

The Community Crier

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

75¢

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August 19, 1998



Plymouth Twp. gets

Double whammy

Treasurer's work poor, says auditor | *Tax roll 3 months late to county*

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

The report is finally in, and Plymouth Township officials are licking their wounds.

Four months late, the Township's 1997 audit was scheduled to make its debut at last night's Board of Trustees meeting. What has officials reeling is not the audit, however, but the management letter which accompanied it.

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

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When Ron Edwards ran for Plymouth Township Treasurer, he said he would clean up Township finances. Nearly two years after his election, he finds his office dealing with its own messes.

In addition to the Township's problems

Please see pg. 14 for both stories

City begins Rec. cutbacks

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

City of Plymouth recreation has become an experiment.

Just days after receiving a letter from Plymouth Township saying no Township money could be contributed to support community recreation, City commissioners were forced to make several tough decisions Monday night in hopes of salvaging programs for their citizens.

Included in those decisions are the immediate raising of non-resident fees, the elimination of the recreation department and the termination of Recreation Director Tom Willette.

City commissioners said they hope these measures will help sustain, at least temporarily, a consistent level of recreation in the community.

"It's a short-term solution," said Mayor Don Dismuke. "But in the meantime I certainly see this as an option to maintain services for our citizens."

Please see pg. 14

Crying over spilled wine...Two weeks after he finished repainting the front of Pilgrim Party Store, on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township, painter Joe Catterall found himself rummaging through what was left of his work. An out-of-control van smashed through the storefront Friday around 5:30 p.m. Romeo Hesano, who was working with his brother and co-owner Richie, estimates damages at \$75,000 - \$100,000. The crash wiped out the rare wine collection Romeo has accumulated over the last 25 years, he said, including 50-year-old ports. The good news: nobody was hurt, and Romeo's Harley-Davidson wasn't parked out front in its usual place. (Crier photo by Bryon Martin.)

Look to the future

New Visteon plant manager wants to expand customer base
See Getting Down to Business pg. 8

Good day at races

Plymouth couple takes 1st in sailboat race to Mackinac Is.
See Friends & Neighbors pg. 6

Board scouts CSC

Canton may buy Canton Softball Center for leagues
See Getting Down to Business pg. 21

Canton cops cope with guns:

2 domestic calls, 9 weapons

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Canton Police confiscated seven guns while responding to two separate reports of domestic violence last week. Police are pursuing warrants for the suspects involved, according to Ofc. Leonard Schemanske.

Police responded Wednesday to one call in the Wagon Wheel Mobile Home Park. While en route, police learned that the suspect had a shotgun, Schemanske said.

According to reports, the suspect, whose name is being withheld until his arraignment, allegedly pointed a shotgun at his wife and threatened to kill her. The victim fled to a neighbor's residence and the suspect followed her.

When police arrived, the suspect dropped the gun returned to the trailer, barricaded himself inside, according to Schemanske.

"It was a tricky situation," he said.

Canton police spoke on the phone with the suspect for more than an hour, Schemanske said. The man said he had cut his wrists with a knife, and he beat his hands on one of the mobile home's windows, splashing blood on it, according to reports.

Sgt. Charles Raycraft ordered officers to force entry into the residence and the suspect was taken into custody after a brief struggle.

"He was very unstable," Schemanske said. "He's currently being held at a psychiatric facility at Detroit Mercy Hospital."

Schemanske said prosecutors have issued a warrant for assault with attempt to commit murder, and the suspect will be

charged and arraigned after a psychological evaluation has been completed.

Another incident occurred five days earlier. A 20 year-old Canton woman reported that when she returned home from shopping Aug. 7, she found her apartment a mess and her live-in boyfriend, apparently intoxicated, watching adult movies with their 20-month old son, according to reports.

The victim told him to clean up and change the channel and an argument ensued, wherein the suspect, whose name has not been released pending charges, became threatening.

The victim locked herself in a bathroom with a cell phone and the suspect allegedly retrieved a 9mm Glock pistol, according to reports.

He told her that if he heard the cell phone turn on, he would shoot, reports said.

She gave him the phone and he left the residence.

The victim reported the incident three days later at Canton Police Department. Officers found a veritable arsenal at the residence, including two 12 gauge shotguns, two 20 gauge shotguns, a Glock 9 mm pistol, a .30 caliber rifle, a knife, a bow and a large bag of ammunition. Police confiscated the weapons and took them to CPD for safekeeping.


Officials are seeking warrants for the suspect, who has not made contact with the victim since the incident, reports said.

Schemanske said responding to a domestic situations involving weapons is a very tense situation.

"It really perks you right up," he said. "About an hour later you can't even write the report because you're shaking too badly from all the adrenaline."

It really perks you right up. About an hour later you can't even write the report because you're shaking from the adrenaline.

- Ofc. Leonard Schemanske

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Canton police nab Subway suspect asleep

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Canton Police arrested a 21-year-old Ann Arbor man Thursday, shortly after he allegedly robbed the Subway restaurant on Michigan Avenue, near I-275.

According to police reports, the man, Anthony David Mazzie, entered the restaurant from the north door and went directly into the bathroom at the rear of the restaurant.

About five minutes later, Mazzie allegedly walked out of the bathroom holding a 6-inch knife in his left hand.

He approached the counter, took something from an employe's purse and forced her to open the register, according to reports. He then fled the scene.

Canton police, with the help of Van Buren Township's K-9 Unit, tracked the suspect along Michigan Avenue to nearby Jonathon's restaurant and then east to the neighboring McDonald's parking lot before the K-9 lost the scent.

"We spread out and canvassed the area," Ofc. Leonard Schemanske said. "We interviewed everyone in the vicinity."

Interviews turned up a man matching the description of the suspect sleeping at the nearby Willow Acres Motel, Schemanske said.

He was arrested without incident.

Addenda & errata

A story in last week's Crier said that the Michigan Nurses Association does not lobby. It's political action committee does, however, on behalf of the state's nurses.

827 kids at least... played a part in taking the idea of a children's collaborative mural from inspiration to installation. The mural, unveiled Sunday at Plymouth's Dunning-Hough Library, depicts kids at play with dinosaurs, a theme already rampant in the children's section. The mural began as an idea from Diane and Raychel Quinn, the mother-daughter team who organize Art in the Park. Having kids work together on a giant painting seemed a good way to get them involved in the annual art event already popular with adults. The Quinns asked local artist Mike Carne to draw the image, which Sharon Dillenbeck then enlarged and transferred onto a canvas built by Torb Guenther. Bill Schwartz built a frame for the canvas which sat in Kellogg Park during the July art show. Lisa Rupert added a few details and outlines to the mural squares, filled by kids from as far away as California, France and Brazil. With 800 kid artists contributing, Raychel is trying to get recognition from the Guinness Book of World Records. According to Carne, though, you could count the "adults" who were involved in making the mural, too. "You're really talking about 827 kids at least." (Crier photo by Bryon Martin.)



Agenda

THIS WEEK

- Tomorrow, Canton's DDA meets at 6:30 p.m. in the Canton Administration Building.
- Friday at 6:45 p.m., Pamela Ransford will play a free concert in Plymouth's Kellogg Park. Sponsored by the Plymouth DDA.
- Friday at 7:30 p.m., Stronghold will put on a free concert in the gazebo on Main Street in downtown Northville. Sponsored by the Northville Arts Commission.

NEXT WEEK

- Tuesday is the last day to file an agenda item for address at The City of Plymouth's Sept. 9 Planning Commission meeting. Tuesday, Canton's Zoning Board of Appeals meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Canton Administration Building on Canton Center Road.
- Thursday, Howdy Schryer and friends will host an Old Timer's picnic at Plymouth Township Park, beginning at noon. Call Howdy for reservations at 734-453-0114.
- Friday, Canton holds its 3rd annual "Summer's End" dance for seniors at Summit on The Park. Call 734-397-5444.

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Municipal merger fading

City support for joint services dept. slackens, letter to Twp. says why

BY BRYON MARTIN

Plymouth's City Commission is at a consensus: they have reservations about how much benefit the City would get by merging its municipal service department with the Township's.

