



The Community Crier

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April 30, 1997

75¢ 4-30-97 Fallen fowl



BY JILLIAN BOGATER

One minute Mary Alice Fegan was eating a breakfast bagel with her two grandchildren in Kellogg Park.

The next minute Fegan was directing traffic on Main Street in Plymouth to help a mother duck and her 11 ducklings cross the street. But the good deed soon took a dramatic turn.

Fegan watched helplessly as eight of the ducklings fell one by one into a sewer grate.

"I could hear them all peeping. I felt so bad," she said. "I could only save three."

One duckling died in the incident.

The Monday morning drama attracted onlookers, all concerned about the ducklings' welfare. Three City of Plymouth employees arrived at the scene to rescue the ducklings from the

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Canton considers theater

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

The Canton Township Board of Trustees examined the feasibility of a 600- or a 1200-seat community entertainment facility Tuesday.

"It's just the first step in a business plan to see if there is a need, who the potential users would be, what it might look like and to do a cost analysis," Canton Supervisor Tom Yack said. "Then we have to see if we can raise funds."

Last year the board commissioned the accounting firm Plante & Moran, L.L.P. to conduct a feasibility study for an entertainment facility. The study looks at every aspect of the proposed facility, including land, building costs, fixed operating expenses and funding.

Land

The study assumes a 600-seat theater will require about six acres of land. The Township could utilize land it owns by the the Summit. A 1,200-seat theater would require an estimated 12 acres of land and should be located on a major thoroughfare, such as Ford Road.

"A 1,200-seat theater probably wouldn't go on any land we own," Yack said, "because it's all in residential or industrial areas."

The estimated cost of the land is \$5.2 million.

Building costs

The study estimated building costs at \$150 per square foot. At 20,000 square feet a 600-seat theater would cost an estimated \$3 million, while at 30,000 square feet the

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Canton to host national archery tourney

National Archery Association of America's 113th annual competition to bring hundreds to Canton and Heritage Park

BY BRYON MARTIN

Olympic and amateur archers alike will come to Canton from across the country this summer as the township hosts USA Archery '97.

Organized by the National Archery Association of the United States, the event will run from Aug. 2 - 8 at Heritage Park, and will combine the National Target Championships tournament and a week-long Archery Festival, according to the NAA.

In its 113 year, the tournament is known as a farm and proving ground for olympic archers, according to the NAA.

The combination of participants and spectators spending a week in the area could be a boon for busi-

nesses, Laurie Capuzzi, president of The Laurel Group, said

"It really is a big deal. We've got 700 archers coming in, including olympians, plus the crowds they'll draw," Capuzzi said. And they'd like to come back every year."

Capuzzi's company was hired by the NAA to sign-up sponsors for the event in The Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community.

Most recently, the tournament was held in Ohio. According to Capuzzi, the NAA's move to Canton reflects a desire, "to be in a more metropolitan area."

"We want to get lots of local people and businesses involved," she said. "It's a great opportunity for the community."

The festival, a series of instructional day camps, are a priority too. Capuzzi said. "We want to really drum up kids for the day camps."

The midwest's large population of hunters and sport archers make the NAA an event well-suited to the area, according to Capuzzi. "That's what brought the NAA here," she said.

It also makes for productive instruction: "A lot of olympians come out of these day camps," she said.

"Kids come to these camps and learn how to shoot; some turn out to be really good at it and go on to the olympics. The others at least come out with a good hobby," Capuzzi said. "I'll be there to learn, myself."

Former Plymouth Parks & Rec. director arraigned for embezzlement

BY JILLIAN BOGATER

Former Plymouth recreation director Charles Skene was arraigned Tuesday afternoon on five counts of embezzlement.

Plymouth attorney John Thomas entered a not guilty plea on Skene's behalf to 29th District Court Judge Carolyn Archbold. He was released on a \$5,000 personal recog-

nizance bond.

The charges stem from allegations that Skene skimmed monies from the Westland Parks and Recreation Department, specifically the Bailey Recreation Center, said Westland Police Chief Emery Price. The money allegedly disappeared from the department's budget while it was under Skene's management, he said.

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X-Filer

Plymouth astronomer explores U.F.O. encounters

See Friends & Neighbors pg. 6

Fixin' it up

Section offers readers home improvement tips.

Special section begins pg. 11

City rec.?

City of Plymouth examines Parks & Rec future

Feasibility of community theater project examined by Canton trustees; 600- and 1,200-seat plans reviewed

Continued from pg. 1

larger theater would run about \$4.5 million.

Fixed operating costs

The estimated fixed operating expenses for the 600-seat facility are \$160,556, including personnel, maintenance, general and administrative and energy costs. The study assumes one full-time manager and two part-time assistants.

The 1,200-seat theater will have an estimated \$308,183 fixed operating expense, according to the study. It allows for four full-time employees, and four part-time (or two full-time) assistants.

Funding

Plant & Moran outlined several corporations and private foundations that are likely to be major funders, including Ameritech, Chrysler Corporation Fund, Detroit Edison, Kellogg Foundation and others that have a history of supporting the arts.

Federal funding is also available through the Community

Development Block Grant, although private funds will be the main source of the project financing. CDBG funding could pay for handicap-accessible doors, restrooms and elevators.

Other funds are available through two State of Michigan agencies. The Cultural Facilities Grant, available through the Michigan Department of Management and Budget, is available for major capital projects involving new construction or renovation.

The Michigan Department of Commerce provides grants through the Arts and Cultural Projects for Cities, Townships and Villages Program on a dollar-for-dollar match requirement.

The board had its first official look at the project yesterday. "We'll be sharing a lot of knowledge about the project," Yack said. "It's a great opportunity for us to ask questions."

Skene charged with five counts of theft

Continued from pg. 1

Skene declined to comment on the charges.

Skene was fired last week from his job as director of the Westland Parks and Recreation Department, where he worked since 1993. He started working for the City of Plymouth in 1974.

Skene's arraignment was moved from Westland to Wayne to avoid a conflict of interest since he worked for the City of Westland.

Skene will appear for a preliminary examination at 10:30 a.m. May 14 before Judge Archbold.

Embezzlement is a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.



Ticket taker's final show

Geraldine Trosin, who worked at the Penn Theatre as a ticket seller and taker for more than 25 years, worked her last shift Friday.

"It's been good for me to get out here and meet people," she said. "I've enjoyed every year. It's been a lot of fun, but it's someone else's turn now." (Crier photo by Scott Spielman)

Legal battle to sell fireworks paused by stay

Burda Brothers' attorney cites 'selective enforcement' in four-year fight

BY JILLIAN BOGATER

After almost four years of tangling with the law, two Canton fireworks businesses are still battling for the right to buy and sell the explosives in Michigan.

Burda Brothers, Inc. and Tri-City Fireworks won a stay order Friday for 16 charges they and associates face regarding the sale of fireworks during July 1996. This freezes proceedings in the 35th District Court pending the outcome of another case involving Burda at the State Court of Appeals.

Court files for the 11 defendants stood almost a foot high during a trial management conference before District Court Judge John E. MacDonald.

Burda attorney Robert S. Mullen, of Legal Care Progressive Legal Services in Canton, said he was pleased with the stay order.

"This will put these cases on ice until the other appellate issues are resolved," Mullen said.

Defendants named in court documents are Burda Brothers, Inc., Efim Burda, Elissa Burda, Oleg Burda, Lauralee Lambert, Dawn Linn, Donald Linn, Patricia Linn, Eldar Paysakhov, Tri City Fireworks, Inc. and Rena Turbovskeya.

Charges range from conspiracy for fireworks possession to resisting and obstructing an officer.

Canton Director of Public Safety John Santomauro said his department merely enforces the state's laws concerning fireworks sales and possession.

"We don't have much choice; we can't pick and choose who we enforce the law with," Santomauro said. "I also consider this a health and safety issue."

"These are fairly high-powered fireworks we're talking about. That's just not acceptable."

In a letter dated March 11, Santomauro informed both fireworks businesses that his department planned "strict enforcement action against distributors of illegal fireworks in 1997."

The most recent state Court of Appeals decision supports the State Fireworks Act, which prohibits the sale of "fireworks containing an explosive or flammable compound." This includes all fireworks except flat paper caps, sparklers, flitter sparklers, toy snakes, signal flares and blank cartridges.

Mullen claims that at the time of the alleged crime, Burda Brothers and

Tri City were protected by an injunction issued by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge John Murphy.

In Burda vs. Canton Township, the Burdas argue federal laws preempt state law regarding fireworks sales and possession. A hearing is set for May 13 in the Michigan Court of Appeals.

"Even if we lose, the conspiracy to sell fireworks doesn't apply because they had an injunction," Mullen said. "The state will have a hard time proving intent."

Wayne County Prosecutor John D. O'Hair clearly thinks otherwise. In a memo dated Feb. 20, he predicts the Court of Appeals will not rule in favor of the Burdas.

Mullen said he is disturbed by what he calls selective enforcement of the fireworks law throughout the state.

"This has turned into a cyclical prosecution in Canton," he said. "(Local authorities) have made this a priority and tried to push the issue."

For now, the future of Burda Brothers remains unclear.

"Fireworks season is in remission," Mullen said, "pending the outcome of these cases."

Agenda

THIS WEEK

- Northville's farmers market begins tomorrow at the Northville Downs Parking lot, Seven Mile and Sheldon Roads. The market will be open every Thursday, through Oct.
- The Plymouth Community Arts Council's Choir Concert happens Friday, 7 p.m. at the council building, 774 N. Sheldon. Tickets, \$4.

WEEKEND

- A Beanie Baby swap show will be held at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer St., Sunday from 12 noon - 5 p.m. Admission: 12 years and older, \$5; six - 11, \$3; under six get in free. Show benefits Plymouth-Canton D.A.R.E. More info., (313) 730-2250

NEXT WEEK

- "Showcase Plymouth," the annual Plymouth Chamber of Commerce Gala, will be held Tuesday at Plymouth Manor, 5 - 7 p.m. All are invited, admission free.
- Northville Parks and Recreation men's spring-summer basketball league begins Tuesday; managers meeting tomorrow. Call Parks & Rec. at (810) 349-0203.

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Looking to fix up your place? Grab your hammers, saws, and The Crier's special Home Improvement section, pages 11 - 20.



Public notices

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 1997

Supervisor Keen-McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. and led in the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. All members were present.

Mrs. Massengill moved to approve the minutes as submitted for the April 8, 1997, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Seconded by Mrs. Arnold. Ayes all.

Mrs. Massengill moved to approve the minutes as submitted for the April 15, 1997, Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Seconded by Mr. Griffith. Ayes all.

Mrs. Massengill moved to approve the minutes as submitted for the April 15, 1997, Work Session of the Board of Trustees. Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all.

Mrs. Massengill amended the agenda by adding under New Business Item J.5 Transportation Funding in Michigan. Mrs. Massengill then moved to approve the agenda for the April 22, 1997, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees as amended. Seconded by Mrs. Mueller. Ayes all.

Supervisor Keen-McCarthy asked for comments from the public. Mrs. Martha Suchanski and Ms. Stephanie Skolnicki stated their concerns regarding Kroger's proposal for their new store. Mr. Bill Joyner, member of the Tonquish Creek Yacht Club, recognized Mrs. K.C. Mueller for raising approximately \$150,000 through the Plymouth Women's Club scholarship program and stated that scholarships which will be presented to 11 students by the Tonquish Creek Yacht Club will be named the K.C. Mueller Memorial Scholarship. Mr. Dave Faustman of Dictaphone Company questioned the purchase of the Township's recording equipment for the 911 telephone system in the amount of \$23,327.50 with a five year maintenance agreement of \$2,300 per year as it is his understanding that if a government agency is not purchasing off a government price, every municipality has to go to a formal bid for specific specifications for any equipment over \$20,000. It was decided to discuss this issue further under Supervisor an Trustee Comments.

