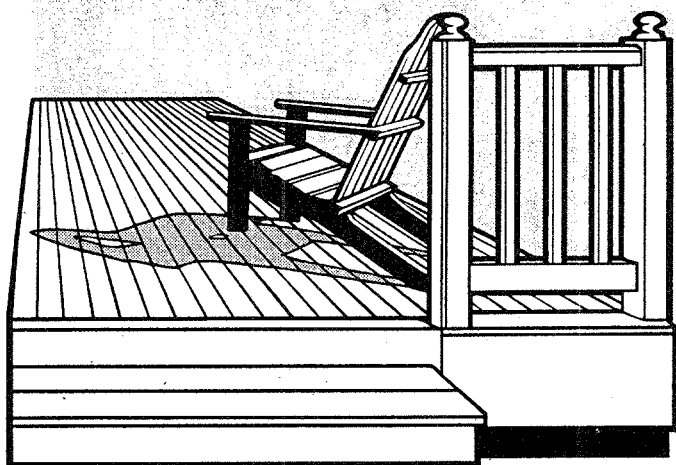
Please see pg. 18

Top 21 salaries, Plymouth Twp. employes *

James Anulewicz, <i>Dir., Public Serv.</i>	\$96,571
Larry Groth, <i>Fire Chief</i>	\$93,323
Rosemary Harvey, <i>Dir., Finance</i>	\$87,575
Kathleen Keen McCarthy, <i>Twp. Supervisor</i>	\$87,250
Lawrence Carey, <i>Police Chief</i>	\$84,633
Robert Smith, <i>Police Dept. Lt.</i>	\$83,375
Robert Antal, <i>Police Dept. Sgt.</i>	\$77,277
James Jarvis, <i>Police Dept. Sgt.</i>	\$77,277
Al Matthews, <i>Asst. Fire Chief</i>	\$76,460
Charles McIlhargey, <i>Chief Building Official</i>	\$75,511
Jeffery Felts, <i>Police Dept. Sgt.</i>	\$75,001
Steve Rapson, <i>Fire Dept. Sgt.</i>	\$74,757
Randy Maycock, <i>Fire Dept. Capt.</i>	\$71,969
Dennis Wilson, <i>Police Dept. Sgt.</i>	\$71,658
Jim Jury, <i>Fire Dept. Lt.</i>	\$69,780
Jim Haar, <i>Fire Dept. Lt.</i>	\$69,732
Doug Eldridge, <i>Fire Dept. Cpt.</i>	\$69,721
Jim Valensky, <i>Fire Dept. Lt.</i>	\$68,191
Marilyn Massengil, <i>Twp. Clerk</i>	\$67,964
Mark Wendel, <i>Fire Dept. Cpt.</i>	\$67,943
Ron Edwards, <i>Twp. Treasurer</i>	\$65,121

* Figures represent projected 1998 totals for regular pay and other Township payments to employes, including retirement contributions, medical benefits and, where applicable: overtime, longevity pay and incidentals such as vehicle mileage, vacation buy-outs and other payments.

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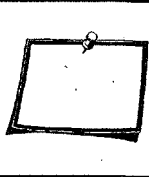


What's Happening

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).



Sweet Charity... will be performed by the Plymouth Theatre Guild through out the month of February. Plymouth - Canton cast members include Emily Zahm, Len Poma, and Margaret Katona.



Events

CONGRESSWOMAN LYNN RIVERS

A forum hosted by Congresswoman Lynn Rivers on "International Trade: Economic Boom or Bust" will be held **today** from 7-9 p.m. at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh Rd. Call 734-722-1411 for more information.

PCAC ANNUAL DINNER AND AUCTION

The Plymouth Community Arts Council's Mardi Gras Dinner and Auction is on **Saturday** at Fox Hills Country Club. There will be silent and live auctions by J. DuMouchelle and music by the New Reformation Dixieland Band. Tickets are \$50 per person and cash bar is available. Please call 734-416-4ART for more information.

VFW COMEDY SHOW

The VFW #6695 Ladies Auxiliary are sponsoring a "Totally Unrehearsed Comedy Show" on **Saturday** at 7:30 p.m. For reservations or information call Tillie at 734-416-0518 or Ann at 734-459-2394.

SWEET CHARITY

Plymouth Theatre Guild is proudly presenting Sweet Charity on **Feb. 20, 21, 22, 27, and 28**. For information or group rates call 248-349-7110. Advanced tickets may be purchased at Piccadilly Petal'er Flowers, Penniman Deli, Evola Music, and by mail: PTG - P.O. Box 700451 - Plymouth, MI 48170.

MAID OF ERIN PAGEANT

We are looking for girls ages between 17 & 23 of Irish descent for the "Maid of Erin" pageant to be held **Feb. 28** at the Gaelic League. For further details call Bridie Flynn at 734-464-8556 or Peggie Bolland at 313-255-5677.

GENITTI'S PRESENTS: "BEANIE BABY CAPERS"

This is an interactive show for anyone who loves Beanie Babies. In addition to the mini luncheon and children's theater, two Beanie Babies will be raffled off. The show will be presented **March 7, 14, April 18, 25, and May 23, 30**. For more information call Genitti's 248-349-0522.

CRAFTERS NEEDED

Crafters of every ilk are encouraged to apply for a spot in the 1998 Spring Craft Show at Schoolcraft College **March 7**. The show features all types of handmade crafts including painting, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, textiles, needlework, photography, glass, leather, and woodcarving. The fee for a 12' by 12' space is \$90; 10' by 10' costs \$55; 8' by 9' space costs \$40; and there is a \$40 fee for an 8' by 4' hallway space. There is an additional \$15 fee for electricity. For additional information call (734) 462-4417.

DANDY THE CHIPBEAR

The first series of Dandy the Chipbear books, a character for children of divorced families, will be read by Michael Campbell at the Little Professor Book Store in Plymouth on **March 14** at 1:30 p.m. Also, there will be a Dandy hour for coloring and drawing.

1998 TASTE OF NORTHVILLE BUSINESS SHOWCASE

The "Northville's Got Taste" showcase will feature 70 exhibitors from retail, service, and professional businesses in the Northville Community. This is a chance for business networking, excellent food, and promotional goodies. The event will take place at the Northville Community Center on **March 24** from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

PLYMOUTH SYMPHONY LEAGUE

On **March 25**, the Plymouth Symphony League will be hosting a Game and Card Party at the Golden Fox Country Club from 9:30-3:30 p.m. A luncheon and fashion show are included. Tickets are \$25. For more information call 734-451-5598.

GUIDE to Entertainment

Go PCN

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

CANTON CINEMA 6

734-981-1900; "Titanic" "Good Will Hunting" "As Good As It Gets" "Spice World" "Deep Rising" "Hard Rain" "Sphere" "LA Confidential."

CENTER STAGE

734-981-5122; Thurs. - Sat.: Dance to mainstream music rock, alternative & more.

COFFEE STUDIO

734-416-9288; Next Wed.: Open Mic. Night.

ERNESTO'S

734-453-2002

KARL'S COUNTRY CABIN

734-455-8450; Thur.: Blues Shaker.

THE LOWER TOWN GRILL

734-451-1213; Fri.: Allen Hill and the Love Butlers. Sat.: Curtis Sumpter Project.

LUCILLE'S TAVERN

734-397-1988; Thurs. - Sat.: Dixie Cross Road Band.

NORTHVILLE DOWNS

810-349-1000; Harness racing.

PENN THEATRE

734-453-0870; Now playing: "Flubber" Rated PG.

PLYMOUTH WHALERS

734-453-8400; Sat.: Home game versus Sault Ste. Marie. Sun.: Home game versus Own Sound.

STARTING GATE

248-349-5660; Fri. & Sat.: Live music w/Sax Appeal.

STATION 885 RESTAURANT

734-459-0885; Wed. - Sat.: Keyboardist Wally Gibson; Fri. & Sat.: with special guests.

WATER TOWER THEATRE

248-349-7110; Plymouth Theatre Guild presents: "Sweet Charity" runs: Feb. 13-28.

WEST SIDE SINGLES

734-981-0909; Every Fri.: Friday dances at Burton Manor

These listings are free of charge and are accurate as of noon Friday, prepared for Wednesday's Crier. Bookings, reservations, cover charges and capacities may change, so please call to verify information. A venue wishing to be listed or to update information should call The Crier at (734) 453-6900 by noon Friday.

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Friends & neighbors

Neighbors in the news

Jane F. Decourcy, daughter of William and Jane DeCourcy of Plymouth, and Grant C. Gardner, son of Carol Barringer of Canton have been named to the Dean's List at Albion College for the fall 1997 semester.

Decourcy, a graduate of Canton High School, is a senior majoring in Spanish, speech communication and theatre.

Gardner, a graduate of Canton High School, is a senior majoring in economics and management.