As the City sees it, a list of the pros and

cons associated with merging municipal services presents six reasons to go ahead, and 14 reasons to not.

A committee of three City and three Township representatives which has been exploring the merger will meet again Sept. 2. In preparation for that meeting, the

Commission is sending a letter to the Township to explain its reservations about the logistics of how a joint municipal service department would work and the issues it would face.

Such reticence stands in contrast to the eagerness the City had expressed earlier this year.

"I was very excited about the merger," Mayor Don Dismuke said. "I've been very proactive in pushing this forward. But the more details we get, the less sense there is in doing it."

No final decision has been made yet, but according to officials, the Commission will back a merger only if the City stands to reap considerable benefits.

"I have yet to see an answer on whether we should go ahead with it or not," Commissioner Dave McDonald said. "I can be sold on anything titled shared services, as long as the scales tip to a substantial benefit for the City.

"At this point," he said, "it's more to the benefit of the Township."

Please see pg. 12

Wreck scrutinized

BY BRYON MARTIN

When a few thousands gallons of diesel fuel leaked from a ruptured tank in the Aug. 6 train wreck in Northville Township, a small pond caught much of the spill. It may have also played a part in causing the wreck.

A variety of sources at or near the site have said that the pond is actually a culvert that was blocked from draining at one end using a dam made of wooden boards and PVC pipe.

Hans Peterson, whose home and business about the tracks at Mill Street, said he saw the dam. He suspects that pressure from the water that accumulated in the culvert after heavy

rains finally burst through the embankment and washed out the tracks, causing the accident.

"It was blocked to such an extent that water didn't drain anywhere near the rate it needed to," he said.

Water has been puddling on Peterson's side of the embankment for about 10 months, he said.

A confidential source from CSX said investigation of the wreck, which caused at least \$30,000 in damages, has been handed to the FBI.

Special Agent Dawn Moritz said she cannot

Please see pg. 7

At long last, Canton F.D. moves in

*8 months later than expected
Firefighters get cozy in new home*

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

An intercom squeaks and comes to life with a hum.

"Testing, one, two three."

There's a few moments of silence, then the pattern is repeated.

Someone flicks a switch, pushes a button and unlocks the front door from the other side of the building.

Elsewhere in Canton's new fire station, lockers are filling and uniforms and hoses are being hung. Firefighters grapple with heavy equipment and trucks and ambulances gleam on newly poured concrete.

The day Canton firefighters have been waiting for has finally arrived — moving day.

Monday, firefighters began the long process of moving into their new home Monday, Canton's recently completed Fire Station Number One.

"It's all coming together now," said Mike Rorabacher, Canton fire chief.

Built at a cost of about \$2 million, the station will replace the facility at the corner of Canton Center and Cherry Hill roads, a more than 20-year-old structure. The benefits are too numerous to mention, according to Sgt. Jack Raker.

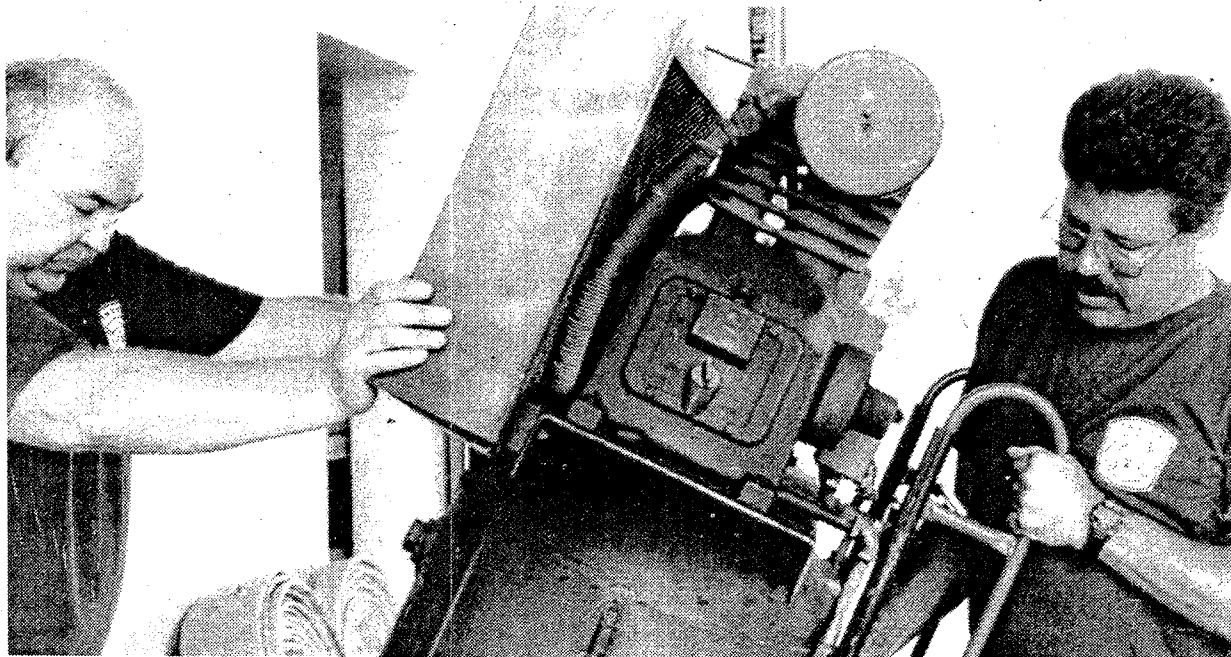
First off, there's the space. The new station is built to house 12 firefighters with beds,

lockers showers, a full kitchen and a table big enough for the entire staff. It also has a separate leisure room, a weight and exercise room and nearly triple the inside and outside storage space as the old station.

The station is a step above technologically as well. With modern radio and intercom systems, firefighters can hear what's going on in virtually any part of the building, which means when a call comes in, it takes less time to spread the word.

The department will also begin dispatching calls over the radio, which will cut down on response times, Rorabacher said.

"Anyone already out on a run will head the calls going out also," Rorabacher said. "It should give us a faster response time and help keep the command officer informed."



Canton firefighters Lt. Bill Grady and Sgt. Jack Raker grapple with an air compressor as they move into their new home at Fire Station No. 1 on Canton Center Road (Crier photo by Scott Spielman).

The station's gigantic garage is complete with high-tech ventilation hoses that attach to trucks to enable them to run indoors and detach just as quickly when the trucks leave the garage, saving time and increasing efficiency.

It's been a long time coming. The station was originally scheduled to be complete Jan 1. But chronic contractor delays and mistakes

continued to push the project back throughout the year.

Firefighters are using it as a base and sending runs from it now, and will continue to test equipment and turn it into a livable station.

They expect to be completely moved in and operational for their open house, which is scheduled for Oct. 2.

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Canton's new Kohl's opens, quietly

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Although construction is still ongoing, and exterior improvements have yet to be made, Kohl's is officially open for business in Canton.

Kohl's department store broke a nearly year-long media blackout and announced — through their landlords — their grand opening celebration Friday.

The national department store moved into the site in New Towne Centre, on the corner of Sheldon and Ford roads, after Kmart moved out last September. Kmart moved into a larger SuperKmart facility on Ford Road between Lilley and Haggerty.

"We're obviously thrilled to bring Kohl's to Canton Township," said Dennis Gershenson, president and CEO of Ramco-Gershenson., who leases space to Kohl's. "When Kmart wanted to expand it was obvious that we could not accommodate their needs," Gershenson said. "With Kohl's moving in it was a win-win situation for everyone. It was the best of both worlds."

Under their 20-year lease agreement, Kohl's paid for all the interior renovations the 90,000-square foot site required. Ramco-Gershenson paid for exterior renovations, which included a new brick facade and parking lot improvements.

To dress up the lot — an expanse of

blacktop facing Ford Road — Ramco installed several landscape islands and will also install the lightposts along Sheldon Road prescribed by the Canton DDA, Gershenson said.

