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November 18, 1998

Cost of City's cure

Commission considers private retreat to mend internal rifts

BY BRYON MARTIN

The cost of confrontation just went up in The City of Plymouth and, depending on who you ask, it may continue to rise.

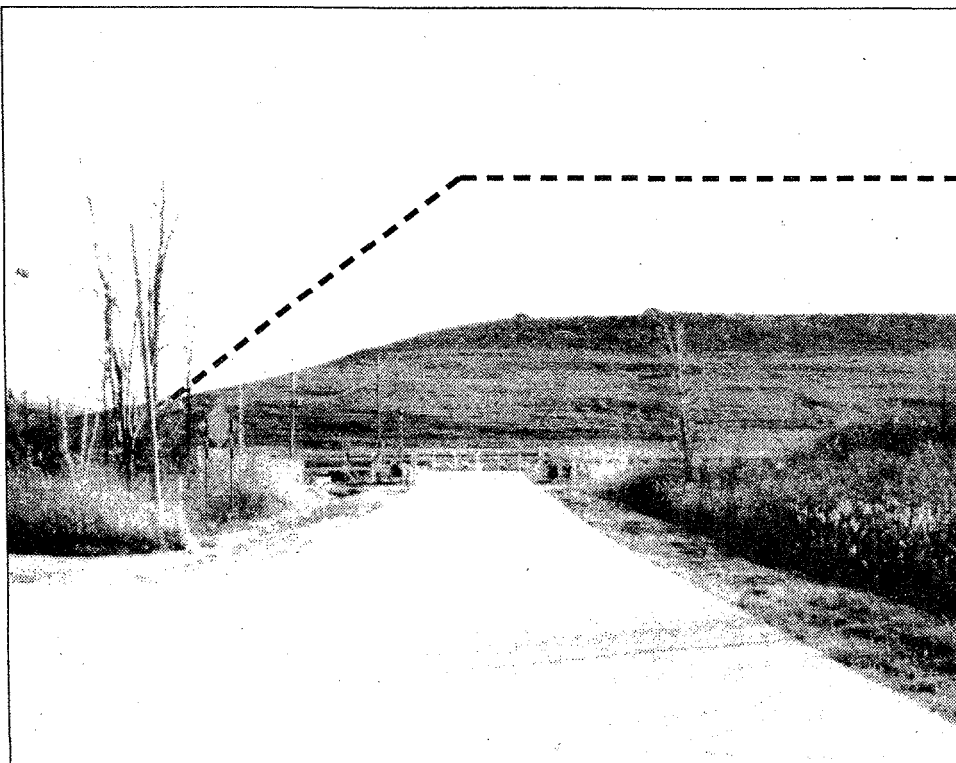
The City Commission may violate Michigan's Open Meetings Act (OMA) and expose itself to lawsuits and fines if it goes through with plans to hold a private retreat, according to Dawn Phillips, general counsel for the Michigan Press Association.

The act requires all public bodies to meet in open, publicized settings. The intent, according to Phillips, is to prevent those bodies from discussing or deciding public issues in private.

Currently, Plymouth's City Commission is planning to hold three days of interviews and counseling to mend its internal rifts. Thursday, officials approved spending up to \$3,600 on a private two-day retreat.

"How can they do that without talking about City business," asked Phillips. She said commissioners would each be fined \$500 if a court of law found the City's retreat in violation of the act. A second or

Please see pg. 4



Dotted lines suggest the future proportions of the Sauk Trail Hills landfill in Canton if officials there approve a proposal to double its maximum height to 220 feet. The proposal would extend the number of years the dump can accept waste, as well as the number of years it can make money for Canton Township. Past funds from the landfill helped finance Canton's Summit on the Park (Crier photo by Scott Spielman).

More trash, cash

Canton mulls figures in landfill expansion

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Some oppose the expansion proposed for Canton's Sauk Trail Hills Landfill, others support it. And weeks before any decision is made, both camps are beginning their arguments the same way: "Well, it's already there, and we can't get rid of it..."

Canton officials argue for the expansion — and the money the township gets from it — residents argue that its simple existence near their homes is bad enough already.

"We don't think very much of it," said Sharon Wasik, president of the Canton Hills Homeowner Association.

Canton Hills is a subdivision of about 60 homes along Lilley Road north of Michigan Avenue. Wasik said that she and the homeowners she represents have been plagued by noxious odors and loud noises emanating from the site at virtually all hours of the day and night.

Please see pg. 12

CEP band takes 2nd in nation

BY BRYON MARTIN & SCOTT GOODWIN

In the hours before CEP's Marching Band took the field to perform in the semi-final round the nation's top marching band competition, all 210 members took a few moments to lay back and close their eyes.

They were crowded into the swimming pool room at their Indiana hotel where Mitch Rogers, who designs drill routines for the band, spoke to them.

Visualize, he said. Think about liberty. Think about freedom. Think about the United States. Now, think about it going wrong.

If Rogers hoped his words would inspire the band, it worked. The band left the hotel energized, focused. They marched into the RCA Dome, marched through the semi-finals, the finals, wowed the crowd and judges and marched back out with second-place honors in this year's Bands of America national championship in Indianapolis.

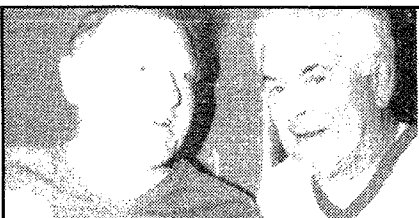
The band has long been a perennial favorite at the competition. They took fifth place last year, and were national champions in 1990 and 1991. Their score of 96.3 this year was higher than last year's winning score of 96.051.

Along with second place overall, CEP's band tied for first place in the overall visual effect caption, or category, award.

The competition featured 80 bands of various sizes from across the country, eight of which were from Michigan.

CEP was the only band from Michigan to reach the 12-band final competition.

Please see pg. 19



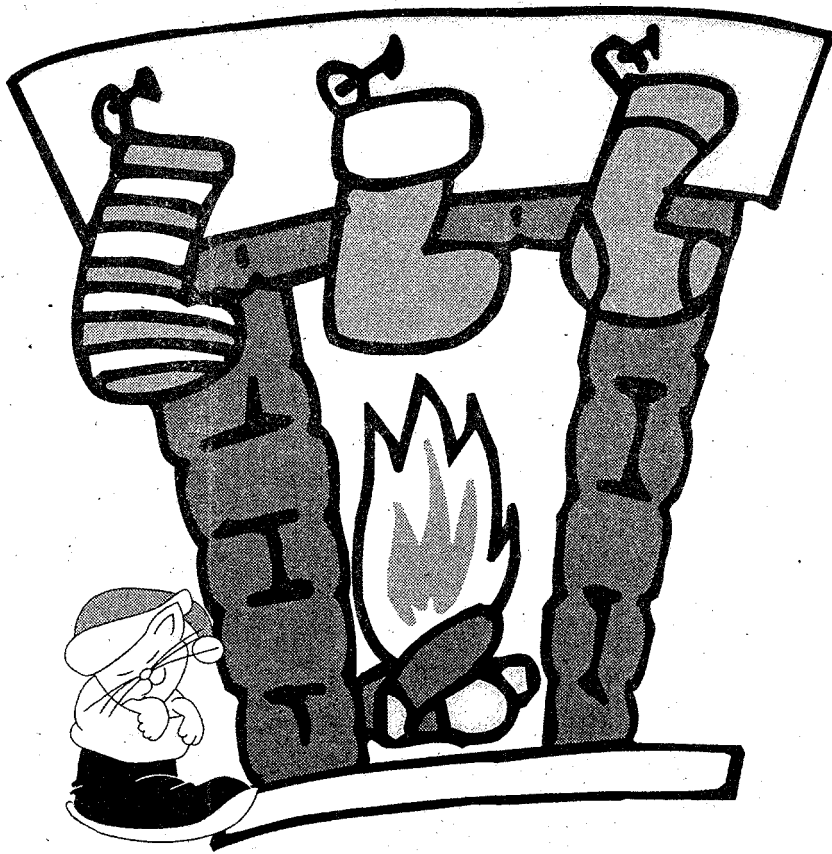
Red Wing alumni & celebs visit Whalers' home ice

