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



The Community Crier

75¢

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July 23, 1997

Court committee still seeks answers

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Members of the 35th District Court Advisory Board met with members of the ad hoc court building committee Tuesday afternoon to discuss the long and short term sites of the 35th District Court.

Temporary facilities have been a source of ongoing debate. Currently the court has offices at the Unisys building on Plymouth Road, and court is being held at various courtrooms in the Metro area, including Romulus and Redford.

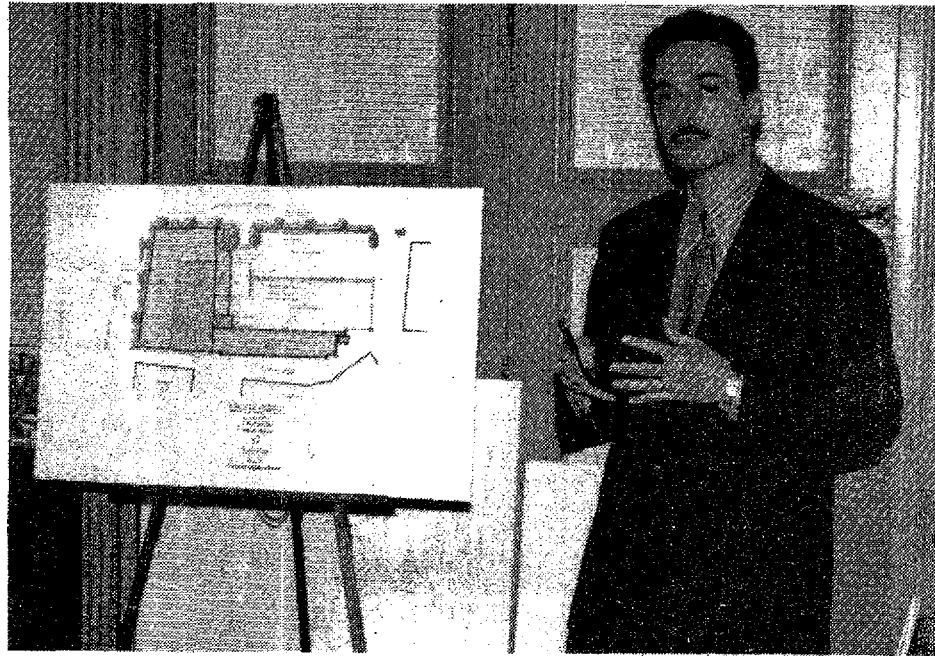
Court officials have all but decided to lease or purchase modular buildings to put in the parking lot across from the Unisys building, but want to do some cost comparisons to ensure they were spending their money wisely.

The Western Electric building would require extensive renovation at an extensive cost, according to Kerry Erdman, 35th District Court Administrator. Even after renovations, he said, it would not adequately meet all of the court's needs.

"It's a great, open space, and the plumbing consists of pipes sticking out of the floor. We would need to build walls, and install lighting, flooring and bathrooms," he said.

Parking would be the next biggest problem with the site, according to Canton Supervisor Tom Yack.

Please see pg. 2



Mayflower to file Renovation of the Mayflower Hotel should move to the next step, according to Matt Karmo, who said he would file for permits today. Here, Victor Saroki, architect for the project, stands with schematics. Story, page 19.

Plymouth loses Barbour, 'old time banker'

BY W. EDWARD WENDOVER

One of the last of the "old time" bankers is being mourned this week.

Bob Barbour, a protege of the late Floyd Kehrl, saw the ways of banking change from loans to farmers based solely on reputation, to the "modern" application system.

Barbour, 77, died Sunday in Plymouth. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church. Arrangements are being made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

"His life was his work and all the community," said his wife Betty (Pint) Barbour.

She and her husband had known each other for years, both working for National



Bob Barbour

Bank of Detroit. They married in 1993 after Barbour's first wife, Lorraine, had died, as had Lorraine's husband, John.

Please see pg. 19

Minor league in Canton?

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

If Minor League Baseball is planning on coming to Canton, Township officials may be caught looking.

"I haven't heard anything about it," said Supervisor Tom Yack.

Rumors have been circulating that a minor league franchise is coming to Canton, and that a stadium could be built east of I-275 between Ford and Michigan Avenue.

"Well, in that area we have Fellows Creek Golf Course, a lot of housing, a condominium project and a corporate park at Ford and I-275," Yack said. "There's also a Detroit Edison power corridor. It would have to go between the condo project and the power corridor. There's just not that much room."

"Two years ago there was a plan to bring an unaffiliated baseball team to Canton, but the plan was not feasible because it would involve the Township kicking in \$2,000,000 for a stadium," Yack said.

Canton wouldn't want to get caught like the house at the side of the road, and would be interested if a township minor league team were to come to town, Yack said.

"Sure, Plymouth has a minor league hockey team. It makes sense that Canton should have a minor league baseball or even a soccer team. That would be worth considering, too."

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Major complex
Canton Softball Center ranks among nation's best
See Sports, pgs. 20 -21

Life & limb
Furniture maker plies skills to willow branches, philosophy
See Getting Down to Business pg.8

Decisions pending in search for sites

Parking, state of old foundation big questions for committee

"It all comes down to where do you
Continued from pg. 1

park," he said.
The modular buildings could be leased at a cost of about \$350,000 over the next two years, according to advisor Dave Schapp. Purchasing the buildings at more than \$600,000 was considered at the meeting, but would be contingent on finding some use after a new courthouse was constructed.

The committee resolved to get final cost comparisons with two modular building

companies, Due Well Portables and GE Capital Portables, as well as a cross check with the Western Electric Building simply to ensure the modular buildings were the most cost effective facility, according to Schapp.

The court building committee, headed by former Judge Jim Garber, asked for final cost comparisons between the modular buildings and the western electric buildings before their first official meeting next Wednesday.

Garber wanted final information on the integrity of the courthouse's foundations before he began thinking of a site for the

new courthouse.
"The way I see it this committee is facing three issues," Garber said. "First, it's a site issue. Then a money issue, and finally a design issue."

Not everyone on the committee believes the old site is the best spot for the new court.

"We have to ask if it's really the best site," said Canton Finance Director Tony Minghine. "If it is, and we can serve the communities for an extended period of time, then great. If we build a courthouse on the existing site and have to add something on in 10 years, then that's another

issue."
Judge John MacDonald suggested the site would be acceptable with a bigger building.
"If we go up two stories on the same site, in the same footprint, I think the building will be adequate for 20 years down the line," he said.

But again, the issue came down to parking.

The court committee will meet again next Wednesday to decide where to put the temporary facilities, and which, if any, portable building company they will lease the buildings from.

Garber and the rest of the committee will then decide on a site for the new building.

"The question is, if not on the old site, then where?" he said.

Three other sites were suggested at the meeting. Kay Arnold, of Plymouth Township's planning committee, suggested a site on Ann Arbor Road by I-275 owned by Don Massey; Northville Township Supervisor Karen Woodside suggested a site at 5 mile and Beck roads; and Yack suggested a site at Joy and Lilley roads.

Demolition will begin on the upper floor of the old courthouse this week, according to Erdman. Officials should know how sound the foundation is by Monday, he said.

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Art in the Park's mark on business

DBA may survey downtown shopfronts for festival feedback

BY BRYON MARTIN

Visitors love it. Vendors make a killing in sales. But is Art in the Park good for Plymouth businesses?

Answers to this question may come in a revised version of a survey circulated last year by Plymouth's Downtown Business Association.

The DBA, formed about one year ago, sent out the survey to downtown businesses after last year's Art in the Park. According to DBA Chairperson Sharon Pugh, the group will meet Friday and may rewrite and expand the survey to collect more data.

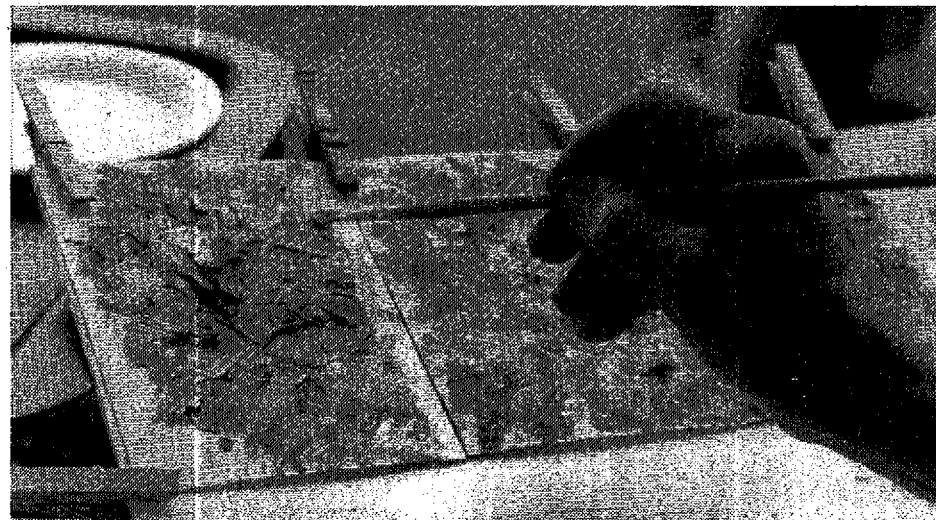
"We might change some of the questions," she said. "There are always going to be some problems," to report, she said.

Revisions to the survey might include separating previously grouped questions into parts — for Fall Festival, Ice Festival, Art in the Park, the Chili Cookoff and others — to allow for event-specific answers. Answers vary from fest to fest and from business to business, though not always as might be expected.

Nancy Ball, owner of Hands On Leather on Forest Avenue, said she was surprised that sales at her store did not increase during Art in the Park.

"My kind of shop could be out on the street," with the other vendors, Ball said. "Potentially, those are my customers out there. I expected more business," she said, explaining that sales during Art in the Park were the lowest in recent years.

Foot traffic did increase, though, she said. Although they didn't buy much, Art in



the Park did bring people into Ball's store, increasing her visibility, she said.

Pugh agreed: "They come in, have a cup of coffee and see who we are and what we're about."

dio on Penniman Avenue, the browser problem was different.

Young said booths, which faced into the street's center and backed-up onto the curb and sidewalk, were impinging on sidewalk space along her storefront. This limits foot traffic to her store, she said.

"On Penniman, vendors backed-up and sat under my window," Young said. "They had stock and compressors on the sidewalks. It looked like a storeroom and at times it was hard to pass. It looked like you weren't supposed to be back there."

Young said this is the case only during Art in the Park; neither the Fall nor the Ice Festival block the street or impede foot traffic to her store.

"During the Ice Festival we were packed. It got kind of scary," she said.

Being able to differentiate between the effects of Art in the Park and the Ice Festival in survey responses, she said, would be helpful.

Gloria Jancar, proprietor of Bloomsbury Lane on Forest Avenue said sidewalk impingement and parking difficulties hampered Art in the Park's success.

Please see pg. 14

Things that need adjusting can be fine tuned. We want to see how we're doing.

Sharon Pugh
DBA Chairperson

Lots of browsers isn't a good thing for everyone, though. Fawzi Hourani, proprietor of Milano fine apparel on Ann Arbor Trail, said Art in the Park ruined his Friday and Saturday sales.

"People come in for the cool and to use the bathroom," Hourani said. A siege of browsers and blocked streets, "kill my whole week of business because people can't get in on my busiest days."

For Jill Andra Young's photography stu-

False alarm for Canton Commons? Second change in HUD practice unlikely to force move

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

After all the paperwork has been shuffled, people living at Canton Commons may not have to move after all.

Residents at the subsidized apartment complex received a scare two weeks ago when they were notified that their government housing subsidies had been changed from project-based to tenant-based.

Because of improper management of a property in Colorado, Highland Management Inc., which owns Canton Commons and five other housing complexes in Michigan, lost its subsidy from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

"Their section-eight vouchers had expired and HUD wasn't going to renew them because of bad management practices," Alex Sachs, of HUD's Washington, D.C. office, said.

According to Sachs, HUD has now issued a 60-day extension for all section-eight projects expiring across the country.

