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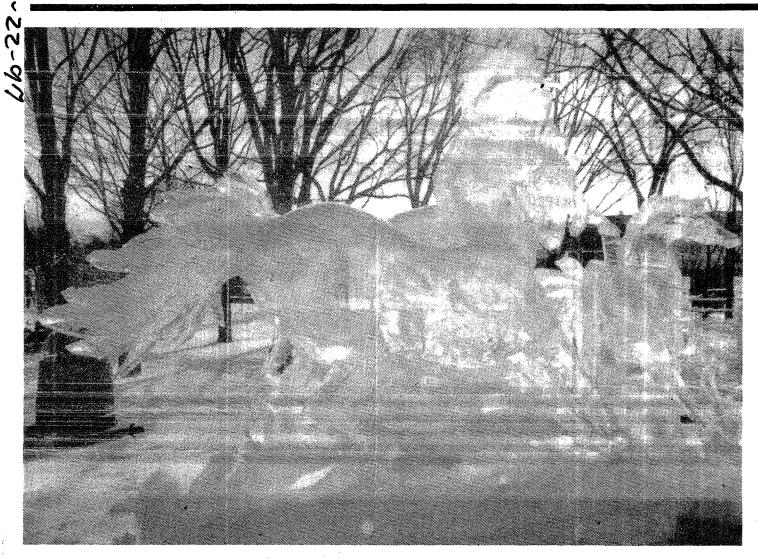
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January 22, 1997



Downtown Plymouth hosted the 15th annual Plymouth Ice Sculpture Spectacular, which again drew hundreds of thousands of people to the community. For more coverage, see pg. 9. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

Plymouth Ice Sculpture Spectacular survives arctic temperatures, winds

Despite frigid temperatures, organizers of the 15th annual Plymouth International Ice Spectacular said the event was "fantastic." Mike Watts, the promoter of the event, said crowds remained strong in 1997.

"It went fantastic considering the foul weather," he said, "It was one of the biggest Mondays ever this year."

Watts said crowds were nearly as large as last year. He said 650,000 attended the event in 1996.

Paul Sincock, director of the Plymouth Department of Municipal Services, called the crowds "large but manageable." Plymouth Police Chief Bob Scoggins agreed: "The numbers weren't anywhere near where they were last year on Friday and Saturday. The average stay was about 30 minutes."

"It went very well," Sincock said. "We had quite a detailed advanced plan laid out."

Scotland

P-C teacher heads to Scotland as part of teacher exchange program

See Friends & neighbors pg. 6

Sincock said the City learned from last year's huge crowds. "Last year," he said, "we had three different traffic plans. This year, we had five."

Watts said the crowds were more spread out than last year.

"We had a steady flow Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday," he said. "It was set up differently this year. There were lines for most of the displays."

Watts said the festival drew people from throughout the Midwest and from across the nation. "This isn't just a City of Plymouth event," he said. "It's really a regional, national event."

Even though the Ice Festival just finished Monday, Watts said the organizing process immediately begins for next year.

He called the Ice Festival a "labor of love."

"It feels like a family, a family reunion when all the carvers come into town each year," Watts said.

Art store

Long-time Plymouth artist opens retail store in Canton mall

See Getting down to business pg. 8

Improved relations

P-C Schools try to prevent repeat of '96 negotiating debacle

BY BRYON MARTIN

Can't we all just get along?

Well aware the answer has been "no" in recent months, the Plymouth-Canton School Board will hire a labor relations consultant to smooth relations with the PCEA.

In 1996 the board and union took more than seven months to reach a contract that, in the end, left neither group satisfied.

"After we finally settled in October, (PCEA Chief Negotiator) Tom Cotner and I both realized we needed to look at what happened with the board, and try to prevent it from happening again," PCEA President Chuck Portelli said.

More than just an instance of difficult bargaining typical of an employee-management relationship, both sides claim last year's negotiations bespeak a deeper, long-standing tension.

"We need someone from outside to help fix a relationship that over the years has produced four strikes, ugly negotiations and day-to-day problems," Charles Little, Plymouth-Canton Schools superintendent, said.

While contract negotiations and strikes attract more public attention, some say it is the accumulation of daily difficulties that destroy relationships between union members and administrators.

"There is definitely animosity there," Al DuBois, PCEA building representative, and PCEP teacher, said. As a building rep-

Please see pg. 17



Get cold, go fast: Visit Twp. sledding hill

BY BRYON MARTIN

It will be cold. Real cold. The wind will make your eyes water. Snow will get jammed into your gloves and freeze your wrists. Your nose will run and you will get knocked around, but you won't know it because your extremities will be numb, and all of this will be worth it because you'll go really, really fast. You'll love it.

Sledding at Plymouth Township park is better than ever this year. The Township spent \$143,000 this summer on re-grading and smoothing the hill, creating a faster, longer and safer run.

A second, smaller hill keeps sledders out of the drink, slowing them down before they can reach the creek at the end of the run.

Snow-loving speedsters can take their sleds and saucers for a trip down the hill during park hours, 10 a.m. through 5:30 p.m., according to Ron Edwards,

Township treasurer.

After a "taxing" day filled with dollar and "sense," Edwards enjoys a cold, wild and refreshing ride to clear his head. "I don't care how old you are," he said, "it's still important to have fun. I love it."

In the office, Edwards will remind you that Township property tax deadline is Feb. 14. But out at the hill, he offers other advice: "Use a toboggan. They go straighter and way farther than regular sleds. They're a blast."

Canton police plans Walker School recreation program Members of Community Policing team number 3, assigned to the Walker Elementary School, met with students on Wednesday to finalize plans for an after-school recreation program set to start Feb. 3.

The meeting enabled officers to meet with students and to announce to students the new after-school pilot program and solicit their suggestions for recreational activities they would like to see offered. The program will consist primarily of athletics, however, officers also plan to develop activities that will: help establish a positive rapport between police and youth; provide an opportunity for officers to serve as role models; and, encourage positive group interaction and teamwork skills among community youth.

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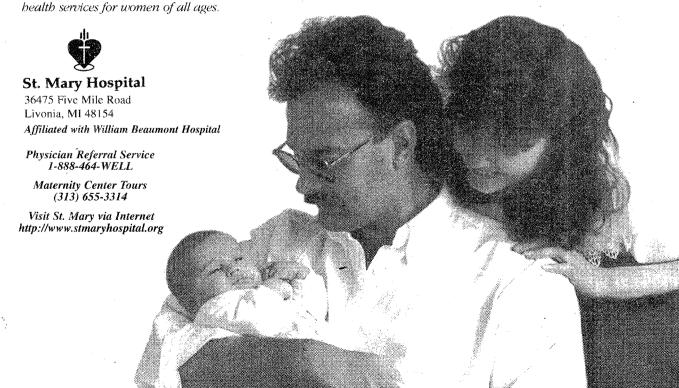
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City prepares for recreation budget crunch

Fitness center, child care could help recreation program's bottom line

BY ROB KIRKBRIDE

Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department administration hopes its department is next in line for a joint services agreement with Plymouth Township.

As the City's recreation budget continues to dwindle while residents demand more and more services, the department is hoping a little ingenuity and smart marketing will ease their financial woes.

Plymouth Parks and Recreation Director Tom Willette presented two plans to the City Commission last night designed to boost revenues for the department.

Willette said a fitness center and child day care program at the Plymouth Cultural Center could provide the much-needed income boost the recreation program so desperately needs.

In part, the recreation budget crunch is caused by Plymouth Township. Non-residents make up 80 percent of the people participating in City-financed recreation programs, according to Willette. Although non-residents pay a higher fee than City residents, it's not enough to make up the added expense.

For more than a year, City and Township officials have met to come up with a jointly-funded recreation program, with few positive results.

A recreation survey, financed by the Township, was due back months ago, but only arrived a few days ago.

The longer the wait, the more the programs suffer, said Willette

"We know our base recreation budget is down," he said. "Because of the uncertainty dealing with the Township, the fall brochures were late getting out.

"A lot of programs have suffered because of this uncertainty. It's frustrating more than anything else. It seems that some sort of joint services would be the answer."

Plymouth Township Supervisor Kathleen Keen-McCarthy said

she will not support a joint recreation plan until she gets approval from Township residents.

"I think it's up to our citizens," she said. "We also need to look at the needs of the police budget.

"We need to find out what the citizens want and what they want to pay for."

Once recreation survey results are completed and returned, which could come as early as two weeks from now, Township funding of joint recreation may be forthcoming.

Plymouth Mayor Ron Loiselle said he is optimistic about talks with the Township.

"Everything has been very open," he said. "Everyone is very willing to look at all the possibilities."

Loiselle said negotiations will take time. "The process is slower than I hoped," he said. "I thought we'd have this done by the first of the year."

Until a joint recreation plan can be hammered out by the two governments, Willette said he will suggest new programs to increase revenue.

"The fitness center idea actually came out of the 'Mayor Exchange Day' program we had with Dearborn Heights," he said. "The plan is modeled after Dearborn Heights. They have a similar facility (to the Plymouth Cultural Center)."

Willette said the plan to add a fitness center would mean shuffling schedules for existing programs and eliminating the arts and crafts area and part of the meeting room in the northwest corner of the Cultural Center.

The child care center could accommodate approximately 40 children. The Cultural Center could still be used for existing programs at night and on the weekend.

According to early estimates, revenue potential for a child care center and fitness center could be nearly \$300,000 per year.

Parade of nations

Isbister Elementary School firstgraders celebrated world holidays last week. They dressed in native costumes from countries and continents around the world. Each student carried a flag from the country they represented and ethnic food was prepared as part of the celebration. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)



School bond plan leaves questions unanswered for some board members, community leaders

BY BRYON MARTIN

By a five-vote majority, with two abstentions, the Plymouth-Canton School Board approved the formal application for a bond issue at their Jan. 7 meeting.

The vote enabled the board to formally apply to the Department of the Treasury for State approval of the bond.

Supporting members describe the Jan. 7 vote as "just a step in the process." Others, however, still have questions about the proposed high school, and were unwilling to take that step without answers.

Moments before the vote, board Vice President Michael Maloney moved to table the vote until more specific bond details were in place, or made known to the board and the public.

The tabling motion received only two votes: Maloney's own, and that of board Secretary Carrie Blamer.

"I would have preferred to wait a couple of weeks," Maloney said. "It's important to take the time to answer all the fundamental questions."

Those questions have been posed in various ways by Maloney, Blamer and regularly attending members of the audience, including former school board member Roland Thomas.

