

# Plymouth Observer

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## plymouth pipeline

### School board president

Plymouth-Canton school board president Dean Swartzweiler will have the board's top post for another year. He was appointed to a second one-year term by fellow trustees July 2.

Dave Artley was named vice president, and Roland Thomas was chosen as secretary.

Newly elected board member Les Walker will be treasurer.

Serving on the superintendent evaluation committee will be Walker, E.J. McClendon and Carl Battishill, who was elected to the board in June.

McClendon also will serve as the board's representative in the Metropolitan Association for Improved School Legislation. Serving on the waste management committee will be trustees Barbara Graham, Battishill and Artley.

Artley will represent the board in the community's Partnership for Education program and serve as liaison with the Wayne County School Board Association.

Thomas will be the Educational Excellence Foundation board representative.

### A relief

WHEW! Ron Guse of Canton is relieved his garage is still standing after his Fourth of July celebration.

Guse, 43, put on a fireworks show for some friends Tuesday night at his house on Becky Drive.

"We had Roman candles, and boxes of stuff that shoot off, just different fireworks," Guse said. "We put the empty shells in a garbage can and closed everything up in the garage when we were done."

"The next day, the can was completely burned — black and charred. So was the rubber liner underneath it; that was burned completely. We're lucky it didn't go up. There were two cars in there, and wood. It was a close call. I thought it was kind of neat what happened, well not really, we were just lucky."

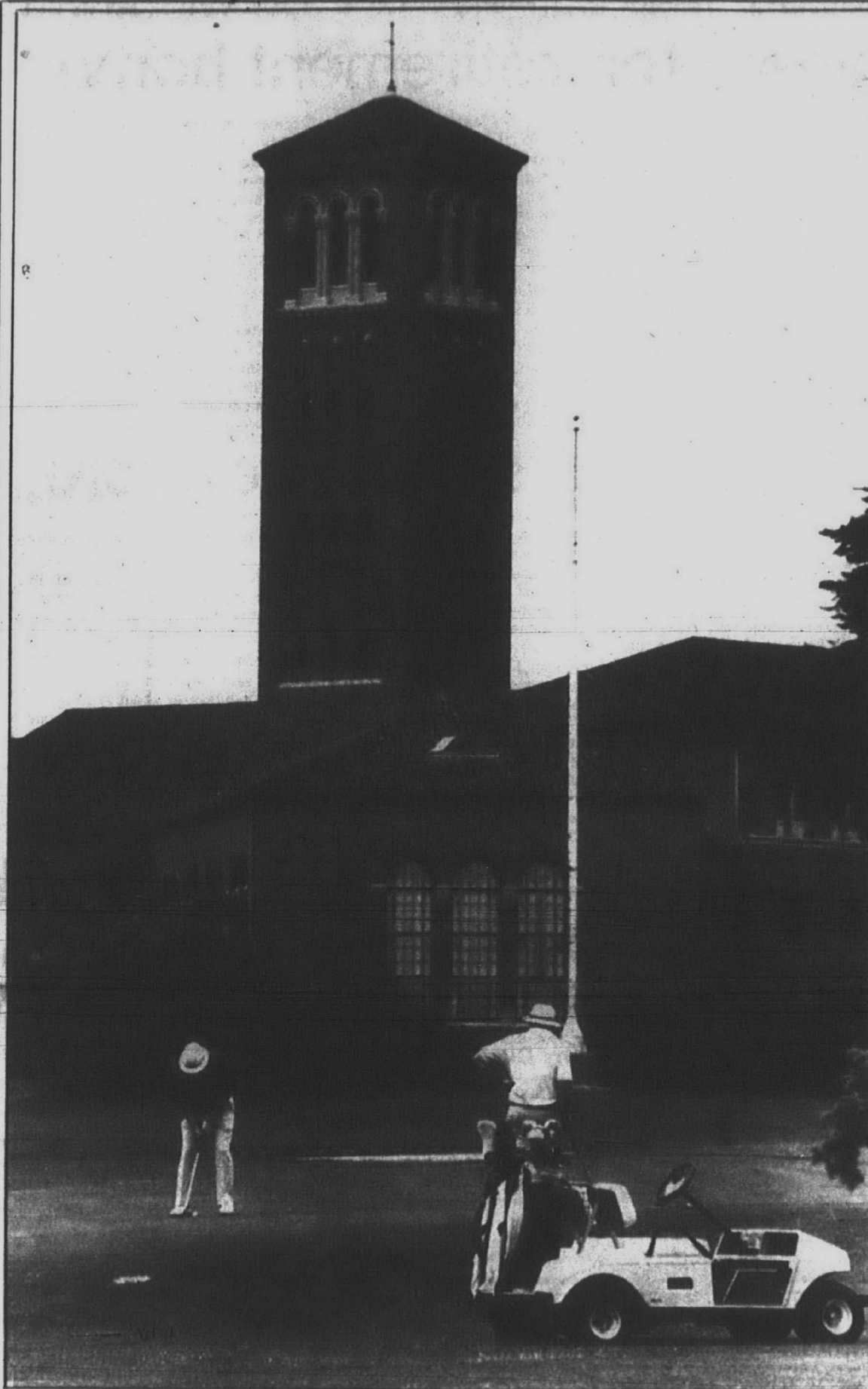
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BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