"We've been communicating with residents all along and telling them their landlord is under review," Sachs said. "We've been

working with them to understand the current status and that they won't have to move."

HUD is reviewing each property individually, Sachs said. So a normally well-run project, such as at Canton Commons, would still be eligible for its HUD subsidy while projects not up to code will not.

"We're looking at them at a property-by-property basis," Sachs said. "All indications are that Canton Commons by itself does get a satisfactory rating. Our anticipation is that at this time, barring any unforeseen complications, residents at Canton Commons will not have to move."

About 15 families have procured tenant-based subsidies and moved from Canton Commons, Sachs said. They will be allowed to keep their vouchers.

"We've just extended the agreement with the owners of Canton Commons for 60 days," he said. "We have a working relationship with them."

"We never intended to penalize residents, we were simply trying to crack down on bad landlords."

Barring any unforeseen complications, residents at Canton Commons will not have to move.

Alex Sachs, HUD

Agenda

THIS WEEK

- Tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at Heritage Park in Canton, the Summer Concert series continues, featuring Bobby Lewis and the Crackerjack Band. The show is free.
- Today at noon, music in Kellogg Park, produced by the Plymouth Community Arts Council, will feature Jane Chevalier.
- Tomorrow, 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. at The Plymouth Coffee Bean, 844 Penniman, The Plymouth Poets present featured reader Bob Hicok. Open mic to follow.
- Register now for Schoolcraft Summer Music School, July 28-Aug 8. (313) 462-4400

THIS WEEKEND

- Friday, 7:30 p.m., Canton Parks and Recreation sponsors Comedy Night in Heritage Park amphitheater: Bill Barr, Jim Oakley and Joe Bielaska with family humor; music by Silver Sounds DJs.

NEXT WEEK

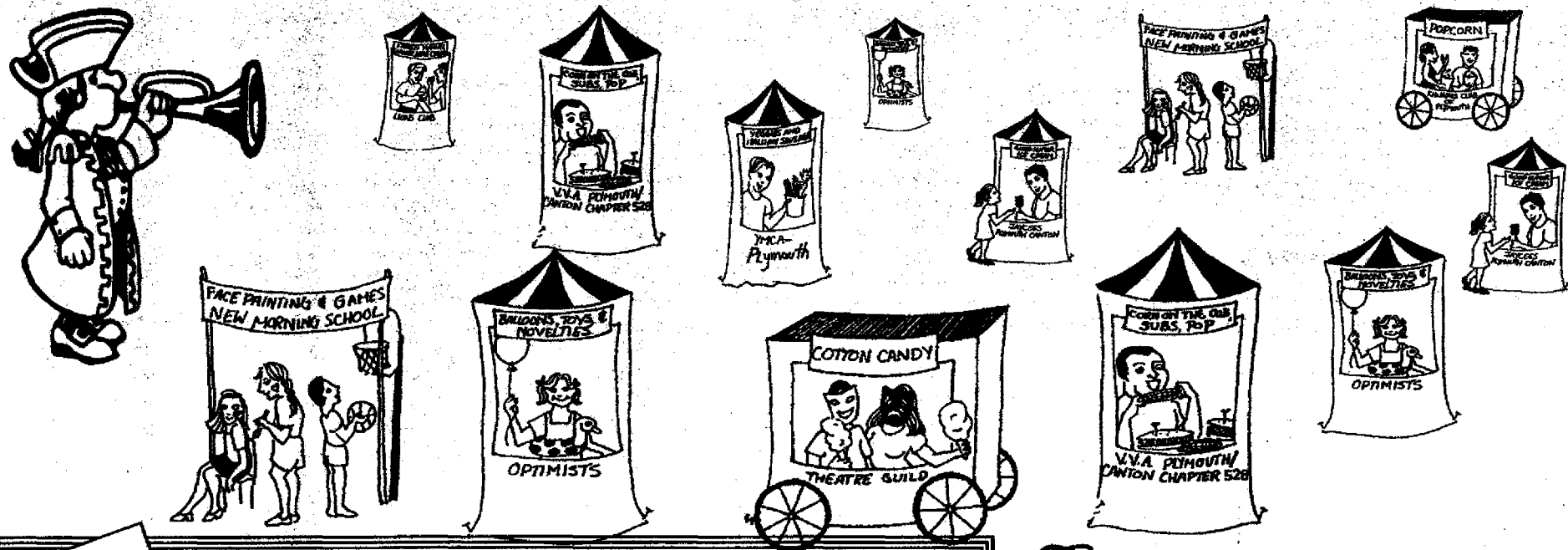
- Thursday, "Dinner Out" in Hamtramk with the Northville Senior Citizens Center: N'ville Parks & Rec. bus will leave MAGS at 4 p.m., home pick-up at 3:30. Registration, (810) 349-4140.

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Take it from your peers — Next week's Plus brings a different view of P-C-N commerce, from Business to Business. Read it July 30 in The Community Crier.



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Youth crashes into Plymouth home

Injuries avoided in accident, mother suspects accelerator problem

BY BRYON MARTIN

Sometimes you have to go a little out of your way to meet people. Dennis and Ruthie Thompson have lived with their children on Mayflower Street, in Plymouth Township, since February. But it wasn't until last week that they met neighbors George and Nina Dee.

The Dees live across the street and two doors down from the Thompsons. Wednesday afternoon, the two families were introduced amid police and firemen as a wrecker pulled Thompson's white Chevy Cavalier out of the Dee's family room.

The Thompson's 15-year-old son, who started driver training at PCEP two days before, was driving the car under Ruthie's supervision.

On the first day of driver education, her son had found he was the only one in his class without any previous driving experience, she said. "He asked me if he could just drive down to the stop sign," about 200 yards away. "I made a bad decision," she said.

Ruthie said she isn't certain what happened. But in the space of about 200 feet, from Thompson's curb to the Dees' garage, the car accelerated to near 50 miles an hour and swerved left onto a path that took it over the Dees' mailbox and through their garage door, crashing through an exterior wall.

The car came to a stop about halfway through the family room, striking the Dee's couch and sending a recliner through their back doorwall.

Plymouth Township Police say no signs of braking were found on the street or the lawn. "It looks like it was that wall that stopped them," Sgt. James Jarvis said.

Officer Bill Groff said "the wrong foot probably did the wrong thing."

According to Ruthie, a gas pedal malfunction is being investigated.

Dee said his homeowner's insurance will cover the damages, but that only temporary repairs have been made.

"It's a depressing situation," he said. "My grandchildren's pictures used to hang on that wall and they all got smashed. Now I'm looking at a temporary wall."

Material setbacks aside, Dee said he is grateful the accident wasn't worse.

"Nobody was hurt, and that's good. Seat belts saved those people's lives," he said. "Normally I don't work Wednesdays. I'd have been laying on that couch around 2:30."

If any good can come from the accident, Dee said, it's the lesson that driver education shouldn't be done in subdivisions.

For the Thompsons' son, drivers ed. won't take place anywhere until next year. "We're going to wait until he's sixteen," Ruthie said.

Did the Thompsons find any good in the accident?

"We didn't know these neighbors before," Ruthie said. "We do now."



Plymouth Township homeowners George Dee (pictured) and wife Nina were both contacted at work by their children, Wednesday, after a neighbor lost control of a Chevy Cavalier and crashed into the Dees' family room. Dee said much of the property in the room was destroyed, and is still waiting for insurance workers to complete repairs (Crier photo, Scott Spielman).

Canton P.D. nabs police car thief

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

A 36-hour manhunt ended Sunday night when Canton Police Officer Cragin Bauldry arrested a 30-year-old Detroit man near Sheldon and Michigan Avenue roads.

Daniel Michael Koroi was arrested for outstanding warrants after escaping Saturday from Dearborn Police custody and leading them on a chase which left a 24-year-old woman dead.

Under a law passed in April, fleeing a police office is a felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison if the chase results in a death.

According to Dearborn Police spokesperson Nancy Sterutz, Koroi was first arrested on two outstanding felony warrants — including an alleged assault on a Melvindale police officer — early Saturday.

The arrest came after a call from Koroi's ex-wife, who said that he was in the area, had outstanding warrants against him, and was armed and dangerous, according to Dearborn Police reports.

Koroi had somehow managed to wriggle out of his handcuffs and escape in an unmarked police car, Sterutz said. The police car was unattended for no more than 30 seconds.

Six Dearborn police cars gave chase. During the chase, a police car broadsided a 1993 Mazda, killing the driver, 24-year-old Dalon Joliffie of Detroit.

The vehicle was found later and police dogs tracked the suspect to a phone booth, where Dearborn police suspect he called and had someone pick him up, Sterutz said.

Canton Police received a tip from relatives that Koroi was in the area, according to Canton Police Officer Lew Stevens.

Cragin was dispatched to the area and recognized Koroi from his description. Koroi was walking down Sheldon when Cragin apprehended him, Stevens said.

The 19th District Court in Dearborn will arraign Koroi today on counts of fleeing and eluding.

Plymouth Twp. bike police mount up in Port Huron

BY MATT HUCAL

Three Plymouth Township police bike patrol officers traveled to Port Huron Friday, and came back with a great deal of experience.

Officers Steve Cheston, Steve Mann and Cal Lauria were each individually paired up with members of the Port Huron police force. They helped control the crowd during the annual "Boat Night" that takes place the day before the Port Huron to Mackinac boat race.

The officers patrolled the harbor and downtown area on bicycles during the night, using skills they picked up from a one-week bicycle training school.

"I used everything I learned in the school," Lauria said. "We had to make hot runs for fights in progress that were sometimes over a mile away, and we usually made it there before the patrol cars."

Lauria said he and his partner made a total of three arrests throughout the night, which were alcohol-related and involved people acting in a disorderly manner.

There were situations when the patrolmen were forced to balance on their bike for nearly 45 seconds without moving while crowds of pedestrians surrounded them. At these

times, he said, his training-school skills helped him.

According to Lauria, getting up and down curbs, dismounting and using the bike as a defensive tool were covered thoroughly in school. At one point during school, officers rode their bicycles down the steps of Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor.

During events such as "Boat Night," bike patrolmen are vital to law enforcement because their maneuverability allows them to reach disturbances faster.

The Plymouth Township police department currently has six officers trained for bike patrol, which acting Chief Robert Smith says has received a good response throughout the community. Patrolmen ride through Hines Park, subdivisions and the industrial areas in Plymouth.

Along with the Plymouth police department, Michigan State Police and St. Clair Shores police department also helped the Port Huron force.

"It's good to get with new partners for a night so we can learn new maneuvers and techniques from them," Lauria said.

"It's good to get with new partners for a night so we can learn new maneuvers and techniques from them."



Friends & neighbors

Neighbors in the news

The Kiwanis Club of Plymouth has created a Schoolcraft College Scholarship Fund in the name of **Harold Fisher**.

Fisher was a founding committee member for Schoolcraft College, and active for more than 45 years in Kiwanis, Salvation Army and the P-C School Board.

Contributions are tax deductible and should be mailed to: Harold Fisher Scholarship Fund, C/O Plymouth Kiwanis Foundation, P.O. Box 701308 Plymouth, MI 48170.

Grand Valley State University graduated **Ryan Dividock, Courtney Kissman, Sarah Schimmelpfenneg, and Chad Zevalkink** from Canton; **Wendy Conlon** of Northville; and **Jennifer Wong** of Plymouth

Joseph Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. **James Thomas** of Plymouth recently graduated from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.

Thomas earned a bachelor of science degree.

Karin Cavanaugh, Quentin Docks, Melissa Moeser, Albert Sneath of Canton; **Andrew Allison, Jennifer Sinkwitts, John Totten, Christopher Winslow** of Northville; and **Nancy List** of Plymouth earned a bachelors or associates degree from Ferris State University.

Martha Bielecki and **Andrew Ealovega** received Doctorates of Optometry.

Kathryn Wrubel of Plymouth is the recipient of Eastern Michigan University's annual Golden Key National Honor Society Scholar's Award.

Wrubel, a psychology major, carries a 3.98 grade point average. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Tri-Beta, The Stoic Society, Psi Chi, and the EMU Psychology Club.