Much of the more-contentious discussion of the proposed high school centers on these questions, including:

- Feasibility of building at sites other than the Joy-Beck location.
- Undisclosed elements of the school, such as degree of commingling with Canton and Salem students, and the sharing of athletic and activity facilities.
- Whether the board could simultaneously build the high school and balance the budget.
 - · Accuracy of figures used in five-year

projections of operating costs.

"Questions I had asked at previous meetings weren't answered, so I felt I shouldn't vote to go ahead," Maloney said. "We should have answers in front of us before we make any decisions."

Following Maloney's failed attempt to delay, the board voted: Blamer and Maloney abstained, while the remaining board members approved the bond application.

"Three weeks ago I told Dr. Little I would abstain in a bond vote," Blamer said, citing unanswered questions and unexplored options as the reason. "I'd like to make a decision based on facts, not assumptions."

Thomas said he has a similar concern about the accuracy of figures used in bond calculations.

Please see pg. 4

Agenda

THIS WEEK

- The Salem boys swimming team takes on John Glenn tomorrow at 7 p.m. at home.
- The Canton gymnastics teams faces Salem today at 7 p.m. in the Canton gym.

WEEKEND

 The Plymouth Rotary Club will celebrate its history of service to the community Friday with an observance to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of Rotary's founder, Paul P. Harris.

NEXT WEEK

 The Friends of the Plymouth District Library are presenting "Puppets and People: Who Really Runs the Show?" as their January Focus Program. The program will take place in the City Commission Chambers of Plymouth City Hall Jan. 28 at 7 p.m.

UPCOMING

 The All Saints Catholic school will hold an informational "Town Hall Meeting" for all parents in the four parish region Feb. 3 at St. Kenneth Parish at 7 p.m. For information, call 459-2490.

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P-C School bond plan scrutinized

Continued from pg. 3

"The numbers in their five-year projection are about as hokey as I've seen," Thomas said. Proposed spending increases for benefits and utility costs through the five year plan are too small, he said.

"I'm a friend of the schools, and I really want to support this bond. But the idea that we need a high school bugs me,"
Thomas said

In lieu of the proposed third high school, Thomas recommends the board consider adding a classroom building to The Park. A 1,000- to-1,500-student facility comprised of teaching stations and a cafeteria would meet enrollment needs, with less overhead spending, he said

A classroom building would cost about \$15 million, according to Thomas, versus the new high school's \$48-million price tag.

But Charles Little, Plymouth-Canton Schools superintendent, said a third high school fits long-standing plans, and reflects current community requests.

"Building a third high school at the corner of Joy and Beck roads is not a new or revolutionary idea," Little said. "The 305 acres at The Park had always been thought of as the site for all future high schools."

The original plans for The Park, codesigned by former P-C Superintendent Russell Isbister, included plans for four high schools.

"In future years, I could see a fourth high school built near Joy and Beck,

working together with the third like Canton and Salem do now," Little said, echoing Isbister's plan.

Recommendations to build at the Joy-Beck site also grew from public forums convened by the district, Little said.

"The whole matter of this bond issue is around growth. The student population at The Park has gone past reasonable levels." Little said.

This is one point which most involved in the bond debate do not question.

"There's no uncertainty as to our need: I don't dispute the fact we need a high school," Blamer said. But without answers to questions that she and others have asked, she "had to abstain from the vote"

"I'm convinced the school district needs to increase its capacity," Maloney said. "But before we ask the public for money to build new schools, we must be certain we'll have the money to open them."

Before the board takes further steps, the State must approve the bond. With this approval, the board could choose an election date for public approval of the bond.

Selecting the election date would be the next vote the board makes, and the next public chance for bond skeptics to cast protest votes, if their questions remain unanswered.

"It's the kids I have in mind," Blamer said. "I can only move forward with what I think is good for the kids."



Public notices

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a BID for the purchase of school buses. Specifications and response forms can be obtained from the Transportation Department, 1024 S. Mill Street, Plymouth, MI 48170. Proposals are due on or before 2:00 P.M. Wednesday, January 29, 1997. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept any or reject all proposals, as they judge to be in the best interest of the School District.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

Carrie F. Blamer, Secretary

Publish 1-15-97 and 1-22-97 The Community Crier

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a PROPOSAL for the purchase and installation of six portable elementary classrooms Specifications and response forms can be obtained from the Purchasing Department, in the Board of Education Building, 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, MI 48170. Proposals are due on or before 2:00 P.M. Wednesday, February 5, 1997. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept any or reject all proposals, as they judge to be in the best interest of the School District.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

Carrie F. Blamer, Secretary

Publish 1-22-97 and 1-29-97



Community deaths

Obituaries

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

ELOWENE E. HOUK

Elowene E. Houk, a Plymouth resident, died Jan. 13, 1997 at the age of 86.

Mrs. Houk was born Aug. 20, 1910 in Saline. She was a homemaker. She was the wife of James Houk who owned and operated Fisher's She Store from 1943 until it was sold in the mid-

'70s. Fisher's Shoe Store was located in downtown Plymouth. He was a former mayor and Plymouth City Commissioner. She came to the community 62 years ago. She loved cooking and church work. She was a Sunday school teacher and belonged to the Ladies' Missionary Circle at the First Baptist Chrurch in Plymouth.

Mrs. Houk is survived by her daughter, W. Jane Lane of Plymouth; son, James C. (Antoinette) Houk, Jr. of



ELOWENE E. HOUK

Evanston, IL; sisters, Louise Aseltine of Jerome and Geraldine Haberer of Ft. Worth, TX; brother, William Tower of Temperance; four grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by and services were held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth with Rev. Paul F. White officiating. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Memorial tributes can be made to First Baptist Church in Plymouth or the American Cancer Society.

LEE ROY ANGLIN

Lee Roy Anglin, a former Plymouth resident, died Jan. 11, 1997 at the age of 86.

Mr. Anglin was born Jan. 2, 1911 in Rockcastle County, KY. He moved to the community in 1936. He earned an associate's degree. Mr. Anglin worked as supervisor of safety and security for 25 years for Evans Products in Plymouth, from which he retired in 1975. He was an active member of South Venice Baptist Church in Venice, FL

Mr. Anglin is survived by his wife, Corine Anglin of Venice, FL; daughter, Betty A. (Warren) Pushies of Munith; son, Donald R. (Linda) Anglin of Garden City; sister, Martha E. Childress of Richmond; brother, James H. Anglin of Englewood, FL; seven grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his first wife, Jeanette Anglin.

Services were held at the South Venice Baptist Church in Venice, FL. Arrangements were made by Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home in Plymouth. Burial was at Venice Memorial Gardens in Venice, FL. Memorial tributes can be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

JAMES ANDREW KJELLIN

James Andrew Kjellin, a Westland resident, died Jan. 12, 1997 at the age of 53.

Mr. Kjellin was born July 18, 1943 in Detroit. He served in the U.S. Army from 1961-64. He worked as a security officer for the

Department of Corrections with the State of Michigan.

Mr. Kjellin is survived by his wife of 26 years, Maria A. Kjellin; daughter, Tanya Kjellin of Plymouth; sons, Leo Kjellin of Westland and James Kjellin of Belleville; sisters, Carol Shell of Ypsilanti and Marie Palvado of Marian, AR; and nephew, Andrew Kjellin of Memphis, TN.

Arrangements were made by and services were held at Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home in Westland with Rev. Drex Morton of St. Michael Lutheran Church officiating. Burial was at Fort Custer National Cemebery in Augusta. Memorial tributes can be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

THOMAS HOLMES

Thomas Holmes, a Dearborn Heights resident, died Jan. 14, 1997 at the age of 77.

Mr. Holmes was born June 5, 1919 in Detroit. He served as a bombardier in the U.S. Air Force from 1943-45. He worked as a production control manager of the Dearborn Engine Plant for Ford Motor Company.

Mr. Holmes is survived by his wife, Julia (Judy) Holmes; sons, Steve (Jean) Holmes of Plymouth and Ralph T. Holmes of England; and grandchildren, Jeffrey, Scott, Andrew and Sarah.

Arrangements were made by and services were held at Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home in Plymouth with Rev. Paul Colenbrander officiating. Burial was at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia. Memorial tributes can be made to Hospice of Southeast Michigan, 16250 Northland Dr., Suite 212, Southfield, MI 48075-5200.



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Friends & neighbors

Neighbors in the news

Degrees were conferred on members of the Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community at Michigan State University's fall commencement ceremonies, held in December.

From Canton: Kira Anderson, B.S. civil engineering; Lori Anderson, B.S. packaging; Jeffrey Hopson, B.A. communication; Renee Jacques, B.A. MLM-purchasing and operation mgt; Todd Kearney, B.S. mechanical engineering; Jonathon MacLeod, B.A. economics; Jeffrey Meese, electrical engineering; Suzanne Monahan, MLHR labor relations and human resources; Nicole Sequin, B.S. dietetics.

From Northville: Eric Black, B.S. microbiology; Timothy Burch, B.S. electrical engineering; Kathleen Cryderman, B.S. biosystems engineering; Stephen Griffin, B.S. social science-human resources; Robert Holloway, B.S. mechanical engineering, with high honors; James Luebbe, B.A. general business administration; Katherine Mair, B.A. marketing.

From Plymouth: Carl Adamski, B.S. mechanical engineering; Jennifer Bailey, B.S. clinical laboratory sciences; April Billins, B.S. packaging; Michelle Dismondy B.S. physiology, with honors; Jeffrey Kotlarczyk, B.A. hospitality business; Mary McDonald, B.A. psychology; David McNeil, environmental and natural resources policy studies; Brett Meik, B.S. packaging; Marc Pennebaker, B.S. electrical engineering; Dennis Pierre, M.B.A. integrative management; Brian Tiell, B.A. marketing; Matthew Vanconant, B.S. LBS earth science

Tom Wysocki of Plymouth, an engineering support leader at Detroit Edison, had \$1,000 donated to The Plymouth-Canton Schools in his name as an award for his education-related volunteer activities.

Detroit Edison makes the annual award for employees who contribute 50 hours of unpaid, education-related service. Wysocki volunteered as vice president of the Plymouth-Canton High School Band Boosters.

Fifth-graders Yuyin Chen and Scott O'Neil were named finalists in Hoben Elementary's National Geographic Geography Bee, after besting seven other students.

If he passes a written test, O'Neil may move on to the state-level of the bee.

Say 'I do' to City resident's art exhibition

BY BRYON MARTIN

It's about dialogue — communication, conversation, the exchange of ideas from one to another.

