

7-27-60

# Canton Observer

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Thursday, July 27, 2000

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Canton, Michigan

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IN THE PAPER  
**TODAY**

AT HOME



**Porches:** Homeowners such as Debbie and Harold Sneath (whose Canton porch is pictured here) have rediscovered what was once a popular gathering place to socialize with friends and neighbors. /D1

ENTERTAINMENT

**Special event:** The 151st Annual Highland Games, Saturday, Aug. 5, at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia, celebrate Scottish culture. /E1

**Dining:** Cozy, comfortable E.G. Nick's is the newest addition to Plymouth's dining scene. /E1

REAL ESTATE

**Sensible guide:** Good advice pointed these people in the right direction. /F1

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## District looking to hire teachers



**Retirements, buyouts and leaves have opened 90 teaching slots in Plymouth-Canton Community Schools for the fall. The district has filled 66 of them so far, school officials said this week.**

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER  
tbruscato@oe.homecomm.net

With approximately a month left before school starts, Plymouth-Canton administrators have yet to hire all the teachers they need to fill classrooms.

However, district officials say the situation isn't unusual, and they are confident that by the time classes begin Aug. 29, every classroom will have a teacher in place.

"With a month to go we're in real good shape," said Errol Goldman, assistant superintendent for employee relations and personnel. "We're pleased with the way the hiring has gone thus far, and we're working hard

on completing the process." As a result of a buyout package, leaves of absence and increased student enrollment, Goldman said the district needs to hire nearly 90 teachers. Thus far, 66 educators have signed contracts to teach in the district.

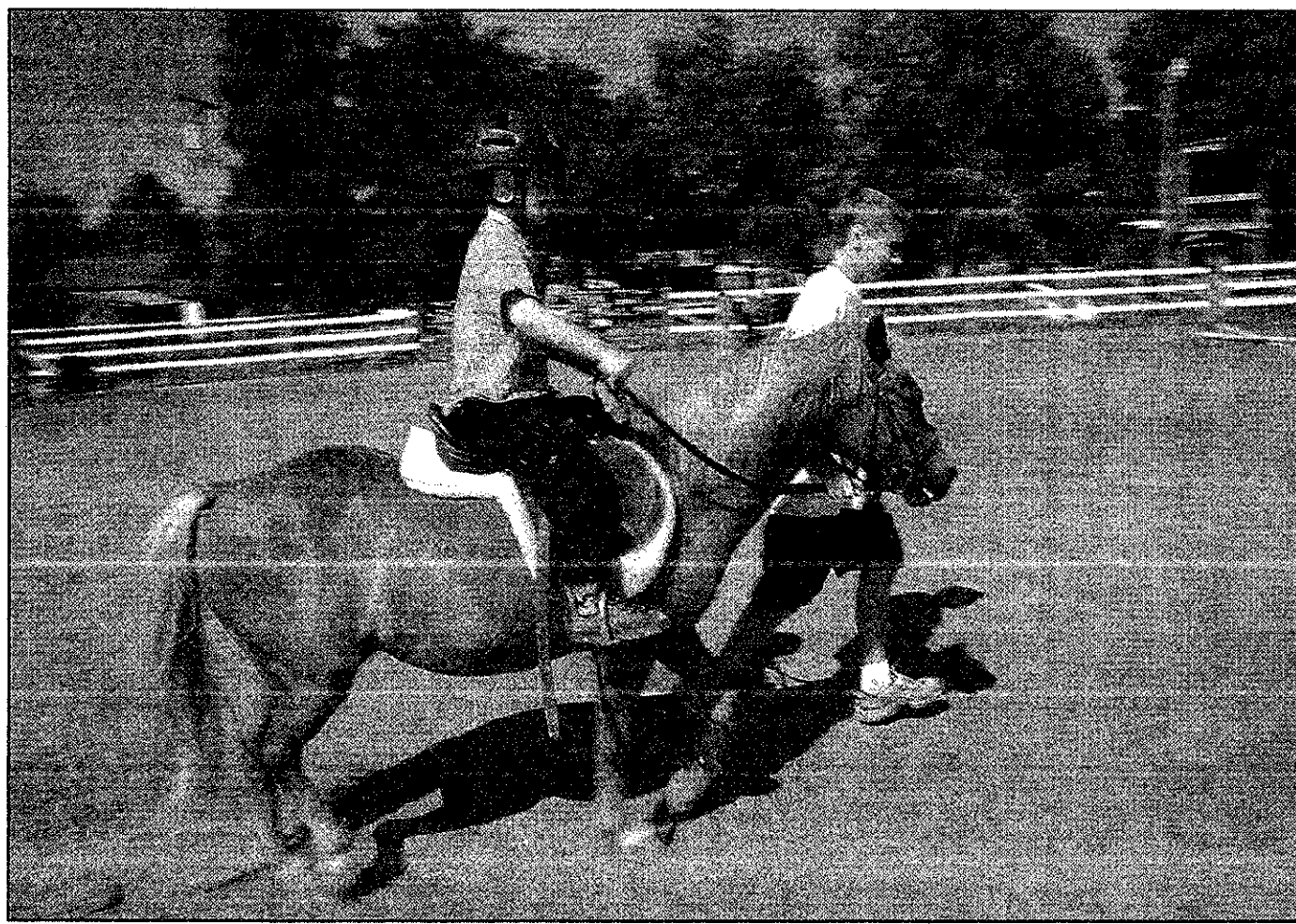
Goldman said the district received 706 qualified applications for elementary grades. The difficulties come in specialized and unique areas of teaching, disciplines in which every school district is competing for a small pool of applicants.

"Such as computer assisted drawing (CAD)," said Goldman. "It's difficult to find applicants, and every district is having the same problem."

"We've also had some difficulty in filling special education, counseling and substitute teacher positions, too,"

Please see **MORE TEACHERS, A4**

### These campers corral some fun



**Mane attraction:** Blake Blaylock of Canton, 8, rides "Harry Monster," a 12-year-old Hunter pony, led by counselor Steve West of Plymouth, 14, at Nature's Last Stand Pony Camp in Salem Township. For a story and more photos on a day at the camp, please turn to Page A9 in today's Observer.

STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

## Residents cry fowl over SAD

LOTZ ROAD

BY SCOTT DANIEL  
STAFF WRITER  
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A potential Lotz Road special assessment district is raising concerns among some Canton residents.

Property owners along Lotz recently petitioned the township for road improvements and the addition of a storm sewer system from Van Born Road in the south to Michigan Avenue in the north.

Preliminary estimates for the one-mile project have come in at \$3.7 million — a cost property owners say they can't afford.

"If you approve it you may as well take my property now," said Vernon Ray, who would be assessed \$50,690 if the SAD went forward in its current form. "I'm retired and on a fixed income. I won't be able to do it."

A public hearing of "necessity" was held by Canton's Board of Trustees Tuesday. No formal action was taken by the board, however.

Please see **LOTZ ROAD, A2**

## Township adds Summit perk to lure employees

BY SCOTT DANIEL  
STAFF WRITER  
sdaniel@oe.homecomm.net

The township is hoping the lure of better biceps will help keep employees in its fold.

A new voluntary health and fitness program will give employees free year memberships to Summit on the Park. The only catch is that each must maintain certain health standards.

"If it reduces absenteeism and illness," Canton Administrative and Community Serviced Director Dan Durack said, "it will be a tremendous benefit to the township and our employees in the long run."

Township Trustees unanimously approved the program at their Tuesday meeting. It will take effect Jan. 1, 2001.

With a continuing tight labor market, Durack said the township must do

everything it can to keep and attract employees.

"In the private sector," he added, "a lot of companies provide health club memberships. It's almost standard."

Employees applying to the program will be required to have a health risk appraisal conducted by their own personal physician. Blood pressure and cholesterol levels will be measured as will percentage of total body fat to total

body weight.

Such an assessment will be required each year, Durack said. The goal, he added, will be for each participant to have a cholesterol level of less than 200, blood pressure reading of 120/80 and body fat measurements of 13-17 percent for men and 18-22 percent for women.

Please see **PERK, A5**

## FBI: Canton bank job looks familiar

BY SCOTT DANIEL  
STAFF WRITER  
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Friday's D & N Bank robbery in Canton could be connected with a second holdup in metropolitan Detroit earlier this month.

Dearborn Federal Savings Bank in Dearborn Heights was robbed on July 13. The FBI, which is handling both cases, thinks the robberies were committed by the same suspect, Special Agent Hank Glaspie said.

"We have leads and are continuing in our investigation," he added.

The suspect in both incidents is described as a white male, 40-50-years-old, 5-feet 7-inches to 5-feet 9-inches tall and 240-250 pounds. The man has graying hair, wears a dark-colored baseball cap, a dark green pullover shirt with no collar and gray polyester pants.

Canton's D & N Bank was hit late Friday afternoon.

After placing a bag on the counter, the suspect handed a teller a note saying it contained a bomb

**After placing a bag on the counter, the suspect handed a teller a note saying it contained a bomb and that he would detonate the bomb unless she filled a separate bag full of money. The bomb turned out to be a fake.**

and that he would detonate it unless she filled a separate bag full of money.

"It was a fake device," Glaspie said.

The suspect indicated he had a gun in the Dearborn Heights incident.

The Canton bank teller complied with the suspect's demand. He then left.

Canton police arrived shortly after the man made his getaway.

Please see **ROBBERY, A4**

## Tax reform, airport top Bolden's campaign list

11TH DISTRICT COUNTY COMMISSION

BY SCOTT DANIEL  
STAFF WRITER  
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Fred Bolden has a clear agenda for the Wayne County Commission's 11th District seat — namely, tax reform, improving roads and Metro Airport.



Fred Bolden

"I feel it's a good fit for me," said Bolden, 45. "I know how county government works. I know the public acts

out there. I have a diverse background and I could work well with other commissioners."

He will square off against fellow Republican and township resident Rob Bovitz in the Aug. 8 primary. The winner will face incumbent John J. Sullivan of Wayne in November.

The 11th District encompasses the townships of Canton, Van Buren, Huron and Sumpter as well as the cities of Belleville, Romulus and Wayne.

It's not the first time Bolden has made a bid for the seat. He ran as a Democrat in 1998 and lost to Sullivan in the primary.

Bolden said he became a Republican because the party reflects his beliefs.

"I felt like I was on the right end of the Democratic party," he commented. "When I did my research, that moved me over being a Republican."

Please see **COMMISSION RACE, A4**

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**Special Olympics event is 'Classic'**

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM  
STAFF WRITER  
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Organizers of the 12th annual Michigan Special Olympics Summer Sports Classic say cheering on the athletes while they play softball and golf truly is a special experience.

"I'd love to see everyone come out and watch our special athletes and cheer them on," said Terry Jobbitt, Sports Classic co-director. "The enthusiasm and hard work they put into (playing) is to me as rewarding as watching someone go after a gold medal in the Olympics."

The event is taking place on two fronts — the Canton Softball Center, 46555 Michigan Ave., and Pineview Golf Course, 5820 Stoney Creek, Ypsilanti. About 1,280 athletes and coaches are expected to attend and 53 teams will compete.

Softball events kick off 11:30 a.m. Friday, July 28. A Young Country WYCD 93.5 FM representative will throw the first pitch during opening ceremonies at 8 p.m.

Golf events will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, July 28 at Pineview Golf Course.

Softball events will continue 8 a.m. through 2 p.m. Saturday, July 29.

Jobbitt said there will be two "junior" softball teams with players age 8 to 15, but most teams will feature players age 16 through 40. There will also be six "unified" softball teams consisting of both special Olympians and non-athletes.

"It gets (special Olympians) into the mix with all of us," he said, adding that it provides an extra challenge.

The Michigan Special Olympics Summer Sports Classic will be hosted by the Wayne Civitans and the Canton Softball Center. Financial support will be provided by the Canton Community Foundation, Michigan Osteopathic Association, Dero Testamental Foundation, the Detroit Lions Charities and the Lear Corporation.

Other groups and companies providing volunteers and services include United Parcel Service, the UAW, Pineview Golf Course and Henderson Glass.

For more information, call the Canton Softball Center at (734)483-5600.



**Say YES:** Area teens gathered July 13 for a night of improvisational fun at the Plymouth Community Arts Council as part of the Youth Empowerment Source program. The next YES event is Friday.

**Movie night planned Friday for YES teens**

Youth Empowerment Source will hold an all-night movie party beginning at 9 p.m. Friday at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, Sheldon Road at Junction.

The YES Video Lock-in features "Austin Powers," movies with Adam Sandler and other popular comedians.

Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$5 and include movies, pizza, drinks and a continental breakfast.

YES is a group of Plymouth and Canton teens whose goal is to organize drug-free, non-violent activities. It is geared toward middle school and high school students.

**Man arrested in domestic assault**

A 46-year-old Canton man was arrested by Canton police for misdemeanor assault and battery on a township woman Saturday evening.

The woman, 30, who lives on Michigan Avenue, was talking with the man's wife in front of her home at about 8 p.m. The man approached and began arguing with her, police reports said.

Words became heated and the man allegedly threatened the woman with a knife, according to reports.

Reports said the woman then attempted to flee, but was held up by the man who threw a glass at her. The woman finally made

it to a pay phone and called police. The reports didn't indicate an injury to the woman.

A criminal history check revealed that the man was wanted in Coldwater, Mich., on child neglect charges.

**Fake bill**

Someone passed a counterfeit \$100 U.S. bill Saturday at Super Kmart in Canton.

The phony money was used to make a \$6 purchase, according to reports. Store video tape showed that the bill was passed

at approximately 2:45 p.m. by a woman. No description of the woman was given in police reports.

**Assault and battery**

A 37-year-old Canton woman was assaulted Saturday by another woman, reports said.

The 37-year-old was walking through the laundry room of her apartment building in the 8000 block of Brook Park when a man whistled at her. Reports said the woman later went to the man's apartment to tell him she didn't appreciate his actions.

When she knocked on his door, a 35-year-old woman answered. The duo began arguing and the 37-year-old had spit flung in her face, reports said.

**Busted**

An 18-year-old Canton man was arrested by police on a charge of a minor in consumption of alcohol Saturday.

Police were called to his home on a possible assault. Officers discovered that the teen had been drinking, reports said. The 18-year-old subsequently registered a .148 on a breath test, which is over Michigan's legal limit.

**Lotz Road** from page A1

Canton Supervisor Tom Yack agreed with property owners about the SAD's price tag.