Melissa Poma, a freshman at Madonna University, received four scholarships for the 1997-98 school year: \$500 Mary Danatha Suchyta Scholarship; A \$500 Mother Mary DeSales Tocki Scholarship; An \$800 Madonna University Catholic Student Award; and a \$325 Sister Mary Immaculata Sryniawski Scholarship.

Madonna offered **Janell Leschinger** of Plymouth a \$350 Scholarship and **Angela Litwin**, also of Plymouth a \$500 scholarship and a \$1,400 Dean's Scholarship.

Chairitable gift

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

For the first time in a long while, Musette Swiecicki is comfortable.

Swiecicki, 43, is a resident at West Trails Nursing Home in Plymouth. She suffers from Multiple Sclerosis, a disease that has ravaged her and left her without the ability to move, eat or even speak.

With the recent donation of funds to purchase an Elite Broda Full Recliner wheelchair, Swiecicki's life — and mobility — have been greatly improved.

"The standard chair simply did not satisfy her medical, emotional or comfort needs," said Diane Munitello.

West Trail had a recliner on loan, Munitello said. Reclining chairs have more neck and back support as well as additional padding, she said.

The purchase of the \$2,149 chair was made possible with donations from several charitable organizations including the Lions Club, Rotary, Jaycees, MS Society and Civitans, Munitello said.

Local businesses also helped with the funds, Munitello said. Al Bulifant, who owns a barbershop in town and also works in the home two days a week contributed money in addition to Susan Keim, Musette Kona, and Mrs. Bee's Florist in Canton.

"I don't think people know enough about wonderful organizations and people like this," Munitello said. "They all deserve a big thank you."

"Not only is it helping her physically, but emotionally, too. This chair is more movable, it's easier to move her around so she doesn't have to stay in one place," Munitello said. "Now she can go outside with us and participate in more activities."

West Trail has provided nursing care for more than 30 years, according to Munitello. The home tries to provide a more comfortable setting for residents to live in.



Musette Swiecicki reclines in her new Elite Broda Recliner, purchased through donations (Crier photo, Scott Spielman).

"It's important to make everyone comfortable," Munitello said. "Just because someone can't always respond to you doesn't mean they can't hear you or need to be comfortable. Some people tend to forget that."

Church celebrates blessings

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

For more than four hours Saturday night Plymouth's Kellogg park was the site of singing and rejoicing.

Members were celebrating Solid Rock Bible Church's third anniversary and finding of a permanent home.

"For three years, we've been meeting everywhere we could: hotels, houses and borrowed churches," said church member Doris Bryant. "Finally we found the place we're at now."

The concert, featuring Christian musicians, also acknowledged the congregation's growth — from less than 100 to more than 400 in three years — and was a way to reach out, by borrowing a soft-drink slogan and giving it an ecclesiastical lean.

"We're passing out cans of Coke," said Bryant. "It's our way of saying that Jesus is the real thing."

The concert was also a way to celebrate the people who renovated the church, Bryant said.

"We had the church, but it still needed a lot of work. All of the people at the church pitched in and helped."

The concert was designed to break down some of the stereotypes about Christian music, as well, Bryant said.



Faith O'Leary passes out cans of Coke with help from Jordan and Lauren at Saturday's concert in Kellogg Park (Crier photo, Scott Spielman).

"We're trying to do a good thing here. We're trying to get people excited about church," she said.

"There should be something for everyone. Not just typical christian music."

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Dear Kindness Editor,
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I didn't even need to ask. My tire was changed with everyone full of smiles--me too! Good thing it happened where the angels from Canton-Salem reside in front of our library. We certainly have some A-1 plus kids.

Mrs. Shirley T. Curran

P.S. I am a senior citizen 69 years old and these kids are our angels.

\$25 To The Winners, Vincent & Lois Maiorana

Dear Kindness Editor,
 It was July 2nd, 1997-the night of our big storms around 7pm when our neighbors Vincent and Lois Maiorana were returning home from dinner at Steak and Ale driving north-bound on Haggerty road when they noticed a van from Florida pulled into the bank driveway with the front wheel at a 90 degree angle to the van. They stopped to investigate and found a family with two children in trouble. They asked how they could help and the man said they needed a tow truck. Vince and Lois went to a pay phone and called 911. A very nice operator said they would send help. The Maiorana's returned to the family and offered to take them to the motel they were staying in. While transferring their belongings the tow truck arrived and took care of the van. Vince asked if there was anything else they could do. They said they had planned to stop at an ATM as they needed cash for dinner but all the area was without power and the machines were not working. Vince gave the family money so they could take the family to dinner and then took them to the motel.

I think this was a real act of kindness especially since the storms were so violent that night.

Submitted by
 Roy and Shirley Hewett

\$25 To The Winner, Kevin Decker

Dear Kindness Editor,

Mildred Dimanoff, a resident of Plymouth Township for 25 years, was picked up by Huron Valley Ambulance. She left her Discover card in the ambulance. Paramedic Kevin Decker found it and gave it back.

She is very impressed by his kindness.

Attention Winners:

please contact The Kindness Editor at 313/453-6900 to make arrangements to receive your gift certificates. Congratulations! Keep up the Kind Spirit!

If you witness a Random Act of Kindness, put it in writing and send it to:
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Elizabeth M. Johnson
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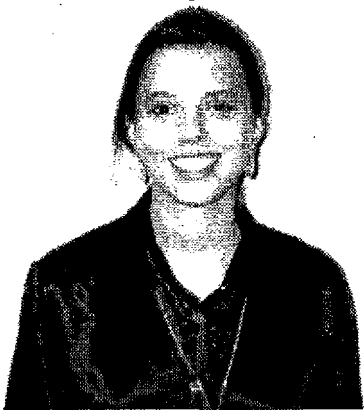


Getting down to business

Neighbors in business

Simpson Industries, based in Plymouth, announced that they will close their operations in Jackson by the end of the year.

The closing will cost 135 workers their jobs. The company supplies powertrain and chassis products and said the closing is part of a move to consolidate operations. The plant's production will be moved to other facilities.



ANJA DOROTHEA KAUFMAN

F & A Communications has hired Anja Dorothea Kaufman as a public relations representative.

The German native organizes promotional activities and facilitates internal information flow between the agency and clients.

Kaufman currently resides with a host family in Plymouth.

Ameritech Cellular Services will donate up to \$10,000 to a local nonprofit organization(s) in Plymouth in conjunction with the Aug. 23 grand re-opening of its retail outlet at 620 Ann Arbor Road.

The deadline for proposals from nonprofits is Friday.

Priority will be given to those organizations that fall into the categories of health and human services; civic and community; elementary and secondary education; higher education; and arts and culture.

For information on grant criteria and how to model proposals, call Cheryl Hawkins at (810) 737-0849 or Lisa Hamway at (313) 223-5747.

Suburban West Community Center, a community mental health center, will open a new Canton office at 5800 N. Canton Center Road #218, Aug. 1.

The new office will replace their current office at 8580 Canton Center Road.

The center will serve residents of Canton, Plymouth, Northville and Livonia.

Building with Bimbo

Master furniture maker Bim Willow visits Plymouth

BY MATT HUCAL

Local residents who sign up for the August 9 class with "Master Furniture Maker" Bim Willow can expect to leave with a new regard for life and limb.

Willow, in conjunction with the businesses at Westchester Square in downtown Plymouth, will teach a 5-6 hour class.

He said each student will learn the skills and requirements of building Willow furniture, while they make a Bent Willow Bird-House Bench to take home.

The class will include important things artists should know about starting and finishing projects, Willow said, and information about furniture and life in general.

The furniture maker has an interesting philosophy toward his wood creations and life. He said there are three phrases to go by to fulfill a life of happiness: Own a high sense of order; be creative and productive; and never take anything too seriously.

"Nature is imperfect, that's what people enjoy about it," Willow said. "I use the art of somethingness. Tapping into the imagination and seeing something that people see nothing in."

Along with running his backyard furniture production company "Willow

Works," Willow takes on some large future, only now. Only you can express yourself."

He said he's built a 50-foot wooden chair — the largest in the world — and has a 32-footer in his front yard.

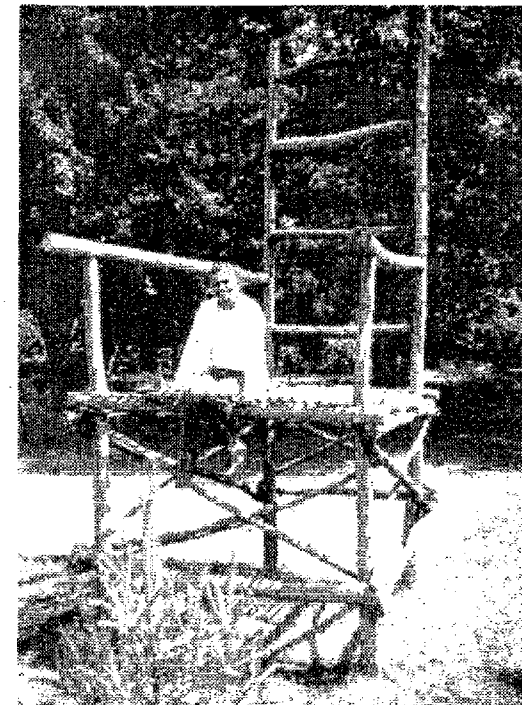
Willow is now in the early stages of building the world's largest bench, which would be made out of timbers and placed at the entrance of "Twigs and Blooms" near Frankenmuth.

Willow also plans to build a gigantic dining set to use as the outdoor facilities for his company.

If some are hesitant about paying the \$200 for this inaugural class, Willow lists advantages in signing up.

"Everyone who takes the class can expect their life to change," Willow said. "They'll never look at things the same way."

Having spent a majority of his life as a clown and entertainer, the man who once studied miming with Marcel Marceau says "You can't judge yourself by the past or



Bim Willow sits in his 32-foot wooden chair on his front lawn. The master furniture maker teaches a bird-house and furniture-making class Aug. 9 in downtown Plymouth. The cost is \$200 and will last 5-6 hours.

People-person at Peoples State Bank

Plymouth resident one of many familiar faces at new bank

BY MATT HUCAL

As a longtime Plymouth resident, Margaret Slezak does not intend to work anywhere else but where she's called home for the



Peoples Bank personnel: (clockwise-top left) Michael Weaver, Richard Bachman, Margaret Slezak and William Graham. (Crier photo, R. Alwood Jr.)

past 27 years.

She has been hired by Peoples State Bank to help its Plymouth branch grow in the community.

Along with living and working in Plymouth, Slezak also volunteers here. Since being elected to the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce board of directors in 1981, her list of achievements has grown.

She was elected as the chamber's first vice president in 1984, president of the chamber's executive board of directors in 1985, and was selected as the Chamber Volunteer of the Year for commitment and dedication to the community in 1993.

"I really enjoy being in the community. It was nice to be recognized for all of the time and energy," Slezak said of her 1993 Volunteer of the Year award.

Slezak's new position as vice president and senior commercial lender keeps her close to home and gives her a local advantage. She's served 18 years in banks and credit unions around Plymouth, and said Peoples Bank prides itself in not allowing their customers to "become a number," as some larger banks do.

"People like to do business with people they recognize," Slezak said. "I fully expect to work for people I know around Plymouth."

Slezak is running the bank with three others, giving Peoples almost 70 years of service in The P-C-N Community. The bank offers individual and commercial accounts, certificates of deposit, payroll deduction, commercial, consumer auto and residential mortgage loans, and ATM services.

Peoples State Bank is chartered in Hamtramck, with the locally-run Plymouth branch opening at 245 N. Main St. in Charleston Square. They are now opening accounts and making loans.

Lost trees and legal recourse concern neighbors of proposed development

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Replacement of trees and future liability were two concerns local landowners raised Wednesday at a public hearing about a proposed development; concerns which may or may not be addressed.

The development would require filling in some wetland areas along Canton Center Road between Ford and Hanford, filling in part of the Fellows Creek floodplain, forming a retention basin and constructing more than 25 homes on the spot.