Supervisor Keen-McCarthy opened the public hearing at 7:56 p.m. for the Special Assessment District for Dunn Court. Mr. Edward Zaloney expressed his concerns regarding water drainage problems, traffic safety, and further stated that maintaining a dirt road cost far less than paving. Mr. Bill Weber and Mr. Chuck Myslinski addressed the Board stating their support for the paving project. The public hearing was closed at 8:04 p.m. Ms. Arnold moved to approve Resolution No. 94-04-22-19 authorizing the Engineer to complete final Engineering Drawings, to take bids, and have the Supervisor prepare final Special Assessment Roll for the Board's approval upon completion of the thirty (30) day waiting period provided no objections have been filed. Seconded by Mr. Curmi. The entire resolution is on file in the Clerk's Office.

Roll call:

Ayes: Arnold, Curmi, Griffith, Mueller, Edwards, Massengill, Keen-McCarthy
Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted.

Mrs. Massengill moved to adopt the Second Reading of amendments/additions to the Uniform Traffic Code of the Charter Township of Plymouth Code of Ordinances. Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all on a roll call vote with Mr. Curmi voting no.

Mrs. Mueller moved to postpone the First Reading of the 1996 BOCA Fire Prevention Code - Ordinance C-92-02, to a future meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Massengill.

Roll call:

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

Motion fails.

Mrs. Mueller moved to approve First Reading of Ordinance No. C-92-02, amending Chapter 24, of the Charter Township of Plymouth, Code of Ordinances, which adopts the B.O.C.A. 1996 National Fire Prevention Code with the amended language.

Seconded by Mrs. Arnold.

Roll call:

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

Motion passes.

Ms. Arnold moved to receive and file the 1996 audit report as presented. Seconded by Mr. Curmi. Ayes all.

Mr. Curmi moved to authorize the purchase of liquid calcium chloride and applications services from Pollard Highway Products at a cost of \$0.199/gal. with the total cost not to exceed \$23,880.00 Seconded by Mr. Griffith.

Roll call:

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

Motion passes.

The streets are as follows:

Green Meadows

& Palmer Acres
Brookline Ave.
Elmhurst Ave.

Robinson
Russell Ave.
Morgan Ave.

Plymouth Colony
Gov. Bradford Rd.
John Alden Rd.

Eastlawn
General Dr.
Eastside Dr.

Marlowe Ave.
Oakview Ave.
Northern Ave.
Corinne Ave.
Ball Ave.
Mayville Ave.
Judson Ave.
Marlin Ave.

Brownwell Ave.
Francis Ave.
Butternut Ave.
Gilbert St.
Ferguson Ave.
Powell Road
Beck Rd. east to dead end

Priscilla Ln.
Turkey Run
Tomlinson Estates
Southworth Ave.
Gold Arbor Ave.

Micol Dr.
Firwood Dr.
Burger Estates
Micol Dr.
Burger Dr.

Plymouth Hills
Amherst Ct.
Nicholas Ln.

Plymouth Gardens
Parkhurst Rd.
Lakeland Ct.
Phoenix Ct.

Finch Subdivision
Lakeland Ct.
Finch Ave.

Phoenix Park
Hammill Ave.
Garland Ave.

Mrs. Massengill moved to establish Tuesday, May 13, 1997, for Public Hearing on the request to transfer Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate No. 88-616, from Hertel Cutting Technologies, Inc., to Diamond Tool, Mfg., located at 14540 Jib Street, Metro West Industrial Park, No. 3. Seconded by Mr. Griffith. Ayes all.

Mr. Curmi moved to approve Resolution No. 97-04-22-20, urging the Michigan House of Representatives to pass a reform package, already passed by the Senate, which will increase funding for Michigan roads by \$194 million each and every year by improving the system and by not raising taxes and direct the Clerk to forward a copy of the resolution to our State Representative. Seconded by Mrs. Massengill. The entire resolution is on file in the Clerk's Office.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Arnold, Curmi, Griffith, Mueller, Edwards, Massengill, Keen-McCarthy
Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted. It was requested that the Clerk forward a copy of the Resolution to the entire House Leadership and to our State Senator and Senate Leadership as well.

Supervisor Keen-McCarthy stated a note was received requesting that she and other interested parties, attend a Canton Township Board Meeting on April 29, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss support of a Performing Arts Center.

Mrs. Harvey addressed the procedures followed by the Township to purchase the police recording equipment.

Mrs. Mueller moved to rescind the contract with Lanier Worldwide for police recording equipment and direct the administration to prepare bid specifications for sealed bids. Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all.

Trustee Arnold asked for an update regarding false alarm billings.

Trustee Curmi expressed his concerns with Weighmaster complying with weight restrictions with the upcoming dredging of Newburgh Lake. Trustee Griffith stated his concerns for the contaminated sludge and where it would be disposed. Trustee Curmi mentioned his concern for the timing of the traffic light along Beck Road at M-14.

Trustee Curmi stated if a newsletter is being compiled he would recommend that the department heads be given the opportunity to comment on their departments and he would like to review the draft.

Trustee Curmi commented that Ann Arbor Road/Ann Arbor Trail Park is in need of landscape improvements.

Trustee Mueller asked for an update regarding the Recreation Survey.

Trustee Curmi asked Fire Chief Groth why the total runs for the City was up 60% more than last year.

Mrs. Mueller moved to receive and file Communications and Reports as listed. Seconded by Ms. Arnold. Ayes all.

It was moved by Mrs. Massengill and seconded by Ms. Mueller to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 p.m. Ayes all.

Marilyn Massengill, CMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Kathleen Keen-McCarthy, Supervisor
Charter Township of Plymouth

The foregoing is a synopsis of the Board of Trustees meeting held on April 22, 1997. The full text is available in the Clerk's Office for perusal. They will be submitted for approval at the next regular meeting on May 13, 1997.

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

Publish: April 30, 1997

Things are happening in the community!

 PLYMOUTH	CANTON	 NORTHVILLE
— May — 6: Positively Plymouth (Business Expo-Free) Showcase Plymouth 5-7:00 16,23: Free Music on the Street — June — 1: Free Taste Fest 14: Sunrise Sale — Summer — Concerts in the Park	— May — 3: Annual Kid's Fishing Derby Heritage Park, 9:00am 7: Chamber's Small Business of the Year / ATHENA Awards Luncheon Summit on the Park, 12-1:30pm — June — 15: Father's Day Golf Scramble 19-23: Canton Liberty Fest	— May through October — Farmers Market, Every Thursday — May — 23,24: 10th Annual Flower Sale, Downtown Northville. 26: Memorial Day Parade — June — 21,22: Art in the Sun 26: Chamber Golf Outing



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 Tues., Wed., Fri. 10-6
 Sat. 10-5:30
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Friends & neighbors

Neighbors in the news

The following students have been named to the Dean's list for Lawrence Technological University: From Canton: **Andre Arndt, Scott Bailey, Frelon Bartley, David Garber, John Mancos, Shaun Marx, Michael Nchoff, Richard Willson, and Steven Zechiel**; from Plymouth: **Judith Graser, Robert Gribble, Stephen Houdek, Craig Marshall, and Paula Taylor.**

Honorroll students must maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average and be a full-time student.

Kenneth L. Hulsing, a Plymouth resident, will be awarded an honorary degree at Schoolcraft College's May 3 commencement. Hulsing is a founder and former President of the Schoolcraft College Foundation Board of Governors and a long-time community volunteer. He also served as a board member and board president of the Plymouth-Canton Community schools.

Also honored will be **Edwin A. Schulz**, of Plymouth. Schulz has been active in the community in many ways, including Board of Director of Community Literacy, the Plymouth Chamber Leadership Committee, and the Plymouth Fall Festival Board of Directors. He is past president of the Plymouth Rotary Club, the Plymouth Rotary Foundation and a trustee of the Rotary District Foundation.

Paul Hillegonds, of Plymouth will also receive an honorary degree. Hillegonds became President of Detroit Renaissance in 1997 and is charged with tapping the corporate resources of Metro Detroit's largest companies to foster economic development and urban renewal.

AAA Travel Agent **Beth Dingeldey**, of AAA Michigan's Canton office, has earned a free cruise as part of a quarterly incentive contest sponsored by Carnival Cruise Lines.

Dingeldey was one of five AAA travel agents chosen as part of a nationwide drawing based on number of bookings. She and a guest will sail on a Carnival 3-, 4- or 7- day cruise in 1997.

Jennifer Staszal, daughter of **Jerry and Barb Staszal** of Plymouth, has been awarded an internship at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia.

Staszal is currently a senior in the Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Space Sciences Department at the University of Michigan.

Plymouth student fights the tide

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

While most college students were immersed in books and study guides last week, Brian Halstead, of Plymouth, was knee high in water and muck, building walls of sand bags to keep back the raging Red River in Grand Forks, ND.

Halstead, a 1995 Salem graduate, is studying Air Traffic Control at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. The city, and many others along the Red River, were evacuated last week after flood waters drove thousands from their homes.

Halstead stayed after many students left, thinking the waters would recede and he'd be able to finish his courses and take his last test-flight. Air traffic controllers are required to have a private pilot's license to give them a basic knowledge of how planes fly, he said.

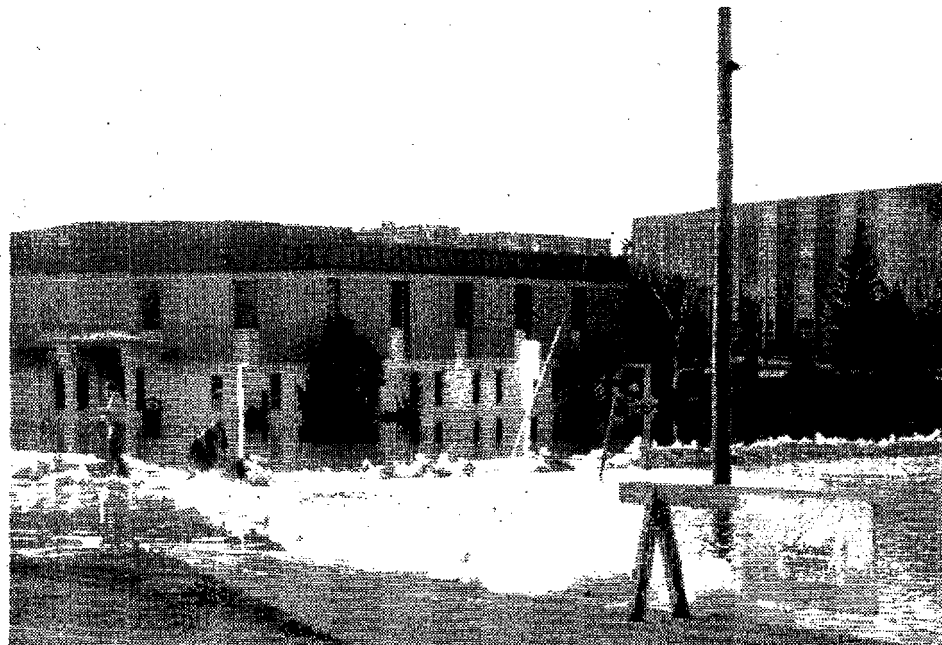
"I never thought (the river) would get that high," Halstead said, as the river crested at more than 50 feet; 20 feet higher than flood stages. "I was on my last flight," he said. "I really wanted to finish."