The following students were named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 1997-98 academic year at Western Michigan University. From Canton: Cheryl Benko, Robert Dobry, Anne Galbraith, Carla Howe, Collen Kirby, Daniel Kruszka, Angela Wing-Chee Lim, Daniel Lobelle, Julie Orleman, Amber Rabeau, Molly Schmidt, Sara Schoeneman, Matthew Sherwood, Kimberly Springer, Joshua Tolbert, Julie Wetterstrom, Michael Wrobel, and Kristin Young. From Plymouth: Joseph Antoun, Vanessa Bodnar, Christin Cifaldi, Heather Daniels, Elizabeth Fry, Erica Karrer, Tara Liljestrang, Michelle Mangan, Christine Nielsen, Kimberly Reynolds, Matthew Shear, Kelly Stankov, Emily Strand, Susanne Thomson, and Rebecca Wiener.



Richard Giddings, of Plymouth, a sophomore in Ferris State University's College of Technology, was recently recognized with his project teammates by the international Graphic Arts Education Association for excellence in print projects.

Giddings team took first place for their team's four color press skills in printing a poster of a Porsche.

Gemini guests with PSO

The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra (PSO) will perform a pair of family concerts this weekend, joined by a special guest. Well, a pair of guests.

The PSO will perform Saturday at Belleville High School auditorium and Sunday at the Salem High School auditorium. PSO conductor Russ Reed invited the artists to appear with the orchestra. The Hungarian-born twin brothers accepted his invitation. Gemini's brand of jaunty family oriented folk music will be accompanied by PSO.

The brothers became involved with symphony orchestras last year. Orchestral arrangements of their songs have been created by Bo Ayars who has worked with artists as diverse as Elvis Presley and Judy Collins.

In addition, Stephen Goto, the Demaris Arts Competition first place winner, will also perform. Goto, a Salem High School senior, will perform the first movement from Khachaturian's *Violin Concerto*.

Tickets for each concert are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children and may be purchased by calling the PSO at (734) 451-2112. The first 250 people to purchase tickets will receive a free ticket to the Whaler's Tuesday, March 3 game at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.



A children's classic returns

Plymouth AAUW chooses Jack and the Beanstalk for annual fundraiser

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

You know the story: A youngster trades his cow for three magic beans and ends up meeting a giant living in the clouds.

But you've probably never seen it told like this before.

The Plymouth-Canton American Association of University Women (AAUW) is performing the classic "Jack and the Beanstalk" for their annual fundraiser, according to AAUW member Melissa Uhl.

The AAUW is a national organization of women with advanced degrees who help provide educational opportunities to young women and girls interested in school, she said.

"We raise funds for scholarships to girls in the community and give money to local colleges like Schoolcraft or Madonna," she said. "We give them either to young girls who are on their way and doing well, or older women who are heading back to school."

Uhl, a manufacturing engineer at the Ford Road Sheldon Plant, has been with AAUW for four years, she said. She was signed up by her mother, who has been

with the organization for 29 years, she said.

The AAUW is comprised primarily of teachers in the Plymouth Canton Area, although some members are business owners.

Live performances are the AAUW's largest fundraiser, Uhl said. The organization used to have a used book sale, where they would collect used books from the community and sell that at a low cost, but had to discontinue it because it was getting too expensive to store the books, she said.

The fundraisers have a long tradition, according to Uhl.

"They were started 38 years ago to provide entertainments and drama to kids," she said. "They didn't have Starts on Ice or Sesame Street."

The plays have, over the years, kept to the children as their primary focus, Uhl said. With a show geared to a younger audience, the 18 cast members of Jack and the Beanstalk try to get everyone in the audience involved, making frequent trips off stage to encourage participation, she said.

After the show, cast members come

out in full costume to meet the children, she said.

"It's really quite an experience," Uhl, who will play Jack in the production, said. "We're all professionals, but none of us are actors. We just go out there and have fun."

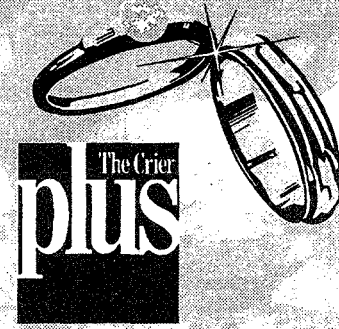
The play will be held March 5-7 at the O'Leary Auditorium in Garden City High school. Production has been held there for the past four years because of rising costs associated with having the play at Salem High School, Uhl said.

Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Thursday the 5th and Friday 6th; and at 1 and 3 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$3 and will be on sale after Feb. 27 at the Pied Piper on Main Street, through Plymouth Canton Schools Feb. 17-19 or at the door.

Tickets can also be ordered by a check payable to Plymouth AAUW in a stamped, self-addressed envelope post-marked no later than Friday, Feb. 20 to Play Tickets 1274 Penniman, Plymouth, MI 48154.

"It's a lot better than going to the Fox Theater," Uhl said. "It's cheaper, and the kids already know the story. It's always a good time."

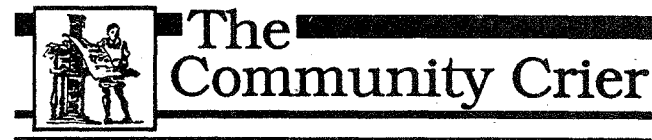
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From flowers to food: Weddings require special planning from start to finish

BY LINDA KOCHANEK

Ahh, your wedding day. Lots of time and care go into planning the perfect day, and making it more than just a day, but an event to remember. Many couples are adding original touches that will reflect who they are and what is special about their union.

The Ring

The “promise of forever” starts with the ring. Styles and shapes have changed over the years and many couples now design their own sets.

“Years ago the average age of couples was 18 or 19,” said Don Bush, owner and gemologist of O & D Bush Jewelers. “Now couples are 25-27 and are more established with college backgrounds.

They are choosing larger diamonds and more elaborate bands than ever before.

Popular styles from the fifties, like two-tone rings and platinum, are coming back,” He said. “Also the new princess cut

is very popular.”

Even though band colors may be changing, couples continue to choose diamonds over all other gems.

“Diamonds are strong and they will last for the life of the marriage,” he said. “Other stones may not last as long.”

Busch said that one bride had unique charms made as gifts for each of her bridesmaids. Each then had a memento of the special day that they could carry forever.

Gowns

Styles for wedding gowns are still long, traditional and formal, but the colors are anything but conservative.

“Brides and bridesmaids have been choosing ice pink, yellow and blue for accents,” said Beth Jacobs.

“Head pieces, bun wraps and custom-made tiara’s with or without veils are the new trends. Brides are even using flowers and rope pearls in their hair.”

Jacobs said that the most unique

wedding she’s ever worked on was one where everyone wore white.

“Everybody in the wedding party — the bride, the bridesmaids and both mothers — wore white. It was fabulous.”

Gloves and tank dresses are also hot items this spring for brides and bridesmaids.

Mens

In menswear, tradition still seems to win overall, but groomsmen aren’t left out when it comes to updated styles and colors.

“There are many new styles in formal wear,” said Rich Orlandi of Steve Petix in Plymouth. “There are new banded and cross-collars with matching jewel pieces used as button toppers. There’s also a resurgence in vests.”

Orlandi said that there are a lot of new looks in lapel styles, but the notch and shawl lapels still are the most popular.

“We are pretty much a black tuxedo

business,” said Orlandi. “But in the summertime we may see the groom in a white coat with black pants.”

Flowers

Flowers can add distinct flare to not only the bridal bouquets, but also the centerpieces.

“People usually use their favorite colors and flowers,” said Erica Mansfield, wedding consultant, of Heidi’s Flowers in Plymouth. “In the spring, people use more tulips and bright colors. The newest trend for centerpieces are tall bud vases that are raised.”

The Reception

It’s important to choose a hall that will work with you on your unique ideas. Make sure you know ahead of time that they can fulfill your requests.

“We usually have a conservative clientele,” said Tom Willette, director of City of Plymouth Parks and Recreation.

Please see pg. 15

“The promise of forever starts with the ring.”

“Flowers can add distinct flares to bouquets”



A wedding veteran's advice: constant communication key to successful wedding

BY MARILYN KOCHANEK

I have had an active part in planning three weddings: my own 35 years ago, my eldest daughter's 10 years ago and my second daughter's last fall

I've come to believe the most important part of planning a wedding is communication.

The bride and groom need to decide up front the type of wedding they would like.

They need to establish a budget, find out if the parents are willing to help and the number of guests they plan to have.

The type of wedding, budget and guest list should be top priority.

Choosing a location for the wedding and reception should come next. Church availability is important and choosing a reception site close to the church is always nice for the guests. Deposits for the church and hall are then made. Usually you have to pay for the church, judge, minister or priest, organist, soloist, wedding coordinator and custodian.

Invitations would probably be next. These should be tasteful, reflecting the theme of your wedding, but they needn't be expensive.

Most people don't keep wedding invitations they receive get. Mail order catalogs for these have the best prices and do lovely work.

Choosing your bridal party is important. Ask those who are really happy for you and who will add to the occasion.