"We're losing a wooded area with trees that are probably 20-50 years old," said Canton resident Rich Arbester. "They should be replaced with something other than saplings."

Arbester also referred to the more than 500 seedlings planted recently by students of Tonda Elementary.

"If we fill in some of the wetlands, and change the floodplain, those trees could die.

Everything they've done could amount to nothing. What's that telling our youth?"

Arbester's comment echoed the thoughts of many other adjacent landowners. Most seemed to accept development, but wanted to ensure the impact was as benign as possible.

Dirty rags start fire at N'ville condos; response time questioned

BY MATT HUCAL

A fire at Country Club Village in Northville Township at 9:08 p.m. Friday took three fire departments and 70 men to put out.

A four-condominium unit caught fire after an explosion inside the garage of one of its residents, according to Northville Township Fire Chief Bill Zhmendak.

He said he and two fire arson investigators finished up the investigation yesterday.

Zhmendak said a resident had just resurfaced a wood deck and threw rags covered in linseed oil into a recycling bin. Linseed oil is used to prevent wood from warping.

Along with the rags, Zhmendak said there was petroleum and paint thinner in the garage. All the combined vapors created a spontaneous combustion leading to the explosion.

The fire consumed the middle two units of the condo, but Zhmendak and the rest of the firefighters were able to save the two outside units.

The estimated amount of damages to the condominium is about \$500,000.

The Northville Township department was assisted by the City of Northville and

"I'm concerned with what they're destroying and what they're replacing," said resident Tim Schwartz. "A developer comes in, takes his money and goes. What happens down the line?"

Residents worried that changing the floodplain to allow for a new development would adversely affect their property and leave them without legal recourse if flooding became a problem in the future, Schwartz said.

"We're trying to maintain and preserve

the wetlands as much as possible," said Ty Culver, Co-owner of Culver Custom Homes, prospective developer of the site. "It's more practical. The development will look better and sell better."

Mike Nurse of the Department of Environmental Quality chaired the hearing.

"This is just to get some input of what adjacent landowners think," he said. "It won't necessarily affect our decision."

Residents have 15 days to file or submit any additional comments with the DEQ, he said. After the 15 day period, Nurse will decide whether to issue the permit.

'We're losing a wooded area with trees 20-50 years old. They should be replaced with something other than saplings.'

Rich Arbester

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Prominent banker loses son, 32

Family and friends describe Jimmy Preston as 'a great, easy going guy' with a good sense of humor.

James Robert Preston died Thursday morning in his Dearborn residence at the age of 32.

The cause of death is unknown, and autopsy reports will not be available for about 90 days.

Jimmy was born on September 10, 1964.

He was employed as a high-low driver at Ford Motor Company since May 1989.

Preston was born in Detroit, and his family moved to Plymouth from Redford in 1976. He graduated from Plymouth-Salem High School in 1982.

His father, James Preston of Plymouth, listed boating and fishing as hobbies his son enjoyed, along with spending time with his eight-year-old niece, Olivia.

"He was just a great, easy going guy," James said. "He had a great sense of humor and would do anything for anybody."

Preston is survived by his father, James; his mother, Linda; sister, Laurie Weide; niece, Olivia; grandmothers, Josephine Watne and Madeline Collison; four uncles; six aunts; and nine cousins.

The funeral was yesterday at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Livonia. He was buried at Parkview Memorial Cemetery.



Community deaths

Obituaries

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

BETTY ANN MICHALAK

Betty Ann Michalak, a Livonia resident, died July 16, 1997 at the age of 51.

Mrs. Michalak was born Aug. 30, 1945 in England. She was a systems analyst at the Adistra Corporation.

She is survived by her cousins, Sharon A. Romaniw of Novi, Walt (Tina) Garbacz of Clinton Township, Christine (Steve) Hanson of Canton, David Romaniw of Walled Lake; aunt, Mary Garbacz of Livonia; uncle, Ralph J. (Nancy) Dietz of Canton.

A graveside service was held with the Rev. Jack Quinlan officiating. Interment at South Lyon Cemetery in South Lyon, MI. Memorial contributions can be given to Hospice of Southeastern MI 16250 Northland Dr, Suite 212 Southfield, MI 48075.

SHIRLEY R. GRIFFIN

Shirley R. Griffin, a Westland resident, died July 14, 1997 at the age of 58.

Mrs. Griffin was born Oct. 19, 1938 in Detroit. She was a gas station manager. She raised seven children and completed a certificate program in photography and travel agency. She enjoyed traveling, working with her hands and making hand crafts of every kind by the hundreds.

She is survived by her husband, Cyrus Griffin of Westland; daughters, Cherie R. Griffin of Conway, MI, April (Mark) Agnello of Ypsilanti, MI; sons, Joseph (Lorraine) of Plymouth, William (Sherry) of Belleville, Ronald (Cathy) of Belleville, Michael (Cathy) of Romulus, Scott (Sherrie) of Westland; sister, Nancy (William) Causley; brother, Richard Arthur of Westland; 21 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Vermeulen Memorial Funeral Home in Westland, with the Rev. Stanley Kruse officiating. Burial was at Littlefield Township in Alanson, MI. Memorial tributes can be given to Ora Arndt, missionary.

NEVA M. BAUMER

Neva M. Baumer, a Plymouth resident, died July 17, 1997 at the age of 78.

Mrs. Baumer was born Sept. 18, 1918 in Lansing. She was a homemaker. She came to the Plymouth Community in 1959. She attended the First United Methodist Church, was a life member of the B.P.O.E. Vivians No. 1780 in Plymouth, a past member of The Eastern Star, and an avid golfer and bowler.

She is survived by her daughters, Beverly (Tom) Appling of Marysville, MI, Sharon (Rick) Spencer of South Lyon; son, David (Kathleen) Baumer of Westland; brother, Jack Harris of Eaton Rapids, MI; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth with the Rev. Pauline Hart officiating. Entombment is at United Memorial Gardens in Superior Township. Memorial contributions can be given to Elks Crippled Children Fund, Plymouth Elks.

DONALD EDWARD LAJINESS

Donald Edward Lajiness, a Plymouth resident, died July 16, 1997 at the age of 78.

Mr. Lajiness was born June 1, 1919 in Toledo, OH. He was an electrician for Huron Forge and Quality Steel after 34 years of service. He came to the Plymouth in 1975 from Detroit. He was a member of the U.A.W. No. 174. He served in the U.S. Army.

He is survived by his children, Carol (James) Bojanowski of Commerce Township, MI, Terry Lajiness of Melvindale, MI, Donald Lajiness, Jr., of Brighton, MI, Lynn Ann Lajiness of Hazel Park, MI; brother, Howard Charles (Gloria) Lajiness of Curtisville, MI; nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Services were held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church with the Rev. Fr. Stanley Tokarski officiating. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery in Monroe. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church.

GERTRUDE M. OTTENSMAN

Gertrude M. Ottensman, a Plymouth resident, died July 19, 1997 at the age of 77.

Mrs. Ottensman was born July 24, 1919 in Belleville. She was a homemaker. She lived in Plymouth for 55 years.

She is survived by her husband, Erwin R. Ottensman; daughters, Luann E. (Tom) Garchow of Plymouth; step-daughter, Rita Mae (Richard) Notestine of Toledo, OH; sons, Richard E. (Nancy) Ottensman of Perrysburg, OH; step-son, Arlan J. (Yvonne) Ottensman of Sheridan, MI; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home in Plymouth with the Rev. Tonya M. Arnesen officiating. Memorial contributions can be given to Angela Hospice or Karmanos Cancer Institute.

EMMA FRANCES SEMUCHKO

Emma Frances Semuchko, a Westland resident, died July 15, 1997 at the age of 74.

Mrs. Semuchko was born June 6, 1923 in New Albany, IN. She was a homemaker. She was a member of St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Detroit and the Senior Citizens in Westland.

She is survived by her husband, Paul of Westland; daughters, Mary (Robert) Zagorski of Newport, MI, Helen (Tony) Garza of Canton, Laura (Roger) Schilling of Livonia; son, John (Tsuneko) Semuchko of New Hudson, MI; and seven grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her son, Paul.

Private serves were held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to Disabled American Veterans.

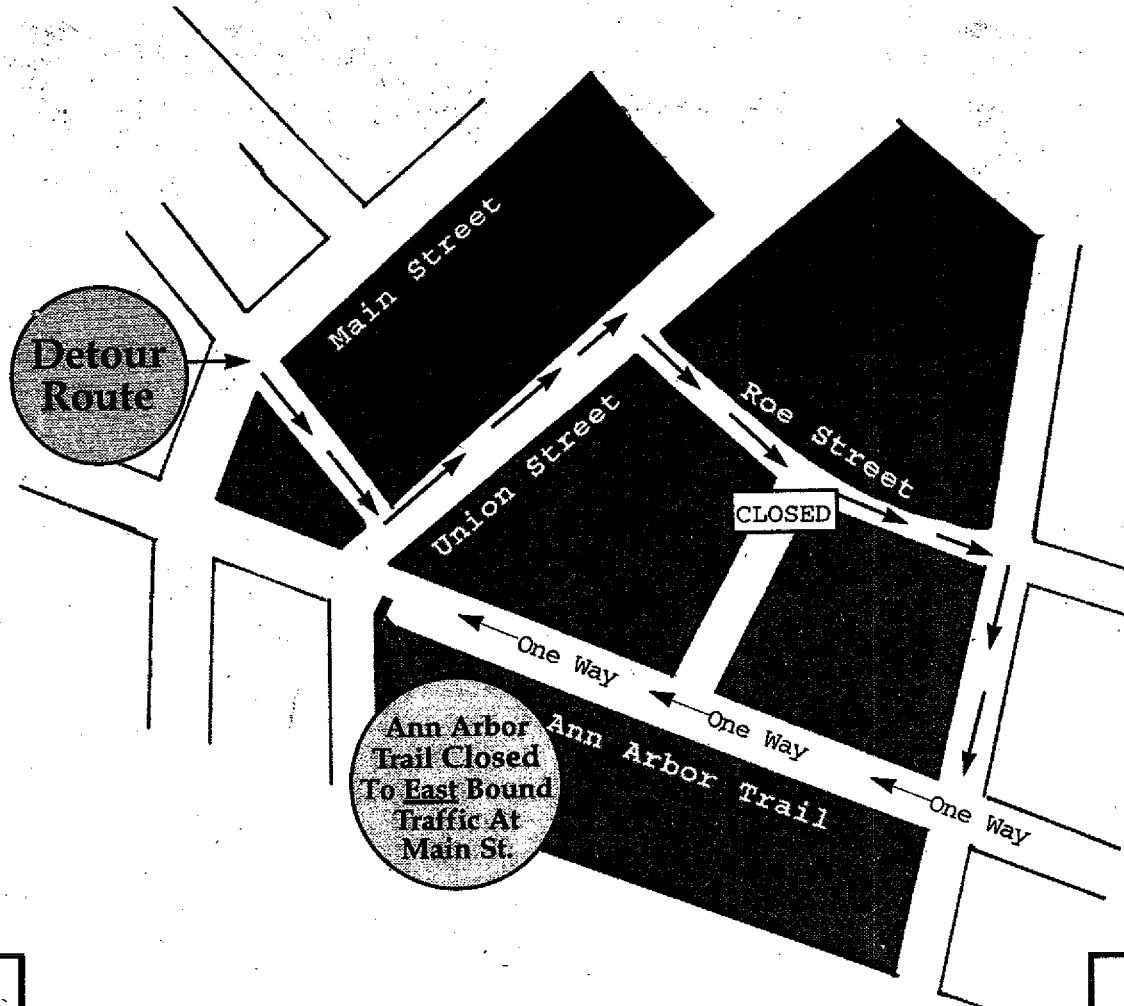
Gladys G. Copland, 95

Gladys G. Copland, a Canton resident, died July 19, 1997.

She is survived by her son, Gerald Copland of Canton and two other sons; daughter, Alice Cullen of Canton and one other daughter; one brother; 18 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband, Arthur H. Copland.

Services were held at St. Thomas A' Becket Catholic Church. Arrangements were made by McCabe Funeral Home in Canton.