But mother nature had other ideas.

The Red River swelled to record proportions, fed by heavy rains and snows melting from an excessive winter.

"We didn't have school, everyone was out sandbagging," Halstead said. "There must've been 10-11,000 students out. In the beginning everyone was happy. But as the week went on, they started getting tired."

The university declared a voluntary evacuation on Thursday, Halstead said, and many students left. He stayed because he thought the river wasn't going to get much higher.



Volunteers and sand bags try to keep rising waters of the Red River at bay at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND. (Photo courtesy of Brian Halstead)

And for a time it looked like he was right. The bags were holding, and water pumps were pumping the excess water back to the river.

"I thought we were going to pull it out," Halstead said. "We were sandbagging day and night." Halstead worked tirelessly, once putting in an 18-hour day building makeshift dikes and filling bags of sand at "sandbag central," a warehouse set aside for filling sand bags.

But Saturday all the temporary levees broke, and an immediate evacuation was called. "They told us at 2:30 (p.m.) that we had to be out of town by five," he said. "The town turned into the

world's biggest pawn shop. People were just giving stuff away."

After packing what he could, Halstead had just half an hour to get out of town. "It was hard," he said. "All the roads were closed, and there were temporary dikes across other roads. We tried to go north, but the road was nothing but water."

But find a way out they did, although in places the water was almost too deep for Halstead's Jeep Cherokee.

Halstead is home early for the summer. "We're not supposed to be back until May 8," he said. "We're still up in the air over when we'll have to make up our finals."

The truth is out there, Plymouth man says

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

When people ask Michael Best, president of the Astronomical Society of Michigan, if he believes in UFOs, he usually asks them if they believe in bodies floating in the Detroit River.

"It's the same principle," he said at a lecture Friday at Barnes and Noble in Northville Friday. "If you see something flying in the air and don't know what it is, it is by definition an Unidentified Flying Object. It just means you've seen something that doesn't make sense."

Best, of Plymouth, has studied astronomy and, occasionally, UFOs since 1947. He is relatively sure we have been visited by extraterrestrials, but is very cautious to say he has outright proof.

"It's at best very difficult to prove. It's not like an experiment, where you can control the input and gauge the output," he said. "It isn't scientifically accurate. It's almost like a belief or faith system."

But to Best the belief comes from the number of reportings, not all of which turn out to be hoaxes. "The point is there are things going on that we don't understand," he said.

According to Best, UFOs have been sighted as far back as history is recorded, and have even shown up in paintings dated from 1455. The modern age of UFO reportings began



MICHAEL BEST

in 1947 with the Arnold sighting, a diagonal stack of boomerang-shaped objects moving in a "leaf-falling" motion.

According to Best, 95 percent of all UFO sightings are explained. "If your two possibilities are either an invasion or a hoax, you're going to take the hoax every time."

But Best believes that only one in 10 sightings ever gets reported. "Most of them occur at night and only have one witness, usually a 18 to 27-year-old man who's been drinking," he said. "We wish we could change that."

Far from being a conspiratoralist, Best doesn't believe in government cover-ups. "You can't say the Air Force is hiding anything," he said. "I don't think they're all in a room swearing on a rock 'I will never tell about UFOs.' It's just difficult to get scientific proof."

But the numbers are there, and every reported case hasn't been proven false, Best said. "Incredible things are being seen by credible people," he said. "The only way they can say they don't exist is to prove every single one of them false, not just 95 percent."

Police want renovation dollars from '97-'98 City budget

BY JILLIAN BOGATER

Plymouth City Police Chief Bob Scoggins would like to see parts of his department renovated.

Specifically, the radio dispatch system and cells are in "dire need of renovation," he said last week at the City of Plymouth budget meeting.

Talks with Plymouth Township Police about possibly merging the two police departments have delayed the process, he said.

"I haven't received any positive response from the township," regarding the merger, Mayor Ron Loiselle said. "We should make a decision soon."

The proposed budget for 1997-98 is \$1.3 million. Salary and wages for permanent employees account for \$743,000 of that.

These figures could change though, Scoggins said, because senior officers in the department plan to or have retired. The department will save money by hiring three patrol officers at entry level salaries, reducing part of the budget.

The current budget still includes money for one additional patrol officer and Scoggins said he expects the 1996-97 budget will still come in almost \$90,000 lower than the previous year.

"This has allowed a reorganization of the department," Scoggins said.

Whalers change name

Maybe they should call themselves the Chameleons.

For the fourth time in seven seasons, the Detroit Whalers are changing their name. Whalers Assistant General Manager Kerry Kerch announced Monday that the hockey team has officially changed its name to the Plymouth Whalers. "It just makes sense," Kerch said. "Since day one, Plymouth and its surrounding communities have welcomed us with cooperative support. Our fan base is mostly from this area. It's our way of giving back and saying thank you."

Kerch announced the club's intentions before a Plymouth Township Board of Trustees tax abatement hearing last year. "We are very excited about this opportunity. The identity will be good for the city," said Fran Toney, executive director of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce.

Previously, the Whalers were the only team in the OHL that did play in the city that shared the club's name.

But that wasn't always the case. Detroit played several seasons at Joe Louis Arena as the Compuware Ambassadors and the Jr. Red Wings until moving in 1995 to The Palace of Auburn Hills and switching its name to the Whalers.

The Whalers moved into Compuware Sports Arena on Beck Road last summer. In the 1996-97 season, the Whalers drew more than 110,000 fans, averaging 3,430 per game while peaking at 4,301 on March 8.

"Overtime will be drastically reduced.

"In the short run, we're saving on differential and overtime."

The 1997-98 proposed budget sets aside \$4,000 for prisoner lodging, a fig-

ure Scoggins says is a great improvement over past years.

"Four years ago we were spending \$12,000 to \$13,000 on lodging," he said.

"But now there's a trend where costs are

going down."

Scoggins attributed this decrease to competitive lodging prices in the Detroit area with out-state jail facilities.

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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).

Groups...

SERVICE AWARDS

Community service awards will be presented at the 20th Annual Loyalty Day at 7:30 p.m. May 1. The event will take place at VFW Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill, Plymouth and is sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary. Other honorees include middle and high school essay contest winners, poster contest and patriotic art contest winners and a check presentation to Angela Hospice and Miracle Fights for Kids. Call Alice Fisher, 728-7619.

FOOD DRIVE

The National Association of Letter Carriers, in conjunction with the U.S. Postal Service, United Way and the AFL-CIO, will collect non-perishable food items **May 10** for distribution in the local food bank. Place donations by mailbox May 10. For more information, call (810) 783-2800.

TRAVELING GOLF CLUB OUTING

The Traveling Golf Club will have its next outing at 2 p.m. **May 10** at the Northville Greens of Country Club Village, 39430 Dun Rovin Drive, Northville Township. Group meets every other weekend for nine holes. Cost \$165 plus membership. For more information, call (810) 624-7777.

GOLF OUTING

The Our Lady of Good Counsel Golf Outing, sponsored by the Booster Club, will take place at 7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. **May 31** at St. John's Golf Course, 14830 Sheldon, Plymouth. Cost is \$85 per person, which includes 18 holes of golf, a cart, lunch and dinner. Call Mike Girskis at 454-0847 or Rick Huetter at 416-9177.

Health...

PHARMACIST TO SPEAK

Registered pharmacist James Mieras will speak at 7 p.m. **May 14** in the St. Mary Hospital auditorium in Livonia. Topic: "The New Diabetes Drugs." Free and open to the public.

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT

Health care providers can learn basic life support from 6 to 10 p.m. **May 5** in Pavilion Conference Room B at St. Mary Hospital. Cost, \$25.

MEALS ON WHEELS

The Meals on Wheels program serves a hot nutritious lunch five days a week at Tonquish Manor; activities, such as bingo and movies will take place after the lunch in the manor's redecorated community room. A \$1.50 donation is requested for the meal, but not required. For more information, call 453-9703 weekdays between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

SENIOR EMERGENCY PRESCRIPTIONS

Michigan Emergency Pharmaceutical Program for Seniors (MEPPS) offers aid to seniors 65 years and older when: individual/couple monthly income is less than \$968/\$1295 respectively, of which at least 10 percent is spent on prescriptions. Area MEPPS sites include Plymouth Township Hall, (313) 455-7526, and the Northville Area Senior Center, (810) 349-4140.

ST. MARY HEALTH-O-RAMA

The hospital will offer a variety of low-cost health screening tests, April 19 from 9 a.m. -3 p.m. in the hospital auditorium. Basic tests, including blood pressure, height and weight, vision, glaucoma, counseling and referral, health education and information and displays, all for free. A variety of tests for purchase will also be available. Call 1-800-494-1650.

HEALTH AT THE SUMMIT

In Feb. and March, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital is sponsoring a series of health programs at Canton's Summit on the Park. Topics include exercise, cardiac screening, stress management, nutrition for children and adults, parenting skills and cessation of smoking. Registration required. For info, phone (313) 712-4106.

Schools...

WSDP, 88.1-FM REUNION

WSDP, the student-operated station of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is planning its 25th anniversary reunion for 1997. Former staff members are asked to send their current addresses to the station at 46181, Joy Rd. Canton, MI 48187 or call 416-7732.

FREE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

State-funded program offered to families who meet income guidelines or "at-risk" factors. Children must be 4 years old on or before Dec. 1. Classes begin in January and run for 20 weeks Monday through Thursday at Hoben and Truesdell schools. For more information, call 416-6190.

EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Computers, tutoring, games, etc. The program runs Monday through Friday and begins after school ends and concludes at 6 p.m. \$5 per student per session with a minimum of two sessions per week. For more information, call 420-7040.



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Volunteer...

GUEST SPEAKERS NEEDED AT P-C SCHOOLS

The Plymouth-Canton Business Education Partnership is looking for individuals to share information about their occupation to students in classroom settings. To volunteer, call 416-4903.

DONATE PERIODICAL SUBSCRIPTION

The Plymouth District Library is seeking individuals, businesses, and community groups to donate the cost of a subscription to one of the more than 300 periodicals to which the library subscribes. Sponsor's name will appear on the front cover of the periodical. Donation is federal, state tax deductible. For more information, please call the library at 453-0750.

Upcoming...



A spring wildflower walk will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. May 4 at Miller Woods, rain or shine. The woods are located on Powell between Ridge and Beck roads.

POPPY SALES

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6695 will sell poppies May 8, 9 and 10. The American Legion and Auxiliary Post #112, Plymouth Township, will offer poppies during Poppy Days, May 15 to 17 on street corners and in front of Kmart and Kroger.

FISHING DERBY

Canton Parks and Recreation is sponsoring the 10th Annual Kids Fishing Derby from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 3 at Heritage Park Ponds. Cost, \$1 per child. Boys and girls 15 and younger are eligible. Derby open to Canton residents only. For more information, call 397-5110.

VICTORIAN GARDEN TEA

Historical landscape architect Scott Kunst will speak on Antique Gardens: American Home Landscapes at 2 p.m. May 10 in the Plymouth Historical Museum. Cost, \$12. For reservations, call 455-8940.

BOOK SALE

The Friends of Canton Public Library will hold its Big Used Sale from 6 to 9 p.m. May 7 through May 17. For more information, call Marcia Barker at 397-0999.

T-BALL REGISTRATION

The city of Plymouth is now registering for the 5- and 6-year-old T-ball league from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Birth certificate required. Season runs seven weeks, June 21 to Aug. 9. Cost, \$35 city residents, \$50 non-city residents. For more information, call City Recreation Department at 455-6620.