Golfers play on the course, which is part of the St. John Provincial Seminary property.

## New mission for St. John Seminary eyed as retirement home

By M.B. Dillon  
staff writer

If legal hurdles can be cleared, St. John Provincial Seminary in Plymouth Township will become a retirement center for about 1,000 residents.

Retirement and Health Services Corporation of Baltimore, Md., would operate a retirement center with ancillary medical facilities at

what was once Michigan's largest seminary.

Retirement and Health Services Corporation operates facilities nationwide. It is unaffiliated with any religious group.

"It's a long way from being concluded, but an offer has been made that's acceptable at the appraisal price. We have reason to believe it's an offer that could possibly be

concluded with everything else falling into place," said Jay Bertram, spokesman for the Archdiocese of Detroit.

The archdiocese and the prospective buyer are in the midst of a 30-day fact-finding period, said a spokeswoman for Byron W. Trerice Co., the Birmingham Realty firm

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## Widow frets over house called 'an accident waiting to happen'

By Kevin Brown  
staff writer

The 86-year old widow of a former Plymouth police chief can't afford the house repairs that the city of Plymouth demands, says her daughter.

The city served a 10-day notice on June 29 demanding permits for roof, chimney and porch repairs, among others, to the house at 558 Karmada.

"Granted, the house isn't house beautiful," said Kathy Johnson, of the home occupied by her mother, Hattie Greenlee. Both the roof and porch of the house sag noticeably.

Johnson, who grew up in the house and now lives in Canton, said she's

not happy with city officials. "That wasn't right to tell me that the money was available (for repairs) and the paperwork was coming," she said.

But city attorney Ron Lowe said by the building inspector's report, the house "sounds like it's an accident waiting to happen . . . We can't as a city say you don't have to comply."

"She should be sitting down with the city," he said, to plan needed repairs to the house.

HATTIE'S HUSBAND and Johnson's father Carl Greenlee was Plymouth chief of police from 1948 to 1957.

The story opens in December, when the city served notice that repairs were required within 30 days, Johnson said.

Upon hearing that federal grant money could go for fixing up houses owned by low-income residents, Johnson called the city for information.

Johnson said she talked with Paul Sincock, assistant city manager, who said such money was available. "We said this might be a good opportunity for use of (federal) block grant money," Sincock said.

He and other local officials who administer the federal grant money

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## Lorenz settles with Amoco

Amoco cleanup plans, 3A

By Kevin Brown  
staff writer

Mayflower Hotel owner Ralph Lorenz will get \$225,000 from Amoco for past damages, by an agreement reached with the giant oil corporation.