It's the Masters of Arts thesis project of Plymouth Artist Sharon Marson, "He asked her to marry him and she said," and it is an installation at the Michigan Guild Gallery in Ann Arbor.

Marson's exhibit is based on a courtship/marriage theme,

inspired in part by people and events in her life. It examines the private thoughts of a male and female character, as well as the communication between them as they consider marriage.

As a graphic artist Marson's work is usually print-oriented. She began her project envisioning a diary to represent each character's perspective. The final product retains the diary concept, but extends beyond



Sharon Marson's exhibition is on display in Ann Arbor through the end of the month. (Crier photo by Bryon Martin)

print to use a variety of media in telling the story and provoking reflection. The exhibit uses radios and televisions modified to play aural and visual adaptations of the diary entries. Other intruiging pieces mix candy hearts, old photographs, work gloves and an antique woman's bra.

Rather than simply being spectators, visitors are encouraged to take more active roles: "Sometimes through the exploration of others' relationships I have better understood my own. It is my hope that you will touch, explore and consider my work, and that it may lead to your own reflection." For those accustomed to the look-but-don't-touch air of most art museums, interacting with the exhibit — touching it, even walking on it — may feel odd. But Marson's invitation is wholehearted.

"I wanted to create a space where people could consider their own relationships," Marson said. In discovering the story around which the exhibit centers, visitors are reminded of their own stories.

As they wind through the installation, visitors can reach out to handle and examine various objects, each revealing more details in the story. A mock-up kitchen area provides visitors the greatest opportunity to explore. Compartments in a Formica table contain the personal affects and reflections made by the male and female characters. It contains diary entries printed on various materials: old recipe cards, dress patterns, ledger paper and maps. In reading these, we learn what both characters are really thinking through our omniscient view — a view we may have wanted at times in our own relationships. This is the connection Marson is hoping visitors will make. "I'm working with fictional characters, but they always lead me to thoughts on my own experiences," she said. It's a commerce between the imagined and the real; it's a dialogue.

It's "He asked her to marry him and she said," and it's at the Michigan Guild Gallery, 118 N. Fourth Street, Ann Arbor, through January 31.

Plymouth-Canton physical education teacher heading to Scotland as part of teacher exchange program

BY BRYON MARTIN

It's another trip across the pond for Ron Callison, this time to the land of heather and haggis.

A Plymouth-Canton physical education teacher, Callison has been chosen by the Michigan Department of Education to travel to Scotland in the Michigan Teachers Exchange Program.

From June 24 through July 11, Callison will be among 20 Michigan teachers who will live and teach with host teachers in various Scottish cities.

According to Callison the program will offer participants a chance to "Meet people, other teachers, and learn something about the Scottish education system."

For Callison, it might be a chance to learn how to toss logs and throw rocks: "As a phys-ed teacher, I'd like to learn something about the Celtic Games. That would be a new experience."

Teaching across the Atlantic, however, is old hat for Callison. He taught on a military base in Gelnhausen, Germany from 1981-83, and in Newbury, England in 1984-85. And it was while abroad that Callison was first inspired to teach.

During his service in Vietnam, Callison spent vacation time in Taiwan: "I was on R&R in Taipei, and I paid a visit to the American school there. It struck me that when I got back to the States, I'd like to teach."

When he returned to Michigan,

Callison earned a teaching certificate at Eastern Michigan University; Since 1973, Callison has been a Plymouth-Canton teacher, an experience he describes as "wonderful — truly rewarding."

It's also an experience he will share with his Scottish host, who will become his guest for two weeks in October, living with Callison and visiting P-C Schools. "It's an exchange, so they'll get a chance to come and see how we do things, too," he said."

Because his time in Scotland will come during the summer recess, Callison hopes to extend his trip. If financing allows, his wife will join him after the program ends, and the two will travel, including return trips to Newbury and Gelnhausen. "We'll visit the schools where I taught, and see some old friends," he said.

He also wants to experience Scotland beyond classroom walls, and plans to get out to wander through the Heather: "I'd like to do some hiking, maybe some fishing. They've got Northern Pike like we do."

They've also got haggis, a traditional dish made of various minced sheep organs — any plans to experience that?

"Yeah, I'll try it," Callison said. "It's all part of the trip."



P-C physical education teacher will try to teach the kids of Scotland how kids in the States blow off steam, including a few swings with a hula-hoop.

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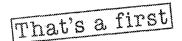
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Getting down to business

Neighbors in business

The Michigan Renaissance Fund recently approved a \$4.67 million limited tax-exempt bond issue to help finance the expansion of Wade-Trim Group, Inc., of Plymouth. The project will take place in two different communities. One project includes the acquisition of land and the construction of a 24,000-square-foot professional office building in Taylor. The second expansion includes the construction and equipping of a 16,000-square-foot professional office facility in Monitor Township.

Canton resident Sandra Schmidt joined Schmaltz & Company, P.C., the Southfield-based accounting and consulting firm. She will work as an accounting associate in the small business department. Schmidt is currently pursuing an accounting degree at Walsh College. Nancy Leonard of Canton has joined Schmaltz & Company's management consulting services department as an associate consultant. Leonard will provide accounting software installation and technical support. She was previously employed at Morof, Sheplow, Weinstein, PLC as a computer consultant.

Emily's restaurant of Northville will participate in the Michigan Culinary Food & Wine Extravaganza (MCFWE) on Feb. 11 at Mac & Ray's harbor front restaurant in Harrison Township. The event helps support the education of aspiring chefs.

To provide customers with global access to its latest product and company information, Plymouth-based automotive supplier Freudenberg-NOK has launched an interactive site on the World Wide Web at http://www.freudenberg-nok.com.

Patricia Baker, MSN, has successfully passed the National Association for Healthcare Quality's written examination to receive the designation of Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ). Baker, a Plymouth resident, is a senior staff associate for education and feedback for the Center for Health Outcomes and Evaluation, a division of the Michigan Peer Review Organization (MPRO).

City residents named directors at Alliance

Perry Talicska and Allan Flanagan, both of Plymouth, have been named directors at Alliance Health and Life Insurance Company, the subsidiary launched by Henry Ford Health System in September and operated by Health Alliance Plan (HAP). The two will lead the operations and underwriting functions of the new company.

Talicska is director of operations for Alliance. A certified public accountant, he has more than 24 years experience in administration, finance, underwriting and other aspects of the life and health insurance industry, including the past seven years in managed care health programs, provider networks and computer systems.

Previously, he was vice president and COO of IBA Health and Life Assurance Company, a managed care corporation in Kalamazoo. Prior to that, he held positions as vice president and treasurer of First Penn-Pacific Life Insurance Company, Oak Brook, IL; executive vice president of United Equitable Corporation, Skokie, IL; and executive vice president/administration and treasurer, Independent Liberty Life Insurance Co., Grand Rapids.

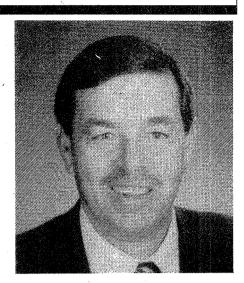
He has served as chairperson and director of the Legislative Committee of

the Life Insurance Association of Michigan and as director of the Michigan Life and Health Insurance Guarantee Association. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids.

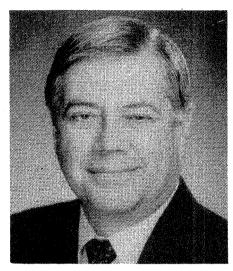
Flanagan has been named director of underwriting. He is responsible for reviewing prospective employer groups to determine utilization potential, set premium rates and write contracts.

A licensed insurance agent with nearly 20 years experience in insurance, he previously operated his own underwriting and consulting business in Fort Wayne, IN. Prior to that he held positions with Mutual of Omaha in Nebraska and with Lincoln National Life Insurance Co. in Fort Wayne, IN. Flanagan graduated with honors from Bellevue University in Nebraska with a bachelor's degree in business management/administration. He played semi-professional basketball prior to entering the insurance business.

"We are fortunate to have leaders of this caliber to direct Alliance in this competitive health insurance market," said Alliance Chief Operating Officer Michael Flasch. "Their skills will help guide us as we try to satisfy employerdriven demands for alternative health benefit solutions."

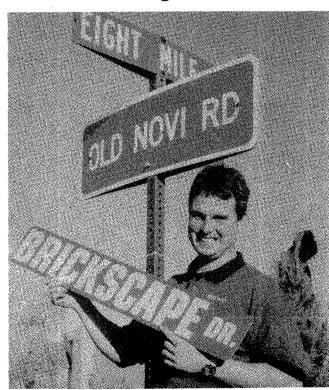


PERRY TALICSKA



ALLAN FLANAGAN

Which way?



The confusion between Old Novi Road and Novi Road is over. Old Novi Road is now Brickscape Drive. Joe DiRado, owner of Brickscape Gardens in Northville obtained approvals necessary to change the name — ending years of confusion with drivers.

D & M opens new art store in Canton

D & M Studio's Once Upon An Easel, a new concept in art, a total art store and more, is opening in Canton at the Golden Gate Plaza March 1.

Sole proprietor will be Sharon Dillenbeck who has owned D & M Studios & Galleries in Plymouth for 12 years.

According to Dillenbeck, Once Upon An Easel will carry items and services that can't be found anywhere else. They include: Try-It-Then-Buy-It; a lending library with instructional materials and videos; guest artists; private "Show Your Stuff Here" gallery; art fairs; clearing house for artist commissions; "Rent-to-Create" studio space; rent tents, display racks, easels, etc.; rental of original art works; and art birthday parties. The store will also include a coffee and espresso bar, children's gallery and a local artist gallery.

A "one stop shopping" place, D & M Studio's Once Upon An Easel will cater to the student, teacher and the professional. The store will have a knowledgeable sales staff, an artist-in-residence at all times, offer professional lessons — private and group. In addition, the concept includes holiday work shops; summer art camps for preschool, student, teens and adults; scout badge workshops; college portfolio preparation; and teacher training. Also included are "Hands-on Workshops Seminars" and classes on marketing for the novice and professional. And of course, artist's materials will have discount pricing and be in stock at all times.

Plymouth Ice Lestival 1997







Frozen Fantasy

(above) Judging was difficult with the incredible number of intricate entries at the 1997 Plymouth International Ice Spectacular. (far left) Carvers crafted the ice into amazing pieces of art under extremely cold conditions. (left, center) Carving was fast and furious during competition under the Central Parking Deck in downtown Plymouth.

Crier photos by R. Alwood Ir.