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Events

POETRY CELEBRATION

Plymouth Coffee Bean Company, Penniman Ave, Plymouth, hosts poetry readings, 7:30-10:30 p.m. Thursdays, run by Plymouth's Rod Reinhart. Tomorrow's reader, Bob Hickok.

FARMER'S MARKET

Plymouth Chamber of Commerce continues Farmer's Market in downtown Plymouth's Gathering. Open 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. every Saturday through Oct. 25, except Fall Festival weekend of Sept. 8. Call Chamber at 453-1540 for info.

JEWES FOR JESUS

Jews for Jesus Liberating Wailing Wall sing, tell their story Sunday, 11 a.m., Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy, Canton.

SENATOR INTERVIEWS GOVERNOR

State Senator Loren Bennett of Canton hosts a special edition of his monthly cable program, People & Policy: A Common Sense Agenda with Governor John Engler as his guest. The program runs for six weeks, beginning next week.

ART EXHIBITION ENTRY FORMS

First Presbyterian Church of Northville is sponsoring "Sharing the Gift," the fifth annual Juried Fine Art Exhibition. 1997 entry forms now available for the Oct. 4-10 show. Cash awards from \$50-\$300. Call (810) 349-0911 for info.

GOLF TOURNEY

Alexander McLaren Memorial Foundation hosts its annual golf tournament Aug. 17, 7:30 a.m. at Fellows Creek Golf Club, Canton. \$60 per person. Call (313) 383-8800 for info.

SUPERVISED PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

Canton Parks and Rec. Services provides free supervised playground programs in Canton parks until Aug. 15. Canton kids ages 5-15. Call 397-5110 for park locations.

SUMMER PARK PROGRAM

Register for the free Ply. Rec. Dept. Summer Park Program for city children at five locations: Kiwanis Park, Jaycee Park, Garden Club Park, Rotary Park and Fire House Park, which provide schedule of supervised activities 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Frid. Call 455-6620.


FLORAL ART SHOW

Ply. Community Arts Council's Floral Art Show will feature six watercolorists and runs Aug. 31 from 9 a.m.-noon Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. and 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Wednesdays. Public welcome. PCAC located at 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

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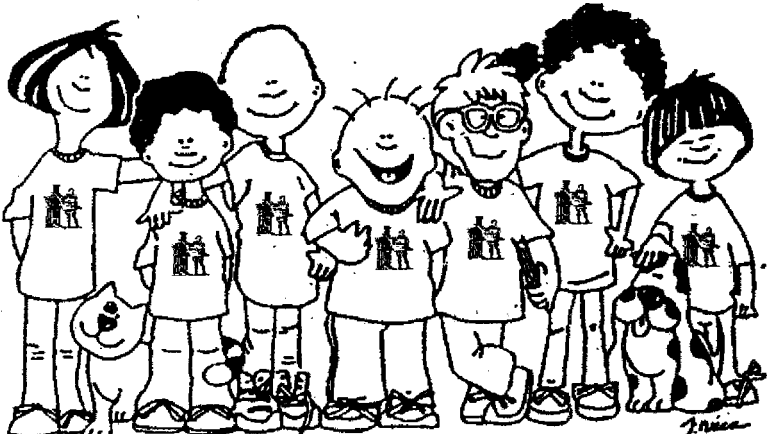


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Volunteer

BLOOD DRIVE

The American Red Cross will have a blood drive July 30 from 3-9 p.m. at First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, Northville.

DONATE PERIODICAL SUBSCRIPTION

Plymouth District Library seeks individuals, businesses, community groups to donate the cost of a subscription to one of over 300 periodicals it subscribes to. Sponsor's name appears on front cover periodical. Donation is federal, state tax deductible. Call 453-0750.

PLYMOUTH CHAMBER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Plymouth Chamber of Commerce always in need of volunteers. Call 453-1540 for info.

HOST-FAMILY OPPORTUNITY

American Intercultural Student Exchange, non-profit educational foundation, seeks local host families for high school foreign exchange students. AISE students live with host families, attend local high schools during 10-month stay. Call AISE at 1-800-742-5464.

HOSPICE OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

Hospice seeks patient care, companion, team support volunteers in P-C-N area, 291-9700.

MICHIGAN CANCER FOUNDATION

Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute is looking for volunteers to provide transportation for cancer patients in The P-C-N Community. Call 561-8880 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

PLYMOUTH COURT NURSING CENTER

Ply. Court Nursing Center needs volunteers to assist resident activity programs, 455-0510.

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program needs volunteers in Canton area to help children needing tutoring with basic math and reading skills. Free training. Call 883-2100 ext. 368.

CARRIAGE PARK SENIOR COMMUNITY

Contact Heather at Carriage Park to share time and talents with residents. Call 397-8300.

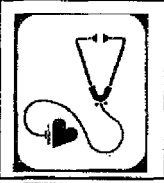
FISH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FISH of P-C always in need of volunteers to assist in aiding neighbors who can't help themselves. To be a driver, "caller", or to run errands, call 261-1011 and leave a message.



What's Happening

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Health

BREASTFEEDING CLASS

Breastfeeding class scheduled for tomorrow, 7 p.m. in West Addition Conference Room A at St. Mary's Hospital. \$15. Call (313) 655-1100 to register.

STRESS MANAGEMENT

St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia is offering "Stressed for Success," a three-week stress management program held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Mondays. Aug. 11, 18, 25 in Pavilion Conference Room A near south entrance. \$25. Call Community Outreach Dept. at (313) 655-2922.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

Detroit Area Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association offers a free support group for family members/friends of people with the disease or related dementia. Group meets third Tuesday of each month at St. John Neumann Church, 4480 Warren Rd., Canton from 7:30-9 p.m. Call Rosemary Shim at 326-1200 for info.

HEART CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Heart cancer support group at 7 p.m., second and fourth Monday of each month at Livonia's Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Call 422-1826 for info.

RESPIRATORY DISEASE ASSISTANCE

For those with respiratory diseases. Second Wednesday of each month at Arbor Health building in Plymouth from 2-3 p.m. Free. Call 712-5367 for info.

SMOKE STOPPERS

In combination with the "patch," or by itself, this program can help win the battle against smoking. Group and individual sessions available at St. Joseph Mercy Health Building, Plymouth and Ann Arbor. Call (313) 712-4141 for more info.

OSTEOPOROSIS SCREENING

Oakwood Community Focused Health Promotion Network provides low cost osteoporosis screenings at its Canton location. People under 35 years receive simple bone density screening, counseling and referral services for \$10. Call 1-800-543-WELL to register.

SENIOR EMERGENCY PRESCRIPTIONS

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



Groups

SPEECHCRAFT SEMINAR

Holy Smoke Toastmasters Club is offering Speechcraft, a speaking program for non-members. Sunday night seminars at 7 p.m. in July in auditorium at Plymouth Twp. Clerk's Office. \$30. Call Marc Sullivan at (248) 455-1635 for info.

CHAMBER GOLF OUTING

Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual golf outing Aug. 15, 8:30 a.m. at Fellows Creek Golf Course, Canton. \$500 a foursome, \$150 individual. Call 453-4040.

MEET OTHER MOTHERS

Meet Other Mothers invites you for guest speakers, discussion. Meet second, fourth Friday each month, First Presbyterian Church, Plymouth. Free babysitting. Call 453-4970.

GOD'S GOLDEN GIRLS

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church invites women over 50 for "God's Golden Girls." Meets, third Friday, each month, noon. Free lunch, must reserve. Call 981-0286.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON CIVITAN MEETING

Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club holds their monthly dinner meeting on the third Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at the Water Club Bar & Grill. Call Margaret at 455-6989.

CANTON REPUBLICAN CLUB

Canton Republican Club, which meets on the third Thursday of each month, will be meeting at Cherry Hill School at 7 p.m. Call Melissa McLaughlin at 495-0304 for info.

PLYMOUTH YMCA "Y" KIDS

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

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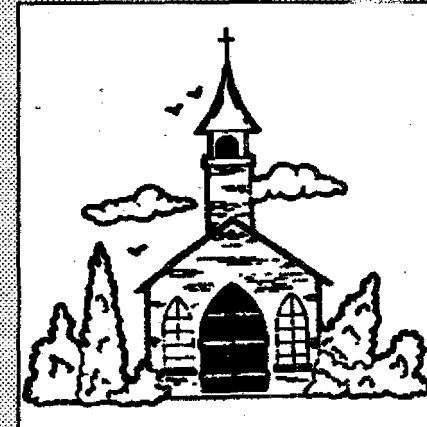
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National archery tournament on schedule

Two weeks until competition begins in Canton's first year as host

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

With less than two weeks until the 113th U.S. National Target Championships is held for the first time in Canton's Heritage Park, the tournament is right on target.

And it's bigger than ever, according to Bill Kellick, National Archery Association (NAA) communications and media relations manager.

"We've got more than 520 archers competing," Kellick said. "That's a much bigger tournament, particularly in the foreign field."

More than 130 international competitors

from more than 17 countries are expected for the event, Kellick said. Seven of the world's top women archers, including Turkey's number-one ranked Elif Altinkaynak, will be on hand.

The archers will converge on Canton for a week of intensive target shooting beginning August 2.

There will be several events during the week, Kellick said. Archers will compete for the U.S. Open title, shooting two full rounds of 36 arrows a piece: one at 90 meters, the next at 70 meters. The following day they'll shoot two rounds at 50 and

30 meters, Kellick said. There will also be a traditional tournament, which will celebrate the roots of archery.

"The archers will use primitive bows — no sights, no scopes, just the bow, arrow and skill," Kellick said.

On other fields during the tournament will be a crossbow target competition and a "clout round," according to Kellick.

"The clout round is something to see," he said. "The targets are laid out on the ground, and the archers shoot the arrows into the air to try to hit them on the ground."

Archery day camps will also be a part of the tournament. People of all ages can sign up and learn to shoot a bow and arrow, Kellick said.

The National Champion will be named Thursday. Soon after, there will be a team round, Kellick said. Archers will divide up into teams and shoot off two rounds as a tension release, Kellick said.

Friday will be an elimination round. The top 64 U.S. and foreign competitors in each category will line up two to a target, Kellick said.

"It's fun to watch and easy to keep track

of. It's quite a sight," he said. "All the archers will be in a line and they all shoot at the same time. Whoever makes the best shot goes on to the next round."

Canton's central location in the midwest may be a contributing factor to the success of the tournament, Kellick said.

"Michigan is a big archery state and

Canton is a pretty good location. It's a small town, but close to a major metropolitan area," he said. "It's also close to Canada, and we have many competitors coming in from there."

Canton officials have been doing their part to help

the NAA, Kellick said. Some employees and trustees are even opening their homes for international competitors to stay during the week.

Archers from the tournament will give a brief performance before the Detroit Tiger/Cleveland Indians game Monday Aug. 4. Tiger third baseman Travis Fryman, an avid archer himself, may participate.

"It's just something to let everyone know the tournament is here in town, free, and to come on out and see it," Kellick said.

More than 130 competitors from more than 17 countries are expected.

Canton Twp. says volunteers still needed to help with NAA tourney

So much is done, but so much more need to be done.

"We need volunteers," said Kathleen Salla, volunteer coordinator for Canton Township. "We're looking for people to assist as scorekeepers and assistants at day-camp."

Salla said she was looking for volunteers from ages 12 and up to help out in various functions; everything from assisting instructors to serving refreshments and passing out awards, she said.

"We particularly need people to collect score cards from shooters and give them to

score keepers," she said.

Teen volunteers looking for community service can fulfill those requirements at the tournament and earn high school credits, Salla said.

"Plus we'll give the first 100 volunteers a free T-shirt, and that's something not easy to come by."

Salla needs volunteers Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. and from 12:30 - 4 p.m.

Those interested can call Salla at (313) 397-6450.

Canton's Central Park closer to construction

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Central Park, Canton's largest Proposed Development District, is nearing the construction phase.

Tractors are poised and ready to begin initial work that would turn corn fields into soccer fields.