Sports begin on pg. 19

Working up
Canton Public Safety promotes two long-time veterans
See Friends & Neighbors, pg. 6

Memories saved
Memory Lane, a scrapbook and stamp store, opens in Canton
See Getting Down to Business pg. 8

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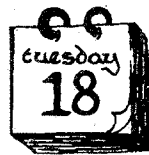
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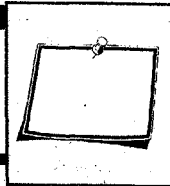
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What's Happening

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



Events



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Worship with us this week!



Velveteen Rabbit... The Plymouth Community Arts Council (PCAC) is presenting a musical play based on the popular children's story. Performances are Dec. 4 at 7 p.m., Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. There will also be a luncheon Dec. 11. Tickets for the show are \$5 and the luncheon is \$15. For more information call PCAC at (734) 416-4ART (Crier photo by R. Alwood, Jr.)

CIVIL WAR LECTURE SERIES

Historian Dave Finney will present his lecture: 'The Final Days of Stonewall Jackson Nov. 19, at 7:30 at the Plymouth Historical Museum. The public is invited.

ALL AMERICAN CONCERT

The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra will present an all American concert at 8 p.m. Saturday at Pease Auditorium on the campus of Eastern Michigan University. Featured will be a world premier of the work 'Recollections' composed and conducted by Anthony Iannaccone. For tickets or info call the symphony at (734) 451-2112.

NORTHVILLE NIGHT

Northville Parks and Recreation will again be sponsoring the second annual family New Year's Eve event called Northville Night. More than 400 people attended last year's event, which will once again be held at Northville High School. Tickets for this family event go on sale Nov. 1 at the Recreation Department and are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children under the age of 12. There will be clowns, carnival games, slot cars and miniature golf and a magic show. For more information contact Northville Parks and Recreation at (248) 349-0203.

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Dump neighbors: 'It's time to give us a break'

Continued from pg. 1

Canton's Township Board will look at their complaints and additional facts, such as where the waste originates from, when they meet in another study session within the next two months.

The Proposal

Representatives from Allied Waste, Inc., the firm that owns Sauk Trail Hills, met with the Board of Trustees last month to request a vertical extension to their 200-acre facility. The request would allow Allied to nearly double the dump's maximum height to reach a maximum height of 220 feet and keep it open for another 16 years, according to site manager Laurie Kendall.

The 100-foot extension would be the maximum allowable height for the facility, according to Kendall. Allied Waste would not be able to ask for another vertical extension.

"The maximum height of the landfill is determined by the size of the footprint," the one-time engineer said. "It's only allowed to rise one foot vertically for every four feet horizontally, for a grade of 25 per cent."

At its zenith, the landfill would only reach 30 feet higher than the Woodland Meadows landfill, located about a mile to the south, along I-275. But Wasik said the ultimate height of the mound wasn't necessarily the primary concern.

"Years ago, when it was first being developed, they assured us it was only going to go up 90 feet, and be complete in less than 10 years," Wasik said. "We feel we gave up a lot, then."

In exchange, Allied says it will pay benefits to Canton, Kendall said. Residents could continue to dump trash at the site for free, and Sauk Trail Hills would begin free disposal of toxic household wastes such as oils and paint thinners, Kendall said. And when the dump eventually closes, Allied says it will help Canton design development on the site.

"We're very willing and open to ideas on how to best use the site as a recreational facility," she said.

The History

Sauk Trail Hills is located on the site of three old landfills that opened in the late 1960s and closed in the 1970s, according to Michael Droze, deputy director of land resource management with the Wayne County Department of

Environment.

Those landfills were developed before today's current regulations were put in place, and in the early 1990s they posed serious environmental problems, he said.

In 1992, Allied Waste proposed to clean up the old sites and combine them into one new, larger facility.

It wasn't Canton's first choice, according to Supervisor Tom Yack.

"No community wanted to have a landfill within their borders," Yack said. "We just happened to think we were going to get it anyway."

According to Yack, the Wayne County Executive can site a landfill within and municipality in the county, without the local government's approval. Wayne County was

experiencing a shortage of landfill area then, and Yack said studies pointed to Canton as the best spot to place a landfill.

"The county was down to its last three or four years of landfill capacity," Yack said. "Every community was fighting to avoid them. The question was, Did we want to get something out of it, or fight it every step of the way and have them shove it down our throats?"

The Board of Trustees decided it was better to reap some benefit from the landfill, and entered into a host community agreement.

Lemonade from Lemons

Under the agreement, Allied Waste dug up the three closed landfills and disposed of the waste in a new state-of-the-art facility, according to Droze. The hazardous material was not allowed in the new, type II site and was shipped to other facilities for proper disposal, he said.

The agreement stipulated that Canton would receive no new landfills, according to Yack.

Canton reaped other benefits as well.

The township collects a royalty on every yard of waste dumped at the site. Since 1993, Canton has picked up about \$4.4 million, funds that helped finance road improvements and construction of the Summit on the Park.

That kind of money makes it attractive to keep the landfill open, at least to officials, Yack said. With the community studying the feasibility of a performing arts theater, and looking for alternative ways to fund road improvements, these funds could be quickly put to use.

"It's going to be difficult not to allow the extension

"No community wanted to have a landfill. We just happened to think we were going to get it anyway. "

- Tom Yack
Supervisor, Canton Twp.

Lemonade from Lemons

because of the economics involved," Yack said. "It's already there, and there will be no greater impact than there is today, although it will be in operation longer."

But the continued operation of the landfill is one aspect of the extension that most worries residents, according to Wasik.

The Complaints

"The noise is terrible," Wasik said. "Trucks are beeping, the gates are clanging. They're only supposed to work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. but at least 25 people from the neighborhood have had experience with them working after 2 a.m."

Canton Treasurer Elaine Kirchgatter said she wanted to get to the bottom of those complaints before she was willing to sign off on an extension.

"We aren't sure if they're hearing the noise from the landfill or from somewhere else," she said. "We want to be sure that the noises stem from the landfill, and if so, why it's happening, because that's just ridiculous."