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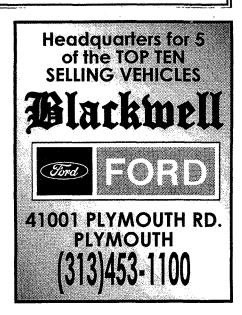
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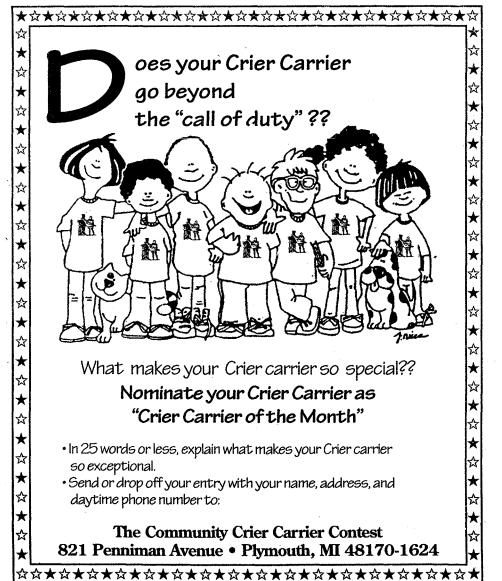
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What's Happening

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

Meetings.

CANTON TRUSTEES MEETING

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, Jan 23 at 2:30 p.m. to tour the Farmington Hills Ice Arena, and to discuss construction, revenues, expenses and operational issues. Trustees should meet at the arena, 35500 Eight Mile Road, Farmington

MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT NIGHT

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park will host a Middle School Parents Night Thursday, Jan. 23. Parents of 8th-grade students are encouraged to attend this presentation highlighting what students can expect in making the transition to High School, including student activities, events and requirements. Program will begin at 7:00 p.m. in both Canton and Salem cafeteria. For info., call 416-7782.

MEET OTHER MOTHERS

Meet Other Mothers invites you to join them for guest speakers and discussion. Meet the second and fourth Friday of the month at the First Presbyterian Church in Plymouth. Babysitting is provided. For more information, Mardi at 453-4970.

GOD'S GOLDEN GIRLS

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

CANTON REPUBLICAN CLUB

The Canton Republican Club, which meets on the third Thursday of each month, will be meeting at Cherry Hill School at 7 p.m. For more information, call Melissa McLaughlin at 495-0304.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON CIVITAN MEETING

The Plymouth-Canton Civitan club will hold their monthly dinner meeting on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Water Club Bar & Grill. For more information, call Margaret at 455-6989.

PLYMOUTH YMCA "Y" KIDS

For children ages 3-5. Openings for afternoon sessions of Y Kids. Age 3 meets on Tuesday and Thursday, and ages 4-5 meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For more information, call the Plymouth YMCA at 453-2904.

PLYMOUTH ORATORIO SOCIETY

The society invites all interested singers to join in this year's performances, including Brahms' Liebeslieder Waltzes and the Duruflé Requiem. Practices are held weekly. No audition necessary. For info, phone Clark or Karen Chapin at 453-4765.

STU ROCKAFELLOW AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Monthly meeting at 7 p.m.; third Tuesday of the month; second floor Plymouth City Hall. For more information, call 455-7652. Amateur radio classes Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., Plymouth Township Hall. For more information, call 453-3840, ext. 223.

CANTON COMMUNITY CABLEVISION TALENT SEARCH

Canton is beginning a search for talented residents who are interested in helping with the creation and production of its expanding television network. Residents who would like to offer their services for cable television work should call the Communications office at 397-5472 or Scott Zuchlewski at 397-5360. Residents can also send a resume to Zuchlewski at 1150 S. Canton Center, Canton MI 48188. Interested residents will be interviewed and auditioned for various programs. Voice-overs, narration, writing, producing, on-camera, etc.

SATURDAY STORY TIMES FOR CHILDREN

Story times are open to children in kindergarten through third grade. Dates are Feb. 1, March 1 and April 5. Sessions begin at 10 a.m. and are 45 minutes long. No registration required. For more information, call 453-0750.

SMOKERS' RIGHTS MEETING

Every third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at The Senate Coney Island, 34359 Plymouth Rd. For more information, call Marc at 455-1635.

PLYMOUTH OPTIMIST CLUB MEETINGS

First and third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Mayflower Hotel. Includes dinner and a speaker. For more information, call Felix Rotter at 453-2375.

PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY WRITER'S CLUB

The second and fourth Thursday of every month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Writers of all experience levels are welcome. For more information, call 416-0418

60+ CLUB

Meets every first Monday at noon at First United Methodist Church located at 45201 N. Territorial Rd. Everyone is welcome. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. For more information, call Lola Schueder at 453-7999.

SUNDAY TOASTMASTERS PUBLIC SPEAKING CLUB

A new Sunday night Toastmasters meeting at the Plymouth Township meeting room from 7-9 p.m. Experience the public speaking training. Become a better listener, a better thinker. For more information, call Marc Sullivan at 455-1635.

3 CITIES ART CLUB

Meetings will be on the first Monday of the month. November meetings will be announced. For more information, call S. Argiroff at (313) 422-8106.

The winners of this month's

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random acts of

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Dear Kindness Editor,

I would like to nominate for your "RANDOM ACTS OF KIND-NESS", Mr. Ron Discher, who drives the Senior Van for the City of Plymouth. (A gem of a fellow).

Mr. Discher (Ron to all of the older folks who ride his bus) goes beyond his duties assisting everyone. With his able helping hand he tucks in packages, groceries, and on allighting, not only makes sure no one is missing, but again takes off packages and people. Never misses a day of early rising, never complains FOR HE IS LOVED.

Shirley J. Curran

\$25 To The Winner

Dear Kindness Editor,

I wish to report a random act of

On Tuesday, December 3, 1996, about 4pm, I was driving home on Westbound I-96. A pickup truck crossed 2 lanes, and forced me off the road. I slammed into a concrete wall, and was stunned. The pickup never slowed down, nor did anyone else stop to see if I had been injured or killed. A woman who was driving a van about three cars behind noticed this. Her name is liene McKnight, and she works for an Ann Arbor branch of a rental company called Aaron's Rental Purchase (That was how I found her the next day, I remembered the logo on the van). She had to be back at Ann Arbor by a certain time, and in spite of running the risk of being late, she stopped. She made sure I didn't need an ambulance, helped me move my car fully onto the shoulder, and drove me to the nearest telephone. She stayed with me until I contacted someone nearby to pick me up.

I can't tell you how much that meant to me. I know she was worried about returning to work on time, and was afraid she might get into trouble for being late. I spoke with her superior, and he said that he thought she did the right thing. I was relieved to hear that. She was a good samaritan, and deserved praise, not punishment for being a little late.

1 just thought the community should be made aware of this. Ilene is a kind and caring individual, and I'm very grateful to her. Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely, Michelle A. Plumb

\$25 To The Winner

Dear Kindness Editor,

I wish I had a picture to send you of our hat and mitten tree in the community room at Tonguish Creek Manor. The beauty Liz Hartwick created by decorating it with the 50 caps she hand knitted in a rainbow of col-

during the holiday season.

Sincerely,

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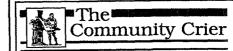
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If you witness a Random Act of Kindness, put it in writing and send it to: The Community Crier Kindness Editor · 821 Penniman Ave. Plymouth 48170 -1624

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Antique furniture fills house with special memories of days gone by

BY NICOLE SMITHSON

There has never been a time when people have not sought to improve their homes, whether it be repaving the driveway, painting the house, or home redecorating.

Plymouth is now a budding community where the business is good and people are constantly on the go. It is no longer a time when people can walk down the street and know everyone they may run into.

Living life in the '90s has people remembering yesteryear by decorating their homes with antiques. One customer in a local antique store explained that it wasn't just the wonderful eye appeal of them, it was the memories they sparked.

Jeanne McLoughlin, owner of In My Attic, said, "you name it, somebody is looking for it. It's amazing." McLoughlin indicated a Thomas Edison phonograph record in one of her showcases as an example.

Many people associate antiques with women. This is not the case anymore. Just ask the owner of Kalik's Antiques. New furniture sometimes depreciates, antiques increase in value

He carries a variety of "manly" antiques including swords, guns, fishing reels, and war memorabilia including uniforms. He chuckled to himself when he explained that some men would come into his store with their wives hanging their heads. By the time the couple left, it was the wife at the door waiting impatiently for the husband to finish.

Antiques can be enjoyed by people of all ages. Joe Carli, co-owner of Plymouth Antique and Craft Mall, explained that they had customers of all ages, even young grade school children. They come in for themselves, or to buy gifts for their parents.

Carli said, "When you buy an antique you are making an investment." He used the analogy of buying a Lazy-Boy chair for \$400 at a furniture store, after a few years you would be lucky to get \$50 for it.

However, a rocking chair from an antique store costing \$400 would only appreciate.

Barb Washenko, a dealer and purchaser of antiques, explained that her love for the craftsmanship of antiques is what led her to start buying them. Over the last few years, she has slowly been refurbishing her home with antiques in place of the modern furniture she had. "We even drink our orange juice out of antique glasses," said Washenko.

Carol Carli, co-owner of Plymouth Antique and Craft Mall, explained it all when she said, "I grew up with antiques. I love the history behind things, where it has been, who's owned it." Carli also completely furnishes her home with antiques, even kitchen appliances and crock pots.

Antiques are on the rise in home decoration. They are a walk down memory lane, a sound investment, and just good fun. In the wonderful and numerous shops in Plymouth, shoppers can find anything they could possibly desire to decorate their home. Something to give it that added something special.



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Gear up for spring with home shows

In the home improvement industry, the cold days of winter mean gearing up for the upcoming building and home improvement season. If you're one of those smart homeowners or if you're a wanna-be, here's a valuable tip: get started on your next project's plans right now before it's too late. Putting off your plans may just mean waiting at the back of the line behind those who were smart enough to plan ahead.

If you're at a loss as to where to begin, formulating ideas and gathering information about your upcoming projects is as easy as attending one or all of the upcoming home and garden shows. Although the objective of these shows is to inform and educate us, each show has features that stand out from the other, making each show unique. That's why it's a good idea to consider attending more than one of these shows.

The non-profit Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) is the biggest and most recognized sponsor of home shows in the Metropolitan Detroit area. Starting Jan. 30 and running through Feb. 2, the BIA will sponsor the fifth annual Spring Home & Garden Show at the Novi Expo Center. Aside from the more than 300 companies represented, showgoers can find out what's new for the kitchen, bathroom and all around the house and garden by attending one of the many seminars, including "The ABC's of Remodeling." In its five years of existence, this show has nearly doubled in size. That in itself is quite exciting, and a great accomplishment for the BIA.