RUMMAGE SALE

Bradbury Condominiums will have a rummage sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 3 in the clubhouse, 40185 Newport, Plymouth.

CHRISTIAN CONCERT

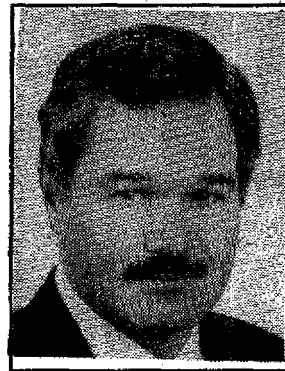
Vince Ambrosetti, a nationally recognized leader in Christian renewal, will perform at 7 p.m. May 4 at Our Lady of Good Counsel church, corner of Penniman and Arthur streets, Plymouth. For more information, call 453-0326.

BEANIE RAFFLE

A Beanie Baby raffle to benefit Mothers Against Drunk Driving will take place at 6 p.m. May 10 at The Animation Station, 298 S. Main Street, Plymouth. Cost, \$1 per ticket.

FLOWER SALE

The 10th annual flower sale comes to downtown Northville May 23 and 24. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. More than 15 greenhouses, all members of the Metropolitan Detroit Flower Growers Association, will take part. Call 348-0488.



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Getting down to business

Neighbors in business

Douglas Teubert, of Northville, ranked fourth among more than 1,600 Lutheran Brotherhood field force representatives nationwide in the amount of life, health, annuity and investment products issued in March 1997.

Teubert is associated with Lutheran Brotherhood's Karl Mueller Agency in Rochester Hills.

Lutheran Brotherhood, a fraternal benefit society, offers a broad range of high-quality financial products and services to Lutherans nationwide. Through its fraternal programs, Lutheran Brotherhood aids its members, their communities and Lutheranism.

In 1996, the brotherhood allocated more than \$59 million to fraternal programs.

The Plymouth Salvation Army, which services Canton, Northville, Northville Township, Plymouth and Plymouth Township, recently announced its first Diaper Drive was a success.

Generous donations were accepted, including disposable diapers, disposable training pants, baby wipes and other miscellaneous items, according to information provided by Bill Stern, Social Services Supervisor.

The items were collected at the following drop off locations: Canton City Hall, Canton Library, Danny's in Plymouth, Hiller's, Kmart in Canton, Kroger, Northville City Hall, Northville Library, Northville Township Hall, Plymouth City Hall, Plymouth Library, U.S. Post Office in Plymouth and Shopping Center Market.

Additional items can be dropped off at the Salvation Army Headquarters, 9451 S. Main, Plymouth.

D & M Studio's Once Upon an Easel will host The Three Cities Art Club Annual Spring Art Exhibition and Acquisition May 10 to May 22. The artist reception and award ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. May 10.

Once Upon An Easel is located in the Golden Gate Plaza, 8691 N. Lilley, Canton.

The juror for the exhibit is Marge Hogan Chellstorp, assistant professor of art and humanities at Madonna University.

Settlement reached in Home Depot pricing dispute

Attorney General cites Canton, Northville stores

BY JILLIAN BOGATER

Despite a \$25,000 fine for failing to properly price store items, Home Depot stands behind its company.

Of the four stores that Michigan Attorney General Frank Kelly cited last fall for pricing problems, one was in Canton, the other in Northville.

Kelly McHugh, Home Depot spokesperson in Atlanta, said although the company agreed to the April 17 settlement it did not do anything wrong.

"We believe that our prices are always clearly and conspicuously marked," McHugh said. But Home Depot's decision to comply with the April 17 settlement displayed the store's "commitment to the laws of Michigan."

Home Depot sells home building supplies, mostly available in bulk, in both Michigan and Massachusetts.

On Nov. 27, 1996, Kelly filed a Notice of Intended Action against Home Depot because of the store's failure to individually price items in its stores.

Investigators from the Consumer Protection Division found that four stores did not properly price items. And of the items that were marked, many did not reflect the correct price when scanned at the cash register.

Home Depot agreed to implement several procedures to stop any further violations of Michigan's Consumer Protection Act and Item Pricing and Deceptive Advertising Acts.

In addition to the \$25,000 fine to reimburse the Attorney General for



The Michigan Attorney General cited Home Depot stores in Northville and Canton for failing to properly price items. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

investigative costs and attorney fees, Home Depot must also:

- Conduct weekly random price checks on at least one hundred items;
- Designate an in-store price monitor for each Michigan store;
- Post consumer rights regarding pricing errors.

"I expect that Home Depot will finally correct its poor record of compliance with Michigan laws," Kelly said. "The vast majority of Michigan businesses properly implement our Item Pricing Act and it is my hope to add Home Depot to that list."

Donations made to Leukemia fund

Money offered in memory of Plymouth auto dealer

Two regional automotive associations donated \$10,000 to the Leukemia Society of Michigan, Michigan Chapter, in memory of long-time auto dealer and consultant Al Schebil.

Schebil, 70, died in December after a lengthy bout with leukemia. The Clinton Township resident spent nearly 45 years in the automotive retail business, serving as owner, dealer principal and consultant.

Gifts of \$5,000 a piece were provided by the Chrysler Plymouth Superstore Association of Southeastern Michigan and the Jeep and Eagle Dealers of Southeastern

Michigan.

Schebil's career began in the early 1950s as a general manager at Fisher Record Motor Sales in Grosse Pointe. In 1961, he opened Lochmoor Chrysler Plymouth in Detroit and experienced great success. He eventually sold Lochmoor to Chrysler Corporation in 1974.

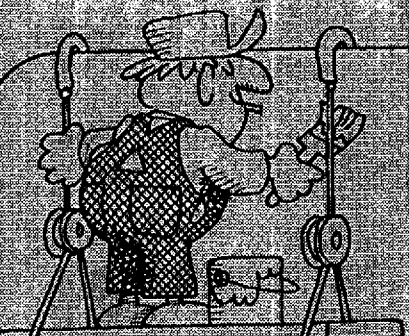
Impressed by his experience and managerial savvy, Chrysler Corporation names Schebil a dealer principal, entrusting him with the Van Dyke Dodge in Warren and Northwestern Dodge in Ferndale dealerships. Both businesses flourished

under his supervision.

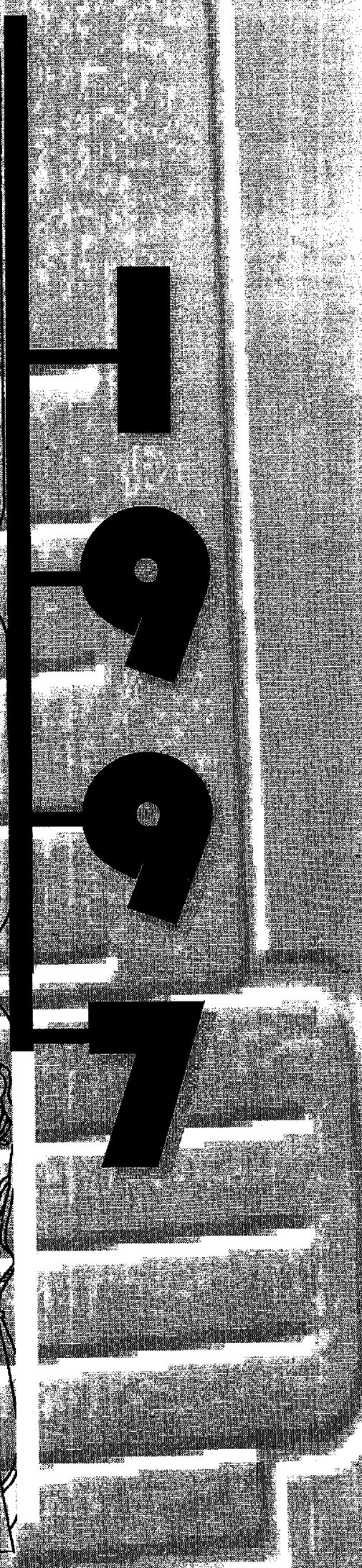
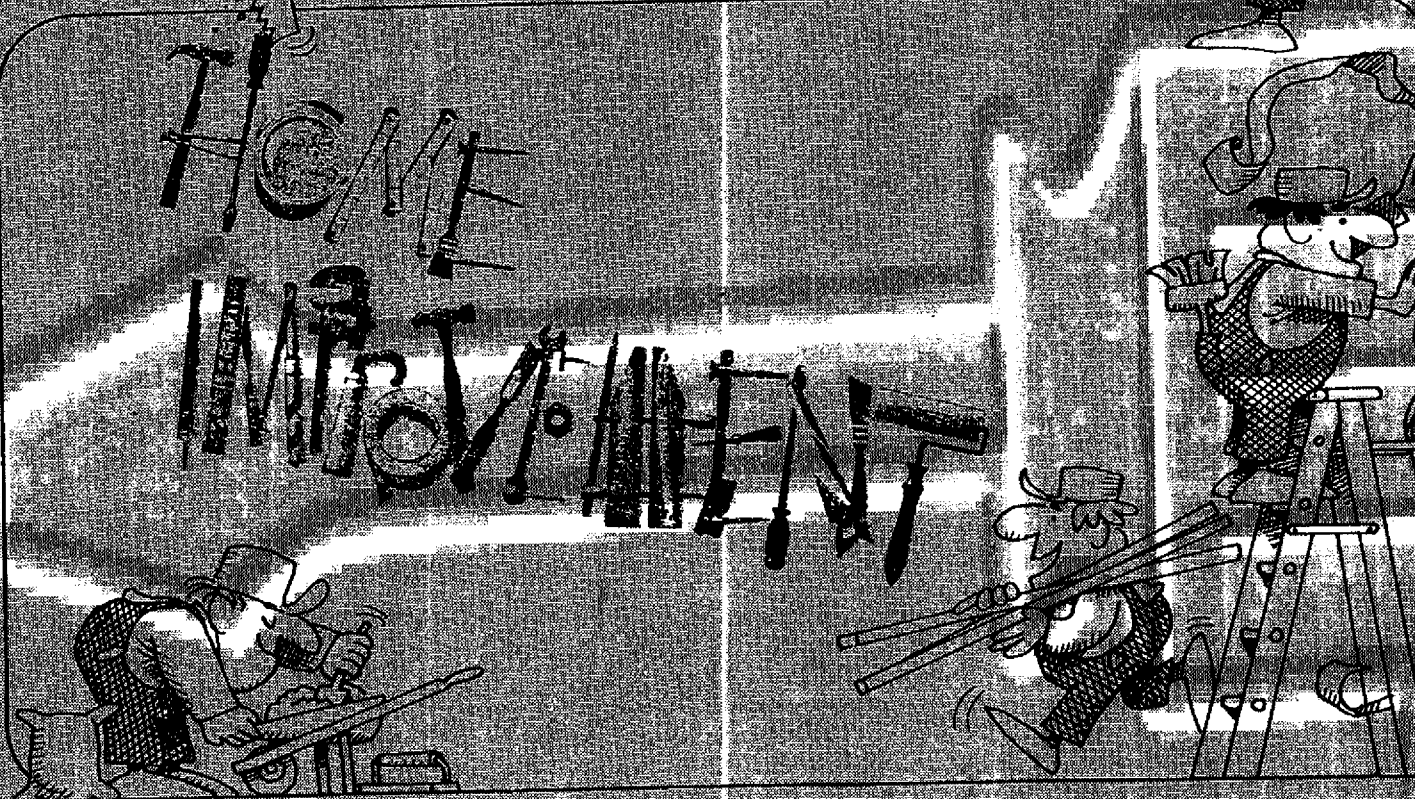
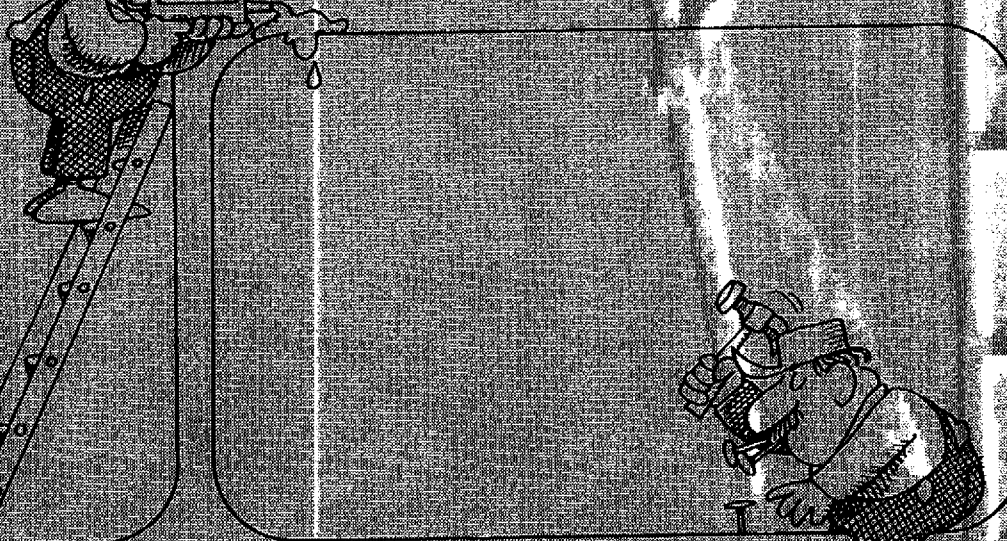
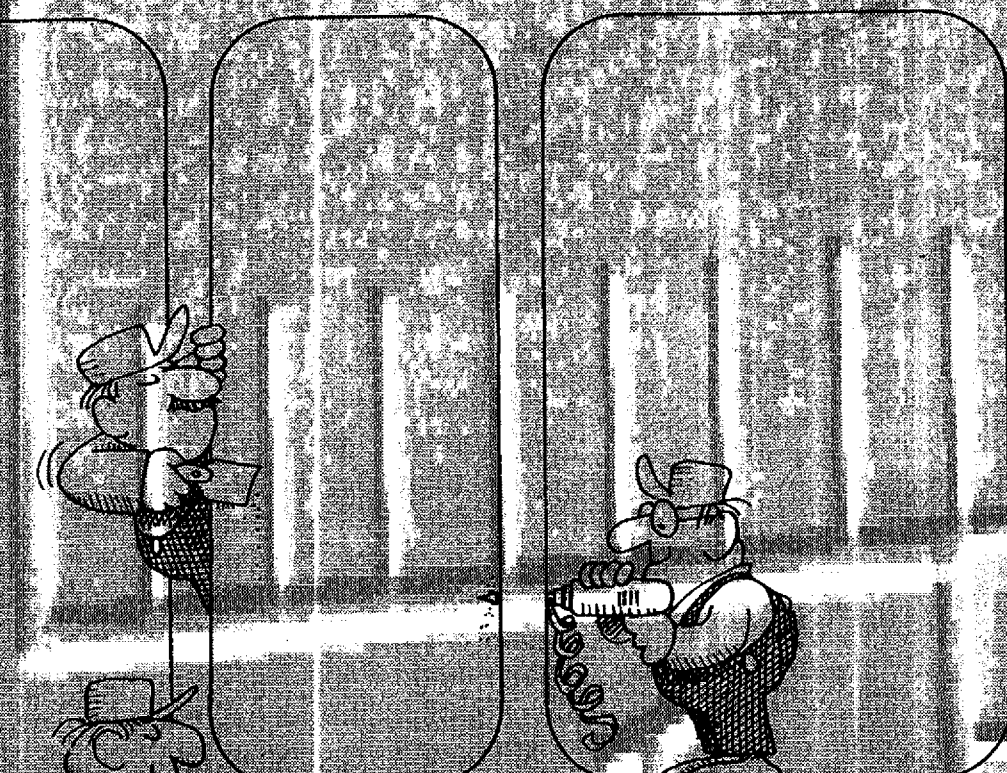
"My father was respected by both dealers and Chrysler Corporation executives," said Jim Schebil, his son. "His influence in the automotive retail business will continue to be felt in this area for many years to come."