Kendall said Sauk Hill's neighbor, a Ryder Truck Warehouse, typically operates beyond the landfill's hours and may be the source of the late-night clatter. She also said that any lights seen at night may originate from a security vehicle that patrols the perimeter every half hour.

"We do not operate after hours," she said. "Everything is locked down tight."

Residents and officials are also concerned about the number of complaints lodged against the facility. Those complaints, which would be registered with the Wayne County Department of Environment (DOE) are relatively few, with less than five complaints dating back to 1995, documented at the DOE. Wasik said an uncertainty in how to report the problems could lead to a misrepresentational picture.

"We've made numerous complaints over the noise and the odor over the years, and they only have a few reports," Wasik said. "I don't know why there's this wild discrepancy."

One possible reason is that residents weren't sure of who to call, and the messages got passed off to someone else, or possibly not recorded properly, she said. Another possibility is semantics.

"If you called the (environmental) hotline in the past, the operator would ask you if it was an emergency," she said. "Being conscientious citizens, we had a hard time saying a bad odor was an emergency."

Droze said he has since cleared up the confusion, making sure each resident had a number to call day or night.

The Wayne County Department of Environment performs unannounced inspections at the facility once a week, according to Droze. Inspectors test for odors on and off site, the condition of the roads leading to and from the site, and check the ground for any seepage.

Inspectors will cite the facility for non-compliance in any of these areas, and return to follow-up within 24 hours, Droze said.

The Next Step

"We're about halfway toward having all the information I'd like to have available," Yack said. "When we do we'll send a letter to the Allied Waste folks and take another look. It could be in one month or two, depending on what's on our calendar."

At the study session, officials will once again consider the information provided by Allied Waste. They will listen to residents' concerns, too. Any decision the Board makes will come at a later meeting.

Wasik said she will return once again to give her views on the expansion.

"We're not a bunch of rabble rousers. We've tried to go along with things," she said. "We still had this kind of inflicted on us and we think it's time for the township to give us a break."

Open house postponed

Plymouth Family Services has postponed the open house originally planned for tomorrow from 5 - 7 p.m. in their new facility next to Growth Works at 271 S. Main St.

The event will be rescheduled for a date to be determined, according to Therese Gall, advisory board member for PFS.

Plymouth Family Services provides counseling and rehabilitation for drug and alcohol abuse. They recently moved into their current space in the Growth Works Annex.

For more information, call Barb Blum at 734-973-1900.

GED testing next week

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will conduct two-day GED tests Monday and Tuesday at Starkweather Education Center, 550 N. Holbrook in Old Village.

The test can be taken in either the morning session, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., or the afternoon session from 5 - 10 p.m. on both days.

Test registration costs \$75, and advance registration is preferred.
Call 734-416-4901 for details.

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Community deaths

Obituaries

For more information on listing a paid obituary notice in The Crier, contact your funeral director, or call (734) 453-6900.

ROSALIND IRENE DYER

Rosalind Irene Dyer, a Plymouth resident, died Nov. 2, 1998 at the age of 66.

Mrs. Dyer was born March 17, 1932 in Filion, MI. She was a homemaker. She came to the Plymouth community 53 years ago from Filion, MI. She was a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church.

She is survived by her children, Linda (Dan) Stachowiak of Northville, Vickie (Bill) Lyke of Saline, Kathy (Bill) Brown of Ypsilanti, Billy, (Janet) Dyer of Canton, Luanne (Bruce) Roberts of Westland, Gail Johnson of Plymouth; grandchildren, Scott (Pat) Groff of Northville, Kym (Kevin) Lyke of Saline, Angie, Teddy and Jody Booth of Ypsilanti, Rob and Amy Dyer of Canton, Jeremiah, Kyle and Jessica Roberts of Westland, Kristy and Gary Johnson of Plymouth; great-grandchild, Jacob Booth of Ypsilanti; brothers, Seymour Forbing of Port Hope, MI, Otis Forbing of Florida, Ernie Forbing of Plymouth; and sisters, Goldie St. Louis of Florida, Neva St. Louis of Florida, Vera Dyer of Plymouth. She is preceded in death by her brothers, Percy Lloyd and Bill Forbing; sister, Georgia LaLone; and son, Gary Dyer. She is preceded in death by her husband, William L. Dyer, Sr.

Services were held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church with the Rev. Fr. J.J. Mech officiating. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate or the American Lung Association.

CARL J. MALIK

Carl J. Malik, a former Plymouth resident, died Nov. 14, 1998 at the age of 80.

Mr. Malik was born Oct. 10, 1918 in Westland. He was the owner/partner of Malik Heating in Westland from 1952 until 1982. He was married to his wife, Doris, for 54 years.

He is survived by his wife, Doris (Bridger) Malik of Grand Rapids; and daughters, Bonnie Quarandillo of Grand Rapids, Toni Johnstone of Farmington Hills, Janet (James) Agius of Birmingham.

Services will be held today at 1 p.m. at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Burial will be at Cadillac Memorial Gardens in Westland. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home. Memorial contributions can be given to Hospice of Holland Home, 2100 Raybrook Se, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

SOPHIE GRZYWACZ

Sophie Grzywacz, a Westland resident, died Nov. 14, 1998 at the age of 82.

Mrs. Grzywacz was born March 29, 1916 in Detroit. She was a homemaker and a sales clerk at the Hudson's Store in Northland Mall in Southfield, MI. She moved to Port Richey, FL, from Detroit 21 years ago and moved to Howell, MI, one year ago. She moved to Westland one month ago. She was a member of the Pascoe County Polish Club in Florida. She loved to garden.

She is survived by her sons, Richard M. (Pat) Grzywacz of Plymouth, Michael J. (Diane) Grzywacz of Hamburg Township, MI; grandchildren,

Darlene (Robert) Bacyinski of Plymouth Township, Debra (Robert) Hill of Kinross, MI, Richard J. Grzywacz of Plymouth, Keith (Jessica) Grzywacz of DeWitt, MI, Ross Grzywacz of Hamburg Township, MI; five great-grandchildren; and sisters, Cathleen Bender of Wyandotte, MI, Loraine Lipski of Beverly Hills, FL. She is preceded in death by her husband, Michael B.

Arrangements were made by and private services were held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to Angela Hospice, Livonia, MI.

PHILA M. GUST

Phila M. Gust, a Westland resident, died Nov. 6, 1998 at the age of 86.

Mrs. Gust was born April 29, 1912 in Canton. She was a press operator. She retired from the Burroughs Corp in July 1976 after 30 years and nine months of service. She came to the Westland community 30 years ago from Canton. She was a member of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Westland, a member of the Canton Historical Society, the Burroughs Girls' Club and the Zesters Senior Group. She loved to travel. She was a former volunteer at Annapolis Hospital in Wayne.

She is survived by her niece, Margaret (James) Brown of Goleta, CA; and grandnephews, Richard and Ethan.

Services were held at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Westland, MI with the Rev. David Kippmiller officiating. Burial was at Glen Eden Cemetery in Livonia. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church or the Martin Luther Home in South Lyon, MI.