Another successful display of what's new for the home can be found at the eighth annual Michigan Home & Garden Show at the Pontiac Silverdome, Thursday, February 27 through Sunday, March 2. This show, presented by ShowSpan, Inc. encompasses a large portion of the Silverdome. Gardening, home repair and tips on your legal rights as a homeowner are just a taste of the many informative seminars offered at this show.

But, the "Granddaddy of shows," as BIA Show Operations Manager Rosalie Lamb puts it, is the International Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show, now in its seventy-ninth year. At the Cobo Conference-Exhibition Center in Detroit from Saturday, March 15 to Sunday, March 23, it is my all-time favorite and is, without question, time well spent. This show offers more than 400 exhibitors as well as hands-on exhibits and seminars for do-it-yourselfers. In addition, the International Masonry Institute will demonstrate the art of brick laying,

Make a note:

- January 30-February 2—Spring Home & Garden Show—Novi Expo Center
- February 27-March 2—Michigan Home & Garden Show—Pontiac Silverdome
- March 15-23—International Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show—Cobo Center
- April 3-6—Home Improvement Show—Novi Expo Center

In the workshop

by Maura Cady

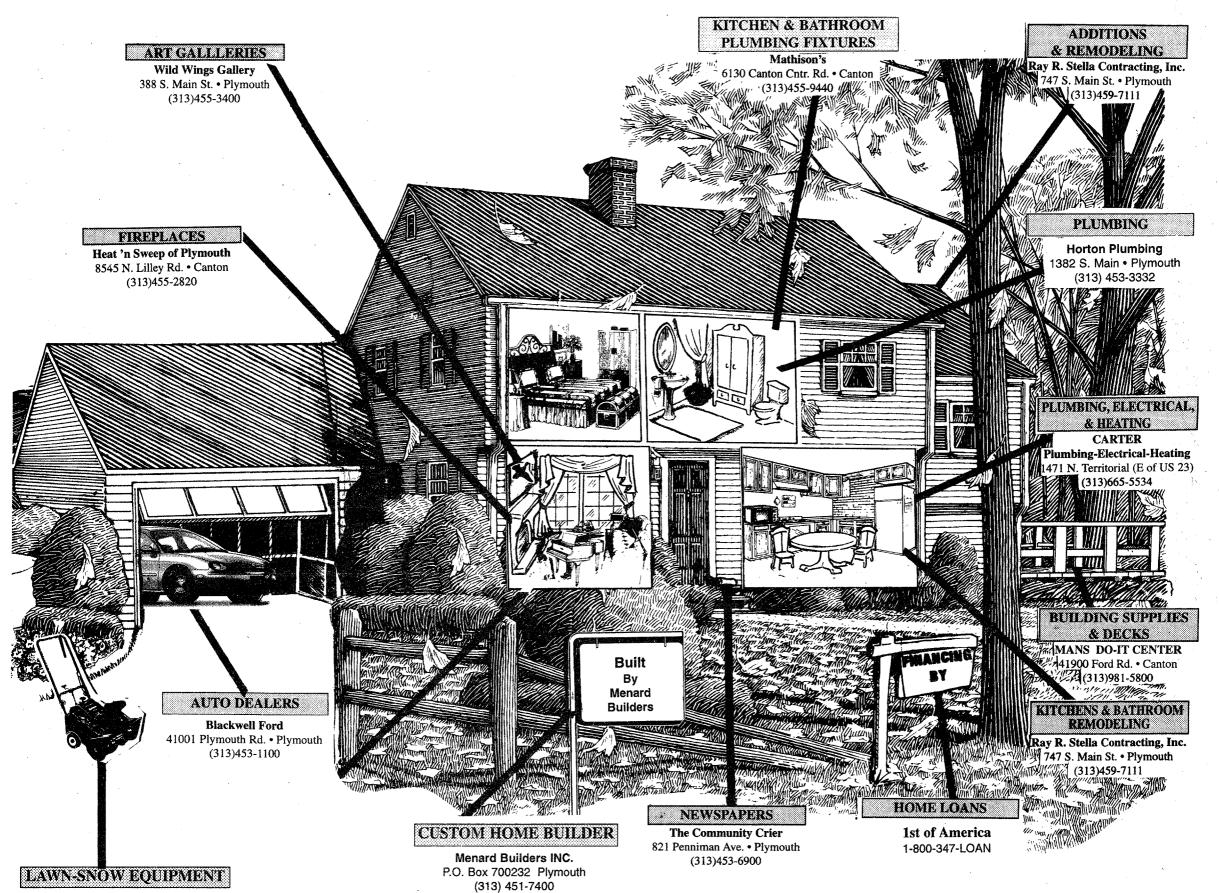


sculpting and mortar spreading. The Institute's all-masonry home is, no doubt, guaranteed to be a big hit. But, if swinging a hammer or using a trowel is not your cup of tea, the Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association will be treating us to a railroad garden with a miniature model train integrated into a landscape of flowers, trees, paver bricks and decks; elaborate, yet "do-able."

If you've completed the plans for your first project and have a hankering for another, the BIA comes to the rescue again. The first annual Home Improvement Show will be at the Novi Expo Center Thursday, April 3 through Sunday, April 6. This show, with more than 100 exhibitors will feature seminars on how to solve your most difficult cleaning problems by America's "King of Clean," Don Aslett. Although less focused on the garden and more on the home, the Home Improvement Show will prove to skeptics that "how-to" education can be limitless.

Additional information on these and other BIA sponsored shows can be obtained by contacting the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan's 24-hour hotline at (810) 737-4478. Information on the Michigan Home & Garden Show can be obtained by contacting ShowSpan, Inc. at (616) 530-1919.





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-Desk with hutch \$95 Call (313)397-7884

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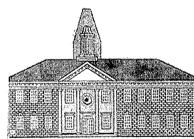
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Love Beauregard, Sally and Dad
JEFF HORTON was keeping his birthday
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out front.
FULL MOON ALERT

FULL MOON ALERT
COLBY ANN HART in Canton:
Happy New Year! -- Beauregard
MARTHA DAVIS is a great friend whose
cheery notes are always well received. --

Jess, Sally and Ed
Rhonda - What does Delores rhyme with?
Bryon - Can you teach solitaire?
Russ - Where's that water coming from?

My first lunch with the Crier/Comma staff was very enlightening. Now I know to keep my fingers away from Lisa, my spit away from Brandy and all of my single friends away from Bryon

Maura found out the true meaning of "auto show" when she locked the keys in her new car while at the Auto Show. Breaking the window to get the keys out and then driving home on one of the coldest days so far is not quite what she had in mind! There's a first time for eventhing!

first time for everything!

Palma and Joseph Underhill-Cady are going to be second-time parents sooner than they thought! Pretty exciting, eh?

Meryn Underhill-Cady is going to be a big sister sooner than she thought! It's time to hide the toys! (P.S. Super-dooper-great pictures of you!)

All of the Cady's and Underhill's will have a new "wee-one" in their lives sooner than they thought!

Palma, Joseph and Meryn--I wish I could be closer to you in miles at this wonderful, special and miraculous time in your lives! I love and miss all of you so very much and will be thinking about you in the coming weeks! With love, Maura

Stephanie--Don't ever forget what a talented person you are. You do great work! (FYI to all--The latest can be found on The Crier's front window!)

JESS drinks S.L. merlot
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Many companies use his tape, bu

Many companies use his tape, but Dr. Wallach only recommends one mineral product for his health and arthritis formulas, for free copy of Dr. Wallach's letter, info. call (313)421-1062

Curiosities

DEAR MARTHA ET AL: Worked at the Historical Museum Sunday last during the "Ice Festival" Wish you had been there. You would have been so proud and happy knowing of your contribution. The chapel your family gave is used for what it was intended -prayer. One little boy told the people at the desk that he had said three prayers there. Isn't that nice? I always rest for a bit in the pews you painted. This time I opened the Bible to the 23rd Psalm. It was one of Peter's favorites. Beside the point, but I wondered if the door, which is an old one, might have come from the old Baptist Church. (Did you know it had a Bennington doorknob?) Now that's trivia for sure. Love, Geneva

Groups and organizations: P-C-N
The 1997 Crier Guide will be coming soon!
If you have a new group, phone # or
Pres.-Contact person, please let us know.
(Ask for Linda)

(Ask for Linda)

NICKOLAOU - I found your almost new blue/green glove in front of "The Community Crier." It's on the wall beside my desk. GRANDMA GENEVA

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Bryon - Do you fly solo, too?

Mike - Where are the boxes?

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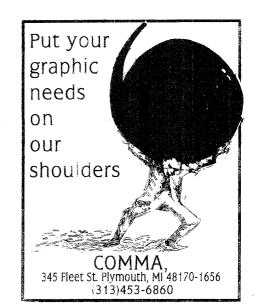
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Canton police officers begin multi-housing crime prevention training

Program helps keep apartments, condos safe

Three police training officers, Keith Lazar, Mark Schultz and Leonard Schemanski, will attend a training certification program January 22-24 that will enable Public Safety to launch a crime prevention program later this year in Canton's multiple-housing units.

Instructor training for the Crime-Free Multi-Housing Program, designed by the mesa, Arizona Police Department, is being offered by the Southfield Police Department, which introduced the program to the Southfield community last year.

Once the officers complete the training program, the will be certified to teach apartment owners and managers crime prevention tactics that are specifically geared to identifying and averting crime problems among tenants.

To participate in Canton's Crime-Free Multi-Housing Program, apartment complexes are required to have at least one representative from management staff (owner or manager) complete eight hours of classroom training, which includes presentations by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Canton's Building and Inspections Department and the Western Wayne County Narcotics Unit.

Once an apartment representative completes the training, the complex will be authorized to incorporate the crime-free lease addendum (requiring the tenant to abide by code of crime-free living) into its standard lease agreement, and post a sign on the property, advertising its involvement in Canton's Crime-Free Multi-Housing Program to prospective tenants.

For more information on Canton's Crime-Free Multi-Housing Program, contact Officer Lew Stevens, 313-397-5334.

Schools try to improve labor relations

Continued from pg. 1

resentative, DuBois handles everyday union member concerns onsite. "Things have deteriorated," he said. "We have poorer relations here than in other districts."

Seeking a source of this deterioration, DuBois, Portelli and others have pointed to 1994 legislation which prohibits teachers and other public school employees from striking.

Public Act 112 states that public school employees may not strike, "for the purpose of protesting or responding to an act alleged or determined to be an unfair labor practice committed by the public school employer."