Parking lot improvements also included removing the barricades between New Towne Centre and another shopping center to the west.

"When that property was built they put the drive in without speaking to us," Gershenson said. "In the end it does make sense to have a connection to adjacent properties. We just didn't want to turn the front drive into a speedway."

Kohl's was a perfect match for the site for many reasons, Gershenson said. They fill a clothing niche that didn't exist before in Canton and will fit in well with a growing community, he said.

"What we like best about Kohl's is that it's a beautiful facility. It's their latest state-of-the-art store," Gershenson said.

The store opened for business Sunday, but it was a soft, or unannounced opening. The store will have an official grand opening celebration Friday and Saturday, from noon to 2 p.m. A \$500 shopping spree will be given away and kids can meet Snoopy, have their faces painted or be entertained by clowns.

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Friends & neighbors

Neighbors in the news

Andrea Ramsay of Plymouth has graduated from Columbia University in New York.

Army Pvt. **Joel A. Santos**, son of **Armando R. and Katherine L. Santos** of Canton, has graduated from the multiple launch rocket system (MLRS)/fire direction specialist course at Fort Sill, Lawton, OK.

He is a 1994 graduate of Canton High School.

Dale T. Verran has been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army through the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program after graduating with a bachelor's degree from North Georgia College and State University, Dahlonega.

Verran is the son of **Tom F. Verran** of Northville.

Alexander M. Bain, son of **Donald B. Bain, Jr.** of Plymouth, graduated from the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Advanced camp at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, WA.

He is a 1995 graduate of Salem High School.

Dominic R. Wragg, son of **Anthony K. and Kathleen J. Wragg** of Canton, has been offered an Air Force ROTC scholarship.

Upon graduation and completion of their ROTC program, the cadet will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Force.

Jennifer Blythe Culbertson of Plymouth has been named to the Faculty's Honor's List at the College of Charleston.

Army Pvt. **Adam J. Borchardt**, son of **Sharon L. Schnepel** of Plymouth, has entered basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, GA.

He is a 1998 grauaute of Salem High School.

Samuel David McGrath of Plymouth has been named to the Founder's Day Honors List at Indiana University.

Matthew M. Huber, son of **Mary and John Huber** of Plymouth, has received a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Lake Superior State University.

A good day at the races

A few weeks ago The Crier announced a 'What I did on my Summer Vacation Contest,' with the intent on publishing some pictures of Plymouth-Canton-Northville residents in exotic locales.

Barbara and Darnell Cope didn't go too far for their vacation, but the description of their day makes up for it.

Here's what Barbara Cope of Plymouth wrote about the night Darnell sailed to victory at the Port Huron to Mackinac race:

"The annual Port Huron to Mackinac race is a much anticipated event in our home. Darnell has sailed 16 of these

races and has found none as exciting as this year's race.

"The race began July 11 with *Limerick*, our 34-foot S2, in a class of nineteen boats. Winds were very light at first but Darnell and the crew of eight sailed to a first place finish with a 36 second lead. That is really something considering the race took 57 hours to complete!

"Thursday July 14 was the awards party, but before that we had a wedding to attend. Crew member Frank Rolf married Debbie McAlty on the *Limerick* at 11 a.m. After a five minute service, the reception followed, also on the *Limerick*.

"We celebrated with our families at the awards party: What a wonderful time. First place, a wedding and family!"

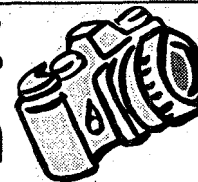
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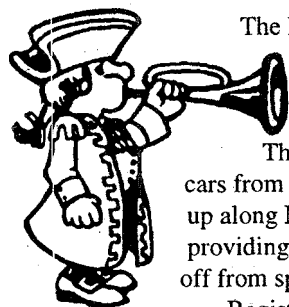
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Be a part of Fall Festival



The Fall Festival is looking for a few good cars.

The Antique and Performance Car Show, a popular part of the Festival for years, will be held Sept. 13th.

The event attracts more than 100 of the finest cars from Southeastern Michigan. They will be lined up along Main Street and Penniman Avenue this year, providing more space for cars. All Cars will be roped off from spectators.

Registration for the show is \$5 in before Aug. 31 and \$10 at the gate. The following awards will be given out:

- Mayor's Choice Award
- Fire Chief's Choice Award
- Police Chief's Choice Award
- Ladies' Choice Award
- Men's Choice Award

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Make way for produce... Bulldozers began tearing down three buildings at Plymouth Square Apartments Monday to make room for a new Kroger store. The Kroger store currently located at Ann Arbor and Sheldon roads will be torn down as well when the new larger store is built. (Crier photo by Scott Goodwin)

'Culvert was blocked'

Continued from pg. 3

confirm whether the Detroit office of the F.B.I. is involved in the investigation, but said federal laws give the bureau jurisdiction over such incidents.

Moritz said the F.B.I. would take an interest in the wreck if it involved a threat to interstate commerce, or if CSX asked them to join its own investigation.

CSX did not return calls to respond to questions about a possible investigation.

According to Partap Lall, an engineer with

the Environmental Protection Agency, CSX is investigating the wreck because it appears someone tampered with railroad property.

"That's what the investigation is about," Lall said. "The culvert was blocked."

Bill Zhmendak, Northville Township fire chief, said he did not see the dam but heard of its discovery while at the scene Aug. 6.

"I heard about some kind of obstruction or PVC pipe to restrict the water flow," he said. He did not investigate it at the time, he said. "We were concerned with the fuel. We turned it over to the CSX police."

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Getting down to business

Neighbors in business

MEDHEALTH Systems

Corporation announced the grand opening of their new orthopedic clinic. Joseph Walkiewicz, D.O. and Jeffrey E. Lawley, D.O. will direct the orthopedic program, which will start on Wednesdays in early August at MEDHEALTH's Plymouth location, near M-14 and Beck Road.

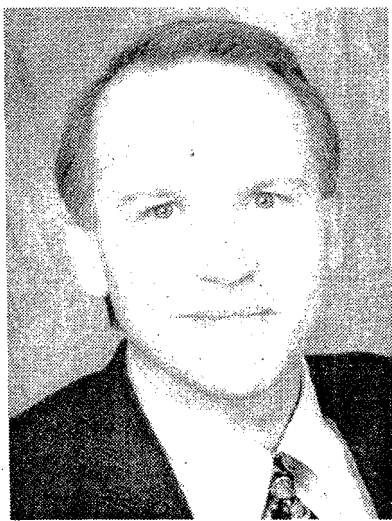
In addition to the Wednesday afternoon hours, MEDHEALTH will also offer a Sturday morning sports injury clinic.

1988 commenced the grand opening of Pilgrim Motorsports, a 15,000 square foot facility situated on three acres in the City of Plymouth at 260 W. Ann Arbor Road.

A 10 year celebration is taking place through August, with special financing on jet skis and motor cycles, in conjunction with current factory rebates.

Pilgrim Motorsports is a nationally recognized dealership, earning many vendor awards such as Suzuki's Top Performer's Club award, which is given to top 100 dealers in the U.S. They have also received the Kawasaki ICHIBAHN award, which is only given to 10 dealers annually, for the past three years.

The company donates to March of Dimes, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Parade Foundation and many other local charities.



James V. Clarke has been promoted to Vice President of Operations for Robertson Brothers Company, a leading residential company in southeastern Michigan.

The company is currently developing homes in Canton at Cherry Knoll and the Links at Pheasant Run as well as developments in other areas.

Looking to the future

New Visteon plant manager wants to expand customer base

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

As the first resident engineer at Mazda's Trenton Plant, Lou Whitlock didn't even have an office. He carried his work around in a box and used whatever phone was nearby and available.

But Whitlock never let that adversity stop him from doing his job, and now, 20 years later, Whitlock has that office, and it's one that has been in the Ford family for years.

As the new plant manager of the Visteon Sheldon Road plant, Whitlock works out of an office once used by William Clay Ford. But that's only when he's not meeting with union representatives, walking the work floor or giving tours to potential customers.