ROY E. BAUDE

Roy E. Baude, a Plymouth resident, died Nov. 11, 1998 at the age of 81.

Mr. Baude was born Oct. 28, 1917 in Detroit. He worked for the Rocco Ferrera Construction Company, retiring in 1973. He came to the Plymouth community in 1961 from Mt. Clemens, MI. He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans 5th Fighter Squadron. He served in the Army Air Corps during WWII in the North Africa and Central Europe. He received the European African Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon with two Silver Stars and one Bronze Star; five Overseas Service Bars and the Good Conduct Medal.

Arrangements were made by and services held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth with the Rev. Melanie Lee Carey officiating. Memorial contributions can be given to the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Frank J. Czul, 79, millwright

Frank J. Czul, a Plymouth resident, died Nov. 1, 1998.

He is survived by his wife, Anna; daughter, Christine (Dennis) Szmytkowski; son, Jeffery (Pamula); two brothers, one sister; and grandchildren, Alayna and Grant.

Arrangements were made by the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home in Westland. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Maryon L. Norman, 92, homemaker

Maryon L. Norman, a former Plymouth resident, died Nov. 16, 1998.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Howard.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. today at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

New in Canton: development director

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Mix one part real estate agent, one part construction manager, one part promoter and one part advertiser, and you have the recipe for Canton's newest staff position: Community Development Coordinator.

First proposed to the DDA Board this summer, the

coordinator would split his or her time between township duties and oversight of Canton's Downtown Development District (DDD), according to Supervisor Tom Yack.

Yack said Canton will be looking for someone with knowledge of municipal administration, a good attitude and strong communication skills to fill the

position, which would begin the first of the year.

"One of the things I see the coordinator responsible for is the creation of a database detailing all the industrial and commercial users and a medium to communicate with them," Yack said. "As needs and projects are formed, (the coordinator) will already be on a first-name basis with the business owners."

Another duty will be monitoring construction projects within the DDD, such the widening of intersections along Ford Road, and burial of power lines in that area.

Such nuts-and-bolts details had been overseen by Canton Planner Angela Wolosiewicz and Canton's Municipal Service department.

The Community Development Coordinator would also be responsible for the retention of industry and attracting new businesses to Canton.

Salary for the position would range from about \$35,000 to \$40,600, and Yack said Canton would probably fill the position early next year.

Rather than a nationwide search, he said Canton would advertise for the position in newspapers.

"That's generally the way we do things," he said. "We would only hire a firm for director-level positions."

Twp. is moving 'off the dime'

Continued from pg. 3

Commissioner Dave McDonald said he was happy the Township is "off the dime" and moving toward financing its share of the underpass.

Before any millage is sought, however, county engineers must create drawings and designs of the project and seek construction bids to finalize costs.

The drawings are expected to cost as much as \$1.5 million, according to Keen McCarthy, a portion of which must be paid by the Township and City.

Thus far, neither community has committed any funds.

If, after the drawings are done, either of the communities seek a millage and it fails, the Plymouths would remain committed to funding the drawings, whether the underpass was built or not.

"The worst case scenario is that we would have to pay for (a share of the drawings) out of our general fund," Keen McCarthy said. "That's the risk we take."

The Township is not yet fully committed to a millage, Keen McCarty said. Officials still hope to find other sources of funding, perhaps a state or federal grant.

"We'll seek a millage only if we've exhausted all other avenues," she said.

For now, the chess match that has muddled underpass funding on both sides of the tracks will likely continue as the two communities try to hash out their differences. Both have said, however, they are committed to seeing the underpass completed.

"As a community we are fortunate to have the federal grant this early," Walters said. "It's a great opportunity."

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Plymouth area credit union accepting applications for a part time receptionist. Must be professional in appearance and possess excellent communication skills. The hours are Mon.-Wed. 9:00-5:00. We offer paid holidays, 401k, and tuition assistance. Apply in person, mail resume, or fax to: (734) 254-1237/Community Federal Credit Union

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City of Plymouth Parks & Recreation Division SPORTS SCOREKEEPERS GYM SUPERVISORS

The City of Plymouth is seeking minority and other qualified applicants for sports Scorekeepers/Gym Supervisors.

Apply in person at Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth, MI 48170-1392 or contact the Plymouth Recreation at (734) 455-6620 \$7.50 per hr. Games are held weeknights.

CONCESSION WORKERS

The City of Plymouth is seeking minority and other qualified applicants for Concession Workers. Apply in person at:

Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth, MI 48170-1392

or contact the Plymouth Recreation at (734) 455-6620. Shifts are weeknights and week ends. \$6.50 per hr.

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Counter Clerk or Presser for family friendly dry cleaner. Flexible hours. Full or part time. Apply in person, Mon.-Fri. 8 to 4, S.W. corner of Ann Arbor Rd. at Sheldon. Es Team Cleaners. Get the help you need with an ad The Crier! Call (734) 453-6900 today!

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Sports

Sports shorts

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL REGISTRATION IN PLYMOUTH

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department will once again be offering both a Men's and Women's basketball League this winter.

The entry fee for each league is \$525 per team, plus \$20 for each non-Plymouth resident. Teams may have as many non-City residents as they wish.

Each league plays a 12-game schedule, plus playoffs for the top four teams. The men's league plays once a week either Wednesday or Thursday nights. The women's league plays on Monday nights. League play begins Monday, Nov. 30, with the men's league beginning on Dec. 2.

The men's league has a 12 team limit. The women's league has a six team limit. Registration continues this week.

Registration will take place at the City of Plymouth Recreation Department office. For more information call (734) 455-6620.

COED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE REGISTRATION

The Canton and City of Plymouth Parks and Recreation departments are hosting a Coed Volleyball league at the Summit on the Park Gymnasium in Canton.

Registration continues through Friday.

Games begin on Friday, Dec. 4 and last for 12 weeks. They will be played at night between 6 and 9 p.m.

The cost is \$175 per team, plus \$15 for each nonresident player. A nonresident is anyone who does not live or work full-time in Canton or the City of Plymouth. Teams are allowed as many non-residents as they like.

There will be 16 teams, six players per team with a maximum 12 player roster. Teams may register in person Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Summit.

WHALER SPECIAL EVENTS

Several special events in conjunction with the Plymouth Whalers hockey club will take place over the next few months. They include:

- Skate with the Whalers. On Sunday, Nov. 29 from 5-6:30 p.m. there will be a skate with Whaler players to benefit the Plymouth United Way. \$5 per person. Registration begins at 4:30 p.m.

- Spawn Night on Saturday Dec. 5.
- Santa Claus will be coming to Compuware Sports Arena on Saturday Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Plymouth Steelers shine in glory of Superbowl Championship

Gridiron youngsters record first-ever undefeated season, 10-0

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

It may be too much to compare to compare this game to the great NFL championships, cold, tough and nerve-racking as they were.

But it was breezy and brisk, these were the two best teams in the league and it was the biggest game these 12 and 13-year-old kids had ever played in.

For them, on a sunny afternoon at Annapolis High School in Dearborn Heights, it meant just as much.

When it was over, the Plymouth Steelers varsity team defeated the Westland Meteors, 30-14, for their second Western Suburban Junior Football League Championship under

coach Doug Young, recording their first-ever unblemished season.