The law would fine public school employees one day's salary for each day they strike; striking unions would pay \$5,000 per day.

Prohibited by the State from striking, teachers have lost their, "ultimate step to express their dissatisfaction," DuBois said

Under the law, Portelli said, teachers and their union have lost leverage in negotiations. "P.A. 112 was supposed to be anti-strike, but it's an anti-bargaining bill," he said. Now, "(The board) holds all the cards."

Such changes in the negotiation process may have trickled down into daily operations; left with different tools to work with, teachers and administrators are forced to refigure the ways in which they deal with problems.

"If you're unhappy with your employer, do you do the volunteer stuff," DuBois asked, suggesting that teacher-staffed student events, such as commencements and science camps, could suffer.

"We need to improve relations," DuBois said. "We do need an outsider. It will be better for the district, the union and the kids."

And it is kids, said David Artley, P-C

School Board trustee, that are the common focus of the board and the union. "We need to eliminate the obstacles between our bottom lines," he said. "We've got to move forward with this thing as quickly as possible."

At their Jan. 14 meeting the board approved a joint proposal offered by Little and Portelli that would pay Gary Herline, a labor relations consultant based in Ann Arbor, \$9,500 for six days of consulting.

In their discussion of the "two Chucks" proposal, several members said Herline's fee seemed "reasonable," but that a clear list of goals should come out of his six days of advising.

The degree to which the PCEA will support the plan remains to be seen. Portelli will take the proposal back to the union for discussion at their Jan. 28 meeting. Portelli said he was unsure whether they would approve the plan, and if they did, how much of their member-funded budget would be allotted to paying Herline's fee.

That Portelli was able to collaborate with Little on the plan might seem to suggest that school and union leadership could reach an agreement without a consultant's help. But previous efforts at reconciliation attempted by the union and the schools amount to "patchwork, and have only held for a short time," Little said.

Currently, Herline is working on a timetable for the six-day consulting session. If, upon board review, the session is deemed productive, additional sessions are likely to follow.

"We have different styles of bargaining," Portelli said. "But this doesn't have to be a win-loose situation."

"Mr. Herline is a first-rate consultant and will give us a clear direction," said Little. "We can't weather many more negotiations like the last one."



Sports

Sports shorts

The City of Plymouth will be taking Spring Soccer Registrations the entire month of January, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The City of Plymouth Recreation Department is located in the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer St. All registrations require a birth certificate. The fee is \$40 for City residents, \$60 for non-residents. For more information, call 455-6620. Looking for something else to do other than shoveling snow and scraping windshields? The City of Plymouth is now taking registration for its Winter Classes. The City Recreation Department will offer more than 20 different classes for ages ranging from tots to seniors. For a complete list of classes, call 455-6620.

Schedule for Our Lady of Good Counsel home basketball games, held at Central Middle school:

Saturday: Varsity Boys B at 6:30 p.m. and Varsity Girls B at 7:45 p.m. versus at Our Lady of Sorrows.

Sunday: Varsity Boys A at 3:30 p.m. and Varsity Girls A at 4:45 p.m. versus Our Lady of Sorrows.

Feb. 8: Varsity Boys B at 6:30 p.m. and Varsity Girls B at 7:45 p.m. versus St. Scholastica.

Feb. 9: Varsity Boys A at 3:30 p.m. and Varsity Girls A at 4:45 p.m. versus St. Scholastica.

Feeling lucky? "Roll the bones." The City of Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department is offering a Feb. 5 trip to Mount Pleasant's **Soaring Eagle Casino**. The cost is \$39 for City residents and \$40 for non-City residents. The tour includes round trip transporation via motor coach, lunch and free time to gamble.

Former Salem High School star **James Head** is on the 13-1 EMU basketball team.

Rocks, Chiefs battle in finals

Salem outduels Canton in finals for Plymouth tourney title

If only there could've been two winners, the Plymouth Varsity Invitational would've ended perfectly Saturday.

But somebody had to take first place in the Canton/Salem finals match-up. And after losing their first match 10-15, the Rocks rallied to win the multiple-team tournament, 15-11, 15-7.

Junior Amanda Abraham led Salem with 40 kills — 16 in the finals — six solo blocks and five block assists.

On the Canton side, Jessica Orleman recorded 58 kills, 43 digs, 10 aces and 12 blocks on a team that doesn't have a player taller than 5'9". But Chiefs coach Steve Anderson wasn't looking for excuses.

"Height is not what caused us to lose," he said. "I did not alter our game plan when Salem changed up his line up midway through the match. It is true that our serving was not as strong as usual, but now I can work on some strategies for the next two times we play them. We will see them again in a league-dual match and possibly in the league and district tournaments. I will take responsibility for this one, but I promise my players I won't make that mistake again against a good team like Salem. Salem co-coaches (Brian) Gilles and (Allie) Suffety are great coaches and have an outstanding program; they deserved the victory.'

The Rocks breezed through pool play, disposing of Dearborn Heights Crestwood



There was a lot of planning to do for Canton coach Steve Anderson. His team has no player taller than 5'9", but the Chiefs still managed to get to the Plymouth Varsity Invitational finals. (Crier photo R. Alwood Jr.)

(15-6, 15-3), Garden City (15-5, 15-3), Romulus (15-6, 15-2) and Farmington (15-3, 15-8). Livonia Franklin provided a challenge in the first match of the semi finals, losing to the Rocks, 15-13, but Salem shutout the Patriots, 15-0, to advance to the finals.

Canton went 4-1-1 for the day in

matches and 10-3 in games, closing out the tournament with a 15-3-2 record. Canton finished first in their pool with a record of 7-1. Harrison was the first to fall (15-7, 15-6), followed by North Farmington (15-2, 21-19). The Chiefs split with Franklin 15-12, 13-15, and swept Novi, 15-5, 15-2.

Canton took care of the Farmington

Falcons, 15-6, 15-13 in the semifinals to advance to the finals versus Salem.

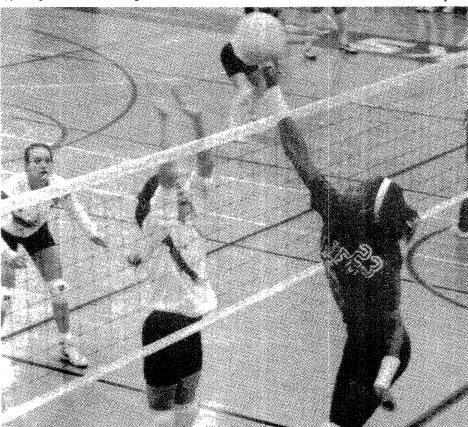
Canton served its normal game and played its trademark defense to keep Salem off balance in the first game. But Canton had major trouble serving in the second and third games.

The tournament title may have gone to Salem, but there were outstanding efforts by players on both teams.

Canton's Nikki Kovachevich had 45 digs, 16 aces and 50 assists. Teammates Donna Logsdon (29 digs), Stephanie Chefan (32 kills, seven blocks) and Courtney Wells (48 assists, 13 aces) were also spectacular. Jenny Sikora also contributed with 38 digs. Brandi Bernard finished with 13 aces and 27 digs and Amy Plagens had 11 aces.

Salem junior outside-hitter Jenny Trott stuck Canton for 34 kills. She also had 33 digs, 10 aces and three solo blocks. Junior Angie Sillmon posted 27 kills, eight solo blocks and eight assist blocks and Kari Flynn had 60 assists and 12 aces.

In action earlier last week, Canton chalked up a divison win versus Northville Wednesday night. The Chiefs won 15-4, 10-15, 15-7, 15-11 as the defense continued to shine. Canton had 112 digs in the four games.



Salem's intimidating frontline led the Rocks to the Plymouth Varsity Invitational title Saturday. The Rocks beat Canton in the finals. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)



Sports

Detroit runs Greyhounds out of town

Whalers upset division leader two nights in a row; 6 suspended after brawl

BY BRIAN CORBETT

Let the playoffs begin. Detroit is ready.

The post-season feelings of desperation and intensity were knocking on the door over the weekend at Compuware Sports Arena, and the Whalers answered.

They sent the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds home with their tail between their legs — and with a bruised ego — defeating the West Division leaders 3-1 Saturday and 2-1 Sunday.

The Saturday "main event" featured six simulateous fights in the second period

Even the fans got involved when a Soo player attempted to go over the glass behind the visitor's bench and into the stands.

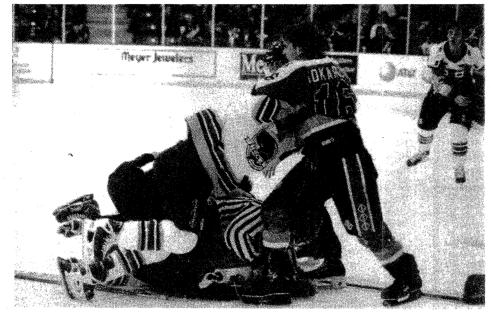
The victories, combined with wins over London Jan. 12 and Jan. 15, give Detroit its longest winning streak (4) of the season. The Whalers' last loss was to the Greyhounds Jan. 11 at home.

After that one-goal defeat, several Whalers spoke of the team's inconsistency and inexperience.

Goalie Robert Esche was one of the players to speak up, and he led by example this week, going 3-0 while posting a 1.2 goals against average.

Forward Mark Cadotte led the offense with six points, but contributed defensively also, often skating against the opposing team's top line.

It's the kind of all-around game effort the Whalers (18-23-4) need if they are going to pull of an upset in the playoffs,



Boys will be boys and hockey players will be hockey players. Tempers ran high during Detroit's Saturday night game against Sault Ste. Marie. The Whalers won the game, 3-1 — and the fights. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

which if started today, would feature a Detroit/Soo first-round match up.

Detroit is 3-3 versus the Greyhounds this season. Confidence and optimism swept through the locker room Sunday night.

"Huge win for us," said captain Mike Morrone, who didn't play Sunday because of a two-game suspension stemming from an incident in the previous night's game.

"That's the biggest win since I've been here," said defenseman Bryan McKinney, who joined the team earlier this season. "It was a real solid effort by everyone tonight. Defensively, we came up big."

"I'm not going to make any predictions, but I really believe we have all the characteristics of pulling an upset in the playoffs," said Whalers Coach Peter DeBoer.

That's team defense and goaltending, DeBoer said. And they were undoubtedly the reasons for Detroit's six-point week. Detroit took the lead at 14:56 of the first period Saturday when Cadotte scored on the Whalers' second shot of the game.