"This may be the most over-designed project in the history of Michigan," he said. "These are outrageous costs. We understand that."

In a special assessment district, property owners bear the cost of improvements. Assessments, which include principal and interest, are typically spread over a 10-year period.

The township's role is to act as a "financial vehicle," Canton Municipal Services Director Aaron Machnik said. Once trustees sign off on the SAD, the township issues bonds to finance improvements.

"Our job is to act as a bank and manage costs," Machnik added.

As for the Lotz Road SAD, a number of entities had input in calculating the \$3.7 million estimate, according Machnik.

Michigan's Department of Transportation, Wayne County, utility and railroad companies are examples, he said. Machnik believes the cost can and should

come down. "Negotiations with those other entities have not been aggressive enough in my opinion," he added. "We believe \$3.7 million, on the surface, is a lot."

Lisa Walker and her family have owned a Lotz Road parcel for decades. She said she's in favor of a SAD, but not at the current estimate.

"We can't afford this type of assessment, Walker said. With 184 feet of front footage on Lotz, she'd be responsible for \$68,820.

Walker said she and her family have tried to sell the property for years. They've been close several times, she told trustees, but deals fell apart because of the lack of infrastructure on Lotz.

"We're stuck paying taxes on useless property," Walker added.

Machnik said he and his department will go back and "aggressively" review cost estimates for the project. He then plans to have a meeting with property owners. The SAD will finally return to Canton Trustees for a vote.

**Physical Therapy UPDATE**  
Hands On Center  
Presented by Hands On Center For Physical Therapy  
**ONCE REMOVED**  
Plaster casts are used to stabilize and protect an injured area after a bone fracture occurs. Once the cast comes off, the rehabilitative work begins. Patients will first notice a loss of flexibility because the joint has been held in one position for so long. To counter the feeling of stiffness, the physical therapist will introduce range-of-motion exercises, flexibility, and strengthening. For example, when rehabilitating a broken wrist after the removal of a cast, the arm should be extended out in front, thumb up. Then, the wrist should be bent, turning the hand inward, followed by bringing the hand to center. The hand should then be similarly moved outward and downward, followed by stretching. Isometric exercises are utilized for strength. Often patients are surprised at how fragile the injured limb appears after having been in a cast; loss of muscle tone due to forced inactivity can occur very rapidly. Attempting to regain this tone or jump into one's former activities too fast can cause further injury. If you are due to have a cast removed, have recently undergone surgery, or are experienced pain and reduced range of motion, ask your physician for a referral to the HANDS ON CENTER FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY, located in Plymouth, at 470 Forest Ave., Suite 20, or call 455-8370 to learn more about our services. P.S. One key point to bear in mind when rehabilitating after injury is to not over-stress the tissue.

Johan Comuth, PT  
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# Recall campaign mars House race

## 18TH DISTRICT

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER  
dclem@oe.homecomm.net

Westland City Councilwoman Sharon Scott won't surrender to a recall election without mustering a fight.

"It's worth a challenge," she said Tuesday.

Scott confirmed that her attorney, Gene Farber, and her husband, Ted, will try to find invalid voter signatures on petitions circulated by recall workers.

"I am too busy to deal with the recall," Scott said.

She is campaigning against Councilman Glenn Anderson in the Aug. 8 primary for the Democratic nomination to the 18th District state House seat.

Westland City Clerk Joann Seaberg already tossed out 1,001 petition signatures, leaving recall workers with 5,052 names of registered voters.

County officials have said recall workers need 4,997 valid signatures - equal to 25 percent of the votes cast in the last governor's race - to have Scott's name placed on a special recall election ballot.

That means Scott's team will have to find at least 56 additional invalid signatures to render the petition drive a failure.

Moreover, Farber has to notify county election officials by Monday if he plans to challenge signatures verified by Seaberg's office.

"If they challenge, we will challenge back," one recall leader, Brenda Gracin, said Tuesday. "I expected them to do this."

Seaberg has sent her count of

5,052 recall signatures to Wayne County elections officials for review.

Scott's recall election is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 3 - an election Scott has said would cost the city nearly \$50,000.

Farber confirmed Tuesday that he believes some signatures can be successfully challenged as invalid, although he wasn't sure if he could cite enough problems to block the recall.

"I have to have some basis why I believe the recall petition should not be approved," Farber said.

County officials are expected to announce on Aug. 4 - four days before the Aug. 8 primary - whether recall workers have succeeded in their petition drive for a special recall election.

Scott hasn't ruled out the possibility that the issue could end up in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Some recall workers have speculated that Scott will resign her council post within days to avoid a recall election, but, thus far, Scott has held her ground.

Recall workers want to oust Scott for her role in the Jan. 18 firing of former City Clerk Patricia Gibbons.

The workers also are in the midst of a petition drive against three other council members - David Cox, Charles "Trav" Griffin and David James - who voted to fire Gibbons.

Gracin has said voters seem particularly eager to sign petitions against Cox and Griffin.

## Taking a break at the ice cream social



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

**Out and about:** Amanda Rosevear of Canton, 1, kept her bonnet on during the ice cream social in Olde Town Plymouth at the former fire station Saturday. Mom Janet keeps an eye on things.

# Canton resident is 'Road to Riches' winner

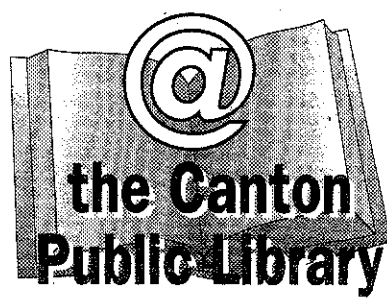
Antoinette "Toni" Mowinski, 82, of Canton won \$600 on "Road to Riches." The retired cashier said she plans to use her winnings to pay bills and take a trip "up north." Mowinski, a mother

of five, grandmother of nine and great-grandmother of another nine, enjoys sewing, crocheting afghans, gardening and cooking, her specialty is polish pierogi, in her free time. Her son, Paul

Mowinski, appeared on the show and played in her place.

On "Road to Riches" where all roads lead to prize money, contestants select travel symbols from the "Boulevard of Bucks,"

"leisure Lane," "Easy Street" and "road to Riches" game boards. The contestant winning the closets amount to \$1,000 without going over in the first four rounds advances to the final.



### Did you know?

- August is National Inventors Month?
- If you put a raisin in a glass of champagne, it will keep floating to the top and sinking to the bottom?
- The highest point in Pennsylvania is lower than the lowest point in Colorado?
- Ten percent of the Russian government's income is from the sale of vodka?
- Debra Winger was the voice of E.T.?
- Chemist Sir Joseph Priestly discovered Oxygen on Aug. 1, 1774?

### Books on tape

- Here are some books on audio tape available at the library:
- *Acorna's People* by A. McCaffrey
- *First Lady* by Susan Elizabeth Phillips
- *The Inn at Lake Devine* by Elinor Lipman
- *Life Skills* by Katie Fforde
- *Who Moved My Cheese?* by Spencer Johnson

### New DVDs

- *Cradle Will Rock*
- *The End of the Affair*
- *Bringing Out the Dead*
- *Guys and Dolls*
- *Sleepy Hollow*

### Q&A

**Q:** Who owns the first U.S. patent?  
**A:** On July 31, 1790, the first

U.S. Patent Office opened its doors and the first U.S. patent was issued to Samuel Hopkins of Vermont. Hopkins received his patent for a new method of making pearlsh and potash. The patent was signed by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

Source: *Chase's 2000 Calendar of Events.*

### Web Watch

- Check out these Web sites:
- [www.worldhealthnews.harvard.edu](http://www.worldhealthnews.harvard.edu)
- [www.winetoday.com](http://www.winetoday.com)
- [www.ssa.gov/enews](http://www.ssa.gov/enews)
- [www.afionline.org/100laughs](http://www.afionline.org/100laughs)
- [www.allmagicguide.com](http://www.allmagicguide.com)

### CD-ROMs

- Here are some new titles for adults:
- *Burpee 3D Garden Designer*
- *Microsoft Money 2000*
- *Instant Immersion, Italian*
- *E-commerce Construction Kit Deluxe*
- *Teach Me Piano*

### Hot topic of the week

The season has begun for U-pick farms! Fresh vegetables and fruits await. Start your search by going to the Canton Public Library Home Page, click the Internet Resources, click "What's Hot" and then click on U-Pick Farm Directory. You can search for a specific farm by city, all the farms in a specific county or all the farms with a specific crop. The more information you enter, the more accurate the results. Happy picking!

@ the Canton Library is compiled by Laura Dorogi of the library staff. The library is at 1200 S. Canton Center. For more information about library programs and services, call 397-0999.

## Area students attend seminar

High school students throughout Michigan had the opportunity to gather for two weeks at Madonna University in Livonia as participants in the 2000 Summer Institute for the Arts, Sciences and Technology sponsored by the Michigan State Board of Education.

Kristian R. Cain, Matt Reuter, and Brian Roberson of Canton and Nicole Exe, Tiffany Humes, Lisamarie LiGreci, and Katie MacDonell of Plymouth all participated in the program this summer.

These students lived on campus from July 9-22 and were involved in intensive lab and field experiences, discussions,

research, technology and techniques, with some of Michigan's top artists, teachers, researchers and business and industry professionals.

As one of eight institutions chosen to participate, this was Madonna University's seventh year in the program. The university offered the following intensive classes: Internationalizing For A Global World; Music Video Production; Black and White Photography; Journalism; Sign Language and Artistic Interpretation for the Deaf; Japanese Language and Culture; Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering; Creative Writing; and Chemistry and Biology of the Rouge River.

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# Commission race from page A1

Bolden works as a computer information system consultant. He is married with three children, including a newborn boy.

If you get the idea that Bolden doesn't sleep much, you're right. But he doesn't use his busy schedule as an excuse not to do his 11th District homework.

"I got to meetings once or twice a week," said Bolden, who usually can be found taking notes at Canton's Board of Trustees meetings on Tuesdays.

He thinks keeping up with issues means investing time in each 11th District Community.

"I will definitely be more accessible than Sullivan," Bolden said. "I already am."

Part of fixing problems in Wayne County is being able to work with state legislators and at the federal level, he explains.

**'I want to be a bridge builder between the state and local municipalities. I would go to Lansing and meet with our state representatives and senators.'**

*-Fred Bolden*

"I want to be a bridge builder between the state and local municipalities," Bolden said. "I would go to Lansing and meet with our state representatives and senators."

He thinks there's a disconnect between the county and state.

"We don't work effectively together," said Bolden. "I'd like to offer my project coordinating skills to get things done."

Tax reform is a top priority for him.

He notes that Wayne County's tax rate is one of the highest in the state. Determining where dollars are being wasted and where efficiency can be improved is key, said Bolden.

He sees county department heads with too many perks and too much money being spent on marketing for Metro Airport's new terminal as examples of how the county's budget can be trimmed.

"I think it would be a step in

strengthening our budget," said Bolden.

As for Metro Airport, he would like to review how contracts were awarded in constructing its new terminal. He would penalize companies that overbilled for their services.

Roads are another key issue for Bolden. He said he would continue to fight for Public Act 51 reform. The act distributes fuel taxes by formula to Michigan's road agencies.

Whatever he's going to get done on the commission, Bolden knows he will have to work cooperatively with Democratic colleagues.

"I'm a team-player," he said. "I can't be a hard-liner. Our general goal should be to improve Wayne County and put politics aside."



**Suspect:** Bank surveillance tapes captured this photo of the suspect in Friday's robbery.

# Robbery from page A1

The bank and surrounding buildings were secured and evacuated.

Michigan State Police were called to the scene to dispose of the bag. No injuries were reported as a result of the incident.

Anyone with information

about the robbery is asked to contact Canton Police at (734) 397-3000, Dearborn Heights Police at (313) 277-6770 or the FBI at (313) 965-2323.

A reward is being offered for information leading to an arrest and prosecution of the suspect.

# Fall Fest set for Sept. 8-10

Sept. 8, 9 and 10 are the dates for the 45th annual Plymouth Community Fall Festival held downtown in Kellogg Park.

The festival is a cooperative effort of nonprofit service, school, youth, educational and church groups in the area. Funds raised support the projects of many groups; volunteers donate hundreds of hours to make the festival a success.

Eisenhower was in the White House, rock 'n' roll was a few months old and the local Rotary Club wanted to raise funds for a children's park when the event started in 1956. They held a modest chicken roast on the first Sunday after Labor Day.

The festival is billed as diverse family fun and includes musical entertainment, rides, food, games for kids, a car show, bingo, a pet show, a pancake breakfast, a chicken dinner, a fashion show, the Chili Cook-Off, an antique show and more.

# More teachers from A1

he said. "However, other than that, we've been very successful in filling our positions."

Goldman said the reputation of Plymouth-Canton Schools is a plus in hiring, especially when applicants have multiple job offers.

Plymouth-Canton knew it would need to hire an unusually high number of teachers for the second year in a row because of the buy-out given union mem-

bers. And, because of that, Goldman said the district started earlier than usual in looking for replacements.

"This year we started job postings in April, which is a bit earlier than usual," said Goldman. "We wanted to attack the job market early on because of the number of vacancies we had, and as an effort to beat out other districts looking for teachers in a limited pool of applicants."

# Planners meet Mondays

The Canton Township Planning Commission meets on the first and third Monday of each month at the administration building.

Meetings begin at 7 p.m. and

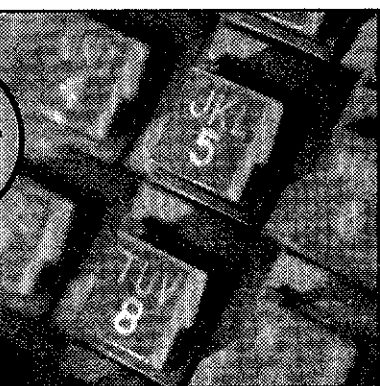
are open to the public.

Agendas are available from the township planning department or can be accessed online at [www.canton-mi.org](http://www.canton-mi.org)

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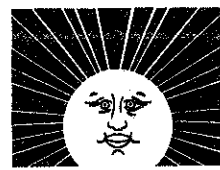
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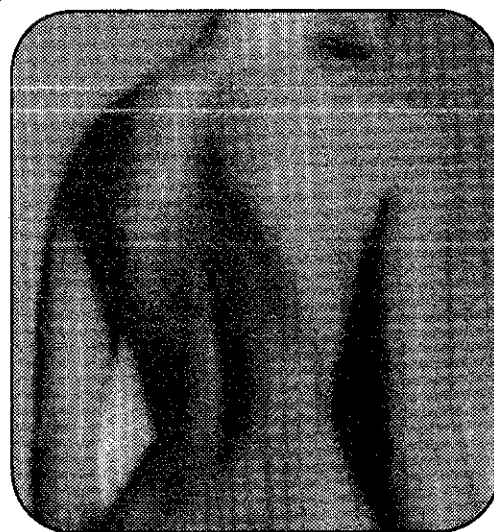
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## Perk from page A1

Participants will not have to fall within those guidelines to keep their free Summit memberships. But Durack said they must make progress each year.