It's a culmination of a long career with Ford and Visteon that has led Whitlock on a circle tour of the Midwest.

It started at the Mazda plant, which Whitlock considers a formative experience.

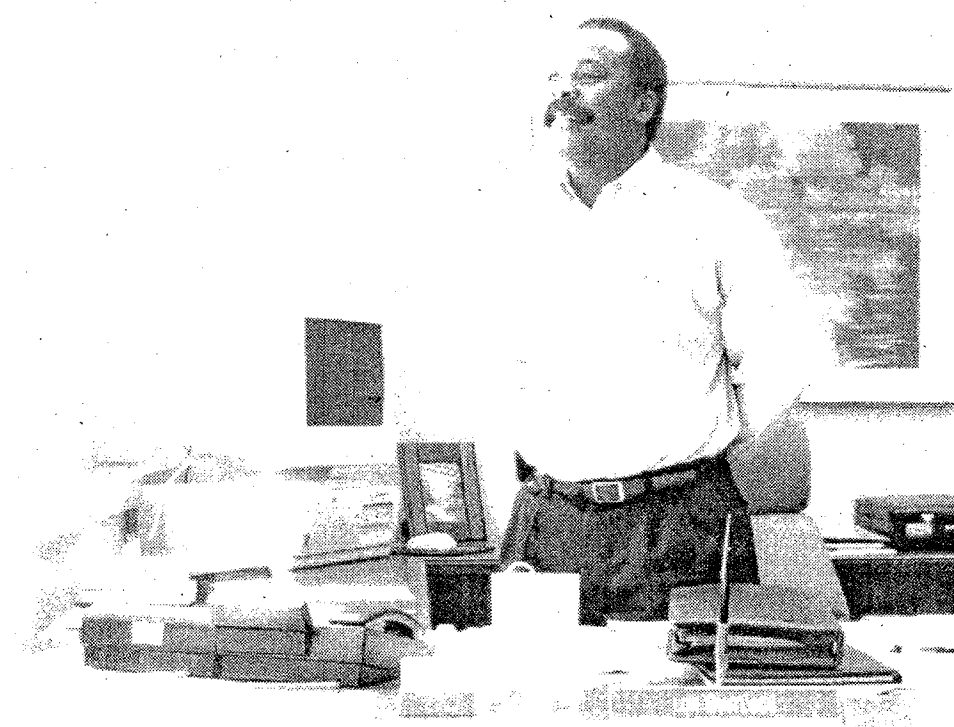
"It was trying, but very beneficial," he said. "They showed some reluctance with working with outsiders, but by the end of the project I had turned things around and earned their trust."

Whitlock's project was to design electronic parts that would replace cable-driven systems such as dashboard instrument panels. Working on automotive innovations would be a recurring theme throughout Whitlock's career with Ford. He worked on teams that designed the prototype for Ford's remote keyless entry system as well as other innovations such as fuel systems and air bags.

His previous job was as plant manager of Visteon's Bedford Plant in Bedford, IN.

The Sheldon plant is quite a jump for Whitlock, in both size and workforce. At 1.1 million square feet, the plant is nearly triple the size of Bedford's 400,000-square-foot plant and it employs nearly 2,000 people.

Whitlock says he intends to tackle the job in much the manner that he's tackled every other position he's held throughout



Lou Whitlock, new manager of the Visteon Sheldon Road plant, has more than 20 years of experience with Ford and Visteon. (Crier photo by Scott Spielman).

his 21-year-career at Ford: by establishing a trust and working with open communication with all the members of the workforce.

"We're trying to establish and identity here at Visteon, and the employees are a large part of it," Whitlock said. "If you communicate openly with them, they'll know exactly where the company is going and they can feel a sense of pride by being involved."

Visteon is an enterprise of Ford Motor Company, that absorbed the plant last year. With an eye on a bigger, more international market, Visteon has continued to design and sell climate control devices as well as keep their affiliation with Ford clear to the community.

Whitlock hopes to encourage that growth and push the company into new markets. And with Visteon establishing a Climate Control Systems Division headquarters barely a mile away and the Hilton Gardens being constructed across

the street, Whitlock knows the pressure — and the spotlight — will be on him and the plant.

But that doesn't worry him though.

"I don't get intimidated," he said. "I like to go back to that old commercial, which says 'Never let them see you sweat.'"

Whitlock's confidence stems from ensuring that the plant is always running smoothly and is ready for an inspection or visit from potential clients. Having a top notch staff doesn't hurt either, Whitlock said. In fact, when potential clients tour the facility, he encourages them to talk to the plant workers.

"They're our best resource," he said. "I'm just overhead. I don't build a single part."

Whitlock said he hopes to build on those resources by fostering a relationship of trust with the employees. He said he will maintain an open door policy and encourage workers to bring any complaints to him.

"If people don't think they can talk to me then it almost feels like a class atmosphere," Whitlock said. "People spend more of their waking hours here than anywhere else. It can't be a place to just do their job. I want to generate some excitement about Visteon. We want to be larger than Ford will allow us to be."

“The employees are our best resource. I’m just overhead. I don’t make a single part.”

— Lou Whitlock
manager,
Sheldon Road Ford Plant,
Plymouth

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THE COMMUNITY CRIER: August 19, 1998, Page 9

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August 13, 1998

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What's Happening

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



Volunteer

ADULT DAY CARE

Plymouth Adult Day Care is for senior citizens who require supervision and who can benefit from a program of recreation/therapeutic activities. Cost is a suggested donation for Wayne County residents. Located at 16115 N. Beck Road, Northville. For more information call (734) 451-1455.

HIGH SCHOOL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The SHARE! Program still needs host families for students ages 15-18 arriving in August from over 28 countries including Germany, Japan, Brazil, China, and Poland. The students will be staying for 5 to 10 months. Interested Plymouth area families should contact Beth Schumann at the SHARE! National Office at 1-800-321-3738.

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

PLYMOUTH-CANTON HEADSTART PROGRAM



Groups

PLYMOUTH-CANTON BALLET COMPANY AUDITIONS

The Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company will hold open auditions for dancers **Friday, Aug. 21 at Joanne's Dance Extension, 9282 General Drive, Suite 180-190, Plymouth MI.** Two audition classes will be held: **Ages 9 years to 12 years: 5-6 p.m.; ages 13 years and older: 6-8:30 p.m.** There will be a \$5 audition fee. For more information call (734) 397-8828.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON CIVITAN MEETING

P-C Civitan Club holds their monthly dinner meeting, on the third **Thursday** of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Water Club Bar & Grill. Call Barb Kobiela, 464-1129.

HEART CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The heart cancer support group meets the second and fourth **Monday** of each month, 7pm, at Northville's Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Call 422-1826.

GOD'S GOLDEN GIRLS

Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church invites women over 50 to join "God's Golden Girls." Meet third Friday of each month, noon. Free lunch with reservation. Call Pattie, 981-0286.

CANTON REPUBLICAN CLUB

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

PLYMOUTH YMCA "Y" KIDS

For children ages 3-5. Openings for afternoon sessions. Age 3 meets Tuesday and Thursday, ages 4-5 meets Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Call YMCA, 453-2904.

PLYMOUTH ORATORIO SOCIETY

Society invites interested singers to join this year's performances, including Brahms' Liebeslieder Waltzes and the Duruflé Requiem. Practices held weekly. No audition necessary. Call Clark or Karen Chapin, 453-4765.

VILLAGE POTTERS GUILD

Guild is dedicated to advancement, education of ceramic arts; 25 members share space, equipment for pottery production. Classes each semester. Call 207-8807.

Service merger: 'What's in it for the City?'

Continued from pg. 3

Right now the City's department is the larger of the two in terms of staff, equipment and services performed. Under the current plan, it would absorb the Township's staff and equipment, forming

the Community Municipal Service Department.

The Township would then pay a flat monthly rate to the City to cover the costs of the expanded staff and workload, and for services beyond that flat rate.