Choose a wedding gown and veil that make you feel beautiful. The price should be within your budget. Dresses for your bridesmaid should also be flattering and within their budgets. Remember that these dresses are only worn for a day.

Flowers should be ordered from an established florist. You want to be sure they deliver and confident they will be the exact quality you ordered. You'll want a bridal bouquet, bouquets for the bridesmaids, boutonnieres, corsages and flowers for the altar. The bridesmaid's bouquets can be placed on the head table or cake table. The altar flowers can be in papiermache' vases and can be used at the reception, too. These steps can save on cost.

You'll want to order your wedding cake from an established bakery. The bakery we used last fall was the same one that made

my wedding cake 35 years ago. Now *that's* established.

Bridal magazines are showing a lot of fondant frosted wedding cakes, but their cost is high and unnecessary. Butter cream frosting is fine.

Centerpieces on each of the guest tables need not be expensive. A candle and a little greenery does the trick.

Music decisions must be made between a band or a D.J. for the reception. Most people go with D.J.s today, because it is less expensive.

You can pick out songs that mean a lot to you and also give the D.J. a list of the songs that you would not liked played. (Billy Idols 'Mony Mony' and the chicken dance may be two that you would omit.)

When choosing a photographer, browse through their previous work. Choose a good photographer and chose a package you can afford. It's better to have a few wonderful pictures than a lot of okay ones.

A wedding video is nice to have, but can be expensive. Hire a professional or ask a friend who has a good video camera to do it for you.

Appetizers are great at the reception especially if your guests are having drinks while waiting for the bride and groom to arrive. Cheese, crackers, vegetables and fruit make a nice snack.


The reception dinner should be a basic meal that most people would like. Dessert can be wedding cake. If you serve a different dessert and cut the wedding cake later, the cake may end up going to waste.

A basket in the ladies restroom is a nice touch. It should include things someone might need during the evening. Items such as hairspray, clear nail polish, safety pins, sewing kit, static guard, bandaids, extra pantyhose, breathmints, hand cream, stain treater towelettes, etc.

'The most important part of planning a wedding is communication.'

'Bridal magazines are showing a lot of fondant frosted wedding cakes, but their cost is high and unnecessary.'

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plus

Cutting costs

Continued from pg. 14

You can cut corners in other ways too. A home computers can print your programs, place cards and thank you notes.

I made the pew bows for my daughters wedding with wired ribbon and held them on with large rubber bands. Simple sewing

techniques make it easy to make your own ring bearer pillow.

A really beautiful wedding doesn't need to be expensive. Just use good taste and common sense. Now all you have to do is make your guests feel welcome and enjoy your wedding.

Wedding Plans

Continued from pg. 13

"I've seen some elaborate head tables and ice sculptures on the buffet tables."

"During the holiday season we have decorated trees and wreaths in our fireplace area," he said. "This October there is a wedding planned that has a Halloween theme. They are having their guests come in costumes."

Menu

Choosing the menu for your reception can be puzzling, but once a theme has been chosen the pieces will fall into place. New food trends include vegetarian menus and heavy elaborate

hors d'oeuvres at mealtime.

"Weddings can be culturally different also," said Louis Poulos of Karl's Country Cabin in Salem Township. "We specialize in mostly traditional Greek weddings."

Original weddings and receptions have been held at Northville's Genitti's Hole-in-the-wall. Couples have even been married on-stage in the restaurant's little theater.

Genitti's Elaine Gardner said "Customizing the event to the specific needs of the couple is most important. We'll work with the couples budget to

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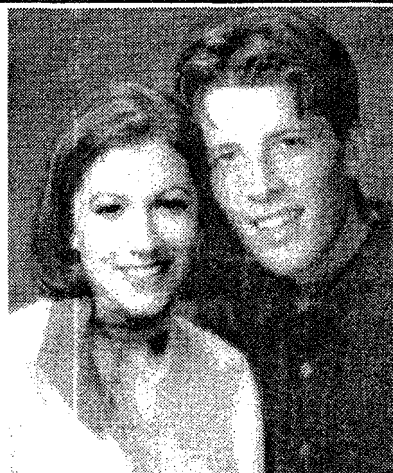
Engagements & weddings



LEWIS-JAGNOW

Bernice Lewis would like to announce the marriage of her daughter, Cheryl Anne Lewis to son of Kent and Linda Jagnow, Christopher Kent Jagnow. The wedding was held on October 4, 1997 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Grand Haven, MI. The brides attendants included Deanna Mayle, Marla Bigelow, and Sara Wetton. The grooms included Jeff Adik, Tim Costello, and Nelson Phillips. The reception was held at Spring Lake Country Club.

Cheryl Anne Lewis is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University and is now employed at MDI in Farmington Hills. Christopher Jagnow is a graduate of University of Michigan and is employed at Detroit Diesel, in Detroit.



MIRTO-MOORHOUSE

Bride-to-be Erin Mirto has announced her engagement to Jason Moorhouse. Mirto is a 1992 graduate of Plymouth-Canton H.S. and a 1996 graduate of Western Michigan University. She is currently completing her teacher certification and working for Livonia Public Schools. The groom is a 1990 graduate of Stevenson H.S. and is currently completing his elementary teacher certification at Madonna University.

A June 6 wedding at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth and a reception at Fox Hills Country Club is planned. The couple is taking a honeymoon in Cabo San Lucas and will be returning to a new home in Plymouth.

DONALDSON-WERBLIN

Douglas Michael Donaldson, son of Mike and Virginia Donaldson of Canton, MI is engaged to wed Wendy Leilani Werblin, daughter of Jeff and Carol Werblin of Syosset, NY.

He is a 1988 graduate of Plymouth-Salem H.S., a 1992 graduate of University of Michigan and a 1997 graduate of the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University, Durham, N.C. He is employed by Arthur Andersen Business Consulting in Chicago, IL.

She is a 1988 graduate of Syosset H.S., a 1992 graduate of Cornell University, Ithaca, NY and a 1997 graduate of the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University, Durham, NC. She is employed by APM Management

EUDIS-JOZWIAK

Mike Eudis of South Lyon and Pam Shefski of Plymouth would like to announce the engagement of their daughter, Heather Eudis. The bride-to-be is formerly from Canton, but now resides in Grayslake, Illinois. She is a 1988 graduate of Plymouth-Canton H.S. and a 1992 graduate of the University of Michigan with a Bachelors degree in Dental Hygiene. She practices dental hygiene in Libertyville, Illinois.

Her fiance, Jeff Jozwiak, is the son of Frank and Josephine. He is a 1990 graduate of Michigan State with a degree in International Relations. Jeff is originally from Arlington Heights, Illinois and now lives in Grayslake also.

An October 18 wedding is planned and the couple will honeymoon in Jamaica.



Community
births

DONEGAN

Rebecca Marie Donegan was born to Judy and Andrew Donegan of Plymouth, MI on May 30, 1997. Rebecca weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces.



YEAGER

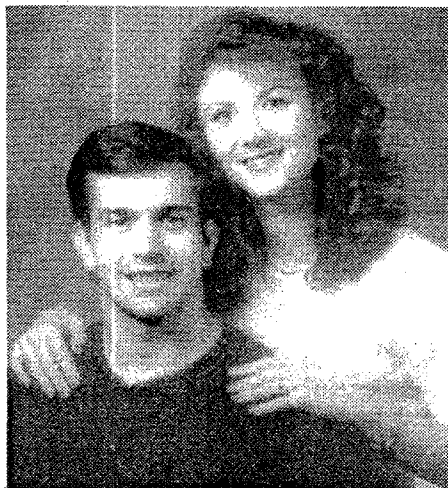
Kristen Noel Yeager was born to Chip and Patty Yeager of Mechanicsville, VA on Dec. 19, 1997 at 2:39 p.m. at Henrico Doctors' Hospital. Kristen weighed 8 pounds and 2 1/4 ounces and was 20 1/2 long.

Kristen is the granddaughter of John and Virginia Ochman of Canton, MI and Ella and the late Herman Yeager of Lewisburg, WV.



YERGIN-ESPINOZA

Mr. and Mrs. James Gasparott are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter Melinda Yergin to Michael Espinoza on March 21 in Phoenix, Arizona. Melinda a 1989 graduate of Canton H.S., received a B.S. degree from Arizona State University in 1993. She is teaching in Phoenix and will finish her Master's degree in June from Northern Arizona University. Michael, a native of Phoenix, received a B.S. degree from Grand Canyon University in 1995 where he played baseball. He is now a teacher in Phoenix. They will



RICE -PICKETT

Kristin Mary Rice, daughter of Ruth Ann and Richard J. Wannerski of Plymouth, and Todd John Pickett, son of David R. and Linda K. Pickett of Allen park, have announced their engagement. The bride-to-be works for CSV sales, Inc. a local food brokerage, is a 1987 graduate of Plymouth-Canton H.S., and a graduate of Western Michigan University.

The bridegroom graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Accounting, and is a CPA with the firm BDO Seidman, LLP in Troy.