The pretrial judgment, entered in U.S. District Court on June 27 before Judge Patrick Duggan, stems from a lawsuit filed on behalf of Lorenz Square against Amoco.

Lorenz has claimed damages to his business due to fuel oil leakage from underground tanks at the former Amoco station on Main and Ann Arbor Trail.

A SETTLEMENT conference will take place to discuss future damages from the fuel oil spill and a cleanup, he said.

"Their (cleanup) method is what I'm concerned about, so it (the area) doesn't have a stigma," Lorenz said.

The current underground contamination, he said, "of course makes it impossible to lease or to mortgage." "I tried to talk to them about leasing the station to the city for a public facility," Lorenz said.

He would probably raise that subject again at the settlement conference, he said.

Amoco spokesman Walter Brown said that while a settlement conference is planned, he did not know what day it will convene. "We will be meeting with Mr. Lorenz," Brown said.

Should the two sides agree to a

cleanup plan, Lorenz said the Department of Natural Resources would also have to approve it.

AMOCO WILL be ordered to start cleaning the area in accordance with the state leaking underground storage tank act that went into effect in December, a DNR spokesman said in April.

According to the DNR, oil from a heating oil tank at the service station was believed to be collecting beneath the Mayflower Meeting House (next door), said David LeClerc, a geologist hired by Amoco to determine the extent of the spill.

"Amoco removed the tank and installed a new heating oil tank. While the apparent source of oil contamination had been removed, oil continued to collect in the sump pump of the meeting house," LeClerc said. "Tenants of the meeting house registered complaints of fuel odors."

Tests have indicated the area of fuel oil contamination extends under the Box Bar and Grill, the meeting house and the intersection of Ann Arbor Trail and Main Street.

LORENZ'S ATTORNEY, Michael Southerland, declined to discuss items to be raised at the settlement conference with Amoco.

"My client's primary concern is that the mess is cleaned up," said attorney Ron Lowe, who represents the Box Bar and Grill on the oil spill issue.

No court action has been sought against Amoco on behalf of the Box Bar, he said.

"The state law requires them to clean the mess," Lowe said.

## Commissioner pursues better cable reception

By Kevin Brown  
staff writer

With some cable TV subscribers complaining about bad reception of some channels, a Plymouth city commissioner is trying to push cable officials to fix the problem.

Specifically, commissioner John Vos said he and other neighbors in western Plymouth can get a better signal for cable channel 22 — which carries broadcast channel 2 — by using their traditional antennas, and that isn't right.

"I think they're giving us shoddy service," Vos said.

In his job as attorney, "I travel all over the country and stay in hotels where there's clear reception."

"There's no reason why you can get 2 on your broadcast antenna better."

THE CITY commission will review the contract between Omnicom Cablevision and the Plymouth area community "to ascertain if the vendor is living up to their side of the contract in terms of both quality service and quality television recep-

tion," Vos wrote in an open letter to residents.

Some citizens are circulating petitions in Plymouth for filing before commissioners "regarding their complaints," Vos said.

Omnicom manager Lisa Boland was out of town Friday and unavailable for comment.

"If anybody has experienced poor reception, and if it's not the fault of your own sets, they've (Omnicom) got a duty to do something," Vos said.

Omnicom engineers have given him "the runaround" when he has raised concerns, he said.

VOS WANTS to set up a meeting between officials of local governments and Omnicom, and include a representative from a competitor, Barton Cablevision, he said.

"We want to tell them (Omnicom) that either you're going to shape up, or we're going to replace you."

Vos is urging cable subscribers who have had reception problems to leave a telephone message for him at Plymouth City Hall, 453-1234, or write him in care of the city commission, city hall, 201 S. Main, Plymouth 48170.



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

Kathy Johnson, left, and her mother, Hattie Greenlee, are at odds with the city over the condition of Greenlee's house on Karmada Street.