"I've been here since 1989," said Young, "And I've never seen a team dominate every week the way we have."

The Meteors proved Plymouth's toughest match of the season, but in their first meeting a month ago where they won by only a touchdown, not Sunday for the championship, where the Steelers dominated all game.

Brandon Wilcox scored a touchdown hat trick on scores of 22, 50 and 5 yards. Tony Stott added another score with less than a minute to play. That TD was setup by a Larry Mitchell interception.

As was the case all year, the Steeler defense dominated from start to finish. Both Meteor scores came on kickoff returns.

"I think our first team defense allowed only three touchdowns all season," Young said.

Plymouth was the only team to score on the Meteors all season.

Young's best estimation is that they outscored their opponents this season by a combined 321-95.

It's a telling statistic and a testament to the young championship team.

"A lot of these kids have been in the system for a while," Young said. "I know this means a lot to them."



Once a Red Wing... Red Wing legend Alex Delvecchio steps onto the ice Sunday afternoon at Compuware Sports Arena. Delvecchio and other former Red Wings participated in a charity skate to benefit Plymouth Figure Skating Club and the Karmanos Cancer Institute among others. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

Ambassadors muzzle BearCats in 2 game sweep

BY NICK GISMONDI

A tough trek on the road last week was easily overcome this past weekend as the Ambassadors picked up four more points, twice knocking down the Bear Cats, 6-1 and 6-3. Compuware is now only one point out of first place in the NAHL.

On Saturday, The Grand Rapids BearCats were in town. The scoring got started in the second period, as Compuware came alive and dominated the period, and the rest of the game. Luke Wright got the scoring started for the Ambassadors at the 2:59 mark off a feed from Rob Globke. Then Pat Brush scored to make it 2-0. By the end of the period it was 5-0, two of the goals coming from Wright. Jack Redwood added another goal in the third. Kowalski's shut out was foiled at the 19:43 mark of the third period when Kevin Wesolak found the net and banged it home from the hash marks. Kowalski did make 19 saves on the night.

On Friday the Ambassadors took on the BearCats for the first of two games over the weekend. After the BearCats struck first, Ambassador captain John Shouneyia answered when he scored after receiving the pass from Mark Mink. Grand Rapids would take the lead again at the 3:39 mark to make it 2-1. Before the first period ended, however, Steve Jackson tied it again at 2. In the second period it was all Compuware. Brush scored twice, one at the 4:56 mark and again at the 6:34 mark, both goals came from the assist of Mark Mink and John Shouneyia to make it 4-2. D.J. Vogt netted his second of the season to make it 5-2.

Wright added one more in third scored for Compuware to make the final score 6-3 Ambassadors.

The Ambassadors are still in second place, but not by much as they now have a record of 14-3-1, one point off the leader the Soo Indians.

The Ambassadors next game is Friday at the CSA when they take on the Danville Wings. Then again on Saturday against Danville, also at the CSA. You can hear that game live on 88.1 FM starting at 3:10 with the Pre-game show. The Ambassadors finish the weekend off with a small trip to St. Louis to take on the Sting.

Sports shorts

SOCCER REFEREE TRAINING

New soccer referee training will be held in the Auto Nation USA Community Room, 39600 Ford Road in Canton, running four weeks every Saturday beginning Jan. 30.

Students must attend all four classes and must be at least 12 years old.

For more information call (734) 454-7335. Class size is limited.

USED SPORTS EQUIPMENT SALE

The Canton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring its annual Sports Equipment Sale on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pheasant Run Golf Club clubhouse.

The public is invited to sell their sports or recreational equipment at the sale. Sellers can bring their equipment to the Pheasant Run clubhouse on Thursday, Dec. 3 between 6 - 9 p.m., where they will be priced and tagged for the Saturday sale.

You set the prices, you get the money (Canton Parks and Rec keeps 15 per cent).

Volunteers will be on-hand to do the selling, so sellers don't need to be present. You may collect your money or pick up your unsold items the day of the sale between 1-2 p.m.

For more information call Bob Dates at 397-5110.

On deck

SALEM GIRLS BASKETBALL

Today, district tournament begins at Canton versus Novi, 5:30 p.m. The winner of that game faces the winner of the Northville/Canton winner Friday at Canton, 7 p.m.

SALEM GIRLS SWIMMING

Friday and Saturday, state finals.

CANTON GIRLS BASKETBALL

Today at home versus Northville in the district tournament, 7 p.m. Winner of that game plays the winner of the Salem/Novi game Friday at Canton, 7 p.m.

CANTON GIRLS SWIMMING

Friday and Saturday, state finals.



Whaler Paul Mara (left) recovers after knocking down both Kitchener goaltender Mike Gorman and the goal itself Saturday night at Compuware Sports Arena. Despite this fall, Gorman was solid in goal all night, but the Whalers still one, 3-2. (Crier photo by R. Alwood Jr.)

Whalers carve London fog

Plymouth back on victory track with wins over Kitchener and Knights

BY SCOTT GOODWIN

Last year the London Knights proved one step better than the Plymouth Whalers. All season, when the Whalers would win, London would win, always lingering just a few points ahead.

They finished the season first in the OHL's Western Division, one point ahead of Plymouth.

This year, however, has been a different story.

London was picked by many to compete again in the division race. But several key losses to graduation and the NHL, and the Knights have settled early on for middle-of-the-road standing, 8-13-0 through the first seven weeks of the season.

Plymouth, on the other hand, remains

strong and powerful, far ahead of the rest of the division pack, with only 2 losses in more than 20 games.

That's the way they went in Friday night, Please see pg. 20



Senior members of the CEP Marching Band Color Guard pose at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis Saturday night. From left: Erica Davis, co-captain Lisa Kozian, Natalie Cooper, co-captain Heidi Anderson and Meg O'Karma (Photo by Camille Shy).

CEP Band ends season on national high-note

Continued from pg. 1

According to Tom Wysocki, president of the CEP Music Boosters, his club sold roughly 600 tickets to supporters who followed the band to watch this weekend.

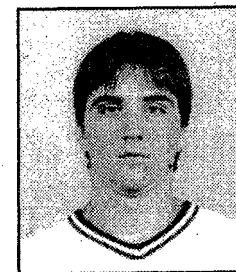
Sitting in the crowd with them was Superintendent Charles Little.

What set CEP apart, according to Little, was the creativity and drama of their the-

matic performance, "America: land of the free."

It's moving scenery, choreography and music told the story of America's struggle for equality for all. "It was high-energy," said Little, who has followed the band to the finals five times before. "It's the first time I've seen kids from other bands stand up to applaud."

WHALER OF THE WEEK



#4 DEFENSEMAN

Jared Newman

Newman, A rookie Defenseman out of Lincoln Park, has surprised Coaches all season. "He's forced us to play him," said assistant coach Steve Spott. Newman, described a "defensive defenseman" by coach Pete DeBoer was instrumental in the Whalers two victories this weekend.

Whaler of the week chosen by the Crier editorial staff and Brought to you by:



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Whaler unbeaten streak at 10 games

Continued from pg. 19

and after an impressive 4-1 victory for the Whalers at the London Ice House, that's the way it stayed.