Schebil returned to Lochmoor Chrysler Plymouth in 1979 as an automotive consultant. The dealership was eventually sold to his son, Jim, and partner Gus Russo.

The pair later opened Blue Water Chrysler Plymouth in Port Huron and Fox Hills Chrysler Plymouth in Plymouth.



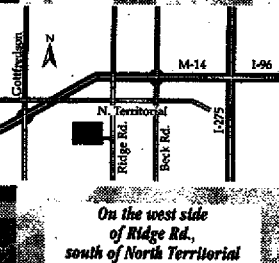
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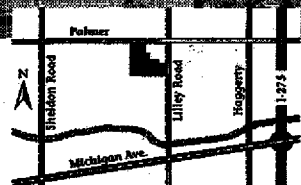
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In the Workshop

Maura Cady



If anyone were to ask you what the most valuable room was in your home (besides the bathroom), I would certainly hope you'd say "the kitchen." Believe it or not, your home's visitors or prospective buyers will agree that when they enter a home, the kitchen is what they're on the lookout for.

Gone are the types of kitchens from my childhood; the wood kitchen cabinets painted in an eye-popping hot orange color, the single light fixture on the ceiling; or the old, spring-loaded Murphy ironing board that folded into a cabinet in the wall. Certainly, it's safe to say that the kitchen and bath industry has come a long way since that time.

Today there are many options available to improve the looks of your kitchen, which will in turn increase the value of your home. Whether you're on a limited budget or ready to go all-out, there's something out there for you.

According to Alda Opfer, a designer at N.A. Mans Kitchen and Bath Shop in Canton, cabinets are #1 in order of importance for your kitchen. If you're on a limited budget, something as simple as changing the hardware on the cabinet doors will help. If you're handy with a screwdriver, drill and maybe even some wood filler (depending on the material you're dealing with), changing the hardware is an inexpensive, yet satisfying do-it-yourself project.

When starting from scratch, Opfer said that wood cabinets have always been a popular item. And for '97? Maple and

cherry woods are the hot ticket items for cabinetry. White-washing has also become quite popular in recent years.

In the process of planning your new kitchen, you will also want to check out the solid surface veneers (SSV's) for your counterspace. SSV's are replacing formica counters not only because they're virtually seamless but, more importantly, because they are more durable. Unlike formica, scratches on SSV's are repairable; a welcome solution for those who forget to use the cutting board!

Although you want your kitchen to look its best, don't lose sight of the fact that your kitchen should be practical as well. Adding a work island in the center of the room could help to break up monotony of, among other things, those pot-luck gatherings. Lighting is also important for those highly-used work areas. Flooring to withstand heavy foot traffic, plumbing that works and quieter appliances... The list is endless!

Always remember, to get the most out of your investment, you'll need to do all your homework before pulling out that wallet. If you check out all of the product options, warranties and the track record of the installing contractors, your new and improved kitchen is sure to bring you a pleasing end result.

plus

Borders a cheap rejuvenation

BY LINDA KOCHANEK

While considering home-improvement options this spring, a simple and inexpensive way to rejuvenate a home is with borders and wallpaper, according to Marilyn Waldorf, manager of the Border and Wallpaper Outlet in Canton.

"Borders are the most inexpensive way to change your room," Waldorf said "You could change them every week if you wanted to."

Border prices at the Outlet starts at about \$1.99 for a 15-ft. spool. An average room only requires four spools of border, putting the cost at about \$8. Smaller rooms, such as a bathroom, usually only use one spool.

"Pamphlets are available for

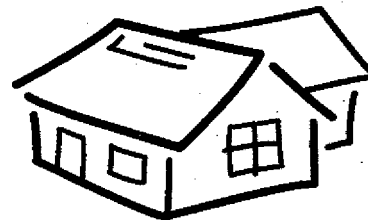
those who don't know how to hang them," she said. "It an easy job even for one person. The average time to put up four borders in a room is about one hour."

Waldorf strongly recommends sizing on a painted wall and using primer-sealer on new dry wall for protection.

"It makes it easier for the border to go up and come down. If you are planning to remove them in a year or two, you don't want to have to repair the walls."

Another new option is the architectural accent. Similar to a decal, it is an absorbent decoration that can be painted or layered to look like an old-fashioned tin ceiling.

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Old home charm isn't always obvious

The joys of owning an older home are many, but so are the trials and tribulations.

When we purchased our home in downtown Plymouth, we had grand visions of renovating everything ourselves. As frequent entertainers, our first party proved to us that the flow of the house needed improvement. Two weeks later - out came the sledgehammer! We thought our project would be easy, lesson number one: nothing in an old house is easy!

Our original project was to tear down a wall between the kitchen and fourth bedroom. The house did not have a family

room and our goal was to turn this space into a kitchen/family room combo (what is traditionally known as a keeping room).

As we began our demolition, not only did the wall come down, but most of the ceiling, too! That was the first change to our plan.

As we made our way toward the kitchen area I said "Wouldn't it be nice to have a door to the backyard where the kitchen sink is now?"—Out came the kitchen!!

At this point, we were down to bare studs on all surfaces, floor, ceiling and walls. This was when my husband takes up his 'visualization stance'—full cup of coffee, arms folded, leaning against a door frame—imagining the project ahead

Traditions

Lisa Lepping



and what it would eventually be. Our friends and faithful assistants in this project groaned when they saw him in this position, wondering how long they'd be working this time.

Part of his vision was to add a fireplace. We weren't able to put it where we originally wanted to (due to city codes - ever wonder why the city codes always get in the way of progress?). Now we have a

large fireplace, use it quite frequently and definitely worth the effort.

The new kitchen came next, and with it many decisions: Should we have an island? Where should the appliances go? Do we have room for a garden window?

As we began our demolition, not only did the wall come down, but most of the ceiling, too! That was the first change to our plan.

Will we have enough cupboard space? What kind of cupboards do we want? Unfortunately, our tastes change and we are now planning to build the island that we didn't think we wanted. I'd also rather have white cabinets, but I'll have to live with the oak I chose.

Every aspect of the project cost twice as much and took twice as long as it would have


Please see page 15


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Garden walls provide subtle accents for yard

BY LINDA KOCHANEK
Spring is here and with summer just around the corner, residents are looking for ways to brighten up their surroundings with new landscaping ideas.

One new and fairly inexpensive way to get a new

look for your yard is to install garden walls. The natural look of quarried stone and earth tone colors blend with any landscape and have a subtle look with the changing light of day.

"Garden walls are mainly used for accents," said Brian Petroskey, designer for the

Plymouth Nursery. "They are either a do-it-yourself project or larger ones can be installed for you." Installation guides are available to those who would like to assemble the walls themselves.

"They are not recommended around Maple trees," said Petroskey. "Maples are 'rooters' and the roots may destroy your wall."

The cost range for a wall is \$70 and up depending on the size, said Bob Lucas, from Lucas Nursery in Canton.

"The materials are made out of cement and dyes. That's how they get a variety of colors." People use these for landscaping in front and back yards, and also for terracing

around decks and ravines. The garden walls are not recommended to be taller than 3 feet high, he said.