The October 3 wedding will be held at St. John Neumann Church in Canton.



SHANKIE-ERNST

Thomas and Judith Shankie would like to announce the marriage of their daughter Nicole Maureen Shankie and son of Robert and Nancy Ernst, Gregory Bachor Ernst. The couple was wed on May 17, 1997 at Old St. Mary's Church in Detroit, Michigan.

The bride is employed at Friendly Ford, Inc. and Gregory Ernst is employed at Ernst Hotel Supply.

*Getting married?
Having a baby?
Have a wedding or
birth announcement?*

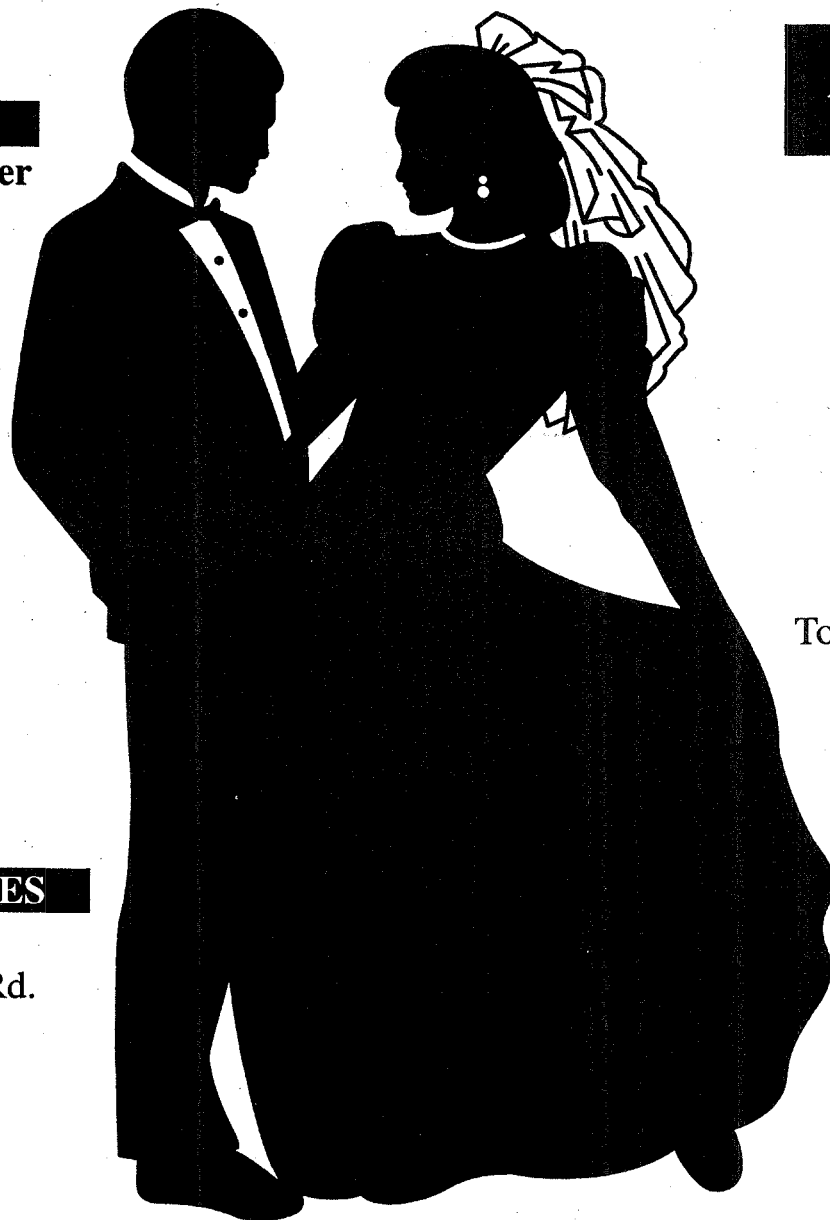
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Tradition? Golf league leaves Hill Top after 56 years

After 'golf in the '90s' flap with management, Plymouth Businessmen head to St. John's

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

What can be said for tradition? The Plymouth Businessman's Golf League wants to know. After 56 years of play at Hilltop Golf Course, they are packing up their clubs this year and heading down the road to St. John's Golf Course, according to league president Jay Densmore.

The league has accused Hilltop and its management, American Golf Corporation, of greedy tactics. "They are strictly a money-making golf machine," said Densmore. "Golf is a people business and these guys are not people friendly."

The problem began for the league three years ago when American Golf took control of Hilltop, Densmore said. "We had meetings with American Golf and they promised us that everything would be the same; but we knew something was wrong when they cut 12 tee times the first year," he said. "They squeezed us down to 36 players without informing us."

They also moved the league's tee-time,

which normally began at 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, up 15 minutes, said Densmore. "They did that so they could fit in another league behind us," he said. "Then they started complaining to us because some of our players were showing up a little late. They moved the time, not us."

The league brought up the issue, said Densmore, but got no response. They had a meeting with Karen Peak, American Golf's regional director. "We told her that there is a tradition involved here, and she told us 'that doesn't matter to us.'"

"She explained to us that we needed to start playing golf in the '90s," Densmore said. Golf in the '90s, he said, is double-par golf: once you reach double-par you pick up your ball. It also includes continuous putting: each player putts until they're done. "It's comparable to putt-putt," he said.

Shannon Blake, Hilltop's manager hired last month, said "I don't feel they were

treated badly in the past."

About the moves made to alter play, Blake said that what happened to the Businessman's Golf League was nothing unusual. "This is the way we do it. It protects the prime-time league spots," she said. "In order to make a sound business decision we had to take measures to speed up play."

For Densmore, the final straw came this year when American Golf asked for half of the year's green fees up-front. "We usually give them 10 per cent until the middle of March, and then we would give them half," he said. "This year they wanted a \$5700 deposit by Feb. 2. They told us if we didn't have the money by then, we were out."

Densmore said he understands why they wanted the earlier deposit. "I figure American Golf runs about 150 golf courses. If they have five leagues at every course,

and they ask for half the money up front, then they can sit on that 3.5 million dollars and collect interest for two months."

Plymouth Township owns Hilltop Golf Course. According to township clerk Marilyn Massengil, American Golf Corporation's lease to manage the course expires on Dec. 31, 2000.

If it were up to Jay Densmore, that would be the last day they do.

"I think the township has made a big mistake by hiring American Golf," he said. "I would strongly suggest getting some local guys out there (when the lease expires), someone who would be more community conscious."

"Plymouth is a traditional town," Densmore said. "I think it's horrible that a big corporation can come to town and ruin a tradition."

Electeds may get next raise

Continued from pg. 10

"We're going to be appointing a compensation committee in the next month or so to look at the salaries of elected officials," said Keen McCarthy. They will decide whether or not elected officials are due for a raise, she said.

Keen McCarthy is in charge of committee appointments and has received several suggestions on whom should belong, she said.

Like its neighbor Canton, only three of the township's top paid officials are women, according to the report. Beside the supervisor, Township Clerk Marilyn Massengill, and Finance Director Rosemary Harvey are among the top paid.

"Most of the department head positions are filled by men," said Keen-McCarthy.

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If you witness an act of kindness, if an organization you are associated with plans a good deed, or if someone is especially kind to you, please write a letter to The Kindness Editor describing the act of kindness. We will gather the reports and publish some of them on a special page on March 18th.

The Community Crier staff will choose an outstanding act of kindness and present a \$50 reward to the kind person, and \$25 each to the runners-up. So if you know somebody who deserves a reward, let us know, who knows, maybe together we can help start new habits. We need to receive your nominations by March 13th to be considered for the March page.

Elizabeth M. Johnson
Atty. at Law

The Community Crier

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this week!



Community deaths



Obituaries

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

JOHN PAUL ALEXANDER

John Paul Alexander, a Plymouth resident, died Feb. 6, 1998 at the age of 72. Mr. Alexander was born Nov. 14, 1925 in Detroit. He was vice-president of operations at Central Transport.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth J. Alexander of Plymouth; daughters, Paula M. Alexander of Jackson, MI, Julie (Robert) E. Deacon of Ann Arbor; sons, John P. Alexander, Jr. of Northville, David (Maureen) Alexander of Plymouth; brother, Danny Alexander of Ormand Beach, FL; sisters, Evelyn DePriest of Las Vegas, NV, Eleanor Malgat of Rochester Hills, MI, Emma Aprahamian of Clinton Township, MI; Josephine Dupell of Las Vegas, NV, and Kathleen Pallisco of Commerce Township, MI.

ROBERT C. TAYLOR

Robert C. Taylor, a Livonia resident, died Feb. 9, 1998 at the age of 80. Mr. Taylor was born June 27, 1917 in Dunbar, KY. He was a Meat Cutter Kroger's. He worked for 19 years with Lyon Corporation of Detroit. He served in the U.S. Army in WWII, receiving the Bronze Star.