Such an agreement would benefit the City in a few ways, according to a breakdown prepared by City Manager Steve Walters. Benefits would include:

- Savings — \$50,000 would be saved in the first year by splitting administrative overhead costs with the Township, such as employe salaries.
- Growth — the CSMD could send a larger crew to respond to emergencies, such as water main breaks, while remaining workers pursued ongoing projects, such as street repairs.
- Staff — morale would improve through a wider variety of assignments, more flex in scheduling and group work.

mates.

Walters' analysis goes on to list other logistical concerns.

It raises an eyebrow over how Township resident's calls for service would be routed, whether through the City of Township.

It also questions whether they would understand and accept that CSMD would continue to provide many services to City residents — leaf collection, snow removal — which would not be provided to Township residents. Such a discrepancy might look like prefer-

ential treatment, according to Walters.

The prospect of a confused and confounded department doesn't sit well with the Commission, particularly at a time when City Hall is giving its own department high marks.

"Our Department of Municipal Services is our first priority," Commissioner Colleen Pobur said, adding that she is very happy with its recent performance. Breaking with that status quo through merger would have to make "fiscal and practical" sense, she said.

McDonald suggested that, right now, it doesn't.

"My feeling is, right now, I wouldn't support it," he said. "Tell me what's in it for the City."

City-Twp. relations:

State of love and trust?

Joint recreation is kaput. Shared municipal services is on its way out. A recent letter from the Township to the City Commission expressed "dismay," over comments they'd made in the local papers.

The current climate of City-Township relations might lead the average Plymouthite to ask, "Where is the love," especially as the City and the Township head toward sharing the \$1.3 million cost of a railroad underpass at Sheldon Road and M-14.

In the past, when times have been good they're been great. In 1994 the Plymouths' got together to join fire departments, a union that has, by all accounts, served both municipalities well while reducing costs. The Community Fire Department has become the epitome of successful City-Township mergers.

Last summer, the City Commission and the Board of Trustees held a joint meeting to announce their Ann Arbor Road Corridor plan. Ann Arbor Road separates the Plymouths, and standards of appearance for businesses along the road were different on each side. The ARC created common zoning requirements, smoothing the distinction between City and Township.

Lately, though, smooth hasn't been the watchword. The letter from Supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy decried "the intensity of negative rhetoric on the part of some Commissioners," during recreation merger talks. Such comments tend "to dampen enthusiasm for cooperative efforts," she said.

According to Commissioner Stella Greene, the City-Township relationship always has its share of grouchiness.

"In any family there's disagreement," she said Monday, joined by Commissioners Colleen Pobur and Ron Loisel in pointing out that even successful issues like the shared fire department went through dark days. They said they don't expect current bile to affect upcoming underpass talks. "I trust logic will prevail," Pobur said.

6 Our Department of Municipal Services is our first priority. 9

**— Colleen Pobur
City Commissioner**

1998 FALL GUIDE TO



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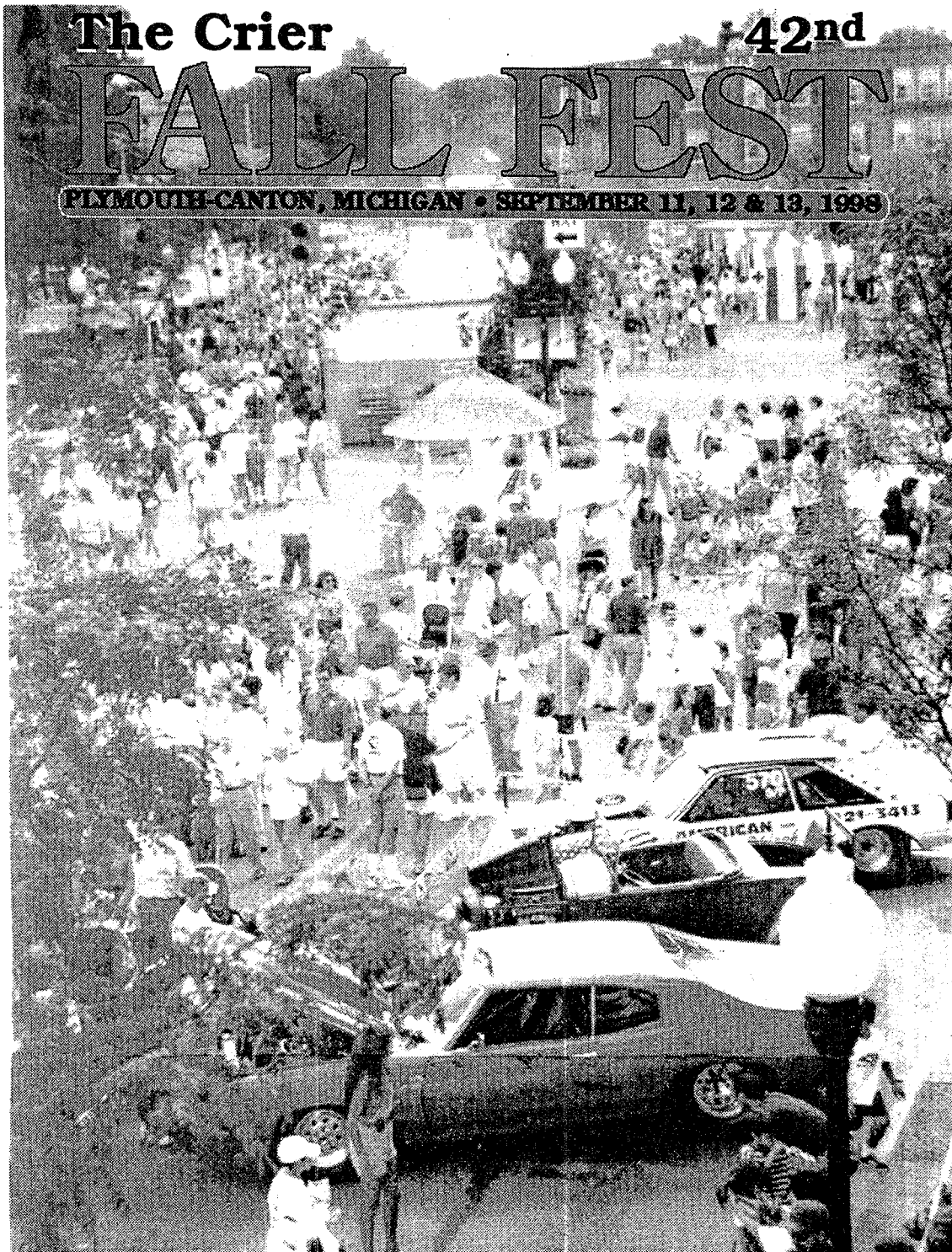
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Ann Arbor Township: 5 acres, high and
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Plymouth - A beautiful 3 bedroom home.
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Plymouth Tour Home - Walk to town,
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Girl: "Don't be silly. Kitty can't read."

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Wanted: Old Garden Statues and
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Young, single, male, professional looking
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Curiosities

Dear
Martha,
et. al.



By Geneva Guenther

What a happy voice greeted me
on Sunday! You are a sly one! You have
a brand new son, you said, and you never
breathed a word to us. One of your
daughters, Kay Marie - who went to
school in Plymouth, has presented you
with a brand new son-in-law. Isn't that
great! His name is John Redwood and he
now is a part of your nice family. "It's
wonderful to have a man around the
house."

Lucky Girl.

Geneva

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Big Boy has been unanimously nominated to the office of President
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MIKE CARNE: life is a stitch-stitch two, drop nine, etc.

Curiosities

VISITING THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM is only one of the 3,007 things you can do in Downtown Plymouth!
 visit: CRIER.com

"SURFING THE NET IS NOT exercise." -- Mike Watts, 1998

STEVE MANSFIELD IS HALF-NUMB? How could they tell?

MIKE & STEVE pass each other in the emergency room. Old age is tough.



A NEW CANDIDATE?
 visit: crier.com

SEE "FAMILIAR FACES" at PCAC from Aug. 30-Sept. 18
 --GO JILL ANDRA YOUNG



"FALL FEST WILL NEVER REST"
 --Katrina Freund, 1998

CONGRATS JOHN CLEVELAND on 4 years.