Andrew Taylor and Jason Lawmaster assisted. The Soo riddled the net for 21 shots to Detroit's four, but Esche turned aside every one.

With the Soo's Joe Seroski off for slashing, Steve Wasylko was along the left side when he dumped the puck back to Sergei Fedotov at the Greyhound's blue line. Fedotov slid it across to McKinney, who passed the puck back to Wasylko cutting through a seam in the Soo's defense.

He one-timed it past goalie Jake McCracken for the 2-0 lead. Seroski pulled his team within one at 7:53 before things turned ugly.

A 15-minute delay occurred at 12:53 when several fights broke out because of Pat Parthenais' slash on Joe Thornton, the Soo's top player. Six players were given game misconducts — including the Greyhounds' David Wight who left the bench to fight — and Detroit's Morrone, and Anthony Terzo.

Soo left wing Chad Woolard went unpenalized, despite the fact he attempted to scale the plexiglass and enter the stands before being stopped by teammates. In an excellent display of discipline, no Whalers left the bench durng the pandemonium. The teams' emotions whipped the normally reserved home crowd into a frenzy, sending "The Wave" around the arena several times.

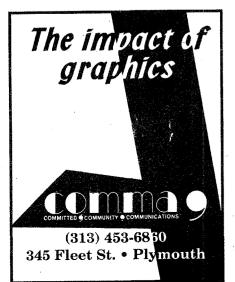
Because of previous injuries and suspensions, and Morrone's and Terzo's early exit, Detroit was forced to play the

Please see pg. 19



WHALER WATCH





	_			
OHL STANDINGS				
W	L	T	Last 10	Pts
35	6	3	7-2-1	71
25	13	5	5-3-2	53
25	18	2	8-2-0	52
16	24	5	3-6-1	37
14	24	6	3-6-1	34
10	35	5	1-6-3	23
W	L	T	Last 10	Pts
24	16	4	4-5-1	52
23	18	6	4-3-3	52
24	15	4	5-4-1	52
24	18	1	4-6-0	49
15	27	4	3-6-1	34
14	24	4	3-6-1	32
W	L	T	Last 10	Pts.
26	12	² 8	7-2-1	60
24	15	5	3-6-1	51
18	20	7	8-1-1	43
18	23	4	3-5-2	40
8	34	I	2-8-1	17
	35 25 25 16 14 10 W 24 23 24 15 14 W 26 24 18 18	W L 35 6 25 13 25 18 16 24 10 35 W L 24 16 23 18 24 15 24 18 15 27 14 24 W L 26 12 24 15 18 20 18 23	W L T 35 6 3 25 13 5 25 18 2 16 24 5 14 24 6 10 35 5 W L T 24 16 4 23 18 6 24 15 4 24 18 1 15 27 4 14 24 4 W L T 26 12 8 24 15 5 18 20 7 18 23 4	W L T Last 10 35 6 3 7-2-1 25 13 5 5-3-2 25 18 2 8-2-0 16 24 5 3-6-1 14 24 6 3-6-1 10 35 5 1-6-3 W L T Last 10 24 16 4 4-5-1 23 18 6 4-3-3 24 15 4 5-4-1 24 18 1 4-6-0 15 27 4 3-6-1 W L T Last 10 26 12 8 7-2-1 24 15 5 3-6-1 18 20 7 8-1-1 18 20 7 8-1-1 18 23 4 3-5-2

Season leaders: Goals-Cadotte (20) Points-Cadotte (45) Penalty Minutes-Boulerice (209) Power Play Goals-Druken (8) Shorthanded Goals-Cadotte (2) Game winners-four players (4) Plus/minus-Rioux (+3) Team stats: Power play-44 for 235, 20.9%, 12th OHL Penalty killing-44 for 257, 83.7%, 2rd OHL CATCH OF THE DAY: Who? When? Where? Windsor Thurs. 7:30 away Erie Friday7:30 home Erie Sat. 7:30 home Barrie 1-31-97 7:30 away

WHALERS STATISTICS

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Salem, Canton swim teams dominate Rock Invitational

Host Salem captures 1st; Canton finishes 3rd

The Canton and Salem boys swim teams dominated the Rock Invitational Saturday by winning 22 of 45 events.

Salem won the invite with 217 points. Canton finished right behind second-place Birmingham Seaholm with 159 points.

Birmingham Groves, Catholic Central and Livonia Stevenson rounded out the top five.

The showing by the PCEP came just two days after the teams met in a dual meet, won by the Rocks, 104-82.

At the Rock Invitational, Salem's Andrew Locke (23.35) and Kevin Durogi (24.88) each won the 50 free style competition. In the 100 freestyle, Canton's Jason Musson (53.66) took first place. Teammate Nick Corden was second in his field.

Salem's Dan Jones nearly won his 100 freestyle race, finishing second with a time of 54.34.

In the 200 freestyle, the Rocks' Tim Buchanan, a junior, won the 200 free style, finishing in 1:51.09. Tammate Kyle Petrosky won his 200 freestyle field in 1:50.35.

Petrosky returned to win the 500 freestyle in 5:01.89. Salem's Mark Dettling (5:15.49) and Brent Mellis (5:05.18) and Canton's Mike Rourke (5:39.15) captured titles in each of their 500 freestyle races.

In four 100 backstroke competitions, Canton's Justin Allen (1:02.85), Mike Dempsey (1:07.58) and Salem's D. Winter (1:07.25) and M. Casillas (1:06.22) finished in the top three. Canton's Ryan Dahlman took the PCEP's only first place in the 100 breast stroke.

Dettling flew through the 100 fly in a time of 56.21, good for first place. Buchanan recorded a time of 57.09, and Canton's John Theisen finished in 1:02.55.

Mellis had Salem's best time in the 200 IM posting 2:06.63. Alex Roettgers (2:07.95) was the best on the Canton side.

Salem dominated the diving competition. Senior Otto Geisman (414.55), C.

Cameron, M. Belvitch and Jim Miller all took first place. Canton's Rob Brooks, M. Desharis and Kyle Price all placed second

Canton and Salem finished first and second respectively in the 400 freestyle relay. The teams nearly repeated the feat in the 200 medley relay; Canton taking first in 1:50.49, and Salem third (1:51.88). In the second running of the 200 medley relay, Canton and Salem placed first and second again. The day wrapped up with one more running of the 200 medley relay. Salem finished fourth and Canton was sixth.

How they finished:

- 1. Salem 217
- 2. Seaholm —165.5
- 3. Canton 159
- 4. Groves 141
- 5. Redford CC 108.5
- 6. Stevenson 59

Whalers upset Soo in weekend games

Contiued from pg. 19

rest of the game with two lines against the Canadian Hockey League's fifthranked team.

Twelve minutes into the last period, the Soo rang a shot off the post. But it would be Detroit that scored next. At 15:41, Cadotte sealed Detroit's victory with his 20th goal of the season. Wasylko and McKinney assisted.

Upset No. 1.

"I told the guys, I've seen a lot of

hockey games, but that was the gutsiest effort I've ever seen," said DeBoer.

But the coaching staff didn't spend Saturday night celebrating, they spent it on the phone arranging transportation for players they were calling up to replace the seven lost to injury and suspension in the two previous games.

There wasn't enough time to stitch Joe Byrne's name on his jersey, but he did make it for game time Sunday, along with Jimmy Jordan and Marty Loach.

The aftermath of a donneybrook. The normally reserved Compuware Sports Arena crowd responded to the second period clamor by doing The Wave and chanting "Let's Go Whalers." (Crier phot by R. Alwood Jr.)

And the late additions all contributed, as Detroit scored two third-period goals to overcome a 1-0 deficit.

McKinney beat Michal Podolka, a Red Wings draft pick, through the five-hole at 4:49. Cadotte and Wasylko assisted. Cadotte, who plays bigger than his 5'9", 175 pound frame, then set up the gamewinner when he intercepted a Greyhounds pass in the Soo zone and dropped it back to Luc Rioux at the left point. When a Greyhounds' player lost his stick, Rioux took advantage of the situation and ripped a slapshot that bounced off Podolka's blocker and into the back of the net.

It was Rioux's second goal of the season. "It's definitely the biggest one of my life, to get the game-winner against a team like that," Rioux said.

Upset No. 2.

Detroit will try to continue the winning streak tomorrow night in Windsor in a battle for third place, but they'll have to do it without Terzo, Morrone and Jesse Boulerice, who is out with a sprained ankle. This team has taken a page from the book of adversity. And with the trading deadline past and the kaleidoscopic roster set, it might be the time this young Detroit team grows up. "There's a lot of team discipline and defense, and there's no doubt we're happy when that's passed on. But I also think we played desperation hockey. We didn't want to be in a battle with London for the rest of the season for the last playoff spot," DeBoer said.

On deck

SALEM BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday at Walled Lake Central at 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday at Canton versus Walled Lake Western at 6 p.m. Varsity games begin immediately after listed JV times.

SALEM BOYS SWIMMING

Tomorrow at home versus John Glenn at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Dearborn at 7 p.m.

SALEM WRESTLING

Tomorrow at North Farmington at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the Holt Invitational at 9 a.m.

SALEM GYMNASTICS

Tonight at Canton at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Adrian Invitational at 1 p.m.

SALEM VOLLEYBALL

Tonight at home versus Walled Lake Westner at 6 p.m. Monday at Stevenson at 6 p.m. Varsity begins immediatly after listed JV times.

CANTON BASKETBALL

Friday at home versus Walled Lake Western at 6 p.m. Tuesday at home versus Salem at 6 p.m. Varsity begins immediatly after listed JV times.

CANTON BOYS SWIMMING

Tomorrow at North Farmington verus Harrision at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Monroe Invitational. Tuesday at home versus Stevenson at 7 p.m.

CANTON WRESTLING

Tomorrow at Churchill at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the Belleville Invitational at 10 a.m.

CANTON GYMNASTICS

Tonight at home versus Salem at 7 p.m.

CANTON VOLLEYBALL

Tonight at John Glenn at 5:30 p.m. Saturday at the U of M Invitational in Dearborn. Monday at Harrision at 6 p.m. Varsity begins immediatly after listed JV times.



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PMC CENTER



Community opinions

Conservative...open-minded, Rotary Club

Plymouth group exemplifies community independence, spirit of fairness

Conservative.

Republican.

The Plymouth-Canton Community is often rightfully painted with those brushes.

But there may be more accurate labels.

Independent.

Open-minded.

Last Friday's Plymouth Rotary Club meeting was a case in point.

The story starts three months ago. Bob Giles, publisher of The Detroit News and Heath Meriwether, publisher of the Detroit Free Press, spoke to the Rotarians.