"We have 10-11 different types," said Jan Simpson, sales clerk for the Rock Shop in Plymouth. "The main purpose is for decoration and the cost is about \$1.50 to \$10 per brick." Garden walls enable you to build straight, curved or terraced walls to fit the contours of your yard.

Brick by brick these beautiful additions to your home will give you a fresh outlook of the outdoors. "Just don't over do it," says Petroskey. "Too much may look tacky. You're better off just using them as accents."

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Renovator beware: old homes hold charm and surprises

Continued from page 14

in a newer home. At every turn we ran into old pipes, old wires, old insulation, all of which either needed replacement or expert advice. Even the simple task of putting in a new doorbell cost \$100 for an electrician!!

Thank goodness for great friends. At one point we had the room filled with a 5-foot-high pile of rubble. I'm sure it would still be there if it weren't for them removing the coffee cup from my husband's hand and saying

let's get this **** out of here!!

Our project ended successfully and the room has become the centerpiece of our home. Friends often gather here. Even though at times we felt that the project was bigger than both of us, we knew the house had potential charm.

Sometimes the charm is dangling right in front of you. Sometimes, as in our case, it needs polishing but shine it does!

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Dozens of Rotary members and volunteers came together to renovate this Plymouth Township home. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

Rotarians renovate home

By LINDA KOCHANEK
Seventy Rotary members and volunteers worked together Saturday, at the second Annual Rotary Cares home repair project. Rotary Cares is an annual one day blitz to repair and rehabilitate the homes of the poor, elderly, and handicapped.

The event is sponsored by Rotary Club of Plymouth and the Plymouth Rotary Foundation.

"Neighbors helping neighbors is our philosophy," said Dell Templeton, chairperson for the second year of the event. "It's all about fellowship and camaraderie."

The Rotarians choose someone who does not have the means to take care of their home, Templeton said. The repairs include everything from plumbing to landscaping.

Ken Ingle, owner of Ingle and sons, volunteered his time

as the general contractor for this year's project. "He definitely is the unsung hero for this event," said Templeton. "We couldn't have done it without him."

This year's homeowner was Naomi Ray of Plymouth Township. Ray is in her early 70s and has a bad hip that makes it difficult for her to walk.

"When they called me to say I was chosen I almost fell over," She said. Ray, who has lived in Plymouth since 1946, learned of the program through her pharmacist, who gave her an application to submit.

"It gives us great pride and privilege to be able to do this as Rotarians," said Jim Plakas, Rotary member and owner of the Plymouth Landing. "Community spirit is what it's all about."

Many repairs could not be

Please see page 20

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Rotary Repair Blitz saves township home

Continued from page 19

people and companies that donated help, trucks and tools to participate in Rotary Cares.

"Service above self is our motto," said Harold Cooper, president of the Rotary Club of Plymouth. "This is a great way to show the community what Rotary is all about."

The selection process for candidates starts in the fall and the event is scheduled for the last Saturday in April.

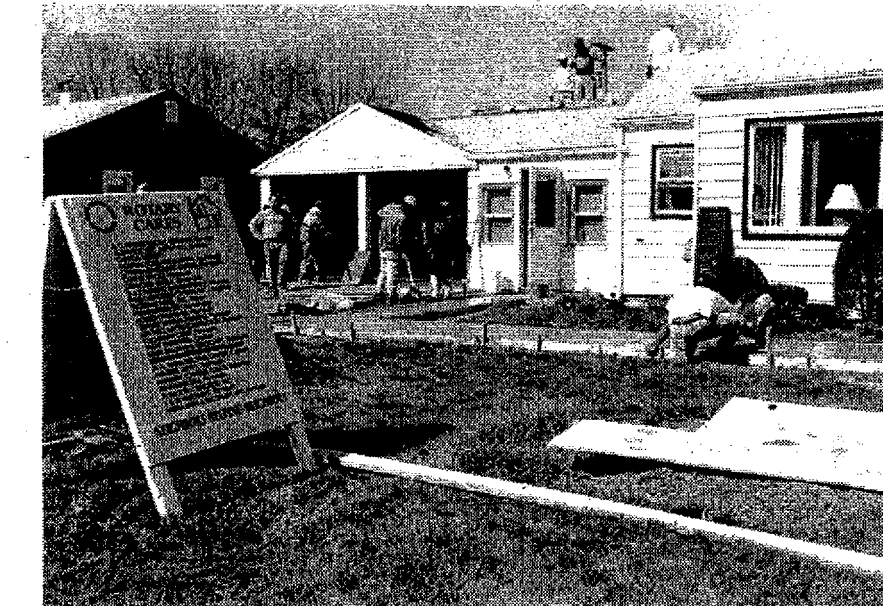
"We look for people who really need the help," said Cooper. "Hopefully as we get more experience under our belt we can have the cooperation of other Rotary clubs and show them how we've done it and help spread it through the community." The Rotary Club is hoping to raise more interest in projects like this in order to

"Thank you to everyone from the bottom of my heart. Such great people. I didn't know there were still people like this out there."

— Naomi Ray

renovate more than one home a year.

Area restaurant owners were also generous in supplying the volunteers with donations of refreshments and meals. "The area business response has been phenomenal," Templeton said. "Bill Fricke, Plymouth resident and owner of the Farmington Deli, contacted us when he heard about the project last year to let us know



Each year the Rotary Club adopts a home in dire need of repairs. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

that he would donate whatever we needed for the next year's project."

Farmington Deli and Penniman Deli supplied breakfast and lunch for all the workers.

Scotty Lurain, owner of the Coffee Studio in Plymouth, opened his doors early on Saturday to supply the workers with fresh coffee. "The rotary has always been an active

group and they always do something worthwhile and positive for the community," said Lurain. "I grew up in this town and I do whatever I can to contribute."

When the work was done, Ray's house looked new again. "Thank you to everyone from the bottom of my heart," she said. "Such great people. I didn't know there were still people like this out there."


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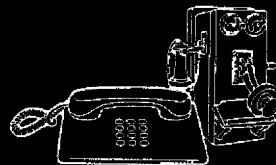




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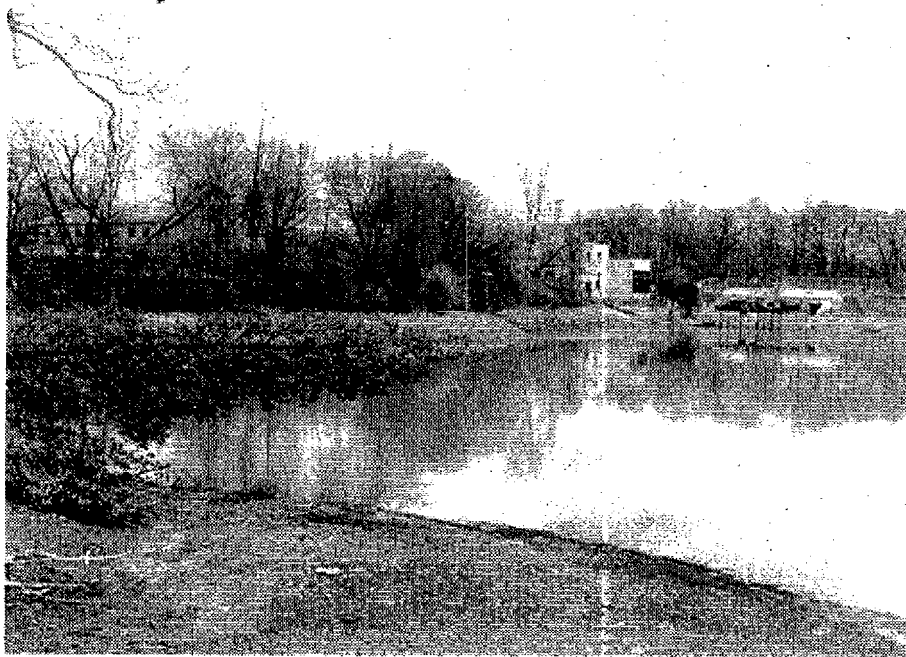
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DIAL O IT



The Newburgh project

A federally funded project brings fresh life to a dirty lake, and memories to the surface



tion on the ecosystem. Polluted storm water accounts for the majority of Newburgh Lake's contamination, according to ECT. The runoff from this water becomes polluted from fertilizers, pesticides and oil and grease from nearby roads.

Staying above the muck

As workers drained the lake, objects began to emerge. Garbage cans, buckets, 55-gallon drums.

The most interesting item to date? A safe found with the front door missing. Bobbio made the discovery late Thursday night, and left it half-submerged in muck about 30 feet off-shore until police could take a look.

"We haven't found any cars, or shopping carts," he said, chuckling. "(The carts are) usually what we find most."

Bobbio said he's already found several arrowheads and expects to find pistols and rifles once the dredging begins.

But the muck problem has also revealed a safety issue.

To address it, John Carlo employees designed a rescue system consisting of a harness

tied to a long piece of rope to free anyone that might get stuck in the muck.

"You'd sink up to your armpits if you stepped in there," Bobbio said of the sediment. "Last week we had to use a garden hose to get a kid out."

The massive amount of sediment also poses a problem to construction

'We're starting over. By the time we're done, the lake won't be anything like it was.'

- Roger VanOmen



workers considering how to remove it.

Currently John Carlo workers plan to use high flotation equipment suited to working on soft ground, VanOmen said. He's also looking into acquiring equipment in Texas used for swamp areas.

But all of this is on a trail-and-error basis, he said.

Working in heaven

Although the lake now sits empty, water fowl still spend their days in small pools that dot the massive brown and green space.

Should a heavy rain occur, the lake is likely to temporarily fill, VanOmen said. A 4-by 4-foot gate at the end of the dam will prevent the water from draining, but the level will go down as soon as the gate opens.

Bobbio said after 30 years in construction, this project is his favorite.

"To me, this job is heaven," he said. "I've got a mile of park to myself. I've never been so lucky in my life."

BY JILLIAN BOGATER

John Bobbio's childhood memories are filled of days at Newburgh Lake.

"Nine of us kids used to ride on the back of one horse and dive into the river, just like Huckleberry Finn," he said.

It seems fitting that Bobbio was pulled out of retirement to work as construction site superintendent at the Newburgh Lake restoration project.

Friday, Sterling Heights-based John Carlo Inc. workers finished draining the lake — located in the far-east side of Plymouth Township — reducing the water level by 8 feet. All that remains is a vast amount of muck and a meandering riverbed where the lake once was.

County workers also closed a two-mile stretch of Edward Hines Drive, between Newburgh and Haggerty; the closure will remain in effect until the project's projected July 1998 finish date, said Roger VanOmen, chief engineer from the Wayne County Department of Public Works.

This brings county workers into the final stretch of a project that began four years ago.

The grand plan

The decision to clean up the lake came in 1993, when Wayne County sampled sediment and found high levels of PCBs — a toxic contaminant — and toxic metal combinations. Since this affected the fish and excessive aquatic plant growth, many governmental agencies designed a restoration project.

Restoring the lake is a team effort, involving Wayne County, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and local governments. Funding for the \$11 million project is through a federal grant exploring ways to restore lakes in urban areas, VanOmen said.

The plan calls for removal of 390,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment, and another 230,000 cubic yards to increase the lake depth. Once crews remove the sediment, it will be hauled to a BFI landfill in Salem Township, VanOmen said.