He is survived by his daughter, Sharon Brockway of Livonia; son, Robert (Carol) B. Taylor of Dallas, TX; daughters, Terry Taylor of Milford, MI, Kimberly Taylor of Royal Oak; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

RUTH V. HONEY

Ruth V. Honey, a Plymouth resident, died Feb. 9, 1998 at the age of 88. Mrs. Honey was born Nov. 1, 1909 in Burgessville, Ontario, Canada. She was a Plymouth resident since 1956.

She is survived by her daughters, Norma Sayres of Venice, FL, Patricia (Sidney) Bedrosian of Plymouth; sons, John Graydon of Howell, MI; three grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and sister, Bernice Burrill of Brantford, Ontario, Canada. She is preceded in death by her husbands, Robert D. Honey and Leo J. Graydon; and granddaughter, Julianne Bedrosian.

Services were held at the Venice Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Venice, FL with Pastor Ted Wheeler officiating. Local Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

RUDOLPH KASIC

Rudolph Kasic, a Plymouth resident, died Feb. 10, 1998 at the age of 81. Mr. Kasic was born Aug. 11, 1916 in Lackawanna, NY. He was a painter. He served in the Army in WWII. Bette, his wife of 42 years, anchored his life. His faith in God sustained Rudy and his family, and the dear Lord blessed them abundantly. He was truly thankful. His friends and family were warmed by his gentle heart. A smile beamed him. He sparkles.

He is survived by his wife, Bette Kasic of Plymouth; daughter, Katherine (John) Connelly of Canton; son, Christopher (Cathryn) Kasic of Minneapolis, MN; brother, artn Kasic of NY; sister, Julia Taylor of NY; brother-in-law Joseph (Audrey) Bolstrum; and grandchildren, Jennifer and Matthew.

Services were held at St. Kenneth Catholic Church in Plymouth with the Rev. Joseph S. Mallia officiating. Arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth. Mass offerings can be made or memorial contributions can be given to the charity of choice.

HENRIETTA V. LANG

Henrietta V. Lang, a Belleville resident, died Feb. 12, 1998 at the age of 94. Mrs. Lang was born June 28, 1903 in Holland, MI. She was a domestic worker. She was a member of the Canton Calvary Assembly of God Church and sang in the choir for many years. She loved quilting and picking strawberries.

She is survived by her step-son, Harold E. Lang, Jr., of Lehigh Acres, FL; granddaughter, Mary Louise Purslow of Lehigh Acres, FL; great-grandson, Shaun M. Purslow of Lehigh Acres, FL; her church family and many close friends. She is preceded in death by her husband, Harold E.

Services were held at Canton Calvary Assembly of God with Pastor John Harris officiating. Burial was at Cadillac Memorial Gardens in Westland. Arrangements were made by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to the Canton Calvary Assembly of God, 7933 N. Sheldon Road, Canton, MI 48187.

Samuel H. Robertson, Sr., 67, maintenance man for Michigan State Police, Northville post

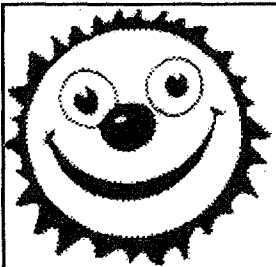
Samuel H. Robertson, a Garden City resident, died Jan. 30, 1998. He is survived by his wife; two daughters; three sons; 12 grandchildren; sisters, Mary Cross of Plymouth and one other sister; and two brothers.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery.

Pamela Diedrick Regan, 44, branch manager for Lonaberger and Associates; bank teller
Pamela Diedrick Regan, a Manassus resident, died Jan. 23, 1998.

She is survived by her husband; her parents, Ralph and Doris Diedrick of Plymouth; two sons; and sister, Connie Jacobs of Northville.

Services were held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Burial was at Quanticco National Cemetery.

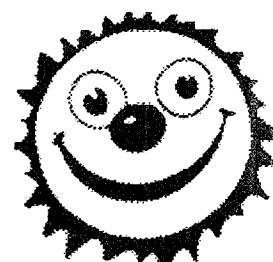


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Girl: "Don't be silly. Kitty can't read."

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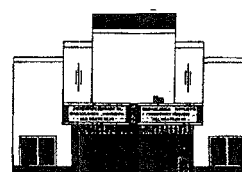
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May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored,
glorified, loved and preserved throughout
the world now and forever. Sacred Heart
of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of
miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the
hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9
times a day. By the 8th day your prayer
will be answered. Say it for 9 days. It has
never been known to fail. Publication must
be promised. Thank you St. Jude. IB

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GUIDE... when the completely updated
GUIDE comes out for the 19th straight
year.

"MY MOM'S 60th BIRTHDAY er... HER
BIRTHDAY IS TOMORROW." -- Sara at
The Lowertown. (SORRY MUM)

DOROTHY BURKE: thanks for your kind
words.

RICK BIRDSAU is on a diet... only six
cocktail onions for lunch.

JESS: congrats on your debate ranking in
Montreal. Love Sally and Dad

MOTOWN HARLEY DAVIDSON is such a
big showroom, most entire motorcycle
dealerships would fit inside.

BEAUREGARD eats lunch proudly with
Chuck Skene. (And did all along.)

CONGRATS CARL AND BOB ON THE
OPENING OF YOUR BIKER DREAM!
Jess, Sally and Ed

STEVE BOAK: "thanks" from several
friends!

CAROL DONNELLY: take your ID next
time.

GENEVA has another unbirthday coming
soon.

ABE: It was great to meet you. Glad you
arranged for Dr. Petz to store your effects
at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

"DO YOU HAVE another wife named
Mary?" Mary Menard to Walter, 1998. (Is
Walter getting old? "Not at all," says Mary.)

Jack is counting Freckles
He's up to over 100

A Snakeless Trish is back! I wonder if
she'll switch to lizards now? Maybe she
can save Bud bottle caps and work out a
deal with them

BIG BOY ALERT

Big Boy was spotted by local residents dri-
ving down A² Rd. in a pink Cadillac. I
wonder if he was wearing mary Kay
Cosmetics. --CUTE--

The accused? NOT GUILTY. (But the
chumps who set him up are still chumps.)

DOROTHY BURKE: Thanks for the
photo. (Now you're up on my computer.)

MAURA has gone Sideways! All the best!--
Your Crier/ Comma, **FRIENDS.**

DEAR MARTHA ET AL: So glad to hear
your voice and know you are really hang-
ing in there. With your spirit we can
expect nothing less. My last letter to you
was certainly a mish-mash. I intended it
to be a tribute to Gladys Bowen, and
instead it became a recall of a most diffi-
cult period in the life of our family. We dis-
covered that Peter, our eldest boy, had a
terminal illness. Ordinarily I never look
back but somehow I was trapped. What I
was trying to say was that Gladys Bowen,
with her philosophy of love and caring,
helped give us strength to take a day at a
time, and make each day a time to be
counted in a positive way. Bless Gladys
and all those who followed her way of
thinking. Lovingly, Geneva.

I MISS MAURA already and Monday has
not even begun.



Crier Classifieds

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Curiosities

ONE OF LIFE'S RICHEST TREASURES is to go to Wilcox Lake, between four and five each day and watch the flocks of geese fly in to be fed by Dorothy MacNamara, her brother and brother-in-law. It's little acts of unsolicited kindness that give life its sparkle.

Curiosities

If you ever have a need for laughter and entertainment, do have dinner with a couple of Italians and their spouses-- Mirto and Delauro by name.
 Thank you for a memorable evening.
 Geneva

Curiosities

Mrs. Melvick Patrick Pruitt did research for his math homework. How 'bout some extra credit?
 ALL OF YOU, I am so touched by your Valentines gifts, I don't know where to begin. Know that I love you, all of you, and I really needed them. Geneva

Curiosities

"WHO HAS BEEN sleeping in my bed," said the Papa Bear. "Ah," said Red Riding Hood, "You'll never know."
 IT GIVES ME A THRILL always to go to Miss Katie's College of Beauty and see the staff at work and the wonderful job they do teaching their students.

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Sports

Sports shorts

Seniors are invited to drop in at the Northville Community Center for **morning volleyball** with the gang.

All levels of play are welcome. It's a fun way to get some exercise.

Held Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fee is \$1.00.

Plymouth Canton Junior Baseball League registration will be held March 7 at the Canton High School cafeteria between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Ages served: 7-18 years.

The City of Plymouth parks and recreation department will again be offering the following **adult softball leagues** in 1998: Men's Slow Pitch, Men's Modified, Women's Slow Pitch, and Co-Ed Slow Pitch. League play begins in late April. For more information regarding any of the leagues, call Recreation Director Tom Willette at (734) 455-6620.

Boys AAU Basketball tryouts for ages 13 and under will be held from 4-6 p.m. March 3 and March 5 at East Middle School in Plymouth. Participants must have been born on or after Sept. 1, 1984. Players who are in the seventh grade and were born on or after Sept. 1, 1983 are also eligible. For further information contact Bob de Bear at 459-0543.