Their joint speech quickly turned to the 1995-97 Detroit Newspaper Strike.

When they were done, Jerry Trumpka, who is the chairperson of the Rotary Program Committee, quickly offered to hear the "other side" of the longest media strike in Michigan history.

Last Friday, nervous as a University of Michigan freshman playing for the first time in Spartan stadium, a striking member of Teamsters Local 372 stood in

With malice toward none



front of the Plymouth Rotary.

Shawn Ellis, a single copy sales driver who serves as one of the newspaper strikers' public relations experts, admitted he felt a little like Daniel walking into the lions' den. After all, most of his speeches are given to UAW locals and the like — groups more likely to be hospitable.

(Shawn did feel at home though while riding to the meeting in the back of Carl Berry's Plymouth Township Police car).

For 20 minutes, Shawn explained how the strike has affected not only the 2,000 families of workers on the picket line, but also the entire Southeast Michigan Community. Rotarians — including business owners

who knew full well how the strike has impacted their ability to advertise — listened intently.

Shawn inherited some courage from his daughter, Laura. Last year, at age 13, she boldly stood up and addressed the Gannett Corporation's annual stockholder meeting.

Certainly, last Friday had to be one of the rare times when a Rotary Club anywhere has invited a leader from a major strike to speak. Generally a business-management-oriented group, the club here is especially seen as a conservative forum.

The local club — established on March 20, 1924 — has a policy, however, of listening to both sides, emphasized Hal Cooper, Rotary prez. That actually goes back to the founding of the Rotary movement by Paul Harris. This historical note will be honored at this Friday's Plymouth Rotary meeting where the program marks the 50th anniversary of Harris' death.

But certainly, as Shawn Ellis found Friday, the Harris tradition lives on. While it may be a club of conservative businessfolk, the Plymouth Rotary is open-minded and independent.

Thanks for help with Canton Goodfellow project

The 1996 Canton Goodfellows Christmas Project is history! Many thanks are owed to the many people who made the Project so very successful. More than 200 children in 89 families received a full Christmas dinner, toys, gift certificates and lots of non-perishable food items.

"Teamwork" is the key that makes it

all come together. To the tireless Goodfellow Board members who begin working in August and who dedicate much of their own Christmas season to the Goodfellow Project—Thank you! Art Winkel, Ruth Wiles, John Burdziak, Jack Runkle, Marilyn Bering, Matt Adams, Cathy Johnson, Betty Booher, Don Kulik and Donna Smith put in untold hours of

The members of VFW Post 6967 helped move, sort, pack and deliver the Christmas baskets. You are special gentlemen who show up every year to help and to sell papers, too. Thank you!

selfless dedication.

The young people who showed up this year in large numbers from the high schools and from scout troops and churches in Canton are the real future of groups like Goodfellows. Please don't lose your enthusiasm as you grow older. We loved having your help and hope you will return year after year. Thank you!

All of the folks who show up on Paper Sale Day and stand outside in whatever weather Mother Nature dishes out, are very special people. Your hands and feet may be cold, but we know that your hearts are warm. Thank you!

Everyone in Canton who donated gifts, clothing, food, toys and cash should take pleasure in knowing they made Christmas happen for more than 200 kids and their families. Thank you!

The employees at the Kmart Distribution Center are the absolute **best!** You all know what a huge part you played in making the kids happy at Christmas time. Thank you!

The senior ladies at the Summit who, as a labor of love, fashioned our most beautiful quilt for our first-ever quilt raffle are responsible for a rousing success. Everyone who bought or sold tickets are part of the "Team" that worked so well. Canton Chamber of Commerce members who threw 100 percent support into the project through raffle purchases and the Christmas Tree Auction were the generous donors of

over \$1,700. Thank you!

There were a number of people who were deemed major contributors through large gifts of cash or toys and gifts. Bryan Amann and George Shea, Dick Lewiston, Glenn Shaw, CJ and PJ, Dr. Robert Potter, Dr. Tom Gerou, Chris' Hallmark, Paul Denski, Meisel-Sysco, the Schwartzes, Bob and Linda Whiteaker, Canton Library Staff, Canton Newcomers Club, AFSCME Local, John and Edie Cozzi, Walter Diakow, Steve Hay and Applebee's ensured that our kids would have the best Christmas we could give them. Thank you!

The children, parents and staff at Gallimore School are the most amazing group of folks. The \$1,011 worth of pennies you collected surely were "pennies from heaven" for the Goodfellows. You have truly learned and lived the true meaning of Christmas this year — extending a helping hand to kids in your own community to make their holiday happy. We are so very grateful for your help. Thank you!

There really are so many more people to thank — I could go on for pages! Everyone in Canton who pitched in to help in any way this year to help their neighbors in need — I thank every one of you from the bottom of my heart. You've proven that Canton cares about children and families who need a helping hand. Thank you! Canton Goodfellows have once again lived their motto, "No Canton Child Without A Christmas" with the help of many good people in Canton. We'll be back again next year — come and join the fun!

NANCY SPENCER

P-C Schools should recognize King holiday

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream — a dream the Plymouth-Canton School District should respect and celebrate by suspending school for the great civil rights leader's birthday, Jan. 20.

Almost every other government office is closed for the national holiday to remember King and his legacy.

The P-C Schools should be closed too.

To the schools' credit, there were several King celebrations held throughout the district. Teachers are recognizing the importance of King in their curriculums.

Celebrating days such as Memorial Day and Labor Day with the cancellation of classes — but not canceling classes for King's holiday sends the wrong message to the kids.

King said in his "I Have a Dream" speech: "...With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood."

It's time for the P-C Schools to join this "symphony of brotherhood" by following the example of countless other school districts and government organizations by closing to remember and live the dream of King.

THE COMMUNITY CRIER

Community editorials



Community opinions

Ice Fest leaves frosty feeling in City

There's nothing I enjoy more as a resident of Plymouth-Canton than to show off this community.

I love to share our town with anyone willing to come here, simply because I'm proud of it.

But it just didn't feel like our town this weekend during the Plymouth International Ice Spectacular. It felt like the organizers of the festival promoter Mike Watts and his crew took over the City of Plymouth.

Plymouth is a city of festivals. It seems that every weekend, a new event is popping up. It makes the community a nice place to live.

When Fall Festival rolls around, it really feels like it's a community event. The food booths are staffed by volunteers and the money goes to community groups, who in turn use the money for charitable projects.

The same is true for Liberty Fest in Canton. It's a time for the community to meet and socialize and it's a lot of fun.

The Plymouth Fourth of July Parade has the same feel. It's a great community event, as is Art in the Park.

But the Ice Festival feels different, like it's not ours. It feels like downtown Plymouth is "rented" to the organizers of the festival, with very little participation from the community itself.

Don't get me wrong. The ice sculptures and carvers are wonderful. No curves By Rob Kirkbride

An ice festival is a great idea, but somehow Watts loses the community

Maybe it's the elephant ear wagons. Maybe it's the ugly yellow police tape wrapped haphazardly around the trees in Kellogg Park. Maybe it's the "corporate" feel of the festival, with sponsors like Big Boy having their logo carved instead of a sculpture people will actually enjoy looking at.

I think it's a combination of all these things that makes the Plymouth International Ice Spectacular different from the rest of the community events.

Here's a few things that might add a community feel to the Ice Festival:

- Use community groups to sell food and beverages, just like Fall Festival.
- · Have the community band or symphony hold a concert at the Penn Theater.
- · Hold more events for kids, like a snowman or snow angel competition.
- Donate part of the profits to the United Way, Goodfellows, Salvation Army or another community-based

Time alone at Cultural Center helps clear thoughts

· Hold the individual carving competition in Old Village instead of under the parking deck.

· House the carvers with local families instead of at hotels.

These are just a few ideas that could make the Ice Fest more local. It would put the community "stamp" on the event.

Despite all the outside media coverage, the wrong message is going out about our community. Television viewers and radio listeners aren't getting the true feel of this community.

This community is about helping service groups, visiting each other around the Kellogg Park fountain, picnicking with family and sharing life with each other. None of these things come out at the Plymouth International Ice Spectacular.

Although I enjoyed the beautiful ice sculptures and was amazed by the talent of the carvers, I don't feel any closer to the community after this festival.

It's good to see the ice melt and to know that we've got our community back again.

The Abstract

By Stephanie Everitt-Kirkbride

Sitting at the Plymouth Cultural Center recently at Open Skate was a wonderful way to relax. There is something soothing about being in a place where your mind doesn't gravitate towards the lists of chores that you have to do, or who you need to call. Every Wednesday our little family heads over there to work off some steam. Rob skates, and Liam and I spectate, and speculate. I happily let my mind wander. Anything stored in my mind is fair game, but usually it ends up with the people on the ice, creating lives for them, and situations. A heightened level of people watching.

This day, however, I went to 1981 when our family moved to the Portland, OR area. I can remember the year easily because of the hype about Mt. St. Helen's damage in my Scholastic Reader News. My mother, her oldest daughter in college back in Michigan, her youngest at school during the day, and in a new place without friends, began to explore the area. She found a park beside the Willamette River where a fairly large group of fishermen gathered daily to tempt fate. Bringing her lunch, our dog, and a notebook she'd fantasize about these men and women — what were their lives like? Their families? Their jobs? She'd create detailed, poetic accounts of these characters in her private journalistic-Hemingway-esque notebook.

Life moves in rippling circles, sometimes overlapping past experiences, sometimes moving endlessly away from the origin. I met minds with my mother this week at the Cultural

Where were the two older male colleagues from? How interesting that that one, although very tall, is an excellent hockey skater — the other still dressed in work clothes, even a tie, is a little hesitant, although clearly enjoying the blood

There is a grandfather with his grandson, who also seems to have played hockey before, making quick rolling laps around the rink. He is teaching. Teaching through example, exposure and sheer pride. And his grandson happily scoots about the rink with a large cone to set his course by.

A single woman skates confidently, although not completely skillfully. It feels like she is trying to recreate what was a familiar, comfortable habit. I am impressed that she came alone. I observe that she wears hockey skates — I think those look so much more comfortable than figure skates, and yet I really don't know.

There is another loner. A man who stakes out the center of the rink for the details. He is a figure skater, but also might have come from work. Over and over he practices turns, and slight toe changes for different effects. I can appreciate his determination and dilligence, and can relate to the mantra effect he seems to create.

In fact, all of the figures on the ice seem to be lulled into another state of mind. It is possible that it is the music that plays almost too loud to talk over. But I don't think so. I think perhaps they are permitting their own minds to wander.

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