"We're trying to make it very attainable to encourage rather than discourage people," he added.

Facilities at the Summit should help employees attain their fitness goals, Durack said. The community center features an indoor track, aerobic equipment, weights and basketball courts.

The township has about 330 full and part-time employees. Elected officials will also be eligible.

"I think a goal of 50 percent participation would be a good number," Durack said.

Lisa Weyer, an administrative assistant in municipal services, plans on taking advantage of the program.

She currently has an annual pass to the Summit. Weyer runs, does taekwondo classes and lifts weights to stay in shape.

"I think it's a great idea," she said of the program. "I

think it's a real incentive for people to stay in shape all year around."

A township resident, Weyer pays a little less than \$200 for her annual pass. Employees living outside Canton pay much more for memberships, she adds.

"There's no reason for people not to take advantage of this," Weyer said.

Debbie Zevalkink, Canton Supervisor Tom Yack's personal assistant, agreed.

"It's a win-win for the employees and employer," she said. "It's a great offer."

According to Durack, the move will likely save the township many more dollars in health premiums than it will cost up front.

"It's something we can utilize and is of little or no cost to the taxpayers," he said.

The program will not replace a voluntary fitness test. Township employees have an opportunity each year to earn \$250 providing they meet standards for a two-mile run, push-ups and sit-ups.

# Cherry Hill site guidelines set

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM  
STAFF WRITER  
hneedham@oe.homecomm.net

The Canton Planning Commission ironed out a few more of the details for the historic-themed Cherry Hill Village planned development district at its meeting Monday.

The area encompasses the Cherry Hill/Ridge area, the site of one of Canton's original crossroads villages.

The commission, with commissioner Bob Wade absent, voted 6-0 to approve a text amendment to an overlay zoning ordinance. The changes will:

- Define the boundaries of the district as well as its purpose and intent, permitted uses, procedure for review and approval and incorporate design guidelines.

- Set guidelines for site development and architectural guidelines for buildings within and outside the district.

Some commissioners disagreed about the wording, particularly regarding sidewalks. Commissioner Ron Lieberman said one passage was too strict. The passage read, "Connections to all building entrances from public sidewalks shall be provided."

"I do not like the idea that you have to have a sidewalk that goes right up to the porch," Lieberman said.

Commissioner Melissa McLaughlin disagreed.

"This is a traditionally designed neighborhood that is antithetical to the neighborhoods we have today."

The commission agreed to change the word "shall" to should.

Other actions taken by the commission included:

- Approving, 6-0, a Meijer gas station addition/renovation project. The property is located on

the south side of Ford east of Canton Center. Plans call for demolishing the present building. The parking area will be reduced and the lawn area along Ford will be expanded.

- Approving, 6-0, a six-month extension of special land use for Cherry Hill Pointe Assisted Living, at the northwest corner of Cherry Hill and Lotz. JAC Construction received special land use approval for the center on Aug. 11, 1999, which will expire Aug. 11 of this year. JAC's request was for a six-month extension to give them more time to develop their site plan.

## Authorities investigate nursing home abuse case

BY MATT JACHMAN  
STAFF WRITER  
mjachman@oe.homecomm.net

State authorities and Livonia police are investigating a case of possible patient abuse at a nursing home on Ann Arbor Trail.

Police were notified July 17 after injuries were found on a 68-year-old man at St. Jude Con-

valent Center, said Lt. Ben McDermott, police department spokesman. The resident suffers from multiple sclerosis and has trouble communicating.

The man suffered bruises to the right side of his chest, his right thigh, and his head above his right eye, among others, said St. Jude's director of nursing, who did not want her name used.

The center is doing its own investigation as well as cooperating with police and the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services, she said.

It was the second time this month that the man was found injured, McDermott said. On July 7, the staff noticed bruises on his head, chest and upper

arms, he said.

But the nursing director said it appeared those bruises had been caused when the man leaned against the side rail of his bed for too long. No wrongdoing was suspected.

The earlier incident is being re-examined in light of the more recent injuries, she said Friday.

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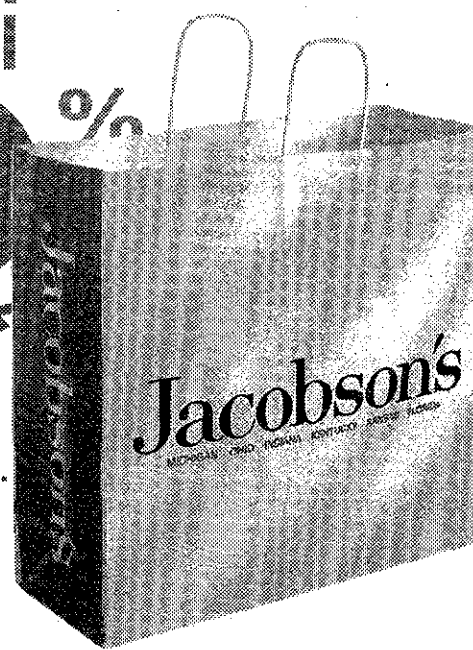
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## OBITUARIES

**ROBERT J. TARHANICH**

Services for Robert J. Tarhanich, 41, of Pinckney (formerly of Plymouth) were held July 22 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, Plymouth. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth.

He was born Jan. 6, 1959, in Detroit and died July 18, 2000, in Ann Arbor. He was a mechanic for Martin Automotive in Hamburg, Mich. He moved to Pinckney in 1997 from Plymouth. He was a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth. He lived on

Portage Lake where he enjoyed water sports (boating and water skiing) and working on cars.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Sherri, in 1985. Survivors include his parents, Donald and Shirley Tarhanich of Plymouth; fiancé, Sandy Duncan of Picky; eight sisters and brothers, Mary Tarhanich of Plymouth, Ann Niedermeyer of Westland, Linda (Michael) Dietz of Westland, Donald (Connie) Tarhanich of Belleville, James (Shirl) Tarhanich of South Lyon, Thomas Tarhanich of Redford, John (Paula) Tarhanich of Novi

and Michael (Marnie) Tarhanich of Plymouth; 14 nieces and nephews; and one grandmother, Edna A. Grandy of Troy.

Memorials may be made as Mass offerings.

Local arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth.

**GERTRUDE O. WILSON**

Services for Gertrude O. Wilson, 89, of Canton were held July 24 at Oakview Cemetery, Royal Oak, with the Rev. Roy G. Forsyth officiating.

She was born Dec. 21, 1910, in Ishpeming, Mich., and died July

19, 2000. She worked in education as a secretary.

Survivors include her son, Ronald (Annette); and two grandchildren, Heather and Ryan.

**CHARLES E. GAGNEAU**

Services for Charles E. Gagneau, 69, of Canton were held July 25 at Santeiu Chapel with the Deacon Jim Hensel of St. Theodore of Canterbury Church officiating. Burial was in Roseland Memorial Gardens, Jackson, Mich.

He was born Oct. 20, 1930, in Detroit and died July 21, 2000, in Westland. He worked with

roofing and siding.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Gagneau of Canton; three sons, Mark (Gail) Gagneau, Kirk (Kathy) Gagneau and Scott (Pamela) Gagneau; one daughter, Gil (Dick) Gilbo; two sisters, Ruby Warner and Delores Gannon; one brother, Ross Gagneau; and seven grandchildren, Holly, Amanda, Justin, Kyle, Kelsey, Lauren and Lindsay.

Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association or to Community Hospice.

**GEORGE D. LINART SR.**

Services for George D. Linart Sr., 62, of Howell were held July 25 in state at St. Edith Catholic Church, Livonia. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

He was born March 25, 1938; in Verona Township and died July 23, 2000, in Hartland. He was an engineer/business owner of Engineering Development Systems of Plymouth and Howell. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Grosse Ile, and had a long career in the machine tool design business. He was also a member of the Ford Yacht Club and Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club. He was an avid booster and enjoyed playing the accordion.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Nicholas and Agnes Linart; and one brother, Walter Zuk. Survivors include his wife, Jean C. Linart of Hartland; one son, George D. (Jennifer) Linart Jr. of Plymouth; seven daughters, Michelle Naxter of Grosse Ile, Sandy (Edward) Shepler of Livonia, Audrey (Chris) Pratt of San Francisco, Calif., Marsha Linart of Grosse Ile, Georgina (Pablo) Linart-Bello of Detroit, Stacey Linart of Moscow, Russia, and Mary Linart of Kalamazoo; three sisters, Sophie Dukelow, Virginia (Ronald) McGilivray and Pauli (Edward) Piotrowski; step-daughter, Marian (Stephen) Riley of Farmington Hills; two step-sons, Steven (Mary) Madonis of South Lyon and David Madonis of Wixom; seven grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to McPherson Home Care/ Livingston Hospice, 620 Byron Road McPherson Hospital, Howell, MI 48843, or to the McAuley Cancer Care-St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Outpatient, Oncology Clinic, P.O. Box 995, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

**KENNETH E. HELKA**

Services for Kenneth E. Helka, 68, of Canton took place July 25 at the Santeiu Chapel with the Rev. Christopher Harris of Garden City Presbyterian Church. Burial was in Cadillac Memorial Gardens West, Westland.

He was born Sept. 2, 1931, in Dearborn and died July 21, 2000, in Canton. He retired after 36 years at the Vulcan Rouge Ford Motor Co. plant and with the UAW. He was a life member of the VFW Post 1170, Middletown, Ky. He was a member of

the American Legion, Post 224 of Jeffersontown, Ky. He was a Korean veteran and served in the U.S. Army with the military police. He loved the Detroit Tigers, Detroit Red Wings, Lions, Pistons and enjoyed many sports. He was a devoted father, father-in-law, grandfather, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, cousin and a friend to many.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret Helka. Survivors include his two daughters, Debbie (David) Antle of Louisville, Ky., and Penny Holt of Nashville, Tenn.; two step-sons, Benny (Dianne) Shoemaker and Fred Shoemaker; two brothers, Lamar Helka and Dan "Joe" (Joan) Helka; one sister, Katherine Epley; five grandchildren, Jackie Holt, Kelly Holt, Amanda Holt, Luke Shoemaker and Lisa Shoemaker; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice.

**HELEN I. RISHER**

Services for Helen I. Risher, 80, of Canton were held July 26 at St. Thomas A'Becket Church with the Rev. Kelly officiating.

She was born March 14, 1920, in Kittanning, Pa., and died July 21, 2000. She was a homemaker.

Survivors included her husband James M.; four children, Lesley J. (Jerry) Moschet, Mark J. (Vicki), Nancy (Edward) Pawlec and Theresa (Mark) Allain; one sister, Bette Lee Pauly; and seven grandchildren.

**HANS JULIUS OHLISS**

Services for Hans Julius Ohliss, 91, of Plymouth Township were held July 26 at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth, with the Rev. Roy G. Forsyth officiating. Burial was in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock.

He was born Oct. 12, 1908, in Frankfurt, Germany, and died July 23, 2000, in Plymouth Township. He was a retired tool and die maker for Dana Corp. He was a police officer in Germany before coming to the United States and had served as a major in the German Army. He came to the Plymouth community in 1990 from Dearborn Heights. He came to the United States in 1951. He loved to read and travel. He was a devoted family man, loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Anna. Survivors include his daughter, Anne Deising of Plymouth; two grandchildren, Hellen Renaud of Romulus and Michael (Sandy) Formo of Ferguson Falls, Minn.; three great-grandchildren, Julie (Joe) Walker of Belleville, Jennifer Renaud of Romulus and Kevin Formo of Minnesota; and two great-great-grandchildren, Angie Renaud of Belleville and Austin Renaud of Belleville.

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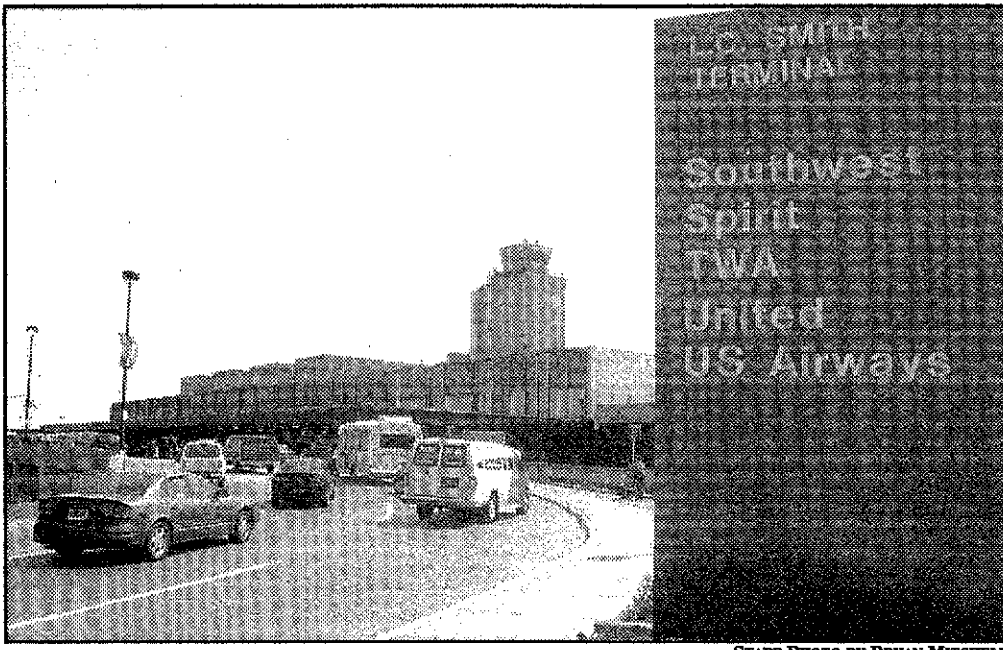
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**What next?:**  
Airlines and passengers will help decide the fate of the L.C. Smith Terminal at Metro.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

## Metro seeks passenger advice on remodeling older terminals

BY RICHARD PEARL  
STAFF WRITER  
rpearl@oe.homecomm.net

Metro Airport officials are asking both passengers and airlines what they'd like done with the L.C. Smith and Davey terminals after Northwest Airlines moves to its new midfield facility.