LINDA KOCHANEK --watch out for that fish! Good job on the auction!

"I'M TIRED OF BEING a nice person, I'm going to start being a real b-----." -Mary Brooks, 1998. (Right!)

ANGELA AND SAMANTHA are expanding their vocabulary. It comes from hanging around during Fall Fest.

"I MAY BE A printer but I'm not an idiot." -- Dale Hampshire, 1998

Curiosities

JANICE OWENS had another birthday!
 Happy 46th...
 ooops - were we supposed to tell?

CAN THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH spell "Missdig" on its Main Street paving project? IF "THE GLOOM AND DOOM SOCIETY" meets on a sunny day sitting on the Coffee Bean deck, do we need to rename them "The Sunshine Boys"? (What would Fred DeLano, who coined the name, say?)

DOES DENNIS NISCH really drive the fire truck in his town?

LIAM KIRKBRIDE: happy SECOND (can you say "two") birthday. --Beauregard
 THEY RELEASED LISA F. from Disneyworld.

SOOOOOO GOOOOOD
 House of Fudge has the Best Frozen Yogurt Smoothies in Town

COOOOOOL OFFFFFFF
 With 9 flavors to choose from - something for everyones taste.
 13 Forest Place-Downtown Plymouth

FALL FEST IS SOON!
 CONGRATULATIONS DEAN SAXTON at 101 YEARS YOUNG
 --Your Van Fleet cousins

BEAUREGARD east avocado mousse from Chef Mike at Waterclub Grill.

Harriet Wild was caught on an early morning mission at The Brusher Show...

"Now, ask yourself: Is it something you just can't live without?" --Jill Andra Young about making purchases at The Brusher Show.

If someone tells you a building is a lifeless object, ask them how they feel when they see the old Hudson's Building being stripped of its dignity.

Good Luck Bob Lepping on your great new adventure. Atlanta sure is lucky to get you guys.

Lisa and Bob - WAIT!

Curiosities

CONGRATULATIONS DETROIT SUNDAY JOURNAL FRIENDS 1,000 days of publishing.

VOTE SATURDAY OCT. 3 NEW SCHOOL BOND VOTE

BEV KIBILKO - GET BETTER!

RON KIBILKO - thanks for helping with the cake! Rhonda - When you gonna pop that kid? Danielle G.

Zak: We're waiting. Gramma Liam Come Home! We Miss you! Disneyworld won't be the same once Liam arrives!

Mr. President - We're tired
 Monica: Sorry, we're tired of you, too.

B. Lyons, Schoolcraft scholar, waiter extraordinaire, Happy Nineteenth birthday-August 22nd! Does your boss know how well you serve and greet his patrons? He should, because you are superb.

To whom it may concern: If you order hors d'oeuvres for \$10.95 in a restaurant, do you have to eat it yourself or can you share it with several other friends? However, if you share it, do they (your guest) or you have to pay \$2 extra-per person?

The Plymouth Travellers are home from their trip and a happy time was had by all. No need to ask them where they have been. Listen to those rolling "R"s - Scotland, of course. Welcome home!

Josh Steiniger starts Middle School - look out Novi!!

Beka - your berry surprise was great - especially if you closed your eyes.

SAUCE - the cure all!
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 Because I can-that's why!
 Bob - I miss you already!!

"YOU DON'T LOOK all THAT bad." --a (flattering?) waitress to Dale Hampshire, 1998.

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Yard Sale - Friday & Saturday 10am-6pm,
11274 Southworth bet. Ann Arbor Tr. and Ann Arbor Rd.

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Sports

Sports shorts

Attention Soccer Players: Our Lady of Good Counsel JV Boys Soccer is looking for six additional boys to fill their roster for their fall season beginning the first week of September.

Fourth, fifth and sixth-grade boys are eligible to play. Current recreation or select players are not eligible per CYO rules.

Call Mark Seifert at (734) 454-0038 for details.

Young Plymouth Whaler fans now have their own club: **The Junior Whale Watchers.**

For \$10, junior whale watchers receive a bevy of Whaler goodies and food from McDonalds including: official T-shirt, membership card, voucher for two free end-zone seats at selected games, free small fries once a month at McDonalds, free "Happy Meal" on their birthday, a chance to be the Junior Whaler of the Game, and %10 off Whaler merchandise at The Fishmarket.

Also, a junior Whalers will attend a special "Meet the Whalers" party just for members.

For more information call (734) 453-8400.

Registration for a **men's softball league in Canton** has begun and will last until it fills up or Friday, Sept. 4.

Double-headers will be held every Wednesday or Thursday for five weeks beginning Sept. 9.

The cost is \$200 per team, with each team paying \$16 per game for umpire fees.

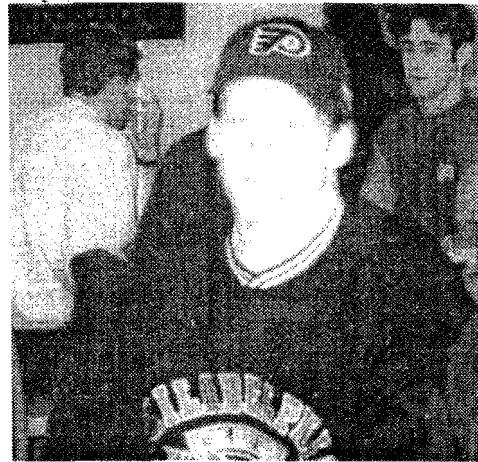
Register in person at The Summit on the Park Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Or call (734) 397-5110 for more information.

Project Compassion will hold its 11th annual golf outing on Saturday, Aug. 29 at St. John's Golf Club.

The format is 4-person scramble beginning at noon. The \$95 fee includes golf, carts, refreshments on course, dinner, and prizes.

Proceeds benefit nursing home programs and specialized transportation services of Project Compassion. Call (313) 832-7850 for details.

Boulerice bound over for trial



JESSE BOULERICE

Preparing for cooler weather

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

The gridiron has awoken. Fall can't be far away.

Players for both Canton and Salem High School reported to practice last week, the first signs that school is right around the corner.

But you would have thought Fall was still six months away on Monday, as a blistering sun drove down on sweaty football players running drills, pounding pads and pumping up for the season.

First-year Canton coach Tim Baechler was working the rounds, grinding his team into game-shape. Upon his hiring last Spring, Baechler preached increased conditioning as an essential element of a successful team. A view of his tired players confirmed he was following up.

"Most of the players worked out three times a week over the summer," Baechler said. "And they had to do all there running on their own."

So far, practice has been going better than he thought it would. "The attitude is great and the enthusiasm is there."

On the other side of the field, veteran coach Tom Moshimer is entering his 32nd season with Salem. It's his 40th year coaching overall.

Moshimer also said he's happy with what he's seen so far. "Over the years you come up with a certain standard," he said. "So far we're progressing pretty well."

Games begin Sept. 4. Canton tackles Monroe, while Salem faces Belleville.

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

At his preliminary examination Monday in 35th District Court, former Plymouth Whaler Jesse Boulerice was bound over for trial by Judge Ron Lowe.

An arraignment is scheduled for Aug. 31 in Wayne County Circuit Court. After the arraignment, the case will likely move into pre-trial some time in September.

Boulerice is facing assault with intent to do great bodily harm charges stemming from an on-ice incident April 17 at Compuware Sports Arena.

The victim in the case, former Guelph

Storm forward Andrew Long, suffered severe facial injuries, including two fractures and a blood clot, when he was hit by Boulerice in the face with a stick.

Long, facing Boulerice for the first time since the incident, was the only witness at Monday's hearing. His testimony, along with a videotape of the incident, was enough for Lowe to bound over the case.

Although a plea bargain could still be agreed to, the case is expected to end up in a jury trial.

Boulerice could face 10 years in jail and up to a \$5,000 fine if convicted.