Motivated to play their division rivals, the Whalers brought out he big guns Friday night, as offensive strikers Harold Druken and David Legwand pounded the Knights with two goals a piece.

Druken scored his pair in the first period, each off a feed from Adam Colagiacomio, third on the OHL's assist list. The Druken-Colagiacomio line continues to terrorize opponents.

"He's just been the best player on the ice since the season began," coach Pete DeBoer said. "He's got a lot to play for with a new contract on the line."

Druken and Colagiacomio combined with Legwand on a power-play with less than two minutes to play in the first to stretch the Whaler lead to 3-1.

This is the first time the Colagiacomio-Druken-Legwand combination has been used this season on the power-play, DeBoer said. And although he plans on using the three together again, he admits there's problem with sticking too much offensive might on the ice at once.

"There's not enough puck to go around," he said. "All these guys are used to being impact players."



Legwand, more and more showing signs of last year's brilliant season, added one more goal, his 11th of the season, in the second period to round out the scoring. Rookie Kris Vernarsky recorded an assist.

Although both London and Plymouth levied the same number of shots-on-goal, DeBoer said that doesn't tell the true story of the game.

"I really thought we carried the play," he said. "(Goalie Robert) Holsinger made some key saves that would have allowed them to get back in the game, but we dominated the game all night."

Holsinger made 32 saves in the victory.

Plymouth 3, Kitchener 2 — After defeating the Rangers on their home ice for the first time in three years less than two weeks before, the Whalers were ready to give Kitchener a taste of some Plymouth medicine Saturday night at Compuware Sports Arena.

Kitchener (6-10-2 near the bottom of the Midwest division) provided a feisty match, fighting back from an early three goal Whaler lead to make the game interesting.

In the end, however, goalie Holsinger and a stingy Plymouth defense proved too much as the Whalers recorded their 17th win of the season.

Druken notched another goal, his league-leading 27th of the season, on a powerplay to start a Whaler's scoring bar-

rage, 9:33 into the first. Less than four minutes later, the score was 3-0, as Jamie LaLonde and Eric Gooldy, on a powerplay, each found the back of the Ranger net. The goal was number six for LaLonde and Gooldy's third of the season.

When Kitchener scored twice in the second to make the game close, the Whalers continued to pepper Ranger goalie Mike Gorman, who proved a resilient wall in the net.

"Their goalie was just superb all night," DeBoer said. "We just couldn't get anything past him."


Plymouth outshot Kitchener 47-17.

Robert Holsinger tended goal for the second straight night Saturday with 15 saves. DeBoer was quick to point out that Holsinger's back-to-back performance wasn't the end of the two goalie rotation.

"Holsinger played well Friday night so we played him again on Saturday. It's the same thing we did with (Robert) Zepp last weekend," DeBoer said. "We don't have any set patterns."

Chatter: Less than a month from now, the Whalers are expected to lose five or six of the top players to the World Junior Championships in Winnipeg. Among those expected to leave are Legwand, Druken, Paul Mara and Nik Tselios. The players will train and play with their respective national teams for about a month. DeBoer, who coached the Canadian National team last year will remain in Plymouth.

WHALER WATCH

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WEST	W	L	T	Last 10	Pts.
PLYMOUTH	17	2	2	8-0-2	36
S.S. MARIE	12	7	1	7-2-1	25
SARNIA	9	8	2	4-4-2	20
LONDON	8	13	0	3-7-0	16
WINDSOR	7	13	2	4-5-1	16

EAST	W	L	T	Last 10	Pts.
OTTAWA	17	2	2	8-2-0	36
PETER.	13	7	0	6-4-0	26
BELLEVILLE	10	8	3	5-4-1	23
OSHAWA	7	9	2	2-6-2	16
KINGSTON	7	12	1	3-6-1	15

MIDWEST	W	L	T	Last 10	Pts.
GUELPH	14	7	0	5-5-0	28
ERIE	10	7	1	5-4-1	21
OWEN SOUND	9	9	2	4-6-0	20
KITCHENER	6	10	2	3-5-2	14
BRAMPTON	3	17	0	2-8-0	6

CENTRAL	W	L	T	Last 10	Pts.
BARRIE	16	4	1	9-1-0	33
SUDBURY	8	10	3	5-3-2	19
NORTH BAY	7	10	3	4-5-1	17
TORONTO	3	12	4	1-7-2	10
MISSISSAUGA	1	17	1	1-8-1	3

WHALER STATISTICS

Team Leaders:
Goals: Druken (27)
Assists: Colagiacomio (26)
Points: Druken (43)
PIM: LaLonde (67)
+/-: Druken (+21)
GAA: Holsinger (2.14)

CATCH OF THE DAY

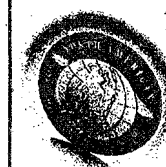
The Whalers 20 game start this year (16-2-2) is the second best 20-game segment in Whaler history.

The 94-95 Detroit Jr. Red Wings went 17-2-1 between Jan. 2 - Feb. 21, 1995. That team went on to an OHL championship and a Memorial Cup berth.

UPCOMING GAMES:

• Thurs. at Windsor (7:30 p.m.)
• Sat. at Owen Sound (7:30 p.m.)
• Sun. at Guelph (2 p.m.)

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Community opinions

Funding the Sheldon underpass:

One community, or not?

EDITOR:

Positively positively Plymouth depends on a tax payer's perspective. Especially if City residents are required to pay four times as much as Township residents for the Sheldon Road underpass.

The community has received assurance of government funding for a proposed \$8.8 million underpass. However, to secure the project, the Township and City must provide a portion of the cost: \$1.6 million.

There are two proposals to generate the money. The City has suggested a community-wide 0.14 mill increase over

10 years. The Township said the total cost should be divided 50 percent; \$800,000 per community.

Township officials have expressed doubts about the fairness to Township residents of a community-wide millage. Certainly, the Township and City should be concerned about raising \$1.6 million, and that the project has community support.

But fairness?

The Township has nearly three times the number of residents as the City and 80 per cent of the Plymouth area tax base. Due to the vast differences in population

and tax base, under the Township's proposal, City residents would be required to pay 0.32 mills, while Township residents would only pay 0.08 mills. If there is any unfair tax burden, it is on the City residents.

We are a community for school and library funding, social and charity events, and fire protection. Local business publications highlight the City's historic nature and small town atmosphere. Community residents boast of a Plymouth address.

Major improvements to the community require common financial responsibility.



Either a multi-million dollar underpass is viewed as a benefit to the community, or it is not. Either the Township and City are one community willing to fund the project, or we are not. Positively.

GERALD SABATINI
The City of Plymouth

8 years more of trash and toys

People have said that luck is simply the combination of foresight and common sense.

If that is the case, then Canton certainly has a long history of making its own luck when eking out extra funds for the community, or getting the best return on their dollars.

Examples of the township spreading out their funds are easy to find: Last week, for instance, the Public Safety Department purchased 14 laptop computers and 22 modems to upgrade their cruisers. They paid for the upgrade primarily through a COPS MORE '98 Grant agreement with the Department of Justice. Canton's cost for acquiring the hardware was \$36,886 out of \$147,544.