The PDD, located between Cherry Hill and Geddes Roads and Beck and Denton roads, is a 680-acre residential community that includes single family houses, detached condominiums, a nine-hole golf course and a 40-acre soccer complex, according to Community Planner Jeff Goulet.

The PDD will have a total of 894 dwelling units, according to Senior Planner Judy Bocklage. 164 of those will be in the 41 detached condominiums; the remainder will be on lots ranging in size from 85 feet to 120 feet.

"This is something that's been in the works for a couple of years," Goulet said. "I'm glad we've got it worked out to where we can start initial phase construction."

The developer would be responsible for paving Proctor Road west to Denton, and Denton from Proctor to Cherry Hill, according to Aaron Machnik, municipal services director for Canton.

"The developer is usually pretty cooperative," Machnik said. "Lots sell a lot quicker if they have paved roads leading to them."

The Township negotiated to secure an additional 40 acres west of Denton to add to the soccer complex, according to Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack. Water and sewer improvements were exchanged for a reduced land price.

"This project shows how much we've learned about development," Yack said. "It used to be that everyone had the same size plots. We were able to work within zoning ordinances to move units around and preserve open space for public use."

"This will be a really nice project," he added. "With the park and golf course and other preserved wetlands, there will be a lot of open space. It'll be a really upscale development."

Biz mixed during Art in Park

DBA may seek downtown feedback in survey

Continued from pg. 3

pered Art in the Park's success.

"Customers should be first and foremost," in the event's layout, she said. "When access to stores or vendors is difficult, that isn't putting them first."

Jancar, and her sister and coworker Mary Warncke, said they found Forest's sidewalk's crowded, too. "We had to get airlifted in," Warncke joked. "The sidewalks seemed like storage."

The pair said an expanded survey "would be a plus."

At such events, food and drink purveyors are thought to do exceptionally well. Some did. Denise Staffeld, new owner of The Plymouth Coffee Bean Company on Penniman Avenue, would not characterize weekend sales as out of the ordinary.

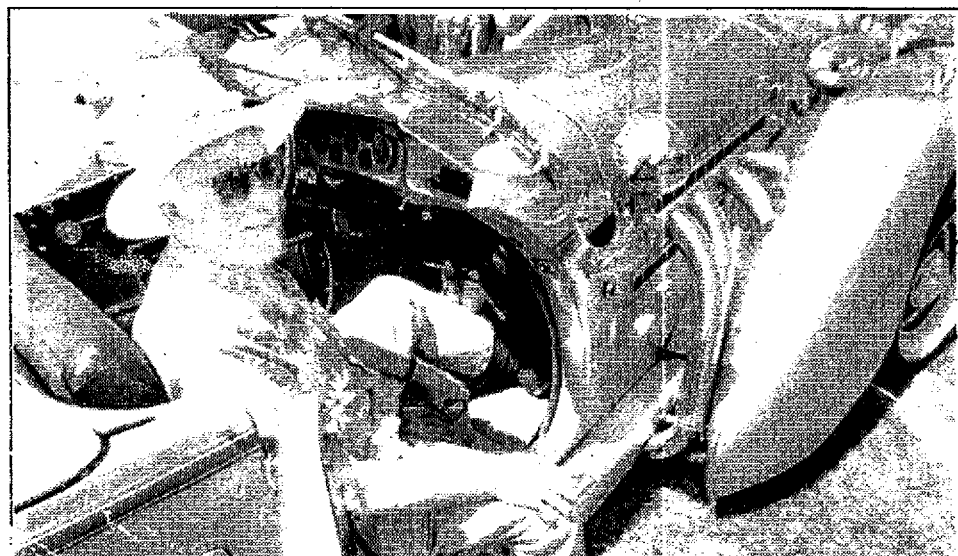
"We weren't disappointed. I think we did just fine" she said. "It was exciting because it was our first Art in the Park."

Staffeld said she would use the survey as a way to voice praise or concerns about the event. The Coffee Bean hosted a jazz DJ during Art in the Park, which conflicted at times with a musician set-up down the street.

The need for block leaders, or other rule-enforcement officials, was cited by several shopkeepers.

Pugh did not specify what questions might be included in the survey revision. Her concern, she said, is in using it to fix problems.

"Things that need adjusting can usually be fine tuned," she said. "Our concentration is right here in Plymouth, our front porch. We want to see how we're doing."



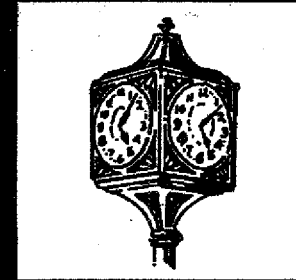
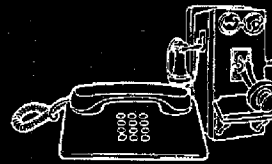
'Boat's on the Lake' Glen Franks, of Novi, proudly sits in his 1936 Auburn Boat Tail Speedster which he displayed Sunday with other land yachts at the "Heritage on the Lake" car show, sponsored by the Great Lakes Region Cadillac LaSalle Club at Canton's Heritage Park (Crier photo, R. Alwood, Jr.).



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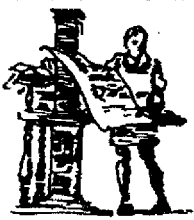
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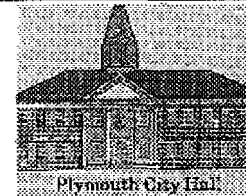
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Dear Martha et al: So glad to talk to you on Sunday last and know you are still holding your own. I have a feeling we are "survivors" and will be the ones who "turn out the lights." The important thing is to know who we are and not be anything less. I can remember that the council on aging had a wonderful program where the seniors would receive special privileges from the town merchants. It failed. The seniors had such an exaggerated opinion of their own importance, it was difficult to deal with them. I understand a new plan is being considered. Let us hope everyone has learned to give and to receive more graciously so the program has a chance. Be of good cheer. Love, Geneva John Wood and your grandson

As you know, one of our very large Maples was blown down and our criche destroyed in a recent storm. We had many calls from people who would clean up the premises in return for the wood. Then we had a very strange offer. You and your grandson would cut up the wood, clean up the area, and would take nothing for it. What a wonderful illustration of the "law of giving and receiving." Our heartfelt thanks for your bountiful gift. Let us hope that you too will receive in return for your generosity. With love, The Guenthers.

Dear "All of You" -Our creche will be replaced very soon. Thank you for your concern and good wishes. Geneva.

BEAUREGARD eats John Cleveland Water Club Grill shrimp salad -he goes there to enjoy the air conditioning.

BEN MOON -you gotta have heart. Best wishes on the operation. --Your COMMA, friends.

JOHN - no Iguanas ever again. You, however, can come back IF you stay in the treehouse. --Marge

HANK CZECHOWSKI got older again! Happy birthday in Clinton Township.

SHANNON'S BACK from Germany. Look out Plymouth-Canton. Liam is SOOOO BIG!

Happy belated birthday Russ B! You're the DRIVING force behind The Crier! Gery's birthday is less than 100 hours from now! Have fun!



Crier Classifieds

\$5.50 for the first 10 words, 20¢ each additional word.
 Deadline: Monday, 4 p.m. Call (313) 453-6900

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS!
 WE ACCEPT VISA & MASTERCARD



Curiosities

The Underhill-Cadys have left Plymouth for New York (only for a few weeks, though!)
 Look for The Crier's new newsboxes on the streets of Plymouth, Canton & Northville.
 Coming soon to a street near you! You can't miss 'em!
 Looking for memories of the J.L. Hudson Co. on Woodward Avenue in Downtown Detroit. Write to: Hudson's Memories, P.O. Box 5315, Plymouth, MI 48170-5315
 PETER AND VINCE build magnificent water purification plants all by themselves. (Good luck fishing!)
 KATRINA: Beauregard loved the chicken cordon bleu.
 MOM: thanks for quick stopover.
 Meryn - It was nice of you to visit us - Come visit again!
 Bob L. - Howie Mandel is coming to Pine Knob - how about another date?

Curiosities



Are Erica & Kim of Heide's Flowers & Gifts celebrating Christmas in July? I don't know but Santa looks like he's ready to.
 DIANE - Crazy Glue is not a dentistry tool!
 DANIELLE GUTHRIE is very excited getting to visit unique shops like Native West.
 Mr. V. we missed you! Glad you're back.
 JACK ARMSTRONG has already begun reserving prime positions for the 42nd Fall crier carriers are so cool!!

Curiosities



DAMON and STARWARS ALLIES: help! rescue us from your sister!
 BRYON - You definitely DO NOT HAVE WHAT I WANT!
 Elvis is Alive.
 JOHN THOMAS is HOT out there working for The Crier. -GO JOHN!

Curiosities

Don the Fire Inspector returns week-lost purses. What a great community. Honest Don, the Firemon!
 R.B. Holds out on cheesecake versus peach cobbler. Will Mavis catch on? What about delivering pizzas--does he hide slices on Mavis?
 Karl Maass-
 Get better soon! Your art-loving friends.
 Maura Thanks for the chains, I'll be sure to return them when I'm finished!
 Welcome back ShannonKENN CHRISTOPHER, Alias Mr. Wonderful doesn't let a black cast get him down.
 Fest Edition! Go Jack!
 FALL FEST is Sept. 5,6 & 7
 Mmmm Jimmy
 Thanks Hucal-or showing us all your manlyness
 Glad you are feeling better Geneva.

Help Wanted

\$5.50 for the first 10 words, 20¢ each additional word.
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 Plymouth Father needs a loving, mature, reliable bby sitter for 4 children (ages 3-8) in my home on alternating Fridays and Mondays from 7 am to 7pm starting in September. \$8.35 per hour Call David (313) 459-3739, leave message
 PART TIME BABYSITTER wanted 2-3 full days Mon-Fri year round, no eves. In our Home (313)455-6329

Bookkeeper wanted for Plymouth office. Quick-Pay. 10 hours per week. Flexible Schedule. Call (313) 451-2230
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Mayflower to file for permits today

Renovation plans done, next phases of renovations... to come

BY W. EDWARD WENDOVER

Look for the Mayflower Hotel to submit building permit applications to the City of Plymouth this week. The city-issued demolition permit includes removing the mansard and other exterior work that has yet to start.

According to Matt Karmo of the hotel, engineering for the renovations are "done 100 percent" and drawings are planned to be submitted to The City of Plymouth today.

City Building Department Chief Jim Penn acknowledged that Keith Karmo had picked up applications late last week and said, at that time, that plans were completed.

Currently, the hotel has a demolition permit which covers the inside work now complete on the first floor of the facility — which looks like a huge, open cavern stripped to the walls.

"It looks like the ultimate practical joke," Penn said. "Somebody took everything out."

I'm skeptical they'll be done by September 30... these kind of jobs always take longer.

Steve Walters
City Manager

they'll be done by Sept. 30, it doesn't seem like there's any ulterior motive here, except that these kind of jobs always take longer," the manager said.

Construction was to begin March 1, per the City Commission's agreement to help the hotel by forgiving a tax penalty and issuing an interest waiver. "I don't think it started quite that early," Plymouth City Manager Steve Walters said.

"On or about Sept. 30, 1997" was set by the commissioner as the construction completion date for the hotel. "The concern was if they hadn't gotten substantially underway" the city might need to step in, Walters said.

"Other than from a practical standpoint that I'm skeptical

Barbour was active in variety of roles

Continued from pg. 1

Many in The Plymouth-Canton banking world saw the match as a romantic story for the two, as they spent their retirement in Sun City, AZ and back in Plymouth.

The retired banker was often seen walking his two dogs downtown in recent years, and liked to stop and talk about old times.

Barbour's influence could be seen as well-wishers called this week. Among them was Al Glassford, former Plymouth City Manager.

In addition to his banking role Barbour was credited for his help in getting Schoolcraft College up and going, advising them on finance matters.

But it was his refusal of yet another transfer with

He saw the ways of banking change from loans to farmers based solely on reputation, to the "modern" application system.

Burroughs, because he liked the community, that brought Barbour to First National Bank of Plymouth — now NBD. He spent more than 30 years with the bank, where he was vice president and regional director.

He received his business administration degree from The University of Detroit and a master's in Banking from Rutgers University.