Northwest is to leave Davey and the adjoining International Terminal to the other carriers and move into the new 99-gate midfield terminal when it is completed by December 2001.

The airport already has nine different designs under consideration for redeveloping the existing 103 gates as part of the \$1.2 billion airport expansion, said Wayne County Airports spokesman Michael Conway.

Ideas range from tearing down only every other concourse to entirely demolishing the two terminals and building a new, long one with protruding fingers instead of long concourses, Conway said.

But, he noted, "Wayne County is very interested in renovating the existing complex beyond what the plans call for."

Cost depends on how far the airlines want to go, he said. "There's no price tag" now, "but it certainly would be more than

the \$39 million" estimated under the current plan.

"We have to talk with the airlines and see," he said.

For now, he said, the only concrete fact is that Airports Director Lester Robinson "wants this (final plan) nailed down by the end of the year."

"We want one design that is the most convenient," Conway said.

To solicit public input, Metro this month opened the Idea Room in the Smith Terminal.

The unmanned area, located across from the Jose Cuervo Tequileria Restaurant near the A and B Concourse entrance, features a six-minute video which shows ideas for Metro now under consideration.

The video animation shows the Northwest logo moving from its present gates to the midfield terminal, with the other airlines' logos then moving from the A and B concourses to the vacated gates. It also shows several options to that shift, Conway said.

Metro customers then are invited to write down their ideas in a special Metro brochure that's available in the Idea Room, he said.

Conway said even though it's

been open little over a week, the Idea Room has already been "getting a lot of interest" from travelers.

"We're basically asking customers what they like at other airports such as Orlando and Tampa that they'd like to see at Metro," he said. "Of course, we can't do all the things, but we will do our best to incorporate their ideas."

People also can give their ideas via the Internet by logging onto the Wayne County Airports Web site at [www.metroairport.com](http://www.metroairport.com) and looking under "Contact Us" for the e-mail address. Or, Conway said, people can simply enter their home or office address and the airport will send them a form.

"Some of the best ideas for improving the airport came from our customers," Conway said.

One idea became the electronic variable message sign that greets travelers at the airport entrance on Rogell Drive with parking information, he said.

Another is the luggage carts, which domestic passengers rent, but which are free to arriving international passengers to save them the hassle of trying to exchange currency while getting their luggage, Conway said.

## Observers win 6 NNA awards

The Observer Newspapers received six awards in the National Newspaper Association's Best Newspaper Contest-2000. The NNA is an association of community and daily newspapers.

Observer Newspapers received four second-place awards, one third-place and an honorable mention.

The Observer Newspapers won second place for best coverage of the performing arts. The arts section is edited by Assistant Managing Editor Keely Wygonik. The judges cited the writing of arts writer Linda Ann Chomin. Judges commented: "Lots of energy in the design. Reader friendly with graphics,

gu-boxes and writer e-mail addresses. Well written."

Photographer Paul Hurschmann won second place for his photo "Monkeying Around" in the Sept. 9 Canton Observer. Judges commented: "Original angle. Good use of fill flash. Artfully composed. Made us smile."

Photographer Tom Hawley won second place for his photo essay "Best of Friends" in the Nov. 29 Westland Observer. Judges commented: "Excellent layout. Local appeal very high and creative."

Former health reporter Kim Mortson won second place for best coverage of health issues in

a non-daily. Judges commented: "Good, thorough presentations; stories that give insight." Mortson is now the Wayne County HomeTown Life editor.

Canton Observer reporter Scott Daniel received a third place award for best coverage of technology issues for stories on cyber shopping and the debate over Internet access. Judges commented: "Very innovative on several issues. Well-rounded."

The Farmington Observer's HomeTown Life section took third place for best family life/living pages. The section is edited by Mary Rodrigue. Judges commented: "Beautiful color. Great pertinent stories."

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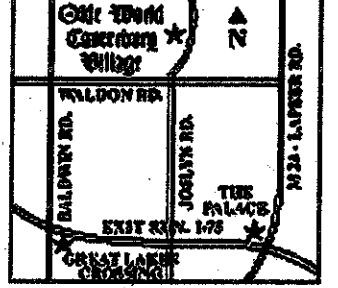
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# County clerk candidates emphasize need for computers

BY RICHARD PEARL  
STAFF WRITER  
rpearl@oe.homecomm.net

Two candidates with over 50 years combined experience in the operation of the Wayne County Clerk's office are among the three seeking the Democratic Party nomination in the Aug. 8 primary election.

They are Deputy Clerk Veronica Massey, who has been with the department 18 years, and Gerald F. Dziedzic, who retired four years ago after 36 years with the department.

The third Democrat is Cathy Garrett who, though a political newcomer, is endorsed by County Executive Edward H. McNamara and several unions, including the American Federation of

State, County and Municipal Employees. Her brother Al Garrett is president of AFSCME Local 2449, based in Westland.

The winner will face another first-time candidate, William A. Heimiller of Livonia of the Reform Party in the November general election. The Republican Party has no candidate.

Besides being clerk to the circuit court, the county commission and several county boards, the county clerk keeps birth and death records, issues marriage licenses and records and indexes all business assumed names, co-partnership certificates, notary public appointments and military discharges.

All three Democrats support computerizing the county clerk's

record-keeping and creation of a satellite office in the Kay Beard Building in Westland.

Massey, who has been chief deputy since 1993 and is endorsed by her boss, retiring County Clerk Teola P. Hunter, said "A lot of records are being processed" now into computer files.

The aim is to eventually make records available via computer to the public and even to judges via terminals during court. "We're looking to make (the office) user-friendly. That's the bottom line," she said.

Massey, a Detroit who began her county career 37 years ago with the now-defunct drain commission, said other goals include computerized election results

and possibly computerized service kiosks in shopping centers.

She said the move into the Beard Building has been "held up by the county exec" for renovations.

"I'm not a politician who makes promises and can't keep them, but people need to realize we need adequate funding" to carry out the ideas, she said.

Dziedzic of Allen Park said he developed "a lot of ideas" — such as the out-county satellite office, kiosks and online election results — while in the clerk's office that "for one reason or another" weren't implemented.

He even suggested deputizing municipal clerks to speed up retrieving county clerk records for residents.

"Bring the county clerk's office into the 21st century — that's a statement I started with and the other two candidates are using," said Dziedzic. "That's the way politics are."

Dziedzic, who helped implement the county's new charter and who was Massey's supervisor at one point, is "a career civil servant" whose reason for getting "back into the melee" is "to establish new procedures where taxpayers get more bang for their dollar."

But he, too, cautioned that is "contingent on getting money from McNamara and the county commissioners. Otherwise, I have to work with the monies I have."

Garrett of Detroit, a former

precinct delegate who is communications manager for the Detroit Youth Opportunity Program for the city, said she has "always wanted to make a difference in the type of service people received."

A veteran of 18 years as a respiratory therapist at Harper Hospital and two years as customer service coordinator for Moore Business Forms, Garrett said, "It's extremely surprising the technology (in the clerk's office) is truly dated, the little that they do have."

She said she would implement not only new technology, but cross-training of employees to provide efficiency and improved customer service.

## Madonna dietetic program wins accreditation

Madonna University's dietetic program is the first in the country to be accredited. The Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) of The American Dietetic Association has granted initial accreditation to Madonna University didactic program in dietetics. The accreditation period is for 10 years.

CADE now requires all such

programs to be accredited and chose Madonna's program to serve as a pilot program for review. Since Madonna University first established a dietetics program in 1989 it has had approval by the American Dietetic Association.

Last November two site visitors Dr. Sandra Witte, a registered dietitian from California State University at Fresno, and

Dr. Jeffrey Harris, a registered dietitian from West Chester University, West Chester, Pa., came to Madonna University to thoroughly review the program. They visited classes, spoke with administrators, faculty, students and graduates and then filed a report with CADE.

"Dr. Karen Schmitz (the director of Madonna University's dietetics program) has created a

quality program while economizing on resources," said Witte. "She should be commended for her hard work and dedication to the program. The qualifications of students graduating from the dietetics program reflect high professional standards."

For more information regarding Madonna University's dietetics program contact Schmitz at (734)432-5534.

## Students sample college life

Several area high school students had a chance to sample college life at Madonna University's 2000 Summer Institute for the Arts, Sciences and Technology sponsored by the Michigan Board of Education.

Area participants were Kristin R. Cain, Matt Reuter and Brian Roberson of Canton; Stephen Favor of Livonia; Nicole Exe, Tiffany Humes,

Lisamarie LiGreci and Katie MacDonell of Plymouth; and LaTisha Tiombe Ivory and Matthew James Pelc of Redford.

The students lived on campus July 9-22 and were involved in lab and field work, discussions and research working with top Michigan artists, teachers, researchers and business and industry leaders.

This is Madonna's seventh year in the program.

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**Along for the ride:** Counselor Emily St. Onge of Plymouth, 12, urges on "Daisy," a 9-year-old Shetland pony with rider Evan Milan of Plymouth, 6, aboard. The children take a ride around the corral backward, with a counselor leading their steed, as a way to gain confidence aboard the equines.

STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN



**Strike a pose:** Erin Collin of Plymouth, 8, sits atop "Smidgen," a 19-year-old Morgan horse, in the pole barn while awaiting her turn at the obstacle course.



**Cautious approach:** Erin Collin of Plymouth, 8, watches other campers in the pole barn.

## Pony camp

### Young riders experience thrills

Despite the rich farming tradition in Plymouth and Canton, few children these days have any real experience with riding or caring for horses.

Enter Nature's Last Stand Pony Camp. Here, kids get the opportunity to ride horses (or ponies), learn about their care and upkeep, and have fun with crafts related to horses — such as horseshoe picture frames. "Riding horses isn't something that most kids get to do all the time," said Julie Blaylock who, along with husband Randy, owns the Central City Diner in Canton. Their two children, Malorie, 10, and Blake, 8, both returned to the camp for the second time this summer. "(They) couldn't wait to get back," she said.

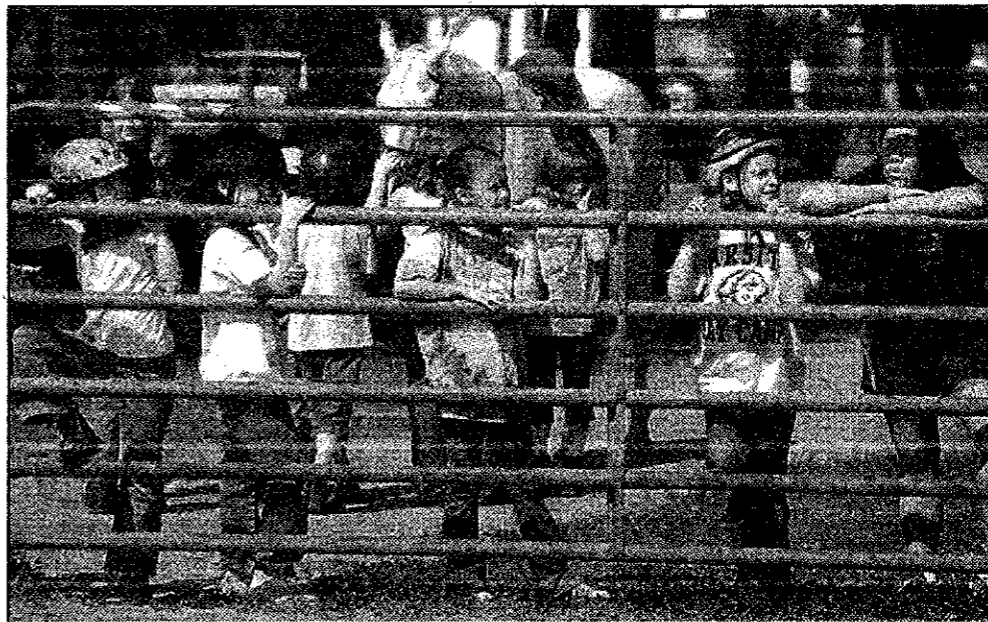
"They can play soccer at school, swim anytime. This is something unique for the kids."

In fact, Randy Blaylock himself attended the camp as a kid, and had many fond memories of his summers spent there.

The Salem Township day camp is owned and operated by Jean "Squeek" VanDyke, and her husband John. They offers weekly sessions for boys and girls ages 6 to 12 from mid-June through August. Daily activities run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., including a brown-bag lunch and crafts time after lunch.

But, don't bother calling now, they're booked solid for the remainder of the season. To inquire about reservations for the 2001 season, call (734) 453-2586.