Canton Head Football Coach Tim Baechler surveys the progression of his players Monday morning at CEP. All players are new in the eyes of Baechler, who is beginning his first year at Canton. (Crier photo by Scott Goodwin)

Canton Board scouts softball center

Township may purchase 70-acre site off Michigan Ave. for \$4.7 million

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Why build six softball fields when you can buy 12?

The Canton Board of Trustees examined that question in a study session last night, when the estimate for six new softball fields came in at more than \$1.4 million.

The six fields had been proposed for Independence Park, one of three new parks Canton is developing. When bids for the fields came in higher than expected, Canton officials looked for alternatives, according to Canton Supervisor Tom Yack.

Fortunately, an alternative did exist, and right around the corner: Canton Softball Center. Located on Michigan Avenue between Canton Center and Beck roads, the 70-acre site was put up for sale earlier this year, but as commercial property, not a recreational facility.

"We were facing the possibility of losing an additional 12 softball fields," Yack said. Canton had lost two fields from Griffin Park to the new post office, and intended on replacing them in Independence Park.

After examining the facility from top to bottom, inside and out, it looked like a good deal, according to Yack. Canton would pay about \$4.9 million for the facility, which if sold for development, could have netted about \$7 million.

"It makes sense in both the long term and the short term," Yack said. "The fields are in excellent condition, and there's enough capacity that we can move our junior baseball off the fields behind the high school. Those fields are in deplorable shape. They are accidents ready to happen."

Owning the center would provide many benefits to the township, Yack said. In addition to being in better condition than some of its current fields, all of the fields at Canton Softball Center are lighted. The bids for the Independence Park fields were for unlighted fields.

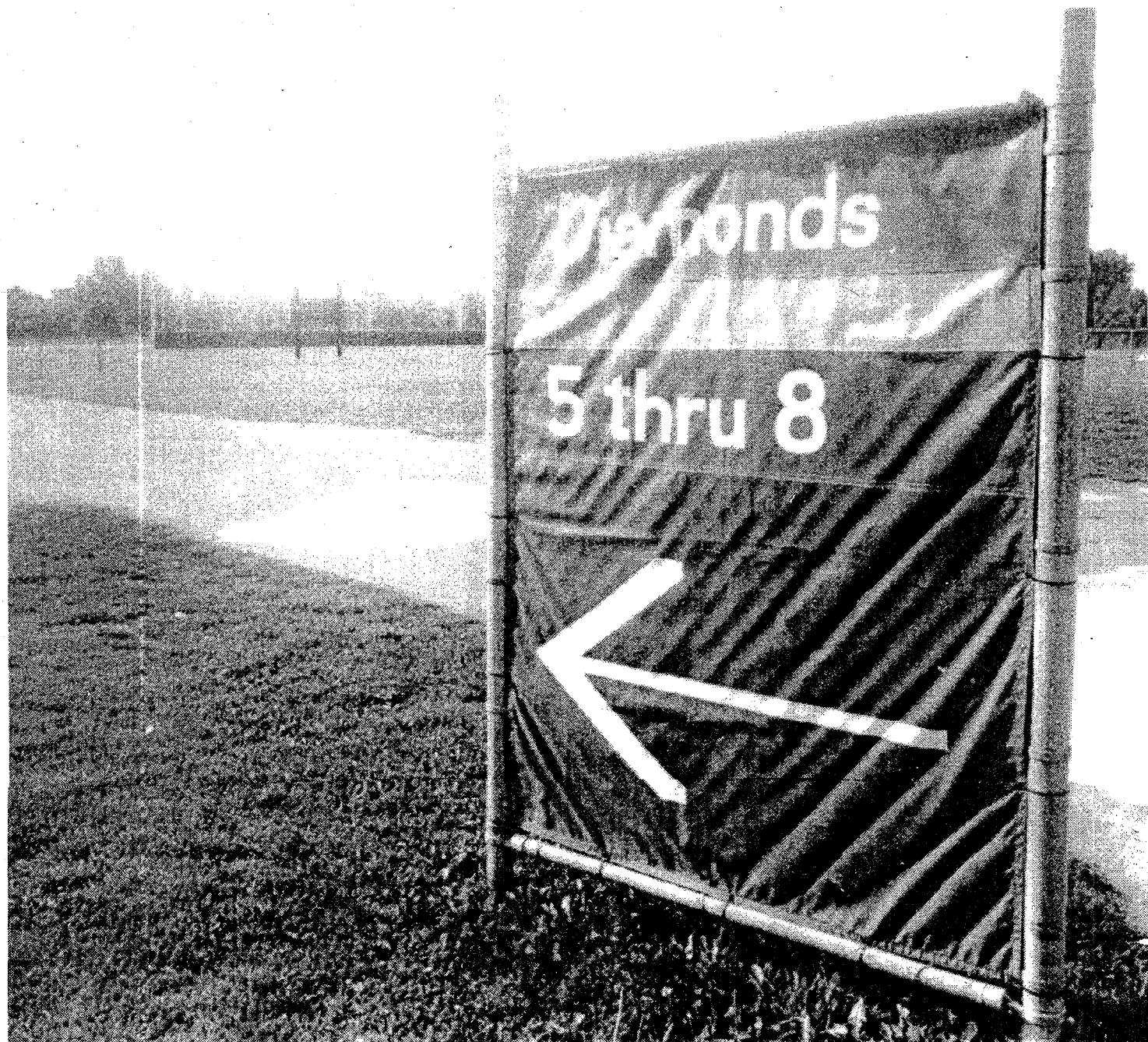
The facility also comes with all the equipment necessary to operate it and other features such as batting cages and a 700-car parking lot. There's also a full-service restaurant at the facility.

Ideally, current staff would continue to run the facility, Yack said.

"We hope to retain the individuals who work there now," Yack said. "They have the contacts and knowledge of how to run the business. They know all the leagues and all the competitions."

In addition to the softball facilities, the site includes a 15-acre plot of land that fronts Michigan Avenue which Canton could sell if it wished, Yack said.

If approved, Yack said an initial payment of \$1.5 million would be paid from Canton's general fund. These are funds already budgeted for improvements within



The fields at Canton Softball Center were empty yesterday morning, but soon they could be crawling with teams from Canton's Recreation Department. If the \$4.7 million deal goes through, Canton's diminishing ball field inventory could be saved. (Crier photo by Scott Goodwin)

Independence Park, he said. The remainder of the purchase would be financed with bond sales.

But first, Canton must sell the proposal to the Board of Trustees. At last night's study session, the board went on a tour of current softball facilities in Canton, from the fields at Griffin Park, to the CEP fields and then the softball center.

"We have to show the board members the two ends of the spectrum," Yack said. "A lot of them had never seen the fields behind the high school and don't know how bad they are."

The deal could mean a change in the

way the leagues are organized as well, Yack said. Like with hockey association discussed in connection with the ice rinks proposed for Haggerty Road north of Michigan Avenue, Yack said Canton could form its own softball association.

"When you look at that type of commitment it's only logical that the program would be made up of Canton players," Yack said.

Harry Hill, director of the Canton Community Junior Baseball/Softball Association (CCJBSA) said that wouldn't necessarily exclude children from other communities.

"We're the only sports recreation group that never said no to anyone. I don't expect that to change. We certainly wouldn't want to lose any Plymouth children," he said. "We don't want to alienate anyone. They would still be able to play. This is going to be a very positive thing, whether you live in Canton or not."

Hill said having the center under Canton's ownership would be a great improvement for the children of the community. The extra fields will allow for expanded services, such as a T-Ball program for younger children, as well as more space for the 2,300 current players.

"This is a 100 per cent positive improvement in the softball program," he said. "It raises it to the level of our soccer program, which is one of the best in the country."

“It makes sense in both the long term and the short term.”

**— Tom Yack
Canton Supervisor**



Community opinions

Dear Dear: DDA hiring guidelines

New DDA director should understand, support and get along with small business folks

Ms. Sally Repeck,
Chair
Plymouth D.D.A.
RE: Your Aug. 17 "interested parties"
memo

Dear Ms. Repeck:
Your memo asks those of us interested in the Steve Guile replacement process to forward "three items you think are priority functions of the (DDA) director position." Just three?