"He was one who never forgot that a part of the lending business was character," said his son-in-law, David Peat.

Barbour is survived by his wife Betty, daughter Pamela (David) Peat of Plymouth, MN; grandchildren Rachel Pea of Crystal, MN and Margaret Peat of Scottsdale, AZ; two brothers and three sisters.

He served as an officer in World War II.

Barbour was a former member of the Kiwanis Club Plymouth, and The Elks and Union Hills Country Clubs Sun City, AZ.

He moved to The Plymouth Community in 1950.

Wedding Day!

A n n o u n c i n g !

The Crier will print basic information about your engagement and or wedding, including a photo. (Street addresses will not be published, but we would like them for our records). Sorry, photos will not be returned. **Polaroid or Xerox photos will not be accepted.** If you need additional room, attach a piece of paper.

Bride's (maiden) name _____

Groom's name _____

Her hometown _____ His hometown _____

Married on Month _____ Day _____

Tell how couple met, where they married or give other comments: _____

If listing children, give first and last names and place of residence: _____

Number of grandchildren _____ Great-grandchildren _____

Your name _____ Day phone _____

Address _____ City _____

Send to: **Wedding Day!**, The Community Crier, 821 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI, 48170; (313)453-6900.

Baby!

A n n o u n c i n g !

The Crier will print basic information about local births. (Street addresses will not be published, but we would like them for our records). Sorry, photos will not be returned. **Polaroid or Xerox photos will not be accepted.** If you need additional room, attach a piece of paper.

Baby is a (check one): boy girl

Baby's full name _____

Mother's first and last name _____

Father's first and last name _____

Address _____ City _____

Born on Month _____ Day _____ Weight _____

Brothers and sisters (include ages): _____

Grandparents, great-grandparents and /or godparents (give first and last names and place of residence): _____

Other Information (if listing namesake, include full name, city): _____

Your name _____ Day phone _____

Address _____ City _____

Send to: **Baby!**, The Community Crier, 821 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, MI, 48170; (313)453-6900.



Sports

Sports shorts

Salem High School boys tennis tryouts Aug. 11-13 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Hilltop Golf Course (313-453-9800), located at the corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Beck Road. For tee time and more information, call Salem coach Rick Wilson at 416-7762.

Former University of Michigan softball pitcher Kelly Holmes was chosen Michigan's 1997 Female Amateur Athlete of the Year by Gov. John Engler's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports. Her outstanding pitching abilities led U of M to many successes and achievements, including a Big 10 Tournament championship and a fifth-place finish at the NCAA Women's College World Series. This year, Holmes, a Canton resident and Canton High School graduate, was also named to the GTE Academic All American First Team.

Plymouth Canton Junior Baseball League Final Standings:

National League — Dodgers, 13-0-1; Cardinals, 9-5; Mets, 8-5-1; Marlins, 6-5-3; Cubs, 6-7-1; Diamondbacks, 5-9; Braves, 2-10-2; Rockies, 3-11.

American League — White Sox, 11-3; Twins, 10-3-1; Orioles, 7-6-1; Royals, 5-8-1; Brewers, 5-6-3; Athletics, 6-7-1; Tigers, 5-9-1; Yankees, 3-10-1.

The Plymouth Recreation Department continues registration for its Summer Park Program.

The five registration locations are Kiwanis Park (Auburn and Junction streets), Jaycee Park (Harding and Joy), Garden Club Park (Sutherland and Forest), Rotary Park (Wing and Herald) and Fire House Park (Holbrook and Spring).

Each location will provide a schedule of supervised activities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Arts and crafts, active games, street showers, bowling, miniature golf and table games will accent the daily program.

Friday field trips are planned to the Detroit Zoo, the Skatin' Station,

Please see pg. 21

Canton Softball Center earns reputation as top sports complex

This weekend's Special Olympics event one of several tournaments hosted by nation's 2nd largest softball complex

BY BRIAN CORBETT

If baseball is treated as a religion in this country, and Abner Doubleday is its almighty creator, then the Canton Softball Center is its Mecca.

OK, maybe that analogy makes as much sense as Harry Carey's play by play.

But softball and baseball players from all over the country do make annual pilgrimages to the 12 diamond facility located on Michigan Avenue in southwestern Canton.

A previous home to the United States Slo-Pitch Softball Association World Series, this season the Canton Softball Center is hosting four USSSA national invitationals, two Great Lakes Division championships and four state championships.

Voted the 1995 National Sports Complex of the year, the Canton Softball Center is the site of 16,000 games a season and a home field for 850 teams each year. On average, 15,000 people visit the complex each week.

Billing itself as the "Champions of Tournament Play", the Canton Softball Center hosts such events every weekend with fields remaining for such special events as this weekend's Special Olympics State Softball Benefit and USSSA Girl's Youth Softball World Series.

The sprawling softball complex with its adjoining restaurant, Cleats, may seem sensible now with western Wayne County's housing boom. But 13 years ago it was as much as a gamble as a squeeze play.

It was 1985 when Aaron Jade built his field of dreams into reality — the second largest softball center in the U.S.

"There were really no softball fields in this area," says Corporate Manager Ginger Springer, an 18-year Canton resident. "There were the Rotunda fields in Dearborn, but they were strictly for Ford employees at the time. Ann Arbor didn't have anything, so there was a really need even then for softball fields. Also, he (Jade) had the foresight to recognize Canton's development potential. It's (housing) taken a little longer than we thought for it to get here, but it's coming along now."

While the population increase has provided additional opportunities for the Canton Softball Center — such as indoor soccer during the winter and baseball games — the schedule keeps the staff on their toes. "It's a very long summer. We're here all the time. Typically, management doesn't get a vacation during the summer," Springer said.



The Hot Shots' Lori Henry runs to first base during last year's Special Olympics State Softball Benefit at the Canton Softball Center, which will host the event again this weekend. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

It's also tough on the ground crew, who keep an eye on the weather via satellite hook up in an effort to maintain the intricate sprinkler and drainage systems, the neatly groomed and stone free infields and warning tracks, and precision trimmed outfields.

"The fields are our number one draw," said Springer.

But the Canton Softball Center isn't the only one benefitting from its reputation as Detroit's premier softball facility.

When a tournament comes to town so do 60 to 65 teams with 15 to 20 player per

club. Add to that an average of two visiting family members per player, and the economic spinoff is incalculable for nearby lodging facilities, shops and restaurants.

But the Canton Softball Center supports the community in more visible ways, too.

It's hosted several Canton firefighters and police benefits, and a fund-raiser for the Salem High School cheerleaders is planned for later this summer. "We want to be part of the Canton community, not just a business," said Springer.

Plymouth Parks & Rec Softball Standings:

Men's Blue Division — Varsity Ford, 10-2; D & D Video Transfer, 6-5; Nutro's Disposable Heroes, 6-5; Rusty Nail, 5-4; Cantron Sports, 3-8; Dealers Specialites of Metro Detroit, 2-8.

Men's White Division — UAW 845 Ford Sheldon Rd., 9-0; Roush Wheels, 8-1; Card It, 8-2; Crucam, 5-5; Box Bar, 3-6; Soil & Materials Engineers, 3-6; Zena Comp/Infomix, 3-6; Capital Communications Services, 3-7; Zena Comp/Infomix 1-5. Johnson Controls, 3-7; Adistra, 3-7.

Men's Modified — Portland Building, 8-2; Hoechst Celanese, 7-3; Insurance Exchange, 4-6; Canton Sports, 1-9.

Women's Slow Pitch — All for One/Gallagher Kaiser, 10-0; Shark Club, 6-3; Adistra, 6-4; Jamies, 7-5; N.W.C., 5-6; Rusty Nail, 4-6; Buddy's, 3-8; Lucas Landscaping, 2-11.

Co-ed Blue Division — Roman Forum, 7-0; Big "K", 8-1; St. Michael, 6-1; S.H.G., 4-5; The Great White Shark Club, 1-6; The Catalysts, 1-7.

Co-ed White Division — Team #8, 7-1; GLA Surveyor, 7-3; The Friends, 5-3; Crusaders, 5-3; Risen Christ, 3-6; Stan's Market, 2-7; Comcorp Cougars, 2-8.

The future is now

Compuware Sports Arena, Whaler coaches host camp for NHL draft picks next week; practices sessions open to public

BY BRIAN CORBETT

Hockey fans will be rescued from the sports world's summer doldrums when the Futures '97 camp blows into town at Compuware Sports Arena.

The week-long training camp for marquee players of the Ontario, Western and American hockey leagues will be held Monday through Friday.

Directed by Plymouth Whalers Associate Coach Steve Spott, Futures '97 is a conditioning and development camp designed specifically for minor league standouts recently drafted by NHL teams. "Basically, we're trying to prepare the guys for the NHL camps coming up," Spott said.

In its inaugural year, the camp's roster

features 10 players drafted in the first four rounds of the NHL draft and 30 players representing five teams.

Camp participants include Whalers Harold Druken (Vancouver Canucks, second round) and Randy Fitzgerald (Carolina Panthers, eighth round), the London Knights' Jeff Brown (New York Rangers, first round) and former Windsor Spitfire D.J. Smith (Toronto Maple Leafs, second round.)

And they'd better be ready.

Spott's itinerary features a 16-hour day, power skating, on-ice skills, practices and off-ice training. "I wouldn't be able to do it. That's why I'm coaching," said Spott, a former collegiate hockey player at Colgate University.

Morning and evening practices are open to the public. "This is a great opportunity for the public to see some of the NHL's future stars. The talent level at this camp will be outstanding. As coaches, it will be great to work with such high profile players. For the fans, we should see some great games between 3-4 p.m. each afternoon," Spott said.

Instructors Cindy Sudeyko and Andy Weidenbach will supervise the power skating sessions, while off-ice conditioning will be handled by Whalers Athletic Trainer Dave Hilger.

Goaltending Clinics will be directed by Whalers Associate Coach and former Detroit Red Wings netminder Greg Stefan. "As a former professional player, I believe that Futures '97 is a great benefit to players for their conditioning and on-ice skills. The camp will prepare the prospects for their NHL camps in early September," Stefan said.

This is reportedly the first time an OHL organization has hosted such a high profile camp. "We're ecstatic about filling the camp. It's going to bring a lot of scouts into the building," Spott said.



Plymouth Whalers Associate Coach Steve Spott (left) is directing the week-long Futures '97 training camp for NHL draft picks all next week at Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

Canton Race Day in the Park a success

The times are in from the fourth annual Race Day in the Park, sponsored by Canton Parks and Recreation. Perfect weather prevailed for the July 12 event. There was an overwhelming response for all three events: the 19th annual Five Mile Run, the fourth annual 5K Walk and the fourth annual Run Run for kids; with an overall turnout of more than 300 participants.

The participants in the One-Half Mile Run, ranging from three to 12-years-old all received ribbons as they crossed the finished line.

Participants in both the walk and the Five Mile Run not only received the official "Race Day in the Park" shirt, but were also eligible for thousands of dollars of business-donated prizes.

There were prizes given to the top three finishers in the walk and various age groups in the run. The winners of the walk are: first place, Harry Stoddard with a time of 27:11; second place, Luke

Skywalker (27:56); and third place, Terry Grimme (34:06).

Five Mile Run results: 14-Under winner, Eric Mink (34:35); 15-19 Male winner, Jared Biniecki (28:00); Female winner, Jennifer Bolton; 20-24 Male winner, Kristofer Forsyth (35:38); Female winner, Carrier Vanisacker; 25-29 Male winner, Adam Unsworth (26:29); Female winner, Tracy Cohen (35:47); 30-34 Male winner, Dave Moore (29:15);

Female winner, Laura Lynn Yacyone (35:30); 35-39 Male winner, Tom Gerou (27:28); Female winner, Lisa Coleman (33:18); 40-44 Male Winner, Stan Polkowski (28:24); Female winner, Diane Himebaugh (37:17); 45-49 Male winner, Dale Yagiela (31:11); Female winner, Linda Rains (39:45); 50-59 Male winner, Dominic Vella (32:46); Female winner, Marianne Bayne (37:13); 60 and over Male winner, Larry Mishler (35:45).