The donation of about 20 acres of land (which the township purchased for about \$50) to help draw a major sports complex to the community is another example of Canton's fiduciary skill. So is the requirement developers to widen and pave roadways leading to their developments.

In fact, Canton has a way of finding itself in win-win situations.

The proposed Sauk Trail Hills expansion, however, is

different. Although the landfill will bring Canton about \$13 million throughout its extended life, those funds come at a price.

If you balance the \$13 million on one hand, and the 60 or so angry homeowners, it's pretty obvious who is going to win. Canton officials have two main selling points.

Landfill money funds community improvements, which benefit all of Canton's residents. The Summit on the Park center, road paving — including the roads within the Canton Hills Subdivision.

Officials also rely on what is apparently logical: The landfill is already here, and expanding it won't adversely impact any other residents.

If they approve the expansion, the Board of Trustees would simply continue a situation which a small crowd of Canton homeowners has already learned to deal with. The payoff — better service to the great majority of Canton residents.

The landfill's current operational expectancy is for another eight years, and Canton is guaranteed to receive host fees during that time. Also a part of the original agreement was that no other landfill would be sited within Canton, ever.

Sauk Trail Hills money could be given to the residents most directly affected by the landfill.

Off the cuff
By Scott Spielman



It's difficult to see what the township's needs will be a decade from now. Certainly, there will be road improvements that will need to be done (Canton's proposed road millage, which was defeated in August, outlined road improvement projects for eight years); park land will probably be desirable, as well. Other community improvement projects, like the purchase of 12 new softball fields, and building a community theater, will probably be done and paid for by then.

Perhaps some of the Sauk Trail Hill funds can be given back to the residents most directly affected by the landfill; either in the form of a tax abatement, or money to purchase nose and ear plugs.

The Board should take this opportunity to evaluate the mark they will leave on the township, a community they may or may not be living in 20 years from now — Canton Township, home of the ground-breaking Summit on the Park, the nationally recognized Canton Softball Center, and, right up the street, the tallest landfill in Wayne County.

Now is also the time to allow other residents to give input on what should be done with the extra funds.

Wouldn't it be nice to give Allied Waste a polite "No, thank you." Or as Douglas Adams might say, "So long, and thanks for all the toys."

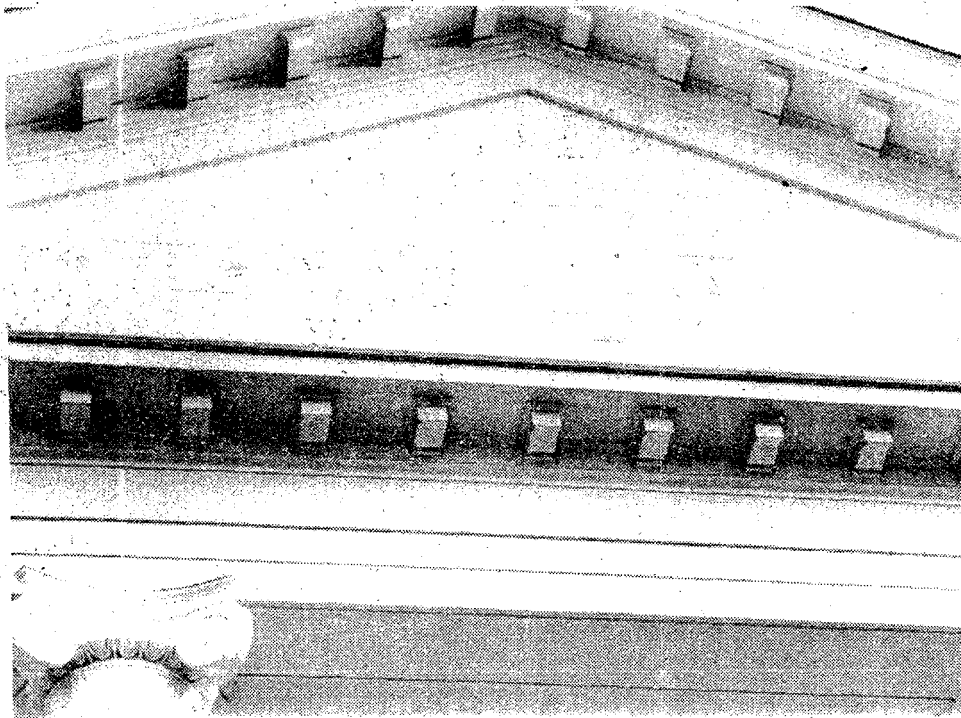
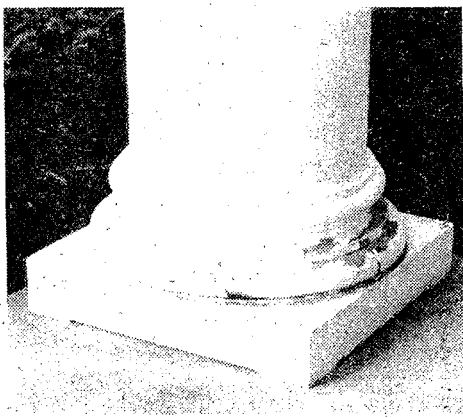
But that probably won't happen. Common sense and foresight will tell you that.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
821 Penniman Avenue
Plymouth, MI 48170
email@CRIER.COM

Whaddya think?



Community opinions



Peeling paint can be found throughout City of Plymouth properties -- from the very top and front of City Hall itself to The Gathering and City bulletin boards. Meanwhile, the City's ordinance inspector threatens tickets for homeowners' and businessowners' peeling paint, long-cut lawns and signs. (Crier photos by R. Alwood, Jr.)



City of Plymouth
201 SOUTH MAIN STREET
PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN 48170-1688
(313) 453-1234
FAX: 455-1892