—Paul Hurschmann

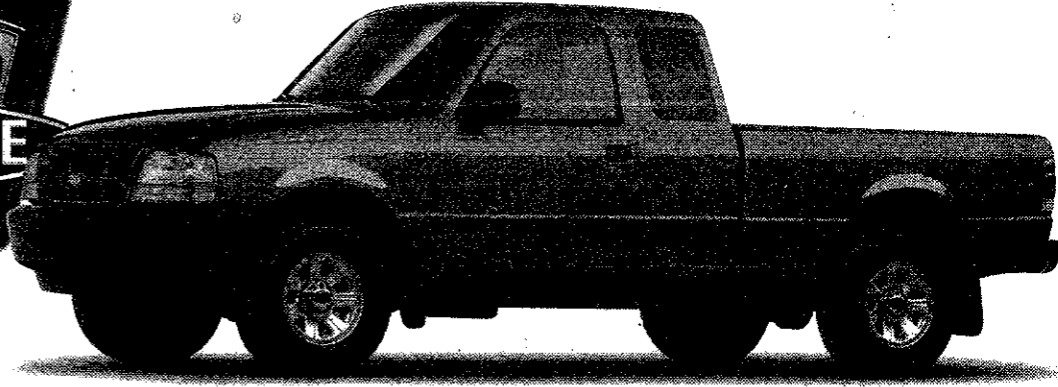


**Waiting their turn:** Several of the girls line up to watch the boys as they await their turn to ride.

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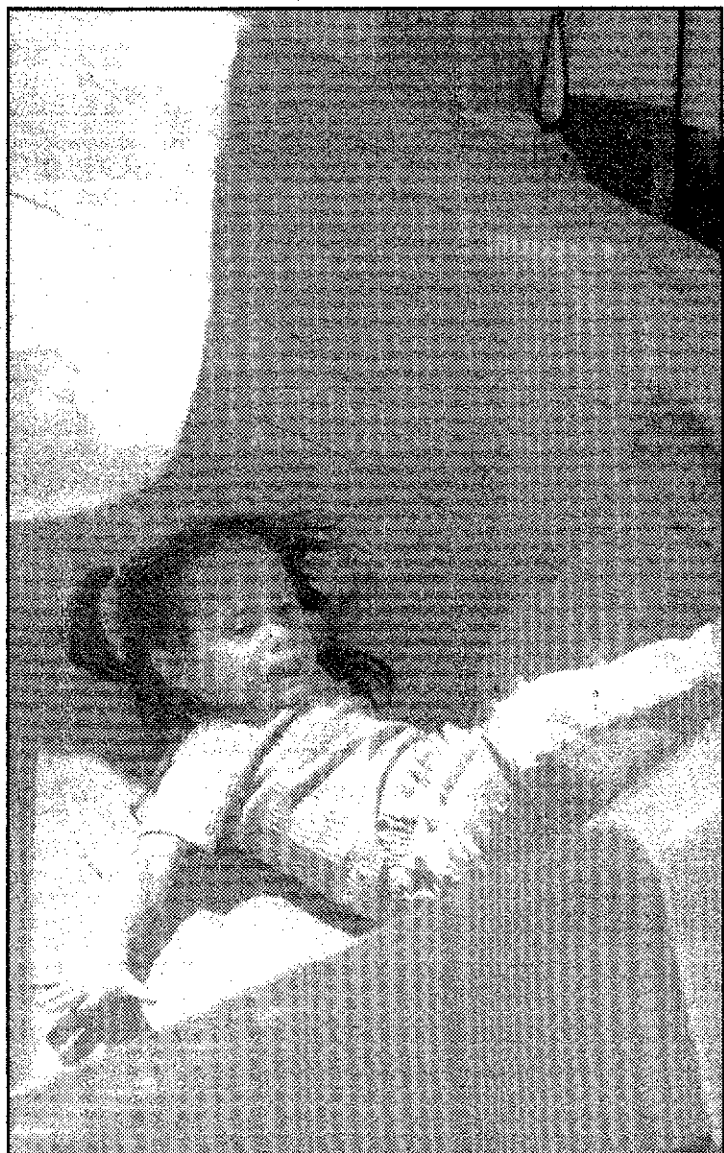
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**Tight turns and big steers**



**Fair fun:** Alex Curley of Trenton, 12, shows a steer during the "Master Stockman" competition Friday at the Wayne County Fair in Belleville. The "Master Stockman" competition pits the best of each show category against others in all categories - kids must demonstrate their skill at showing not only what they are best at, but all types of livestock, from guinea pigs to sheep to steer. In the photo at left, Kristina Colf of Monroe, 2½, got a bit more than she bargained for when she rode the slide down from the funhouse. The fair runs through Friday.

STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHMANN

**Golf outing benefits disabled students**

BY ALICE ASHMORE  
STAFF WRITER

Tee times are going fast for the 21st annual Gary Lyman Golf outing to benefit the Burger Center.

"We still have openings for about 40 golfers left in the afternoon," said Burger teacher Rebecca Viola. "Our maximum is 260 golfers."

The golf outing is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 12, at the Hickory Creek Golf Course in Superior Township. The cost is \$90 per person.

Located in Garden City, the Burger Center serves autistic students from 35 school districts within Wayne County.

"We have 270 students and quite a waiting list," said Viola.

Autism is a neurological disorder that interferes with the development of reasoning, social interaction and communication. It is a life-long disability that makes learning difficult and can lead to behavioral excesses.

The Burger Center has programs for students ranging in age from preschool age to young adult.

"It is the largest (school of its type) in Michigan, and possibly in the country," Viola said. "This is our biggest fund-raiser of the year. We use the money for program enhancement in about 60 classrooms."

The money also allows children to become involved in the community and participate in

enrichment programs.

"Many of our students are able to hold down jobs in the community after they leave here," she said.

Each classroom gets about \$100 allocated to it from the golf outing proceeds.

"I don't know what we'd do without it - it is very badly needed," said Sharon Lundie, a teaching assistant at Burger.

Even with the extra money provided by the golf outing, teachers often dip into their own pockets to pay for classroom extras, she said.

The golf outing has many prizes for participating golfers.

"We have a \$10,000 cash prize for a hole-in-one on the 17th hole," Viola said. That prize is sponsored by John Flaming of Lincoln Financial.

Other hole-in-one prizes include a set of Callow irons, a Sony camcorder, and round-trip airline tickets for two. "These are for the par-three holes," Viola said.

The fund-raiser honors the memory of Gary Lyman, a Garden City police officer who died 21 years ago of a heart attack. He was 29 years old at the time of his death.

The Burger Center was chosen for the fund-raiser because it benefited local children, said Burklow.

For more information, or to register for the golf outing, call the Burger Center at 762-8420.

**Charlestown Square Sidewalk Sale!**

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ELECTION NOTICE**

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS of the Charter Township of Canton, notice is hereby given that a General Primary Election will be held in the Charter Township of Canton on Tuesday, August 8, 2000 from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the purpose of nominating candidates of the Democratic, Republican and non-partisan candidates for the following offices:

- United States Senator
- Representative in Congress - 13th District
- State Representative - 18th or 21st District
- Wayne County Offices:
  - Prosecuting Attorney
  - Sheriff
  - County Clerk
  - County Treasurer
  - Register of Deeds
  - County Commissioner
- Canton Township Offices:
  - Township Supervisor
  - Township Clerk
  - Township Treasurer
  - 4 Township Trustees

Delegate to County Convention  
Non-Partisan - Judge of the 3rd Judicial Circuit Court

and to vote on the following proposal:

County of Wayne - Proposition O Operating Millage Renewal  
To renew the millage authorized in 1990, shall Wayne County be authorized to continue to levy this millage at the estimated 2000 rollback rate .9627 (about 96 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for ten more years (2000 through 2009), and proceeds used to continue existing County services, including programs for arrest, detention and prosecution of criminals, juvenile court and related services, public health, recreation, County parks, job training, senior citizen services, and programs for meeting medical needs of the poor, the disabled, and the aged? This renewal is projected to generate \$35,914,278 in 2000.

YES NO

County of Wayne - Proposition P Parks Millage Renewal  
To renew the millage authorized in 1996, shall Wayne County be authorized to continue to levy this millage at the estimated 2000 rollback rate of .2486 (about 25 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation for five more years (2001 through 2005) to continue to improve and operate several parks and related facilities, including major improvements to Hines Park, Elizabeth Park, Chandler Park and Fort Wayne on the condition that, for any year for which this increased levy would be imposed, Wayne County must budget from other sources an amount equal to its 1995-96 fiscal year appropriation for Parks? This renewal is projected to generate \$9,274,218 in 2001.

YES NO

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON PRECINCT NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 8, 2000 from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the following polling locations:

Precinct No.	Name of Facility	Address
1 & 23	First Baptist Church	44500 Cherry Hill Rd.
2	Human Services Center	44237 Michigan Avenue
3, 10, 21	St. John Neumann Church	44800 Warren Road
4 & 13	Miller Elementary School	43721 Hanford Road
5 & 18	Field Elementary School	1000 S. Haggerty Road
6	Royal Holiday Clubhouse	39500 Warren Road
7	Plymouth Salem High School	46181 Joy Road
8	Resurrection Catholic Church	48755 Warren Road
9	Eriksson Elementary School	1275 N. Haggerty Road
11 & 19	Tonda Elementary School	46501 Warren Road
12 & 14	Hulsing Elementary School	8055 Fleet Street
15	Walker Elementary School	39932 Michigan Avenue
16 & 17	Bentley Elementary School	1100 S. Sheldon
20 & 26	Canton Administration Bldg	1150 S. Canton Center
22	Hoben Elementary School	44680 Saltz Road
24 & 25	Plymouth Canton High School	8415 N. Canton Center
27	Summit on the Park	46000 Summit Parkway
28	Agape Christian School	45081 Geddes
29	Eriksson School	1275 N. Haggerty
30	Mettetal Airport	8550 Lilley Road

The Office of the Township Clerk, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 5, 2000 for absentee ballots. Qualified voters must appear in person to receive a ballot.

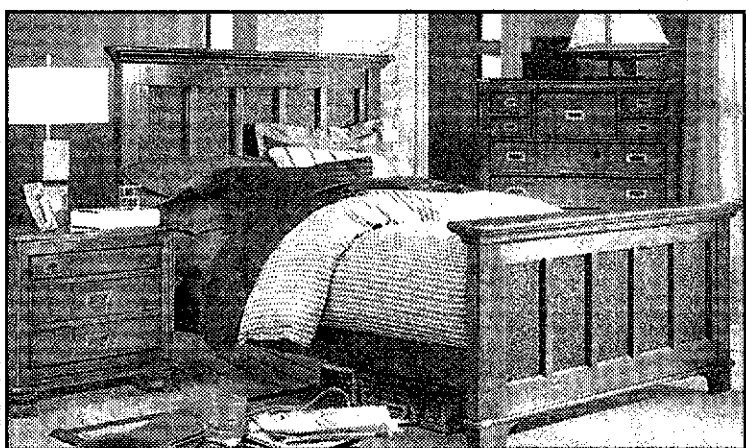
On Monday, August 7, 2000, those requesting an absentee ballot must appear in person at the Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m. Emergency absentee ballots ONLY will be issued on Election Day, August 8, 2000. All absentee ballots that are returned in person, must be returned to the Clerk's office by 4:00 P.M. on August 7, 2000.

Handicapped Voters with an inaccessible polling place are eligible to vote without notice at the Clerk's Office until the close of voting at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

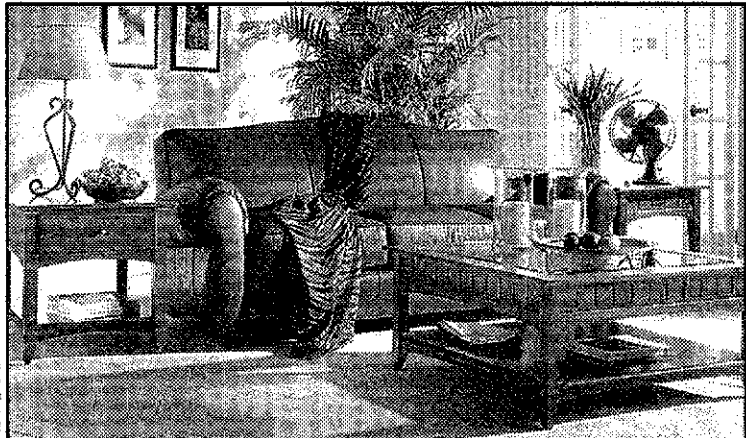
If you are unsure of your voting location, please refer to your voter registration card or contact the Clerk's office at 397-5452.

TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

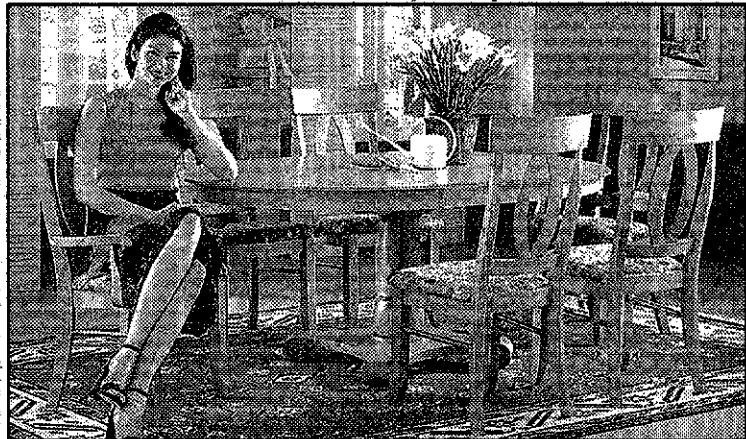
Publish: July 27 and August 3, 2000



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# State says anti-voucher efforts violated campaign law

BY MIKE MALOTT  
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE  
mmalott@homecomm.net

The Oakland County Intermediate School District has violated state elections law prohibiting the use of public resources to campaign for or against a ballot proposal, Michigan's Secretary of State ruled Monday.

In particular, the Department of State concluded that a Power Point presentation used by Oakland Schools officials to explain the Kids First!Yes! voucher plan, appearing on the November ballot as a constitutional amendment, was "slanted" in opposition to the proposal. Informational campaigns by public officials are allowed, but they must be factual and balanced. Using taxpayer dollars to advocate a position on a ballot question or a candidate is strictly prohibited, Elizabeth Boyd, spokesperson for the department, said.

"The presentation included statements that were argumentative and speculative," Boyd explained. "At one point, the presenter said, 'It will hurt many kids.' They crossed the line when they got into opinion. The presentation was not strictly factual. It has a slant."

Although Oakland Schools was cited for violating the law — along with two school districts, Kearsley and Grand Haven — they will not be fined. She said the ruling was "precedent setting, our most definitive statement yet under a 1997 revision of the law on what you can do and cannot do in an informational campaign." Because it is new, she said, the districts were being put on notice to stop the violations. If they don't, fines may be assessed, she said.

"This is a question of freedom of speech. I think we have a responsibility to inform the public about this proposal. And I'm very disappointed in the ruling of the Secretary of State," said Brian Whiston, director of Legislative Affairs at Oakland Schools.

He is the one who prepared the Power Point presentation. He believes it is factual and balanced, in that it includes arguments used on both sides of the issue for and against the proposal. Whiston said he believes the statements that the Secretary of State objected to were side comments made by a particular presenter, not statements actually included in the presentation itself.

"Before I put together the presentation, I met with people in the Secretary of State's office to find out what I could do and what I couldn't. I went farther than they said I had to. I included arguments on both sides. They said I didn't have to include the pro side arguments. This is two different people in the Secretary of State's office

■ **'This is a question of freedom of speech. I think we have a responsibility to inform the public about this proposal.'**

Brian Whiston  
Oakland Schools

saying two different things," Whiston said.

He said Oakland Schools will seek clarification on the ruling from the state. And it will tell its presenters to follow the Secretary of State's instructions. But it also may challenge the ruling

in court.

The voucher campaign is on the ballot by initiative petition, sponsored by Kids First! Yes! If approved by voters, it will create a voucher system in school districts that have a graduation rate under two thirds.

In opposition to that plan is a coalition of groups known as All Kids First, and Whiston often speaks on its behalf.