The Canton Parks and Recreation Department will hold **Adult Softball Informational Meetings** on Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Summit. The men's meeting will be held at 10 a.m., the women's at 10:30 a.m., and the co-ed meeting at 11 a.m. Information to be discussed includes registration fees and dates, schedules, residency rules and league set-up. Call (734) 397-5110 for more information.

Salem cheerleaders 10th best in nation

Co-ed squad marks highest-ever placing at national event

BY ERICA D'ANGELO

On Saturday, February 7, 1998, the Salem co-ed varsity cheerleading squad placed tenth in their division at Nationals.

Three hundred teams from around the country competed at the competition which was held in Orlando, Florida at Disney's MGM Indiana Jones Theater.

Salem was competing in the large co-ed division along with twenty-three other teams. Out of the twenty three teams, ten were picked to go on and perform in finals, where Salem placed tenth.

Their placing was the teams highest ever, and it is the highest any mid-western team has ever placed.

"It's real competitive in the south," explained coach Jodee Dillion, "We beat out some tough southern teams."

The squad, composed of thirteen girls and seven guys, has been practicing

since November for the event.

"We qualified at regionals in November to go. We upgraded the routine making the stunts more difficult and have been practicing since," said Dillion.

Jodee Dillion has been coaching the Salem squad for eight years, six of those along with her husband Paul, and this is the first time they have had a team make it to finals.

"We're very proud, they did a great job. We knew they had the potential," said Jodee.

Jodee explained that this team had the highest technical level of any she had ever had. "The routine we took to regionals was the hardest of any squad I've had and we were able to make it more difficult for nationals."

Lindsay Hawraney, a junior captain who has been with the squad for three years was "super excited" at the team's

achievement.

"We knew prelims was our best performance. No matter the outcome, we knew we'd be happy," she said. "There was a lot of tough competition, we were glad to be a part of it," she added.

Scott Kingslien, a senior captain with the squad for his second year was also excited and proud of the team.

"It was excellent, we were all excited," he said, "We thought we could make it since we stuck to our routine. We've worked all year for this and had a lot of ups and downs this season, so it felt really good to make it."

The competition will be aired on ESPN in March or April.

The team, who placed sixteenth at the competition last year, received a trophy and a certificate for the accomplishment.

(See related story p. 24)

Canton squeaks past Northville

BASKETBALL

BY KRISTEN VAN DUSEN

Friday's game with the Canton Chiefs and the Northville Mustangs was probably the most exciting game of the season.

The final score was Canton, 47-46.

With 25 seconds left in the game, Joe Cortellini hit two free throws to put the Chiefs up by one. In the last fourteen seconds Northville shot, but missed. Dan McLean stole the rebound until the end of the game, clutching the win.

Cortellini scored 18 points and Eric Larsen scored ten. Canton had big defensive stops throughout the game.

"We played well as a team," said senior Eric Larsen. "We got up early on them, let them back in, and then shut them out."

Chiefs dropped by a point

GYMNASTICS

BY KRISTEN VAN DUSEN

The Canton gymnastics team was narrowly defeated by Brighton last Wednesday. The final score was 138.5 to 139.55.

Liz Fitzgerald had the high scores on vault and bars. The scores were 8.8 and 9.25, respectively. Marcie Emerick had the high score on beam with a 9.1.

The top score on floor was taken by Amy Driscoll with an 8.9.

Canton's overall record is 7-4. In the league, they are 3-3.



Separating the Red Sea... Salem guard Bhavin Patel navigates his way between Canton's Eric Larsen and Scott Samulski Feb. 10 at Salem High School. Salem won the game 61-42. Currently they are 8-1 in the conference and 12-3 overall. Canton (5-10 overall) has fallen below .500 in the conference. See basketball story p. 24 (Crier photo by R. Alwood, Jr.)

Whalers sweep through weekend; go 3-0

Wins against Peterborough, Toronto, and the Soo puts them 1 point out of first place

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

Five points out of first place with fifteen games to go, the Plymouth Whalers entered Thursday night's game versus the Peterborough Petes knowing that now was the time to make a push.



Through the first 40 minutes of play they looked as though they might have forgotten. But with a strong, two-goal effort in the third period the Whalers escaped with a come-from-behind win, 3-2, in front of 2,137 fans at Compuware Sports Arena.

"We just didn't have it tonight up until the end," said Peter DeBoer, Whalers coach and general manager. "We were just flat. We came out and didn't have any jump."

The first two periods were characterized by missed opportunities for the Whalers. A few bobbled passes and lethargic power play efforts kept Plymouth from taking command of the game early on.

"We didn't use the advantages we have as a team, our speed and how physical we are," said DeBoer. "We weren't sharp in any facet of the game during the first two periods."

Down 2-1 after 40 minutes, the Whalers were in jeopardy of losing a game they needed to win against a fifth-place opponent.

"It's not a situation you want to be in during a key game," said DeBoer. "In between (the second and third) periods we talked about how important the game was. This was one of those games in hand, and if we wanted to take over first place, we had to get two points tonight."

From the outset of the third period, the Whalers were noticeably more aggressive. Sparked by a few big hits from enforcer Jesse Boulerice, the Whalers spent most of the third pressing into the Peterborough zone.

"The third period is how we can play," said DeBoer. "We finally got it rolling."

Harold Druken tied the game, 2-2, at 2:26 into the period when he beat Peterborough goalie Mark Cairns. It was Druken's second goal of the game. Nine minutes later, captain Andrew Taylor scored the eventual game-winner. Druken and Dave Legwand assisted.

Whaler goalie Robert Esche faced 19 shots during the first two periods. Behind a strong defensive effort, though, he only had to stop five shots in the final 20 minutes of play.

On the flip side, the Whalers more than doubled their shots-on-goal total with 19 during the third period.

"In a night like that you're thankful to come away with two points," said DeBoer.

Plymouth 6, Toronto 0 — The Whalers rendered their own version of the Valentine's Day Massacre Saturday night behind five points from Jesse Boulerice and a 28 save shut-out effort from goalie Robert Holsinger.

Continuing the strong third period effort from Thursday night, the Whalers tallied five goals in the first period Saturday against the league's worst team.

Boulerice, Steve Wasylo, defenseman Nik Tselios, Dave Legwand and Yuri Babenko all scored in the opening period. Babenko also had a power-play goal in the third period. Forward Eric Gooldy added three assists.

The shutout was the Whalers third win in six games. **Plymouth 7, (at) Sault Ste. Marie 2** — Captain Andrew Taylor earned a hat trick Sunday night as the Whalers finished a successful weekend in resounding fashion.

"If we wanted to take over first place, we had to get two points tonight."
— Peter DeBoer

Please see pg. 24

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	W	L	T	Last 10	Pts.	
WEST						
LONDON	32	18	4	5-4-1	68	
PLYMOUTH	31	18	5	7-2-1	67	
SARNIA	27	18	9	6-3-1	63	
ERIE	27	26	4	8-0-2	58	
WINDSOR	18	34	4	3-5-2	40	
S.S.MARIE	15	31	7	1-7-2	37	
EAST						
OTTAWA	33	14	8	6-3-1	74	
BELLEVILLE	33	20	2	5-5-0	68	
KINGSTON	30	21	4	5-4-1	64	
OSHAWA	22	28	5	3-6-1	49	
PETERBOROUGH	17	30	7	1-7-2	41	
TORONTO	13	33	9	3-6-1	35	
CENTRAL						
GUELPH	35	17	5	4-5-1	75	
BARRIE	32	18	4	2-6-2	68	
KITCHENER	24	23	8	6-3-1	56	
SUDBURY	22	32	5	6-3-1	49	
OWEN SOUND	22	29	4	4-4-2	48	
NORTH BAY	14	37	6	2-8-0	34	

WHALER STATISTICS

Team Leaders:
Goals: Legwand (46)
Assists: Legwand (38)
Points: Legwand (84)
PIM: Boulerice (158)
+/-: Legwand (+37)
GAA: Esche (2.93)

CATCH OF THE DAY
Whaler rookie sensation David Legwand leads the OHL in game winning goals with 8.

UPCOMING GAMES:
• Thurs. at Windsor (7:30 p.m.)
• Sat. vs. S.S. Marie at CSA (7:30)
• Sun. vs. Owen Sound at CSA (6:30)

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The Community Crier

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Salem floats to another victory

Last Thursday, the Salem Rocks men's swimming team had another dual meet victory.

This time, against the other top team in the Western Lakes Activities Association: Livonia Stevenson.

Stevenson took seven of the twelve events, but that wasn't enough to hold the Rocks, who emerged victorious 99-87.

Salem's first included only one relay,

SWIMMING

the 200 yard freestyle relay with Dan Kelly, Andrew Locke, Tim Buchanan, and Nick Corden at 1:29.46.

Individual firsts included Buchanan in the 200 yard freestyle medley, coming in at 2:01.41. Brent Mellis took third in the event at 2:06.18.

The 100 freestyle went to senior Nick Corden at 48.39, and Andrew Locke was first in the 100 breaststroke at 1:06.64.