August 19, 1998

Mr. Edward Wendover
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

Re: Plymouth, Michigan

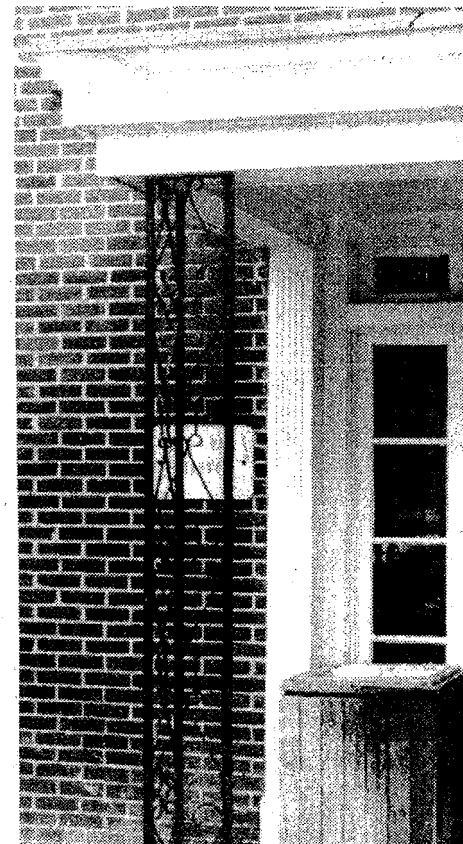
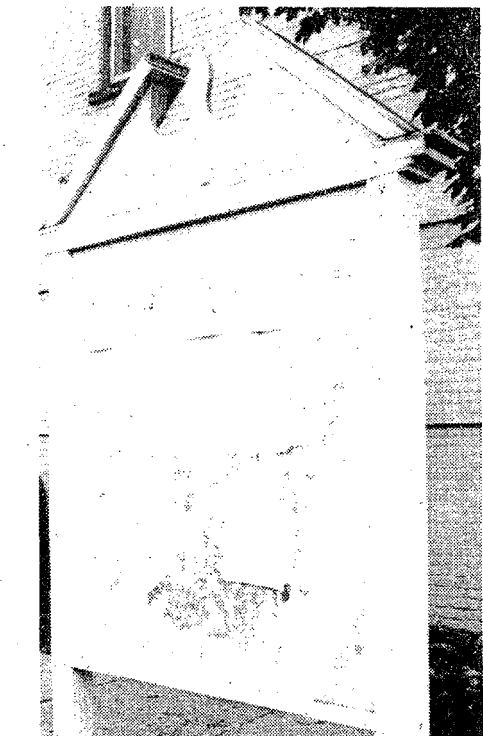
Dear Mr. Wendover:

We have received a complaint about the condition of the property at [redacted] in the City of Plymouth. A drive-by inspection revealed that the house has several locations where the paint is peeling. This is in violation of Boca National Property Code which has been adopted by the City of Plymouth.

The code is very explicit about peeling paint and I will quote the section of the Ordinance that deals with it. "Section PM-304.2 Exterior painting: All wood and metal surfaces, including but not limited to, window frames, doors, door frames, cornices, porches and trim shall be maintained in good condition. Peeling, flaking and chipped paint shall be eliminated and surfaces repainted."

We ask for your cooperation in this matter and if you have any questions, please call me at 453-1234, Ext. 231.

Very truly yours,
Charles Altman
Charles Altman
Code Enforcement Officer



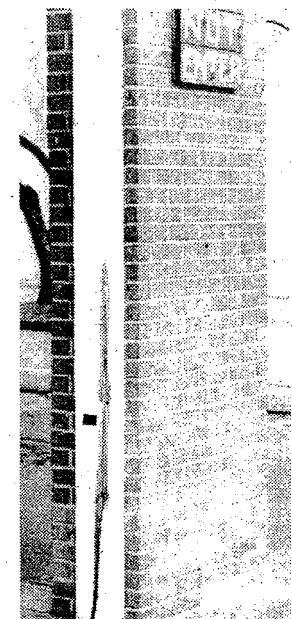
With malice toward none

By W. Edward WENDOVER



Don't throw stones...

Paint your own house,
mow your own yards and parks,
shovel your own snow,
clean up your own waste
follow your own sign laws!
Maybe you should replace
the Code Enforcement Officer's
ticket book with a paint brush.





Community opinions

Keep City affairs public

2-day retreat too long to meet in private

After months of strife, Plymouth's City Commission has taken its first steps toward a process of healing.

This is good.

This is appropriate, because when disagreements hamper the Commission's ability to get work done — as is the case now — then it is the Commission's job to find a remedy.

But those initial steps are leading the Commission toward some dangerous turf. As a follow-up to the group counseling session they attended Thursday, commissioners have tentatively planned a two-day retreat behind closed doors to continue reconciliation talks.

This is bad.

A private meeting would be illegal, a clear violation of Michigan's Open Meetings Act (OMA). The retreat idea is laudable, but such a meeting must be open to the public and press.

It certainly is understandable that commissioners would like a little privacy while trying to make up. The board's bad relationships are born of hurt feelings and damaged egos. Making things better will involve exposing and addressing those frailties, and finding ways to work around them. Commissioners are probably worried about having their dirty laundry shown in public and they, like any private citizen,



want to hold those sensitive discussions in private.

But commissioners are public officials, not private citizens. Their behaviors have a direct effect on the business of the City, and the business of the City must be conducted in full view of the public.

This is the rationale behind Michigan's OMA. The law is designed to keep government open for residents to monitor and influence.

During a two-day retreat, however, the probability is great that City business would come up in discussions. That would be unacceptable. Plymouth residents would be cut off from decisions that affect their town.

Residents and commissioners alike are in a tough spot.

The City and press could help the process by looking the other way while the Commission held a brief meeting in private to talk out its problems. But a two-day retreat is much too long.

Commissioners should continue their steps toward healing, but not if it leads them to tromp across citizens' rights and state law in the process.

And if the City's attorneys are heading down that path, then new City attorneys are in order.

THE COMMUNITY CRIER

Twp. should've tried again

In the August primary election, Plymouth Township voters soundly defeated millage increases proposed to fund a recreation department, change sewer taxes and expand police and fire services.

Plymouth Township should have tried again in the November 3 election.

Literature mailed to Township residents over the summer made a case for need. The police and fire departments needed about \$3.6 million to grow in-step with the community they served. Public safety was understaffed, the literature said. A three-mill increase would remedy the shortfall.

But voters said it loud and clear: 3 mills, or an average of \$300 more in taxes for most homeowners, was too much. The Township did not get the money it needed.

If that need was truly acute, the Township would have followed Northville Township's lead and returned with a streamlined proposal in November. Northville came back and won. Plymouth Township could have too with a proposal that wasn't saddled with recreation or sewer issues, or mismanaged in the hands of a clumsy campaign.

THE COMMUNITY CRIER

East educators got unfair rap

EDITOR:

My name is Jerome Sullivan, and I currently serve as the assistant principal at East Middle School.

In the Nov. 12 issue of the Canton Eagle, Jim Tantalo wrote a story concerning student performance at East. In that story, he indicated that East eighth-grade teachers had written a letter to parents and met with students because they were concerned about student work habits.

Tantalo then indicated that I disregarded the teacher complaints and implied that I was not in support of their efforts. I explained clearly to Mr. Tantalo that I understood the teacher complaints and was in agreement with the action of sending the letter. As he notes, both the East principal

and myself were aware of the letter before it was sent to parents.

I clearly indicated to him that the teachers at East regularly attempt to refocus students on the learning process. This group of teachers decided that it would be useful to deal with the eighth grade as a group because of some of the areas of common concern.

The comments concerning behavior which Tantalo quotes are accurate, but misleading. This is a typical year at East Middle School in terms of number of disciplinary contacts. The behavior the eighth-grade were discussing involved actions that were distracting to students' learning, but were not discipline issues that required a referral to the

administration.

These are issues that teachers deal with on a regular basis.

The East staff believes that education is a process which works best when parents, students and teachers effectively communicate and solve problems together. The actions that the eighth-grade teachers undertook demonstrated teaching at its very best. They observed a situation that was not in the best interest of students at East, and they reacted quickly and proactively to that situation.

I applaud the staff and support their actions fully.

JEROME SULLIVAN
Assistant Principal,
East Middle School

"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



THE NEWSPAPER
WITH ITS HEART IN
THE PLYMOUTH-
CANTON
COMMUNITY

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