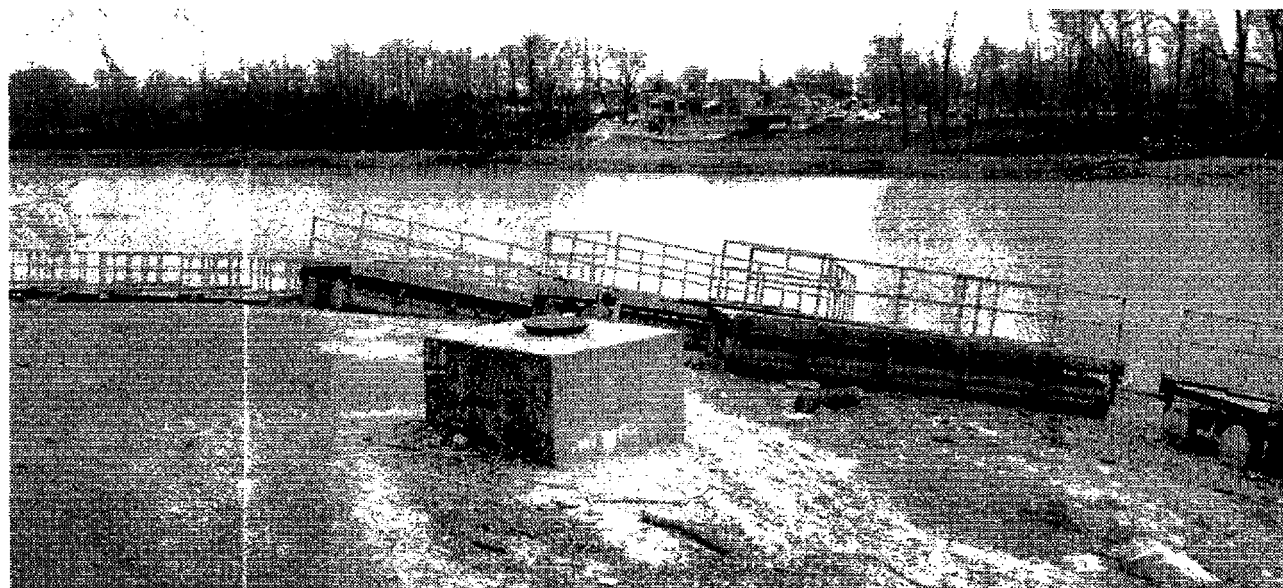
Currently, the lake averages a depth of 3.9 feet; the restoration will provide an 8-foot minimum depth. An exception to this will be shallow areas with rocks and sand built for fish spawning.

To ensure no contaminated fish remain in the lake, the DNR will conduct a fish kill and restock the lake with bluegill, largemouth bass, pumpkinseed and northern pike, according to Detroit-based Environmental Consulting and Technology (ECT).

"We're starting over," VanOmen said. "By the time we're done, the lake won't be anything like it was. We're reestablishing habitat, providing a cleaner environment for the fish."

Sediment excavation will begin May 15.

Another important part of the plan involves public outreach to educate about the effects of pollu-



Floating docks, now beached on the drained lake, will be cleaned and renovated (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.).

Area codes change again

Ameritech rep says telecommunications and community growth require added codes

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Just when you thought you had figured out the last change in dialing locally between Plymouth and Northville, the system will change again.

Dialing a local call is about to get a little more complicated, but any confusion should only last until the new area codes are firmly in place, officials at Ameritech said.

Three years ago, when Ameritech introduced the 810 area code, some local calls could be completed by dialing either seven, even if the area code was different.

That will change with the addition of a new area code May 3.

Many local calls will require dialing a "1" plus the area code, but the dialing rates won't change, according to Aaron McConnell, service representative for Ameritech.

Dialing "1" plus the area code is an effort to avoid confusion, according to McConnell. It will allow duplicate telephone numbers in both area codes.

"Recent advents in technology, like pagers and cellular phones require more numbers," McConnell said. "There are a limited number of numbers that can be assigned."

Billing rates will not be affected by this change, McConnell said. "A local call will still be a local call, even if you have to dial in the area code."

Some numbers from the 810 area code will change to 248 May 10, according to McConnell.

There will be a five month transition period, when both area codes will work, and the new area code will be effective Sept. 13, he said.

Information on the new area code can be downloaded at Ameritech's Web site: www.Ameritech.com/areacode. The site includes general information, and the listings of area code changes will be available to download, according to McConnell.

Walk for women



About 2000 members of Girl Scout troops from Plymouth, Canton and Northville walked through Plymouth Sunday to raise attention about domestic violence and collect goods for donation to shelters in Ann Arbor, Howell and Canton. Jan Szostak, of Huron Valley Girl Scouts Council, said the second-annual walk along 1, 2 and 3-mile routes was a capstone to the scouts' education and service project: "Girl Scouts isn't just about going on field trips and having fun. It's about helping others." Here, members of troop 132 help sort the pile of collected goods that covered most of The Gathering floor. "It's definitely a success. We'll repeat it every year," Szostak said. "Plymouth is kind to let us use the city." (Crier photo by Bryon Martin).



Community deaths

Obituaries

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

LILA GREY WOLCOTT

Lila Grey Wolcott, a Venice, FL resident formerly of Plymouth, died April 23, 1997 at the age of 67.

Mrs. Wolcott was born July 18, 1929 in Clarkston, MI. She was a homemaker. She volunteered for various agencies working with mentally and physically challenged children, wrote music, poetry and short stories—several of which were published.

She is survived by Roger (Linda) Wolcott of Grosse Pointe Park, Gregory (Allyn) Wolcott of Buffalo, MO, Brian (Dorothy) Wolcott of Plymouth; daughters, Kathleen Wolcott of San Francisco, CA, Jeanette (Carl) Herter of Brighton, MI; and nine grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband, Gerald.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth with the Rev. William C. Moore officiating. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Memorial tributes can be given to Bon Secour Hospital Scholarship Fund, 540 Rialto, Venice, FL 34285.

GERALDINE JANET CWIK

Geraldine Janet Cwik, a Northville resident, died April 23, 1997 at the age of 74.

Mrs. Cwik was born July 17, 1922 in Otsego Lake, MI. She was a teacher. She was a member of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Northville, The Michigan Education Association, American Association of Michigan Women and Michigan Public School Retired School Employees. She received her B.A. from Mercy College, M.S. from the University of Detroit, Masters and PhD from the University of Michigan.

She is survived by her husband, Peter of Northville; brothers, John (Julie) Amthor of Holt, Gerald (Christine) Amthor of Gaylord; and many neices and nephews.

Services were held at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in

Northville with the Rev. Fr. Todd Lajiness officiating. Entombment is at St. Patrick Cemetery in Bay City, MI. Arrangements were made by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial tributes can be given to Alzheimer's Disease Association.

HEDWIG G. SERWINEK

Hedwig G. Serwinek, a Canton resident, died April 24, 1997 at the age of 78.

Mrs. Serwinek was born April 16, 1919 in Detroit. She was a homemaker, and a former accounting and translating secretary for a Navy admiral in Long Beach CA during WW II.

She is survived by her sons, Daniel (Kathy) Serwinek of Milford, Mark (Amy) A. Serwinek of Commerce Township, Paul (Mariene) J. Serwinek of Spring, TX; sister, Stella Giczewski of Detroit; and seven grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband, Anthony Serwinek.

Arrangements were made by and services held at Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth with Mr. Victor Jennings officiating. Interment was at Oak Grove Cemetery in Dixboro. Memorial Tributes can be given to Watchtower, 25 Columbia Hgts., Brooklyn, NY, 11201.

Zachary Thomas Walkley, aged 20 days

Zachary Thomas Walkley, a Canton resident, died April 19, 1997.

He is survived by his parents, Harry and Julie Walkley of Canton; grandparents, Harry M. and Karla Walkley of Canton, Jane Johnson of Plymouth, Dwight Johnson of Ypsilanti; great-grandparents, Harry E. and Helena Walkley of Florida, Ansel and Isabel Fellows of Ohio, Dorothy Faltery of Northville, Irene Johnson of Redford; and several Aunts and Uncles.

Arrangements were made by and services held at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth with the Rev. Fr. Jim Livingston officiating. Burial was at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia.

Mary D. Mitchie, 98, homemaker

Mary D. Mitchie, a Plymouth resident, died April 1, 1997.

She is survived by her daughter, Jean Kennedy of Plymouth; four grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial tributes can be given to the American Lung Association.

'Making a Pig into a Hog'



That's how roaster Hugh Harsha sees things, as former Plymouth Twp. Police Chief Carl Berry retires to sell Harley Davidson motorcycles at a dealership in which he is part owner. Friends and co-workers gathered to roast Berry at a banquet last weekend.

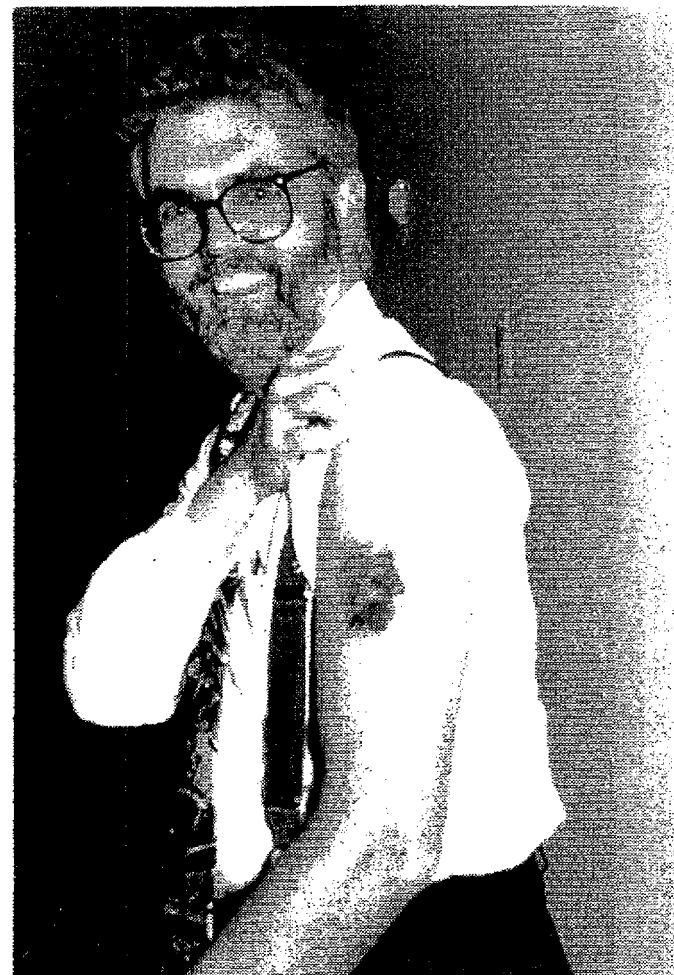
Crier photos by R. Alwood, Jr.



Wayne County Sherriff Robert Ficano congratulates Berry on years of service and his retirement.



(Top) Berry's new approach to parking enforcement. (Above) A member of the Plymouth Township Police Color Guard presents Berry with a ceremonial folded flag. (Below, left to right) Emcee Dennis Campbell and roasters George Ward, Sean Cox and Charlie McIlhargey applaud after the festivities.



Getting in on the biker bit, Judge Ron Lowe of the 35th District Court shows off a rub-on tattoo, proving that he, too, was born to be mild.



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 for information.

Great Business Opportunity. Just
 purchased corner building on busy street
 in Plymouth. Ample parking. Approx. 400
 sq. ft. Retail or office use. (313)416-5550
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the business world.

Join us in our pursuit-thread the needle, put
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noise, make some money, jump into the
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EILEEN WILLIAMS - Your friends will be
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been gone much too long.