In the past, the State Department has cracked down on public

officials for using taxpayer resources in a campaign only when they have gone so far as to advocate a position on a ballot question, urging a yes or no vote. But Boyd said under the 1997 state law, such presentations must be factual and balanced.

Oakland Schools was also cited for sending an anti-voucher e-mail message.

Whiston said it had been written outside Oakland Schools and merely forwarded from an Oak-

land Schools computer.

Kids First! Yes! filed a complaint also regarding a resolution adopted in opposition to the ballot plan, but Secretary of State has yet to rule on that issue, Whiston said.

Laura Wotruba, of All Kids First, said she, too, was disappointed in the ruling. She believed the districts were honestly attempting to inform voters about the issues involved in the ballot question.

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## UM-D cuts graduate tuition by 23%

The University of Michigan-Dearborn will reduce tuition for graduate programs in the School of Education by 23.1 percent this fall.

Tuition for full-time graduate students who are Michigan residents will be \$1,756.50 this fall, down from \$2,284.15 last year.

The tuition rates for UM-Dearborn were approved by the U-M Regents at their July 14 meeting in Ann Arbor. For other programs at the Dearborn campus will rise an average of 3 percent this fall, approximately the rate of inflation in Michigan.

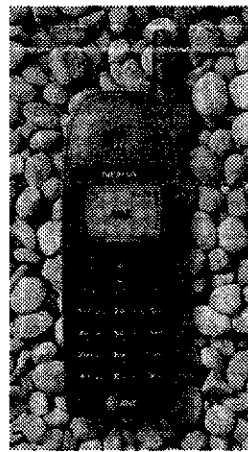
"This reduction in tuition for graduate education courses reflects on our commitment to K-12 education and our determination to contribute to educational excellence among the teachers and students in this region," said John Poster, dean of the UM-Dearborn School of Education.

In most school districts, teachers are encouraged to earn master's degrees and can increase their salaries by completing certain graduate programs.

At UM-Dearborn, graduate programs in education include the master of arts in education degree, with "endorsements" in specific disciplines, as well as a master of education in special education degree for teachers working with students with emotional impairments or learning disabilities.



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# Canton girl, 12, has lead in play

By SUSAN B. TAUBER  
STAFF WRITER  
stauber@oe.homecomm.net

She's playing a character considerably older than she is and someone who grew up in a different time — some 60 years before she was born.

But Canton's Ashleigh Rotondo says she can relate to Polly, the lead role in the musical *Flapper*, currently being staged by the Clarkston Village Players.

"I really like the character I'm playing," said Rotondo, 12.

The story revolves around Polly Pepper and her friends who are preparing for her 18th birthday. She's expecting to receive the priceless diamond, known as the Ice Garden, from her Aunt Augusta for her birthday, that is, unless the questionable Duke and Duchess of Milford have their way and get it

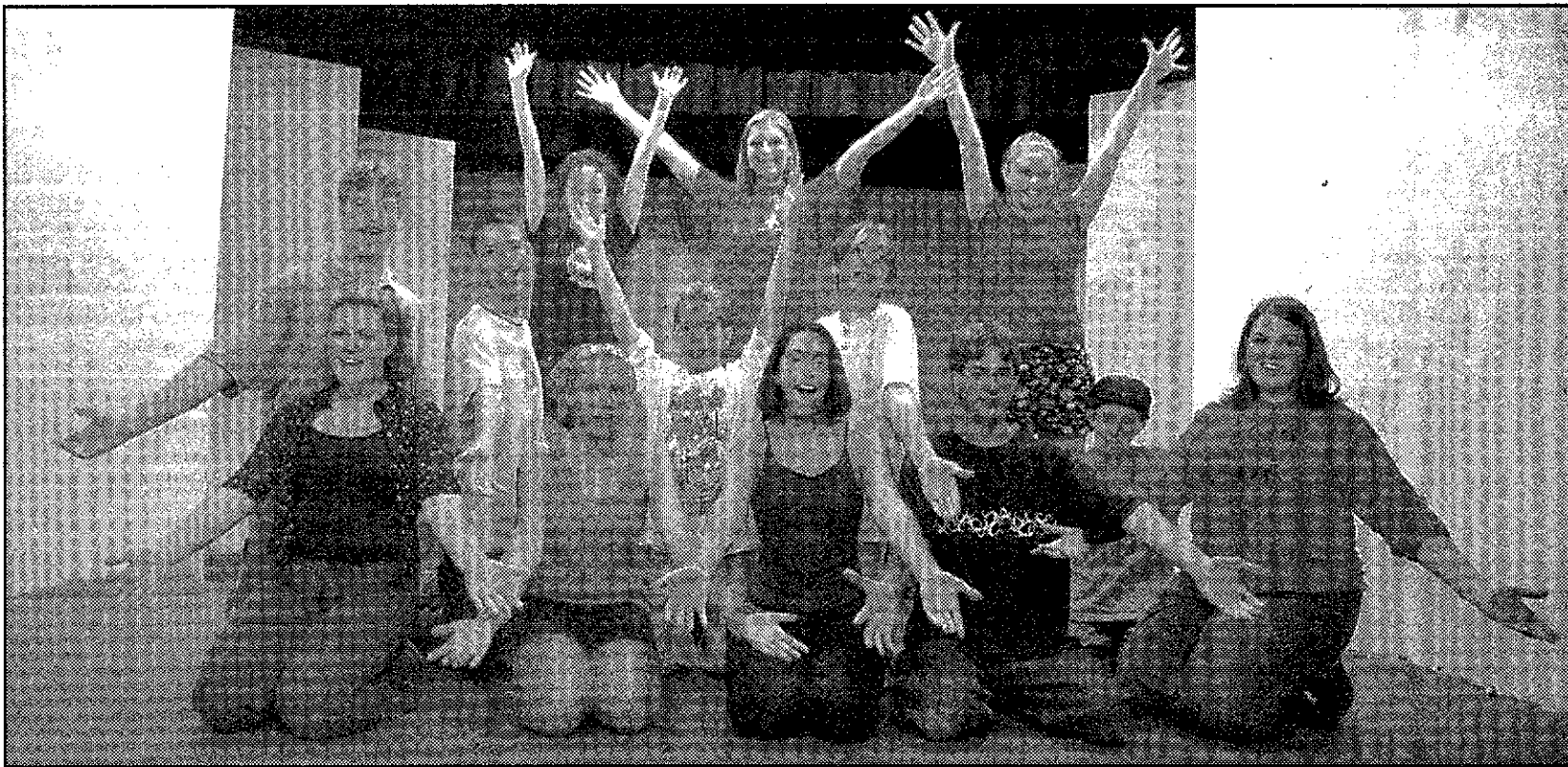
instead.

The audience is led through a delightful tangle of situations involving other characters such as Mona, owner of the Crazy Cat Nightclub, and Lenny Knickerbocker, the flagpole sitter.

Director Donna Ellis believes that once you walk out of this show filled with 40 youngsters ranging in age from 10-17 singing, dancing and acting their hearts out, you may feel exactly the same way.

"I could do this (directing youths) 365 days a year," Ellis said. "There's nothing like seeing a kid who has never been on stage before get up there and grow in confidence and talent."

And all 40 kids in the show have a chance to do just that. "If we didn't have enough parts for everyone, we just added them," Ellis said. She's assisted by pro-



STAFF PHOTO BY STEVE CANTRELL

Ready to go: The cast for the Clarkston Village Players Youth Theater production, "Flapper," took time out to pose during a recent rehearsal.

ducer Marlene Sewick.

Sewick took the time to make up a booklet for the *Flapper* production. The first half talks

about being an actor and some theater history; the second is a history lesson about the 1920s — the era for the *Flapper* musical.

"There were words in the play kids today wouldn't know," she said. "Now they know what a debutante is; they know about flagpole sitters and Zeigfield Follies. They've gotten the flavor of the 1920s."

The audiences for *Flapper* also will get an idea about this colorful decade right before The Depression in 1929.

Maria Khoury, 15, from Rochester Hills said *Flapper* should be a really good show. Her mother, Rae Khoury, and Maria worked with Carmen Padilla on the choreography for the show's dances.

Adam Rickabus, 14, of Ortonville plays Duke. He said he's having fun being the bad guy and will continue with drama at Brandon High School.

Although Trent Chwalibog, 11, of White Lake Township wants to be a doctor, he's been bit by the acting bug. He portrays Bugs in *Flapper*. "This is my first play,

and I'm really having fun," he said.

Several other people are involved in the play. They are Shanya Lax, Alana Goeringer, Sandy Kessler, Kate Kelley; Maureen MacDonald, Shannon Johnson, Melissa Valeen; Antonette Grego, Jessica Arsenault, Lauren Hunt, Chelsea LePage, Kristina Beagle, Heidi Bretz, Lyndsay Breckenridge, Jolie Tharp, Julie Williams, Kourtney McLean, Amanda Green and Elizabeth Hunt.

Others are Letha Dolza, Susan Smith, Bre'ann Davert, Brian Davert, Julie Hershberger, Megan Golub, Andy Bills, Kevin Murphy, Richard Baxter, Andrew Taylor, Craig Chadrick, Joey Garavaglia, Amy Seaman, Elizabeth Hunt, Lisa Smith, Mary Kate Varnau, Leon Genre, Gerry DeBrayne, Shannan Williams, Gina Meares, Raelce Baxter, Laura Murphy and Wendy Mata.

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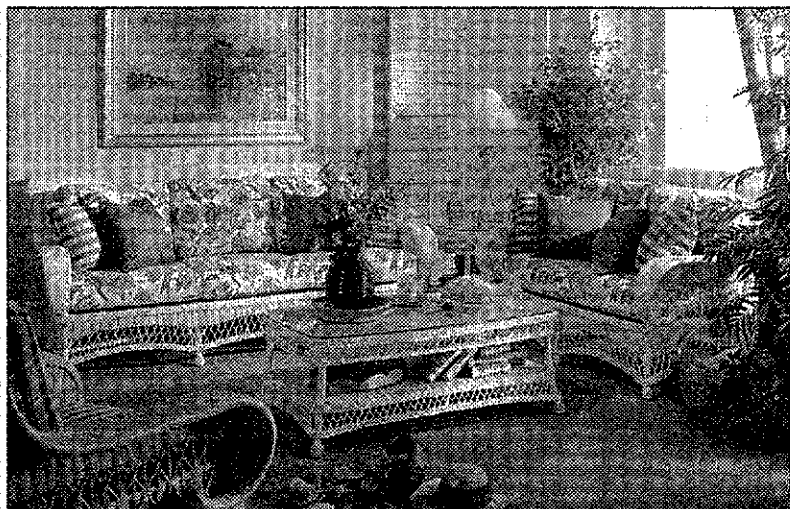
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Alegre. Classic wicker seating and occasional designs handwoven in round core rattan with upholstered seat and back cushions. Perma-Mesh seat construction. Available in all "Lexington Casual" indoor finishes. sofa msrp. \$1904 Clearance \$952. chair msrp. \$1022 Clearance \$511. cocktail table msrp. \$630 Clearance \$315. end table msrp. \$518 Clearance \$259.

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### CITY OF PLYMOUTH PRIMARY ELECTION ON AUGUST 8, 2000 LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a Primary Election will be held in the City of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan, on Tuesday, August 8, 2000, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Savings Time. At that time candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties and non-partisan candidates for the following offices will be voted upon in Wayne County:

United States Senator	Register of Deeds
State Representative	County Commissioner
Prosecuting Attorney	Delegate to County Convention
Sheriff	Judges of the 3rd Judicial Circuit Court
County Clerk	
County Treasurer	
Delegate to County Convention	

and the following Wayne County Proposals:

**(Proposition O)**  
**OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL**

To renew the millage authorized in 1990, shall Wayne County be authorized to continue to levy this millage at the estimated 2000 rollback rate of .9627 (about 96 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for ten more years (2000 through 2009), and proceeds used to continue existing County services, including programs for arrest, detention and prosecution of criminals, juvenile court and related services, public health, recreation, County parks, job training, senior citizen services, and programs for meeting medical needs of the poor, the disabled, and the aged? This renewal is projected to generate \$35,914,278 in 2000.

YES \_\_\_\_\_  
NO \_\_\_\_\_

**(Proposition P)**  
**PARKS MILLAGE RENEWAL**

To renew the millage authorized in 1996, shall Wayne County be authorized to continue to levy this millage at the estimated 2000 rollback rate of .2486 (about 25 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for five more years (2001 through 2005) to continue to improve and operate several parks and related facilities, including major improvements to Hines Park, Elizabeth Park, Chandler Park, and Fort Wayne on the condition that, for any year for which this increased levy would be imposed, Wayne County must budget from Other sources an amount equal to its 1995-96 fiscal year appropriation for Parks? This renewal is projected to generate \$9,274,218 in 2001.

YES \_\_\_\_\_  
NO \_\_\_\_\_

Absentee ballots may be requested from the Clerk's Office, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170. Telephone number is 453-1234 ext. #225 or 234. Absentee ballots will be delivered to qualified absentee voters in person at the Clerk's Office from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 5, 2000. On Monday, August 7th, qualified voters shall receive their ballots and vote them in the Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m.

All polling places in the City of Plymouth are accessible to the elderly and the handicapped and meet ADA Standards.

Polling places are as follows: (Please note that the City precinct locations, or numbers, may not coincide with your School District Precinct location or numbers.)

Precinct 1, 2, & 4	Plymouth Cultural Center 525 Farmer Street
Precinct 3	Central Middle School 650 W. Church

LINDA J. LANGMESSER, CMC  
City Clerk, City of Plymouth

Publish: July 27 and August 3, 2000

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH LEGAL NOTICE

#### PRIMARY ELECTION ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2000

Notice is hereby given that a General primary Election will be held in the Charter Township of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan, on Tuesday, August 8, 2000, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., at which time candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties and non-partisan candidates for the following offices will be voted upon:

United States Senator  
Representative in Congress  
Representative in State Legislature  
Prosecuting Attorney  
Sheriff  
County Clerk  
County Treasurer  
Register of Deeds  
County Commissioner  
Delegate to County Convention

And Plymouth Township:  
Supervisor  
Clerk  
Treasurer  
Four Trustees

And the following non-partisan Offices:  
Judges of the Circuit Court/3rd Judicial Circuit  
Non-incumbent positions/Terms ending January 1, 2007

And the following County of Wayne Propositions

**(Proposition O)**  
**OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL**

To renew the millage authorized in 1990, shall Wayne County be authorized to continue to levy this millage at the estimated 2000 rollback rate of .9627 (about 96 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for ten more years (2000 through 2009), and proceeds used to continue existing County services, including programs for arrest, detention and prosecution of criminals, juvenile court and related services, public health, recreation, County parks, job training, senior citizen services, and programs for meeting medical needs of the poor, the disabled, and the aged? This renewal is projected to generate \$35,914,278 in 2000.