Salem had a one-two-three sweep in diving, led by Mike Belvitch.

The Rocks are now 8-1, and are still leading a strong, successful season. Another conference title could be just a stroke away.

Cheerleaders seek respect from school

Success doesn't equal access; squad cries foul on facility rights

BY ERICA D'ANGELO

Despite their recent accomplishment of placing tenth at nationals, the Salem co-ed varsity cheerleading squad still can't seem to get fair access to practice facilities.

All year the team has had problems finding adequate time and space to practice.

The problem begins in Salem's auxiliary gym, which is predominantly used for the wrestling teams.

Mats the squad had purchased for their own use are being used as filler in the auxiliary gym, underneath the top surface mats used by the wrestling teams.

"We bought them and we've been told we aren't allowed to pull them out to use them," explained Salem cheerleading coach Jodee Dillion.

Stella Greene, who has a son on the cheerleading squad, has become highly involved with the team.

"We're pretty proud of these kids. Despite these conditions, they've done

really well," she said.

Green is worried that the schools are showing preference to certain teams, and not allowing the equal access and recognition deserved to all activities at the school.

"The team does sophisticated movements and needs certain safe guards," explained Greene.

Dillion and Greene feel the school has done little to accommodate the team in these needs.

"Here they are, one of the best in the nation, and they can't get the time and room they need to practice. There should be a parody for the activities. All kids should have the same opportunity," said Greene.

Aside from the problem with practice facilities, the cheerleading squad feels they have a lack of support coming from the school and its administrators.

Greene called Salem Principal Gerald Ostein the morning after the squad returned home from their national competition; held in Orlando, Florida; to

inform him of the team's success, yet he chose to do nothing about it.

"To my knowledge, there has been no recognition at all from the administration to the kids," said coach Dillion.

Many students at the high school are unaware that the team even took the trip.

"The mayor of Plymouth will be giving an Ambassadors to the City award to the team for their placement, and the schools have chosen to do nothing," commented Dillion. Dillion is confident that the kids on the squad are feeling some disappointment.

"It would be nice if (the administration) offered some sort of congratulations, but it's almost too late to really do anything," said Dillion.

For now, it seems that the problems will continue, but Dillion and Greene are hopeful to see them resolved soon.

"We have parents working with administrators on it, but their has been controversy for sometime.

The school just needs to start recognizing everyone," said Dillion.

Potential playoff bye for Whalers?

Continued from pg. 23

The Soo scored the first goal of the game, but it was all Plymouth from there. Forward Harold Druken continued his impressive play with four points (one goal and three assists). Sergei Fedotov, Steve Wasylo, and Dave Legwand also scored for Plymouth.

The Whaler defense held the Soo to only five shots in each of the last two periods. Robert Esche made 18 saves.

Chatter: With six games at home and six games away, the Whalers' remaining schedule looks promising. Only two of the 12 teams they will face currently have winning records (at home versus Sarnia and at first-place London the final game of the season). Sunday-night victim Sault Ste. Marie must travel to Plymouth three more times.

"We want to get first place because there is a potential bye," said DeBoer.

Home ice advantage during the playoffs would be a big plus for the Whalers. They are 18-7-2 this year at Compuware.

"We really take advantage of our home ice and our home fans," DeBoer said. "Teams have to be intimidated to come into this rink."



Whaler defenseman Paul Mara slaps a bullet at Toronto goalie Corey Batten Saturday Night at Compuware Sports Arena. The 6-0 win, combined with two other wins over the weekend, have the Whalers knocking on the first place door. (Crier Photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

On deck

SALEM BASKETBALL

Friday at home versus Stevenson. JV begins at 6 p.m.

SALEM SWIMMING

Saturday at E.M.U for the MISCA Meet. Time: TBA.

SALEM WRESTLING

Today or Thursday, team districts. Saturday, individual districts. Time: TBA.

SALEM VOLLEYBALL

Today at Canton at 5:30 p.m. Friday at the U-M Dearborn J.V. invitational. Time: TBA. Monday at home versus Walled Lake Central at 5:30 p.m.

SALEM GYMNASTICS

Thursday at home versus John Glenn at 7 p.m. Monday at the Canton "B" Meet. Time: TBA.

CANTON BASKETBALL

Friday at Harrison. JV begins at 5:30 p.m.

CANTON BOYS SWIMMING

Thursday at home versus Walled Lake at 7 p.m. Sat. at EMU for the MISCA Meet. Time: TBA.

CANTON WRESTLING

Today or Thursday, team districts. Saturday, individual districts. Time: TBA

CANTON GYMNASTICS

Thursday at Walled Lake at 7 p.m. Monday at the Salem "B" Meet. Time: TBA.

CANTON VOLLEYBALL

Today at home versus Salem at 5:30 p.m. Friday at the U-M Dearborn J.V. Invitational. Time: TBA. Monday at Walled Lake Western at 5:30 p.m.



Community opinions

VERKEJ
©1985 - THE COMMUNITY CRIER # 1998
WITH APOLOGIES TO:
The Nasty.



Westland is today's Tammany Hall

None of Chuck Skene's friends thought for one minute that he was guilty of the trumped up "embezzlement" charges against him.

Fortunately, neither did the jury.

The jury members not only said "not guilty" on all counts, they waited outside the courtroom Thursday to congratulate him.

"The Friends of Chuck" are now waiting for the other shoe to drop:

A lawsuit with a bunch of zeroes at the end.

A lawsuit that seeks paybacks for malicious prosecution, wrongful discharge, back pay, retirement benefits, slander, and more.

And at the top of the list for paybacks will be Westland Mayor Robert Thomas — who tried unsuccessfully to fire Chuck once before. He heads the Westland City Hall Gang known locally as Michigan's version of Tammany Hall.

Like Westland City Hall, Tammany was known for its tightly knit cronyism that was ruthless in protecting allies and dispatching "enemies."

At Westland, the mayor's "The Enemies

of Chuck" ring included: City Finance Director Mike Gorman (formerly of Canton government); the Police Chief Emory Price; the Westland Police "Special Operations" Lt. Gary Sikorsky; and the Budget Director, Liz Duggan.

Any of them could have put a stop to the attempted character assassination of Chuck Skene... but passed the blame on to their Tammany-Hall-like cohorts.

"You have to make that call if you think the Finance Department and the Police Department would do this without the mayor's approval," Skene said.

Westland's city attorney, Angelo Plakas, could have stopped this too, said Chuck's co-defense counsel,

John Thomas. "The second indictment of this is the legal-judicial system," he said. "The truth of the matter is that this case should never have gone as far as it did."

The defense attorney said the charges against Skene should never have gone past the original pre-trial examination.

But Judge Carolyn Archbold, who sits in Wayne district court, took a vacation and did not hear the case. Some think she

With malice toward none

By W. EDWARD WENDOVER



intentionally took the vacation rather than be forced to rule against the trumped-up charges, thereby alienating her political friends.

Or the Wayne County Prosecutor John O'Hair and his assistants could have seen how flimsy the "evidence" was. But he counts on Democratic support from suburban Mayor-Emperor like Bob Thomas for support.

None of them who could stopped the madness.

So for 10 months Chuck Skene endured public humiliation while the false accusations wound their way through the court system.

"This was character assassination at its best," said Skene's friend Bob Puckett. "All this over just because the mayor didn't like him?"

"After he (Mayor Thomas) has to pay a few bucks, maybe he'll respect Charlie," Puckett concluded his printable portion of his remarks.

Joe Bida was mayor of Plymouth when Skene hired into the P&R department.

"I hope to God that Chuck sues them for everything they've got," Bida said. "I think

it's a damn disgrace."

Nel Thompson is executive director of The Senior Alliance where Skene served as board chair. "I know the situation over the last several months has been difficult for many people.

"I'm pleased to hear he's being cleared of the allegations," Thompson said.

Tom Willette, who followed Skene as P&R director in Plymouth, said, "As a friend of his, I always believed he didn't do that stuff. It was proven at the outcome of his trial."

Sharon Holroyde, of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, said, "I never doubted his innocence for a second.

"He didn't get off on a technicality. He got off because he was innocent... but he still had endure the false accusations. I truly can't imagine what it's like to have your name and face plastered all over the paper."

Now it's time for Chuck Skene to settle the score.

If can pay back a modern-day Tammany Hall, it will do the citizens of Westland and the region a lot of good.

I hope to God that Chuck sues them for everything they've got. I think it's a damn disgrace.

— Joe Bida
Former Plymouth mayor



Community opinions

More mud for Morton Taylor

County's sluggishness ensures environ will remain for bikers

The last time I rode my bike down Morton Taylor Road, it was quite a workout.

Still soft from a recent rain, the ground grabbed my tires as if it resented my passage. Branches ripped at me. Crab grass clutched at my ankles and puddles formed shimmering barriers.