ANNE - What a nice person you are and
how much your sister must have loved you!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY POPPA MANZO!
Now it's real obvious you're dating an older
woman. She's 80 and you're not!

Curiosities

DEAR MARTHA ET AL - So glad you finally
received Jessie Wendover's address. I
love our little town. People do care about
each other. Today, along with other friends
of yours, Judge Brown stopped to see how
you were doing. Isn't that nice!
Love, Geneva

Patte Carne - We can't wait for
Erick's book!

Fran Dechene: Hugs from Iguana Boy
Hey Kristen Stager! Glad to hear you're a
Crier reader; would you lunch with a Crier
writer? Bryon Martin

Special Thanks to Stephen & Dad & Mom:
Thanks for all your love & support during
the semester! And for putting up with me!
Love & Tickers, Linda

Northville's **MATT GORDON** has a new
rep. in town! **SKATE PUNKS &
GRINDERS ARE A VALID SPOKE** in the
Community Wheel!

FARMERS' MARKET opens Saturday in
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BEAUREGARD eats Edwards bagels.
"I WAS BORN YESTERDAY" -Don
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BEAUREGARD eats Einstein bagels.
ROASTED/TOASTED Carl: congrats.

JOE RUGGIERELLO: the miniature mobile
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THIS IS IT OPENS AGAIN.

Scott - Congratulations on your promotion
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ANNE FEATHERSTONE - You are a
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JOHNNY APPLESEE, (NEE ALLEN O) has
been away again in his "seven league"
boots advising some and planting for
others. Happily his sister in Baltimore is a
grateful recipient. (Now that's the kind of
brother to have!)

**THE TRAVELERS ARE HOME FROM THE
ORIENT.** Ecstatic about their trip, happy
with their sight-seeing and their booty;
Ready to talk enthusiastically about their
adventure and eager to have you return
with them for their next trip in November.
See Jack if you are interested.

Yesterday was Baby Jeanne's 3th
Birthday! WAHHH! Love, Yer Sis, Maura
Gerry works in the Basement!

The "Pooh Squad" walk the streets of
Plymouth! Look out!

Lisa L. found out about editors this week.
Lisa M., Gerry & Jack wish they had the
same B.B. connections that Maura has.
(Ha, Ha!)

MOM IN ST. PETE: looking forward to your
MICH. return soon.

PETE BRODERICK MADE IT!
Congrats on graduating
-Beauregard, Jess, Sally Ed

MARILYN MEREDITH
got older again in Canton

DIANE HERBRUCK:
Happy Birthday in Saranac

Jean P: It was great talking to you. I hope
you wrote down my number!

Congrats Bob on 2 A's and a B!
What is it again that you get for an A??

KRISTEN STAGER -
Are you reading these?

Shelley & Ray -
Good luck with the househunting!!

Rod & Mark certainly have their work cut
out - are you sure those are cars?

Curiosities

Maura can't Pow-Wow with us...Unless she
gives us the scoop earlier! I guess I need
to give her my pager number.

**KIDS - ENTER BEYER FRIENDLY
DRUGS COLORING CONTEST. WIN
ONE OF 6 GREAT PRIZES! 1) GET FREE
"YOU ARE SPECIAL" COLORING BOOK
AT 1100 W. ANN ARBOR ROAD.**

**2) COLOR ANY PAGE.
3) ADD NAME-AGE-PHONE & BRING IT
IN. BOY & GIRL WINNER IN 3 AGE GPS.**

Maura...I sure wish I had a bat!

Rich O. is the Beanie Baby Guru!

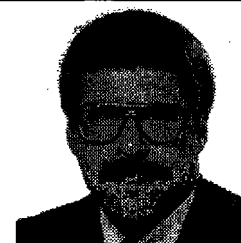
Curtis - "I hereby swear that never again
will I bring up in public any of your
aspirations for the future!" Oh, by the way,
does this mean I don't have to rise when
you enter the room? The girls will be
disappointed because they have been
practicing the correct way to curtsy.

The Rock Shoppe has all your needs for
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ponds & waterfalls.

What is the correct spelling, Clare, Chair,
Claire or 2 pins?

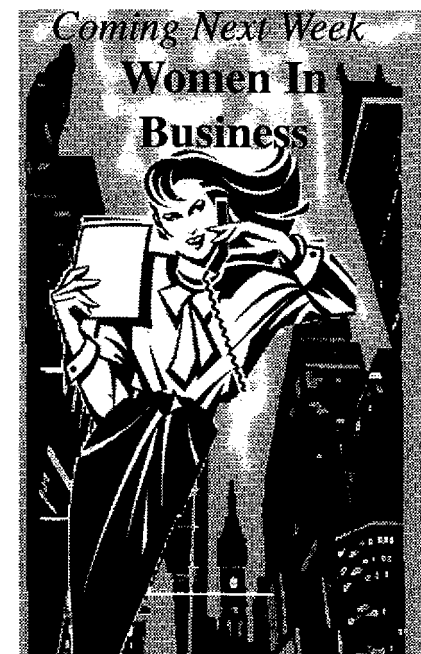
Watch next week for a great shot of a
super model!! See you next week Joanne!

Anyone wishing to build up their muscles &
get a little tan - 20 yards of top soil will be
delivered for spreading this weekend -
Let Jack know



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LOVE, BEV, JULIE, JOE AND JEFF
Thank you St. Jude for favors received.



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Community opinions

Continuing bond questions frustrate student

EDITOR,

I am so sick and tired of hearing complaints about the recent school bond election! There was even a recount, and the bond still passed. What is so hard to understand about this?

As a Plymouth-Canton High School senior, I can tell everyone out there that we are in desperate need of another high school. PECP is very crowded right now, and the population is expected to increase in the next few years. The average class contains about thirty students, if not more. What's next? Are classes of forty or more students what we want. I don't

'I think the community needs to accept the fact that the bond passed and get on with their lives.'

think so!

To M. Johnson (letter in 4/19/97 issue), our teachers deserve to be paid as much as they are. Many literally spend hours after school helping their students because there is not enough time to get to everybody during the class period, due to the overwhelming class sizes.

I think that the community needs to accept the fact that the bond issue passed and get on with their lives. Do we demand a revote when a candidate for the Presidency we do not like wins? No, we have to accept it.

So, I leave you with a final question. What is more important — the children of a community receiving a good education and ensuring a successful future, or not wanting to pay more taxes?

The answer should be quite clear — education lasts a lifetime.

A CONCERNED PLYMOUTH-CANTON HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR

Carne's colors glow in exhibit

'Shorelines of The Great Lakes' runs through May 8

The Abstract

By Stephanie Everitt-Kirkbride



My family and I were fortunate enough to visit the beach this weekend...to gaze upon some fisherman in the surf, see winged and agile four-legged residents of Michigan, and soak in the brilliance of the sun setting and rising on the shores of this beautiful Great Lakes state.

These images and the life that seeps from them can be found at Erick Carne's exhibit, *Shorelines of The Great Lakes*, currently open to public at the new Plymouth Community Arts Council building.

When I learned I had missed the opening reception, I was disappointed. There is a certain electricity that clings to

you at an opening. People come to feed on the pieces and enthusiasm of the other viewers, hoping to be inspired, awed and entertained.

There is, however, something to be said for the delicious peace of the gallery when you have it all to your own. We were able to do this, except for the occasional vowel sounds that our son threw out to test the acoustics.

Let me say first, that the space the works were exhibited in was great. I had seen it once before in an auditorium setting, without realizing how versatile the room was. There were islands of chairs from which to admire the works, and cheerful mauve-colored potted chrysanthemums decorating the floor.

There were many pieces, and yet the show was not overwhelming or too large. It had a nice flow that felt almost like postcard images — surprises delivered by

mail. More to the point, they felt familiar, and cozy, almost as if you'd visited all the places that he'd journaled.

I found that my personal favorites were those whose colors pushed the limits — the more extreme range — like the shadowed fisherpeople, the lighthouse scene, "Last Refuge, Seul Croix Light, Upper Peninsula," and a piece with a train headed through a valley of luscious fall colors.

My husband and I wanted to take them home, but our favorites had been sold already. There are, however, many left to be purchased.

Should you not be able to afford the larger pieces, Carne's book with the same paintings and accompanying text is due out soon — a nice conversation piece for any local coffee table. And the show will be on until May 8 of this year.

I urge you to put some color into your lives, visit the show, and pay tribute to a wonderfully talented local artist's works.

Plymouth resident 'appalled' by school canvassers' call

Disregard for lost votes leads to lost voters

EDITOR,

I am appalled at the Plymouth-Canton Community School Board of Canvassers' decision in not calling for a special election on the school bond issue. To disregard the errors in the voting count is both cavalier and incredible. This is especially unbelievable because it is a

school bond issue — don't educators of civic and government classes stress the importance of voting and teaching students that each and every vote is important?

After every election the media points out how apathetic people are in not getting to the polls — now we know the

reason why. According to this board, only some votes count.

Disregarding a person's vote is very effective way in shutting them up. Please say it ain't so!

D. ARCHER

Performing arts center good idea, but location needs further review

Canton should proceed — cautiously and answering questions along the way — with the proposed Performing Arts Center.

Since the first Canton Arts Council, that then gave way to the Canton Project Arts, a serious quality-of-life addition to Canton has been in the arts. This growing interest also "fits" with a resurgence in the arts in the region.

While Canton's growth cannot last forever and thus local government must watch the long-term costs of things like orchestra pits and water slides, the preliminary operating-cost projections for a performing arts center are a pleasant surprise — once the building cost is raised.

There have been some discussions about sharing a performing arts center with the Plymouth-Canton Schools — a good concept on paper. However, it may be unworkable if it would mean a 10-year process of study and negotiations.

As Canton continues to investigate the idea, the location of a performing arts

Although it's tempting to use available land at the Canton Township Hall complex, is it the best location for attracting performing arts patrons?

center should also be questioned. Although it's tempting to use available land at the Canton Township Hall complex, is it the best location for attracting performing arts patrons?

In general, however, with the increased emphasis on the arts in The Plymouth-Canton Community (see related column in today's Crier), Canton is on the right track towards a performing arts center.

THE COMMUNITY CRIER

VOICE YOUR OPINION


Send your letters to the editor in care of

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BE HEARD

The Bargains Are Bloomin' at...

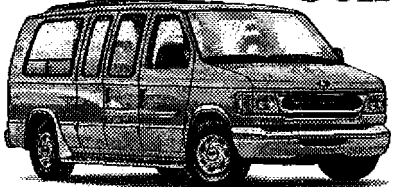
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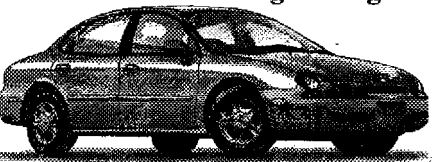


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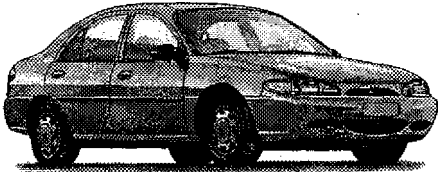


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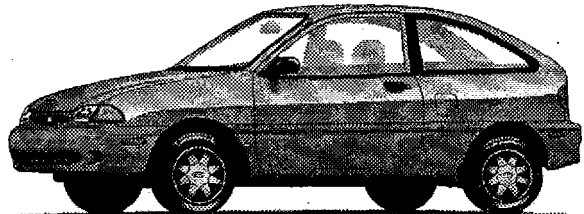


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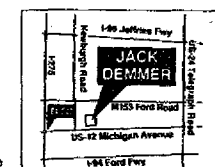
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