Canton Parks & Rec Softball Standings:

Red League — First Place Bar, 12-0; Pogo's/State Farm, 8-4; Mark's Midtown/Equitrust, 8-4; Mobility Transportation, 4-7; Shark Club II, 4-7; Target, 4-8; Don Coleman & Assoc., 3-8; Remax Classic Reality, 2-9.

White League — Mexican Fiesta, 9-2; Shark Club III, 9-2; Shark Club I, 8-3; ASAP Machine, 7-4; Beaver Creek/ARAMark, 6-5; American Yazaki #1, 2-9; Falcon Builders, 2-9; Rusty Nail, 1-10.

Green League — Prudential, 10-2; Fairway Club, 9-4; Ancor, 7-6; Dental Diplomats, 7-5; St. Michael #2, 6-6; Greenfield Dye and Mfg., 7-4; Bad Influence, 2-10; St. Michael #1, 1-12.

Sports shorts

Continued from pg. 20

Rolling Hills Water Park, Kensington Metro-Park and Oakland County Wave Pool.

A fun-filled field day is planned for the final date on Aug. 15.

Call the Plymouth Recreation Department at 455-6620 for more information.

The program is free and participants must be City of Plymouth residents.

The Canton Softball Center on Michigan Avenue will be holding tournaments every weekend through Sept. 21.

The Detroit Rockers will be holding summer soccer camps throughout the summer.

The Rockers will visit Heritage Park July 28-Aug. 1. The camp will run from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. and will cost \$119 each.

To register or for more information call 313-396-7070.

Salvation Army Tae Kwan Do class meets Mondays and Thursdays 6-8 p.m.. Cost, \$20 per person monthly; family plan available. Call Master Hernandez at (810) 539-7665, or the Salvation Army at 453-5464.

The Salvation Army Senior Volleyball team is looking for more players. If interested, stop by on Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 10 - 12 a.m. Players' annual fee is \$10. 453-5464 for info.

Canton Parks and Recreation Services is sponsoring Junior Tennis Camps throughout the summer at Griffin Park.

One camp remains, Aug. 4-7. The two age groups are Little Swingers from 4-6 years of age and Juniors from 7-15 years of age.

Instruction is for beginner to the intermediate level. Call 397-5110 for more information.

The Plymouth Whalers 1997-98 regular season schedule will include 33 home games and 33 away games.

Their Dec. 29 home matchup with Erie will be the OHL Game of the Week.

The Whalers open their season at home Sept. 20 against London and finish their home season March 11 versus Windsor.

Community opinions

Star quality in new VFW commander, former mayor?

Joe Bida played many roles in Plymouth life

A movie plot, maybe? Foreign terrorists have taken over a military school and its up to the aging drill instructor to lead the young recruits in capturing the infiltrators.

Well, OK. Maybe it's not quite that exciting. But there must be a movie in it somewhere. More like Sgt. Bilko?

Joe Bida has taken the Mayflower Lt. Gamble VFW Post #6695.

Some of you, who don't know Joe like our family does, may not recognize the significance in this rotund lightning rod.

I first met Joe in 1963 when he was running the old City of Plymouth dump in Salem Township. It was a Saturday morning ritual for us to haul the week's garbage from

Some of you, who don't know Joe like our family does, may not recognize the significance in this rotund lightning rod.

our Salem farm — and shoot the breeze with our neighbors at the dump.

Since then, we've seen Joe lead the City of Plymouth DPW and the Plymouth Township DPW become Mayor of

Plymouth. Now a Canton resident, Joe has headed fleet sales at Calhoun Ford and sold a street sweeper or two in his day.

A standing joke in The Crier newsroom was that Joe was "absolutely" quitting as Fall Festival manager or Farmers' Market master again this year. (In fact, when he really did quit those two posts he had a hard time getting anyone to believe it.)

With malice toward none



Now Joe has been elected Commander of the VFW post.

Will this be another contentious helmsmanship, such as City Hall saw when Joe was Mayor of Plymouth? It was a 5-2 vote

even for such decisions as whether the commission would meet at 7 or 7:30.

Will Joe ramrod through new prices on the VFW chesseburgers at lunchtime?

Seriously, for years the VFW has quietly

done its duty to The Plymouth-Canton Community.

Just this past July 4th, the annual chicken barbecue sold out of food and raised \$700 for the post, which uses its considerable muscle to raise money for scholarships, the Salvation Army, the Ann Arbor VA Hospital, Tonquish Creek Manor, girls' soccer, July 4th fireworks and other community activities.

It is especially proud, under past commander Bill Fletcher (oldtimers remember him from the City of Plymouth Police Department), to have donated flags for the new Plymouth Township Police Department Honor Guard — an impressive new drill team for the community.

And while the VFW post has been doing its many good things quietly, that will change now for sure.

Joe brings 75 years of kicking at the door to his post leadership. Watch for more VFW doings this year.



Joe Bida with fundraising poppies (Crier photo, R. Alwood, Jr.).

Fedewa: Jaycees showed July 4th leadership

EDITOR:

In response to your July 16 editorial about the Fourth of July celebration, I was pleased to read that you enjoyed the new format for the Parade. I agree with your conclusion that the event was a tremendous success. I was also pleased to see Fred Hill given public recognition for his efforts and support of the parade. This well-deserved tribute echoed the thanks that the Plymouth-Canton Jaycees had already given to him.

Support for Jaycees' parade

EDITOR:

The Plymouth-Canton Jaycees are to be commended for the great, revised Fourth of July parade. Getting Fred Hill involved to plan and organize the parade was a stroke of genius on the Jaycees' part, and I'm sure that next year will be even better.

Thanks, too, to the many merchants along Main Street who took the time to decorate their establishments with patriotic bunting and flags. It really added to the festive feeling as Plymouth said, "Good Morning USA." Hopefully next year even more merchants and building owners will catch the Fourth of July spirit.

RICHARD RAISON

EDITOR:

What a wonderful way to start the celebration of Independence Day! Our family thoroughly enjoyed the early morning parade downtown. We never miss the Plymouth parade, and this year it was great!

Our thanks for all the time, energy, expense, and creativity put into the production. We really missed the sirens though...what's a parade without the firetrucks blasting out their terrific noise?! My kids kept waiting for candy-hurling clowns as well. But it still was a fun morning enjoyed by all.

SYBILLE VOUGHT

However, I wish to bring to your attention two "facts" mentioned in your editorial. First, it is obvious that the author and members of the editorial staff were not at the Parade they so beautifully described. Had they been there, they would have known that the skydivers carrying the flag, although part of original plan, had to be canceled due to wind conditions.

The second is the insinuation that the Jaycees had submitted a fireworks permit on July 3. Apparently this was a reference to an incident that occurred 13 years ago, and has no bearing on the present or future leadership. Had the Crier bothered to check with either the Jaycees or the Fire Department, they would have learned that the application was submitted in April and approved in June. While this was a little later than normal, we were unsure until that time that there was enough support in the community for a parade with an anticipated budget of more than 15 times previous expenditures, and a decent fireworks display. The Jaycees learned that you can never underestimate the generosity and support of The Plymouth-Canton Community.

Finally, I disagree with your suggestion that the "Jaycees should pass the July Fourth mantle." Last September, long before most people were thinking about Independence Day, the Jaycees showed tremendous leadership and took quite a risk in changing not only the time, but the nature of the Parade. Given the results of the 1997 celebration, it is inconceivable that anyone would advocate the dismantling of a successful organizational effort. Yes, it is true that this year's celebration was successful largely due to the efforts of the few people named in your editorial, as well as literally hundreds of individuals not mentioned. For the past thirty years the Jaycees have managed to coordinate these efforts to put on a quality event. I am confident that they will continue this excellent tradition.

TIM FEDEWA
PRESIDENT, JAYCEES



Community opinions

Cady's selfless theory

If someone attempted to convince me that we live in a greedy, selfish society, I would beg to differ. In my opinion, the good outweighs the bad. So much goodwill abounds in Plymouth, Canton and the Metropolitan Detroit area that to name everyone would be next to impossible.

Fine examples of such selflessness were two local drives for the victims of the Red River Floods in North Dakota. The first of these two drives, held in early May at Plymouth's Pioneer Middle School, collected food and personal items. Needless to say, our community's generosity completely filled a 24-foot rental truck.

This truck was then driven to the flood-ravaged lands of North Dakota and unloaded in a randomly-chosen strip mall parking lot. Items were literally put into the hands of the people — avoiding any sort of red tape. For this undertaking, I truly commend drive coordinator Sharon Shemon and her cast of many for their ambition and perseverance.



As her husband Dan looked on, "Tools from the Heart" Coordinator, Sharon Shemon added her final thoughts to a list of contributors' names before the truck left for North Dakota June 23 (Crier photo, Maura Cady.)

In The Workshop

By Maura Cady



After this first drive, one might have been inclined to say, "Okay, that's enough. I'm tired. I've done my part." But no! Shemon and the people of our community returned for an encore performance!

I still feel very fortunate and heart-warmed that Shemon approached me to participate in the second of these two drives, appropriately named "Tools from the Heart," in which people donated tools to the flood victims of Grand Forks.

This time around, the generously donated 52-foot semi parked at Pioneer dominated my considerably smaller self. My thoughts of how immense this truck was must have echoed throughout the empty cargo space and out onto the streets! Would or could our community come through once more for people with whom they, most likely, had no connections? It didn't matter to Rush Trucking, though. One pallet or twenty-two, whatever was gathered would be delivered. That made me feel a bit better. Yet it was hard not to think, "Can we do it just one more time?"

My thoughts must have been heard loud and clear. Those who came forth — again — gave away pieces of their lives and even pieces of their family's history without batting an eyelash. We who were involved will never forget the functioning table saw built from scratch in the late 1920's, or the wooden tool boxes that, when opened, told of simpler times. Without a doubt, everything that crossed the threshold of our large truck struck a chord with me. I was able to connect the loving, concerned faces of these contributors to the hammers, saws and crowbars that were so desperately needed.

As the days progressed, it became obvious that my theory of good vs. bad was really true! With dirty hands, sweaty clothing and a definite lack of sleep, I questioned how I could ever have had a doubt that our community would come through once again.

After four weeks of meeting the people behind the donations, the semi was filled with 17 pallets of tools, tools and more tools! How great! How wonderful! What a thrill it was for me to experience the many reasons—personal and practical—for our community to join together in rebuilding not only the homes, but the lives of many courageous survivors!

On behalf of Tools from the Heart, I send my thanks to Plymouth, Canton and the Metropolitan Detroit Communities for all of the generous donations as well as the continued thoughts.

A deep, heartfelt thanks also goes to Sharon Shemon for giving me the chance to experience the good which prevails in our society.

Thank you for proving my theory right!

Vets thank Pursell

Fundraiser at former legislator's car wash helps pay for projects

Editor's note: This letter is directed toward Carl Pursell.

On behalf of the membership of the Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 528, I want to express our thanks once again for donating the use of your facility, Main Street Carwash-Main St., Plymouth.

The proceeds from this fundraiser will be used toward Chapter projects in 1997, e.g., defraying the cost of Chapter scholarships, totaling \$1,000, which were recently awarded, the Canton Literacy Council, the Annual Children's Fishing Derby in Hines Park, and maintenance of the Memorial in Kellogg Park plus contributions to other worthwhile projects of Veterans' groups and civic

organizations.

It is always a pleasure to be associated with an individual such as yourself, not for your generosity alone, but for your community concern. Many a business owner would brag about being community-minded, but very few would sacrifice a day's receipts to make such a point.

Thank you again for your kindness, generosity and friendship, to the Vietnam Veterans of Chapter 528, and to The Plymouth Community.

BASILIO RIVERIA
PRESIDENT, VVA CHAPTER 528

The Community Crier



THE
NEWSPAPER
WITH ITS
HEART IN THE
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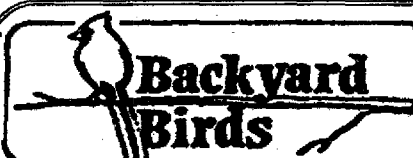
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