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**(Proposition P)**  
**PARKS MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL**

To renew the millage authorized in 1996, shall Wayne County be authorized to continue to levy this millage at the estimated 2000 rollback rate of .2486 (about 25 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for five more years (2001 through 2005) to continue to improve and operate several parks and related facilities, including major improvements to Hines Park, Elizabeth Park, Chandler Park and Fort Wayne on the condition that, for any year for which this increase levy would be imposed, Wayne County must budget from other sources an amount equal to its 1995-96 fiscal year appropriation for parks? This renewal is projected to generate \$9,274,218 in 2001.

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Applications for absentee ballots for Charter Township of Plymouth registered voters may be requested from the Clerk's Office at 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Building No. 3, Plymouth Township, Michigan. Phone number 354-3224 or 354-3228. Absentee ballots will be delivered to qualified absentee voters in person at the Clerk's Office from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., on Saturday, August 5. On Monday, August 7, absentee voters may receive their ballots and vote them in the Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m.

All polling places in the Township of Plymouth are accessible to the elderly and the handicapped.

Polling places are as follows: (Please note that the Township precinct locations or precinct numbers may not coincide with your school district precinct location or number).

#### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

Precinct 1	Farrand School	41400 Greenbriar
Precinct 2	Friendship Station	42375 Schoolcraft
Precinct 3	Allen School	11100 Haggerty Road
Precinct 4	Township Clerk's Office	42350 Ann Arbor Road
Precinct 5	Bird School	220 N. Sheldon Road
Precinct 6	West Middle School	44401 Ann Arbor Trail
Precinct 7	United Assembly of God Church	48500 N. Territorial Road
Precinct 8	St. Kenneth's Catholic Church	14951 Haggerty Road
Precinct 9	Church of the Nazarene	45801 Ann Arbor Road
Precinct 10	Fiegl School	39850 Joy Road
Precinct 11	First Baptist Church	45000 N. Territorial
Precinct 12	Pioneer Middle School	46081 Ann Arbor Road
Precincts 13 & 16	Lutheran Church of the Risen Christ	46250 Ann Arbor Road
Precinct 14	Iabister School	9300 Canton Center Road
Precinct 15	First United Methodist Church	45201 N. Territorial Road
Precinct 17	North Ridge Church	49555 N. Territorial Road

MARILYN MASSENGILL, CMC  
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: July 27 & 30, 2000



# Family helps rescue abused pugs

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER  
tsmith@oe.homecomm.net

Andrew Johnston lay stretched out on the carpet, in the Farmington home of Larry and Kathy Nathan. And right there was Chilly, a perky pug lovingly perched atop one of Andrew's legs.

Andrew and his mom, Karen, happily returned to the Nathan home with Chilly one evening last week for a reunion. Chilly had just been adopted a couple days earlier from the residence, also headquarters for nonprofit organization Michigan Pug Rescue.

While one could not help but smile when seeing Chilly peeking between his paws over Andrew's thigh, it isn't too difficult to envision that very dog glaring unhappily through a wire cage. He easily could have been held hostage at one of the thousands of deplorable puppy mills in the United States.

That possibility isn't lost on Andrew, a student at O.E. Dunckel Middle School in the Farmington district.

"If you're going to adopt a dog," Andrew explained, "why not adopt one that's been mistreated so you can rescue it and give it the life it was meant to have?"

## The place for pugs

The Nathan home swirled with activity, with Chilly and many other pugs — both adults and pups — making the rounds.

In a bedroom, several three-week-old pug puppies were being nursed by Jezebel, who took the job over after the pups' mom, Pugsy, died during labor on July 3. Another fostered adult female, Ivory, rescued out of a Missouri puppy mill this spring, was keeping some of the young pugs warm and clean.

The canines needed some human help with the big job. Some of Pugsy's other babies were being bottle-fed by Heather Secco, one of Larry and Kathy's daughters.

"The mom (Pugsy) died during

delivery and we lost six of them while they were still in her," Larry Nathan said. "And so we've been tube-feeding them. As far as we know, they are doing OK."

Nathan, posing as a breeder, spent \$3,200 at a Pennsylvania auction last month to rescue Pugsy, Blaine, Josephine and 10 other puppies. They were among the first pugs brought home by Michigan Pug Rescue since it began in April.

"We can't go in as rescue groups," he emphasized.

Meanwhile, Blaine — the father of the rescued pups — and Josephine were since taken in by Heather Wigodski, of Berkley.

## Giving them a voice

"These dogs don't have a voice and there are so many who are abused around the country," Wigodski said. "I'll do anything I can to help them."

Also on hand this particular evening was Saddle, a "permanent" foster pug and Missy, who both live with Heather. Missy was destined to be put to sleep in 1998 before she was rescued.

Of course, Sarah is always there, being the Nathan's family dog. She also was rescued, in 1997.

"I've had pugs all my life, since I was a boy," said Larry Nathan, who several years ago took up the mission of rescuing pugs (for another organization) as a hobby.

The hobby now is as much their lifeblood as it is new life for the compact breed, which has Asian origins.

"We act like the middle person," said Kathy Nathan, who like Larry has a professional day job, too. "A person will call us if they can't contain the dog, have no use for the dog or are re-locating. And we have a list of people who want to adopt."

The adoption process, obviously, is stringent and replete with checks and balances. That's because Michigan Pug Rescue wants to make sure adopted pugs join loving families such as



STAFF PHOTO BY MATTHEW TAPLENGER

Affection: Larry Nathan can't help but love the pugs he and his wife, Kathy, rescue.

Andrew Johnston's — and never be returned to hostile living conditions.

Kathy recalled a recent situation where a Farmington senior citizen contacted Michigan Pug Rescue. She had to give up her pug because she was moving to an assisted living center that did not permit pets.

"If not for rescue (organizations) what would happen to that dog?" wondered Kathy.

That is a question also on the minds of those connected with other rescue groups (probably every breed has one in every state) and animal protection organizations such as the Doris Day Animal League, DDAL.

Television, of all things, led Andrew Johnston and his mom,

Karen, to adopt Chilly. The Johnstons were looking to adopt a canine friend, but were thinking more about going in the direction of a short-haired dachshund. But then, they saw a TV news report about Michigan Pug Rescue.

They learned that conditions at puppy mills are so unsavory that the DDAL, other animal protection agencies and concerned citizens recently filed suit against the United States Department of Agriculture in U.S. District Court.

The lawsuit maintains that the USDA has "failed to halt cruel and inhumane conditions" in the mills, and has not com-

Please See PUGS, A16

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# It's a good fit

## Store takes 25th anniversary in stride

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM  
STAFF WRITER  
hneedham@oe.homecomm.net

The best measure of success for Don and Barbara Kobeck, owners of Kobeck's Stride Rite in Plymouth Township, is whether or not children's shoes fit.

That is their specialty, said Don Kobeck, as he measured a 1-year-old girl's feet to see if her mother, Lori Morningstar of Canton, needed to buy her another size. It turned out she didn't.

"I like shopping here because it's easy," Morningstar said. "I can come in and fit my kids right away, I don't have to go into a big mall. I get a good fit fast."

The Kobecks are celebrating their 25th anniversary for their business, which is at 44427 W. Ann Arbor Road, at the southwest corner of Sheldon. Up until 10 years ago, Kobeck's was in the center where CVS is now, across Ann Arbor Road. They estimate they've sold 350,000 pairs of shoes over the past 25 years.

Kobeck's Stride Rite sells ath-



**Shoe-in:** Don and Barbara Kobeck have been helping parents find the right shoes for their toddlers at the Plymouth Township store since 1975.

letic shoes, leather dress shoes, ballet and tap shoes, boots and baby shoes.

"We measure our success by fitting shoes properly and by advising (parents) about what type of shoes they should buy," Don Kobeck said. "If people come in just to see if the shoes are still fitting the child, we tell them honestly whether they do."

They say they're most proud of their customer service skills. Sizing a child's feet in a parent's car and opening up shop for a customer after hours are just a couple examples of ways they have

trekked the extra mile.

The in-car sizing calmed a wary mother who didn't want to bring her measles-stricken child into the store, Barbara Kobeck said.

In the second scenario, a customer had called the Kobecks at their Plymouth Township home - after hours - and said they needed children's shoes right away for an out-of-town funeral. They opened the store and sold some dress shoes.

If a customer can't find what they want in stock, they can special order from a Stride Rite catalog.

In 1975, standard leather "school shoes" made up 85 percent of sales. Today, those same shoes - including oxfords, Mary Janes and loafers - make up just 15 percent of sales.

Athletic or tennis shoes have become standard shoes for most children, according to the Kobecks.

One thing about the store hasn't changed - the wooden park-style benches that have seated countless grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren.

"They've just had many, many coats of paint," Barbara Kobeck said, adding that they kept the benches at the urging of customers - who said they had sentimental value.

"We have people saying they want one of our benches if we ever close," she said. Retirement isn't something either of them - Don, 66 and Barbara, 59 - is seriously considering.

"(This business) is something that we created ourselves - it's our own thing we've created and done well. It's self-rewarding," Barbara said.

Kobeck's Stride Rite is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and is closed Sunday. For more information, call (734) 459-1070.

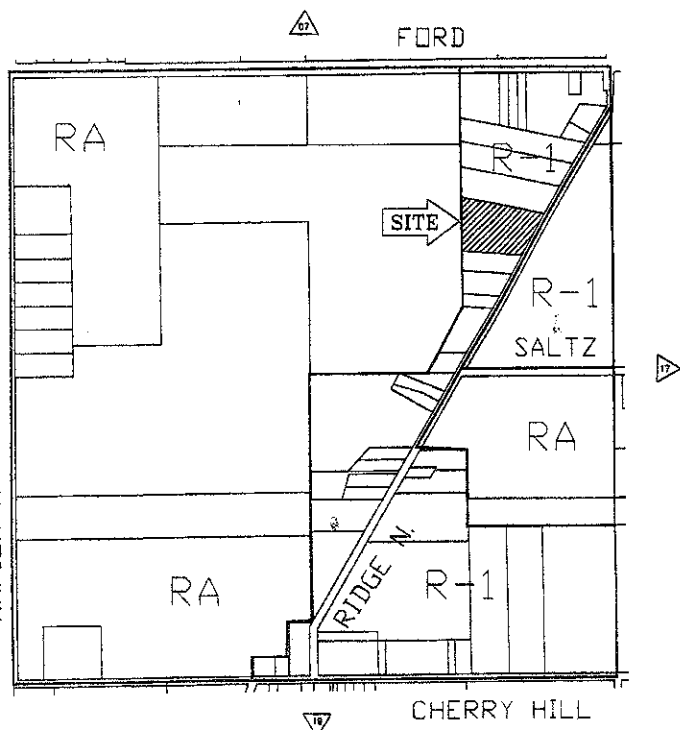
## Board meets Tuesdays

The Canton Township Board of Trustees meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the administration building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

### PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 14, 2000 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed special land use request as provided in Section 27.03 of the Canton Township Zoning Ordinance:

**CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH SPECIAL LAND USE** - CONSIDER REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL FOR A RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION AS REQUIRED IN SECTION 11.02B.3 FOR PARCEL NO. 069 99 0011 000. Property is located on the west side of Ridge Road between Ford and Saltz Roads.



Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the above address prior to Thursday, August 10, 2000, in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Publish: July 27, 2000

### SHURGARD OF CANTON

Notice is hereby given that the following unit(s) will be sold to the highest bidder by open auction on August 29, 2000 at approximately 9:30 am at Shurgard Storage located at 2101 Haggerty Rd., Canton, MI 48187. (734) 981-0300.

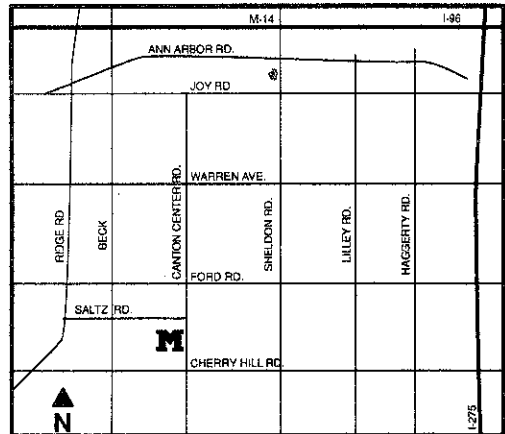
Unit #3038 - Deborah Zielinski - Misc. Boxes, Table, Shelves, Rocking Chair  
Publish: July 27 and August 3, 2000



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- 4:15 pm Dedication speeches
- 4:45 pm Ribbon cutting
- 5:00-7:00 Site tours, hors d'oeuvres, entertainment and activities for children

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**WHAT LIES BENEATH (PG-13)**  
DIGITAL 11:25, 1:55, 4:25, 7:00, 9:30  
**POKEMON 2000 (G)** DIGITAL  
11:00, 1:15, 3:25, 5:30, 7:40  
**THE PERFECT STORM (PG-13)**  
11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15  
**X-MEN (PG-13)**  
11:00, 2:15, 4:40, 7:10, 9:25  
**THE KID (PG)**  
11:30, 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:20  
**ME, MYSELF & IRENE (R)** DIGITAL  
9:45  
**CHICKEN RUN (G)**  
12:00, 2:10, 4:30, 7:15, 9:05  
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# School aid bill seen as boon to district

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER  
jbrown@oe.homecomm.net

Legislation signed Wednesday by Gov. John Engler will mean the difference between allowing Wayne-Westland schools "to continue to thrive" and disaster, said Superintendent Greg Baracy.

Baracy praised the efforts of state Sen. Loren Bennett, R-Canton Township, who spearheaded the bill, Senate Bill 1044, a multiyear school aid budget.

"This is truly big for Wayne-Westland schools," a jubilant Baracy said.

The school aid bill appropriates in excess of \$7 million additional money for the general

operation of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

Baracy said the school district has struggled since the loss of 7.75 mills just prior to implementation of Proposal A in 1994. The district currently faces a \$5.5 million deficit for the upcoming school year.