I was riding to a friend's house, and rather than ride north on Lilley, I thought I would avoid traffic and head straight up Morton Taylor. It was supposed to be a short cut, but when I finally emerged on Warren Road, the winded and grimy with three different textures of muck plastered on my legs and back, I wondered if I had saved any time at all.

I took a moment to catch my breath and gazed back at the undeveloped track of land I had traversed and thought about how much easier the trip

would have been if the road had been paved.

Sadly, it is not to be any time soon.

Morton Taylor has been on Wayne County's list of scheduled improvements for years. It won't be done this year, and for all practical purposes, we won't see any progress.

The good news is, Wayne County has finally developed a design for the road which leaves about three steps before they can begin construction.

Strangely enough, one of the biggest obstacles is the

little creek that almost claimed my bike last summer. Scarcely more than a-pace-and-a-half wide, it can be cleared with a good leap. The bridge that will eventually cross it, however, must be much bigger.

According to Alan Richardson, Wayne County Engineer, the county

Few could argue that Morton Taylor doesn't need developing. It would provide a north-south artery from Canton into downtown Plymouth.

Off the cuff

By Scott Spielman



must submit a wetland mitigation plan to the state of Michigan to show that the proposed bridge wouldn't cause any floods upstream or interfere with possible overflows.

This, coupled with the three right-of-ways the county needs to acquire at Ford Road, are the last remaining obstacles before the project can be bid out to contractors, Richardson said.

Why these steps haven't been taken already, I can only guess, or refer to the sluggish way the county has handled road improvements in the past.

Few could argue that Morton Taylor doesn't need to be developed. It would provide a north-south artery from Canton right into downtown Plymouth. It could drastically reduce traffic on Lilley and Sheldon roads, neither of which are not really designed to be major roads.

Wayne County's biggest road project

in Canton this year will be the widening of Canton Center Road and completion of the realignment of Canton Center with Belleville Road. This means the Morton Taylor Road project probably won't even be bid out until next year.

The end result is that after years of waiting, there still isn't a specific date when the work will be started, much less completed.

It wouldn't surprise me if the project's beginning corresponded with Canton's takeover of county roads within the township's boundaries. Canton's study on the possible transfer of responsibility will be complete next month, and the board will meet in study session to discuss it shortly thereafter.

Until that transfer happens, the project remains in county hands, on the county timetable. Which means at least another year of congestion along Ford Road, for bikers and drivers alike.

Shame on Twp.!

Heel-dragging hampers recreation efforts

EDITOR:

Shame on Plymouth Township!

By dragging their heels on sharing costs, a wonderful recreation program is faltering. It has been enjoyed by young and old for many years.

Fred Stafford, president of The Plymouth Soccer Club, is correct: the Y.M.C.A. is not experienced enough to organize the large soccer program, not to mention softball, basketball, senior activities, skating schedules and so on.

It does sound political, doesn't it?

The Arts Council is a fine group serving the cultural side of our joint community, but City recreation serves a much wider segment of both our communities.

A final comment: why isn't the City's Director of Recreation, Tom Willette, on the joint City-Township recreation committee? Who better to explain needed programs, costs, organizational skills involved, and finally, how sharing can only benefit the Township, City and future recreation?

HAROLD MONET

Why isn't the City's Director of Recreation, Tom Willette, on the joint City-Township recreation committee?

The bait shack

By Mike Carne

GEOLOGICAL TIME IN PLYMOUTH-CANTON



Age of Ralph

Mayflower Hotel Renovation

The Present

10,000,000 A.D. ??

Remodeling of Newburgh Lake

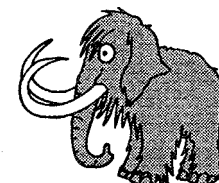
Fire discovered

Wheel invented



Age of Dinosaurs

Segmented worms



Late Jurassic

One-celled animals



Mike Carne

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Community opinions

Help the bride, drag queens

Come on ladies, I think we've all been there. We've all worn those lacy taffeta nightmares that still hang in our closets. Yes, I'm talking about being a bridesmaid.

I recently chuckled at an episode of 'Frazier' where Roz had packed up all her old bridesmaid dresses to give to charity. "You will make a drag queen very happy," Frazier said of the dresses.

With all the details and decisions to be made when planning a wedding, the last thing that a bride and groom need to worry about is their wedding party, no matter what they ask you to wear.

It's an honor to be asked to stand up in a wedding. It means that not only do the bride and groom want you to be there, they want you to be a part of their big day.

Deciding who will be in your wedding party is not a chore to be taken lightly. Having close family members and friends as part of your big day should be easy, right?

Well, not exactly.

The happy couple may have their first argument deciding who is in and who is excluded.

I haven't been a bride yet, but I have been a maid of honor and a bridesmaid some five times. I have seen female friendships strained by the simple task of going for a dress fitting. I've seen brides worried whether or not wedding members will arrive to the church sober.

Bridesmaids duties should include anything that will make the days leading up to the grand event easier. That means *anything*. Your job is to pick up flowers, help plan showers, sew buttons, dry tears and help to calm nerves.

The last thing that a bride and groom need to worry about is their wedding party, no matter what they ask you to wear.

15 minutes

By Linda Kochanek



If you are not willing to offer your time and enthusiasm to the bride, then politely decline her generous offer.

Here's some simple advice that I would like to offer brides from my pink-satin days:

Choose trustworthy people who are genuinely happy for you both. Make sure they can be prompt and that they can afford the dresses. If a wedding party member lives out of town, make sure there is ample time for fittings and travel to destinations.

I've had my share of mishaps while part of a wedding. I've stepped on the brides veil during a ceremony, ripped the hem on my dress at the reception and had one 'Best Man' beat up my date at another. No matter how crazy things get, please try not to trouble the bride with 'minor' details.

Keep in mind that part of your role as a bridesmaid is to help the bride and make her burden a little lighter for that one day.

Offer to help with decorations, invitations, thank-you cards and anything else that she can pass on to you.

Who knows. Maybe if you are a big help to the bride, she'll let you pick a dress you'll actually like to wear.

Vorva: Khoury is wrong

EDITOR:

I lent a critical eye to the Jan. 21 letter to the Editor by Michael Khoury titled 'Proposal Unconstitutional.'

First, Mr. Khoury should have informed the readers that he is a licensed attorney.

Second, although, Khoury has stated a correct Constitutional Rule of law he has in fact improperly analyzed the facts of this case and has misapplied the rule of law and is therefore wrong!

In *Yic Wo vs. Hopkins*, 118 U.S. 356 (1886) the city of San Francisco passed an ordinance which prohibited operation of laundries in wooden buildings without permission of the Board of Supervisors. The Board then granted permits to all non-Chinese applicants, but to none of the 200 Chinese applicants. *Yic Wo* sued.

Justice Matthews, in a well reasoned opinion, found discrimination in the administration of the law, saying "Though the law itself be fair on its face and impartial in appearances, yet, if it is applied and administered by public authority with an evil eye and an unequal hand, so as practically to make unjust and illegal discrimination between persons in similar circumstances, the denial of equal justice is

still within the prohibition of the constitution."

In *Kramer vs. Union Free School District No.15*, 395 U.S. 621, 89 S. CT. 1886 (1969), which is actually a progeny of *Reynolds vs. Sims* (one man, one vote), the school district was attempting to pass a bond election, and pursuant to a New York State statute did not allow people to vote who did not have children in the school district.

The court held it unconstitutional to draw these types of lines which, through classification, deny a group the right to vote quoting *Harper vs. Virginia Board of Electors*: "Once the franchise is granted to the electorate, lines may not be drawn which are inconsistent with (equal protection)."

Khoury failed to properly analyze this case.

It is clear to me and to all who have read our complaint that what Khoury has called unconstitutional is exactly what we are alleging in Count III of our complaint.

We are in fact alleging that the school board has "Yic Wo'd" us under the scheme attempted in *Kramer*. The school board intentionally crated classification by: not

sending out absentee ballots so seniors could vote; holding the election in March so some seniors would be out of state and not vote and held the election on Saturday to 'throw off' those who otherwise do not have children in the public schools so we would not vote.

So it is obvious that the reason Khoury has improperly analyzed this case is because he has not read it! But, we want to thank him for at least strongly agreeing with us in principle. (I wonder if his wife knows?)

Khoury has misapplied the Rule of Law to this case

Under Khoury's application:

- Plymouth, Plymouth Twp., Canton, Northville Twp. and thousands of other municipalities are violating the Constitution. By not automatically sending out absentee ballots to seniors the Plymouth-Canton school district is violating the Constitution in its purposeful attempt to manipulate elections.

Somehow, this defies not only the rule of law but common sense. Therefore Khoury is wrong!

JERRY VORVA

EDITOR'S NOTE: Vorva holds a Juris Doctorate degree

The Community Crier



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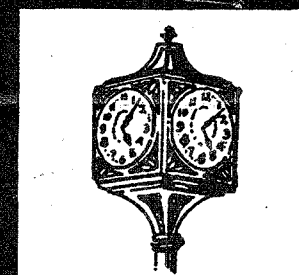
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