Well, if only three, here they are in order:
1. Understanding, getting along with and supporting small business folks.

2. Marketing the most uniquely positive downtown in Southeast Michigan.

3. Understanding and playing politics to carry out policies, leading, and building coalitions instead of building turfs.

While the DDA should look for those three traits, it may wish to think about the practical issues in filling the director's shoes. Guile was a brick and mortar guy that got the new streetscape in place. Now, for practical reasons, it needs a different type of person.

The talent pool will therefore be different. It may even be possible for a part time person to fill the bill. After all, Guile

was working part time for Old Village and Steve Walters while he was patching asphalt and tending flowers for the DDA.

I'm sure you'll hear from several others interested in giving you ideas for the director's job. I hope I get to put in this "official" three cents worth too.

Sincerely,
W. Edward Wendover

EDITOR'S NOTE: Wendover, the publisher of this newspaper and a resident of the Plymouth DDA, is married to Ms. Repeck, chair of the DDA.

With malice toward none

By W. Edward WENDOVER



Debating the 'Chronicles' Downtown never better

EDITOR:
After reading "The Train Chronicles" in the Aug. 12 edition of The Crier, I knew I must take a minute to send off a message to the great people who planned and worked so hard on the Streetscape development project in downtown Plymouth.

I think the Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail traffic islands are terrific! People finally travel those blocks at a safe speed, and they really dress up the streets. If someone is in a huge hurry to get somewhere, they shouldn't be blasting

down Main Street to get there anyway. I also really like those "ugly" lights.

The bumpout and corner planters are lovely as well. True, parking places are at a premium, yet I believe eliminating those corner parking spots decreases the overall congestion and danger at these very busy intersections.

Thank you to whoever planned all the beautiful flower displays this year. Downtown never looked better!

SYBILLE VOUGHT

Shelter in a downpour

EDITOR:
I wish to thank Shannon Doch, from the Coffee Studio on west Ann Arbor Trail, for being so considerate of my mother and me Sunday night. I took my mother out for a ride in her wheelchair from the nursing home. We got caught in a downpour.

Shannon saw us, ran through the rain with an umbrella and then back to her car for a blanket.

Seeing the rain wasn't letting up, mother and I made a dash across the street to the

Coffee Studio. Again, Shannon was out in the rain — ankle-deep water — to help me get mother up the curb and into the coffee shop.

She most graciously made a cup of tea and lemon for mother while I went to the nursing home for help getting her back there.

Shannon went out of her way to help both of us. We thank her.

HELEN GRIFFIN

Passing the N'ville Twp. millage:

Committee, volunteers were crucial

EDITOR:
The success of the 1998 millage campaign was due in part to the positive image and quality of services in Northville Township. The Department of Public Safety emphasized our commitment to the community throughout the past years with a strong performance record in both police- and fire-related incidents.

The DPS thanks the efforts of many people: Supervisor Karen Woodside and

the Northville Township Board of Trustees, with special thanks to Trustee Russ Fogg, for his time spent at the election polls; Finance Director Thelma Kubitskey for her continued guidance; Bill Brown, chairman of the 'Say Yes' campaign; Maureen Oseiki, who helped keep the committee on track; Tracie Sincock and Mary Ellen King, who assisted with distributing the 'Say yes' message for Public Safety; Sgt. John Werth, who oversaw the efforts of the department

personnel; Fire Chief Bill Zhmendak for his assistance and help from all the full-time and paid-on-call membership of the Fire Division.

We are especially grateful for the extraordinary assistance provided by Bill Pomeroy in distributing literature to the Country Club Condominium Association members. There are dozens who have shared knowledge, ideas and approaches which only served to enrich our efforts.

Finally, we wish to thank the editorial staff and members of the Northville Record and The Community Crier for their support, along with the groundswell of support provided by the residents of this community who have provided the department with a viable funding tool for building an even stronger community partnership.

CHIP SNIDER

Director, Northville Township Public Safety

The March '97 bond is still hung up in court,

What must Plymouth-Canton Schools do to convince you to vote for the Oct. 8 bond to build a replacement for Lowell Middle School?

Mail to: The Community Crier • 821 Penniman Ave. • Plymouth, MI 48170. Or email us at: email@crier.com



Community opinions

Wanted: Twp. leaders

Treasurer's Office troubles, failure of Recreation millage points to leadership vacuum growing at Plymouth Township Hall

Now is the time for Plymouth Township leadership to show itself.

The state of recreation has reached the level of true crisis, and the treasurer's office may be heading that way. Intervention is needed.

Two years ago, treasurer Ron Edwards ran and won an election by claiming he would clean up Township finances. His campaign excoriated former Treasurer Mary Brooks for shoddy bookkeeping, recorded in three years of unfavorable audits.

But the most recent audit of his own practices suggests he's open the same criticism. After the audit year was covered, it now seems that Edwards turned in Township tax rolls three months late — the last taxing body in Wayne County to report.

Edwards has clearly dropped the ball more than once.

Someone in Township Hall must either help him pick it up or lead the effort to take it from him altogether.

The Township should also get new auditors who won't sugarcoat the situation and who can help resolve the problems with administering the Township's financial situation. Released last night, the Township audit's management letter — from Rehmann Robson PC of Jackson — made no specific mention of the fact that the main Township checking account was not reconciled for several months. Although it was just released, the letter was dated

June 2 and was changed since then.

As instruments of the residents who elected them, the supervisor and Board of Trustees have the responsibility to affect change in the Treasurer's office.

The Township must also change the state of recreation now that their millage proposal has failed. Hiding behind a philosophy of minimal government and a history as a low-tax municipality isn't leadership. It's avoidance.

Just like the rest of The Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community, the Township needs a recreation program, and it needs a leader in Township Hall willing to say as much.

Township Supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy has not taken a lead on the recreation issue — or many other important issues. Whatever the voters want, she says, that's what her office will pursue. But the supervisor should know that recreation is an integral part of a community's quality of life.

Ask Canton.

Ask the Northvilles.

Ask The City of Plymouth — but do it yesterday.

The City, which has committed a half mill to fund a joint recreation program with the Township, has begun cutting back its own department since the Township's millage failed. Before it began, though, the City Commission wrote a letter that essentially asked the Township, "Do you have a plan B?"

Responding to that letter, Keen



McCarthy returned to a familiar refrain: "Township residents clearly expressed their preference to continue the long-standing policy of 'user pay' in the defeat of the millage question by a 3 to 2 margin."

Yes, the voters have spoken. But what did they speak to?

They spoke to:

*Putting three millages on the same ballot, with one of them — the public safety issue — severely bloated,

*Hiring a failed consultant to campaign for the millages,

*Saying a new Township Hall could be built from existing revenues,

*Coasting with a \$3.7 million reserve, and

*Ducking leadership in planning how the recreation millage would be spent.

The Township Board should have reiterated to residents the advisory that the City issued them: non-resident fees can no longer sustain the City programs Township residents have been using. The City is done losing money on recreation. Now, the loss will belong to City and Township residents who find their recreation department wizened and weak.

Keen McCarthy has also said that she will not return the recreation issue to the Nov. 4 ballot. This continues to send the message to residents that the Township doesn't recognize recreation as the significant issue that it is, even if the Board of Trustees out-votes her.

Perhaps, as some citizens have suggested, a petition drive to put recreation on the Township ballot is the last resort when political leaders fail to lead.

If the supervisor and trustees come back with a specific plan to show voters how joint recreation would work, the turnout would likely be very different.

They said it Aug. 4: no plan, no money. A more explicit plan would win voters' support and respect for Township leadership — if it decides to show itself.

Now the Township is hiring a full-time public relations staffer. This is ridiculous! The Township's PR problem is simply lack of leadership. No amount of spin doctoring can convince Township residents otherwise.

THE COMMUNITY CRIER

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

The Community Crier



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Editor? Taxes?

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