The extra money from the state will provide a correction to the district's basic foundation allowance and allow Wayne-Westland to sustain current programming, he said.

Martha Pitsenbarger, school board president, was pleased with the news from Lansing and also praised Bennett and his impact on students "for years to come."

# Community Band celebrates 40th

BY BRAD KADRICH  
STAFF WRITER  
bkadrich@oe.homecomm.net

When Bill Upton pulled his trumpet out of mothballs 40 years ago and helped form the Plymouth Community Band, he had no idea what he was getting into.

Forty years later, Upton, who turned 75 in March, still can't believe it.

"Four or five of us played together, and decided we wanted to do a concert band," said Upton, the only founding member still with the band. "We asked Jim Griffith, who was the director of the high school band at the time, to help us get it together, and he agreed. That's how we got it started. We never expected it to last this long, and we certainly never expected it

to sound as good as it does."

The band features members as young as 16 all the way up to Eldon Scott, at 87 the oldest player. It's 20-performance season features music ranging from light classics to marches, show tunes and Big Band music. There's also a concerted effort to feature soloists, all in the name of promoting the artsy nature of the local community.

"The band is truly a 'community' band, made up of people who live here, are musicians by trade or are simply amateurs who love to play," said Carl Battishill, who has for 21 years been the band's director. "We try to feature soloists and include a lot of the arts programs to remind people we have a very artistic communi-

ty." When Battishill was an assistant high school band director in 1978, the band had an opening for its director. Battishill decided to apply.

"They had an opening and auditioned a group of people," Battishill recalled. "I was lucky enough to be the one they selected."

The band is self-governing, with band members making up its officers. There is no outside support group to which the band answers, which Battishill said "has been a blessing."

"That lets us play what we want to play when we want to play it," he said. "It keeps us very small in one way, and makes it very personal."

Funding from the band comes from donations from listeners

and from small contributions. The biggest contributor is the Lions Club, which writes a check for \$500.

"We don't seek money from the state or anywhere else," Battishill said. "We manage to get by on not a lot of money."

The band plays half a dozen summer concerts in Kellogg Park, and also takes its show on the road to a few venues. For instance, the band played the Fourth of July in Frankenthum, a show that included fireworks.

"That was very cool," Battishill said.

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce recognized the band Thursday night, presenting Battishill with a plaque honoring it for its 40 years of music.

## CAMPUS NOTES

### SCHOLARSHIP

The Michigan Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) is pleased to announce the winner of the \$1,000 University of Michigan-Dearborn Grant 2000. This year's recipient is Matthew Kardel of Canton. He will attend The University of Michigan-Dearborn. Kardel attended Trinity Christian High School.

Alexis Ford of Plymouth recently was awarded a TCF Bank scholarship. She will begin her studies this fall at Michigan State University where she will major in mechanical engineering and fine arts. Ford is a graduate of Plymouth Canton High School and the daughter of John and Elizabeth Ford of Plymouth.

### CHANCELLOR'S MEDALLION

Darren Neubauer, a Plymouth resident, received the Chancellor's Medallion for outstanding academic achievement at the University of Michigan-Dearborn's commencement exercises. The University presents the awards to five graduates at each

commencement. Graduating with high distinction, Neubauer earned a bachelor of science degree in mathematics, with minors in philosophy and physics. His academic awards include the James B. Angell Scholar Award, American Mathematical Society membership from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, as well as class honors and the dean's list every semester of his undergraduate career at UM-Dearborn. He also conducted several research projects in collaboration with the mathematics faculty, including an independent study in measure theory that he presented at a Mathematical Association of America conference.

### EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

Jonathan Finnegan and Jessica Mason of Canton were among the 19 students who were honored for completing the two semester Emerging Leaders Program. Students for the campus's cooperative education programs

complete at least one term of CO-op/internship before participating in the program. Students spend two semesters in the program enhancing leadership skills, including participation in another CO-op/internship where they apply their newfound skills in the work place.

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Sealed Bids will be received by the Charter Township of Canton at the Clerk's Office, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188-1699. Bids must be enclosed in an envelope which has been sealed and clearly labeled with the bidder's name, address and phone no., date and time of bid opening and be received no later than 2:00 p.m. Thursday, August 17, 2000, at which time and place said Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud for the following approximate quantities of work:

Remove and replace 46,500 square feet of concrete sidewalks and drive approach and related work.

Contract Documents are on file for inspection with Clerk's Office. Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations: Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188-1699; F.W. Dodge, Raleigh Office, 25330 Telegraph Road, Suite 350, Southfield, Michigan 48034; Construction Association of Michigan, 1625 South Woodward, P.O. Box 3204, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302; Daily Construction Reports, Plan Room, 40000 Grand River Avenue, Suite 404, Novi, Michigan 48375; and Wade-Trim/Associates, Inc., 25251 Northline Road, Taylor, Michigan 48180

Copies thereof for bidding purposes may be obtained at the office of Wade-Trim/Associates, Inc. 25251 Northline Road, Taylor, Michigan 48180, starting on Monday, July 24, 2000, upon making a payment of Twenty (\$20.00) Dollars if picked up or Twenty-five (\$25.00) Dollars if mailed, nine of which will be refunded.

Each Proposal shall be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, money order, or bid bond, in the amount of at least five (5) percent of the amount bid, drawn payable to Charter Township of Canton as security for the proper execution of the Contract.

The Charter Township of Canton reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to waive any informality in any bids, and to accept only bids deemed to be in its best interest.

Bids may not be withdrawn for the period of 60 days after date of receiving bids.

The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Publish: July 27, 2000

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON PUBLIC NOTICE OF ACCURACY TEST**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Clerk's Office will conduct a Public Accuracy Test of the automatic tabulating equipment to be used for the Primary Election on Tuesday, August 8, 2000. The test will take place on **Thursday, August 8, 2000 at 10 a.m.** in the Clerk's Office, Township Administration Building, 1150 South Canton Center Road. This test is open to interested parties. For further information contact Clerk's Office at 397-5452.

TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

Publish: July 27, 2000

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS**

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

David Medley, ADA Coordinator  
Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road  
Canton, MI 48188  
(734) 397-5435

Publish: July 27, 2000

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON BOARD PROCEEDINGS - JULY 18, 2000**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, June 20, 2000 at 1150 S Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**  
Members Present: Bennett, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Shefferly, Yack  
Members Absent: Burdziak  
Staff Present: Director Conklin, Director Machnick

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**  
Supervisor Yack amended the agenda to add a closed session following this meeting to discuss property purchase. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion carried by all members present.

**GENERAL CALENDAR**  
Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to approve the consent agreement in the matter of Charter Development, et al v Canton Township and authorize its legal counsel to enter the agreement before Judge Edward Thomas. The Board of Trustees further authorizes the township Supervisor and/or the Clerk to sign appropriate documents pertaining to this matter. Motion carried by all members present.

**STUDY SESSION TOPIC DISCUSSION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY OBSERVATION**  
Reverend Bryan Smith, Geneva Presbyterian Church, stated that by not making a decision in this matter, Canton Township opens the door for the community to be seen in an unflattering way. It allows people to see the community as resistant, unconcerned and unresponsive to issues facing people of color. A decision on this matter can either reinforce racial distrust and separation or it can help build bridges with the larger community. Reverend Smith's hope is that Canton Township wants to be known as a community committed to racial harmony and will express that commitment in a concrete way by making Dr. King's birthday a township holiday.

Pastor Joseph Stevenson, Liberty Baptist Church (located in the city of Detroit on the city's east side), explained that he is a four (4) year resident of Canton Township. As a leader of people, Pastor Stevenson realized that the people that who are lead tend to foster their leaders and to develop the same attitude and personality as those leaders have. Pastor Stevenson's premise to establish a day of township recognition that has already been recognized nationally by the federal and state government, as well as most of the local governments in the area. Afford-ability is not the issue, it is acceptability. Acceptability without accessibility is saying in essence that there is not a full understanding of the sensitivity of the issues. The petition to honor this day is based solely and soulfully in the interest of racial balance, community excellence in the interests of the children of this community and in the interest of the aging seniors. It is not about the principle of too many holidays, it is about an investment of interest into the dream of Dr. King.

Earl Truss, President of Western Wayne County NAACP, explained that approximately three (3) years ago, discussion with Westland Mayor Thomas began with the result that one year later, Dr. King's birthday was observed. Westland has a march on that day with various speakers. It is a complete celebration on that day.

Duke Marrow, 7060 Pittsford, stated that on August 28, 1963, approximately one and one-half million people went to Washington D.C. to listen to an Atlanta Preacher with a dream of children walking together, regardless of their color. It was a very momentous occasion where at the conclusion, everyone held hands and sang. Everyone that was there vowed to see this dream to completion, but after 35 years, it is still not completed. Looking back, that was one of the most defining moments of conscience for this country. Canton Township has the opportunity to say that the township believes in that dream by supporting Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday as a holiday.

It is believed that the reason that governments have endorsed and close on Dr. King's birthday is to endorse the civil rights struggle that began in the 1950's and its peak moments in the 1960's until Dr. King's death in 1968. For this reason, it is appropriate that government give this day the sanction of symbolism.

Supervisor Yack explained that Study Sessions are for discussions regarding issues that are not immediately before the Board of Trustees. The Township Administration and staff will further discuss this issue and will move quickly to make a decision on this matter.

**ADJOURN**  
Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to move to closed session at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried by all members present.  
Motion by Bennett, supported by Shefferly to return to open session at 9:45 p.m. Motion carried by all members present.

The above is a synopsis of the actions taken at the regular board meeting of July 18, 2000. The full text of the approved minutes will be available after the next regular board meeting July 25, 2000.

THOMAS J. YACK, Supervisor  
TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

Publish: July 27, 2000

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

### Bovitz is most qualified for commission nominee

Canton voters going to the polls or voting absentee in the Aug. 8 primary will see mostly uncontested races at the local level, with the exception of choosing a Republican nominee to face Democrat John Sullivan, the township's incumbent Wayne County commissioner, in November.

It's an important seat and one that has shifted back and forth between Democrat and Republican in recent years. The Observer believes **Rob Bovitz** is the better choice to represent Canton and will make the most forceful challenge to Sullivan in the fall.

His opponent for the nomination is Fred Bolden, who ran for the seat as a Democrat in 1998.

The Wayne County Commission's 11th District presents tough challenges for voters and candidates alike. First, there's the commission itself, which despite recent progress still tends to make decisions along geographical and party lines. Then there is the sprawling district, which includes older communities like Wayne and Belleville; the booming suburb of Canton and the area surrounding Metro Airport; and largely rural Van Buren, Huron and Sumpter townships.

Bovitz, 39, is a relative newcomer to Canton, having moved here from Downriver about two years ago. But he shows a good grasp of the district and issues in its various communities. Improving roads is a priority, according to Bovitz, who ticked off the fact that the district still has the most unpaved surface in the county. He favors "fine-tuning" the admittedly underfunded mass transit system that is already in place, a more practical solution than dreaming up a new one.

Bovitz is a certified public accountant and hopes to bring that experience into budget talks. He plans to sit on the commission's audit committee if elected.

Bovitz has adopted the party line on many issues — the countywide tax proposals, for example — but he understands the dynamics of the commission and the need for compromise. "They (constituents) don't want you to go there as a

Republican first," he says. Bovitz has been openly critical of Sullivan regarding leadership and accessibility. He argues — pretty persuasively — that he's already spent more time campaigning in Canton this summer than Sullivan has in the last two years.

Bolden, 45, and a computer systems consultant, takes a more studious approach to the issues. He says his role on the commission would be to provide overall organizational leadership. The county needs to publish audits and commissioners need to study them to make sure services are being provided in an efficient manner, he says.

His stance on taxes is somewhat vague. Bolden believes on the one hand that revenues already being collected by the county need better explanation and may not be necessary, but then proposes a massive development initiative around the airport and more spending for mass transit. He suggests public-private partnerships to accomplish these goals but is short on details.

While we can appreciate his cautious, deliberate approach, we can also see Bolden getting swallowed up in a deliberative body that often moves with astounding speed and tears into complex issues with deft political maneuvers.

The Observer urges voters to choose **Rob Bovitz** as the Republican nominee for Wayne County Commission-District 11.



Rob Bovitz

### Anderson gets nod in 18th District state House race

They've served together since the early 1990s on the Westland City Council, and now Glenn Anderson and Sharon Scott are vying on the Democratic side for the 18th District state House seat.

The district includes the northeast corner of Canton Township. The primary Aug. 8 will end with voters in Westland and a small portion of Canton choosing either Anderson or Scott to face Republican hopeful Patricia Gibbons, unopposed in her party's primary.

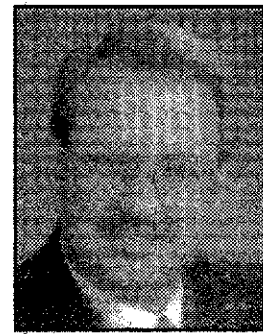
Both Anderson and Scott have extensive experience making decisions on the city council and have served the city well. Both also boast extensive community involvement going back a number of years.

On reflection, the Observer gives the endorsement nod to **Glenn Anderson**. The Ford Motor Co. staffer described himself as a good listener and responsive, and we agree.

Anderson has shown the leadership ability to succeed Eileen DeHart in the Lansing seat. His own description of himself as a "fighter to get things done" is apt.

Scott, unfortunately, must cope with the baggage of the recall effort directed at her and three council colleagues, Charles "Trav" Griffin, David Cox and David James. Such baggage is likely to cloud the issues in the state House race.

The recall is linked to the January firing of Gibbons as Westland city clerk. Although Gibbons lacks legislative experience, she does know government and is a strong force on the GOP side.



Glenn Anderson

### Sheriff merits nomination

It seems that every four years Wayne County deputies step up to run against their boss, Robert Ficano, for the sheriff's job. This year four of the other six candidates in the Democratic primary are deputies.

Since Ficano was appointed to the position in 1983, deputies in the department have complained that he wasn't one of them, a professional police officer. He was, and is, a lawyer and a politician.

Those complaints are still the theme for this year's group of deputy candidates. And though the deputies offer some good ideas and some legitimate criticism, none of Ficano's opponents present themselves as a serious alternative.

We recommend **Robert A. Ficano** for the Democratic nomination in the Aug. 8 primary. He would face Republican challenger Timothy Beck in the general election in November.

Ficano calls his relationship with his deputies "actually very good." The deputies in the race complain of low morale in the department, caused by a sheriff who won't stand up for his officers and who fills department leadership positions with "non-professionals."

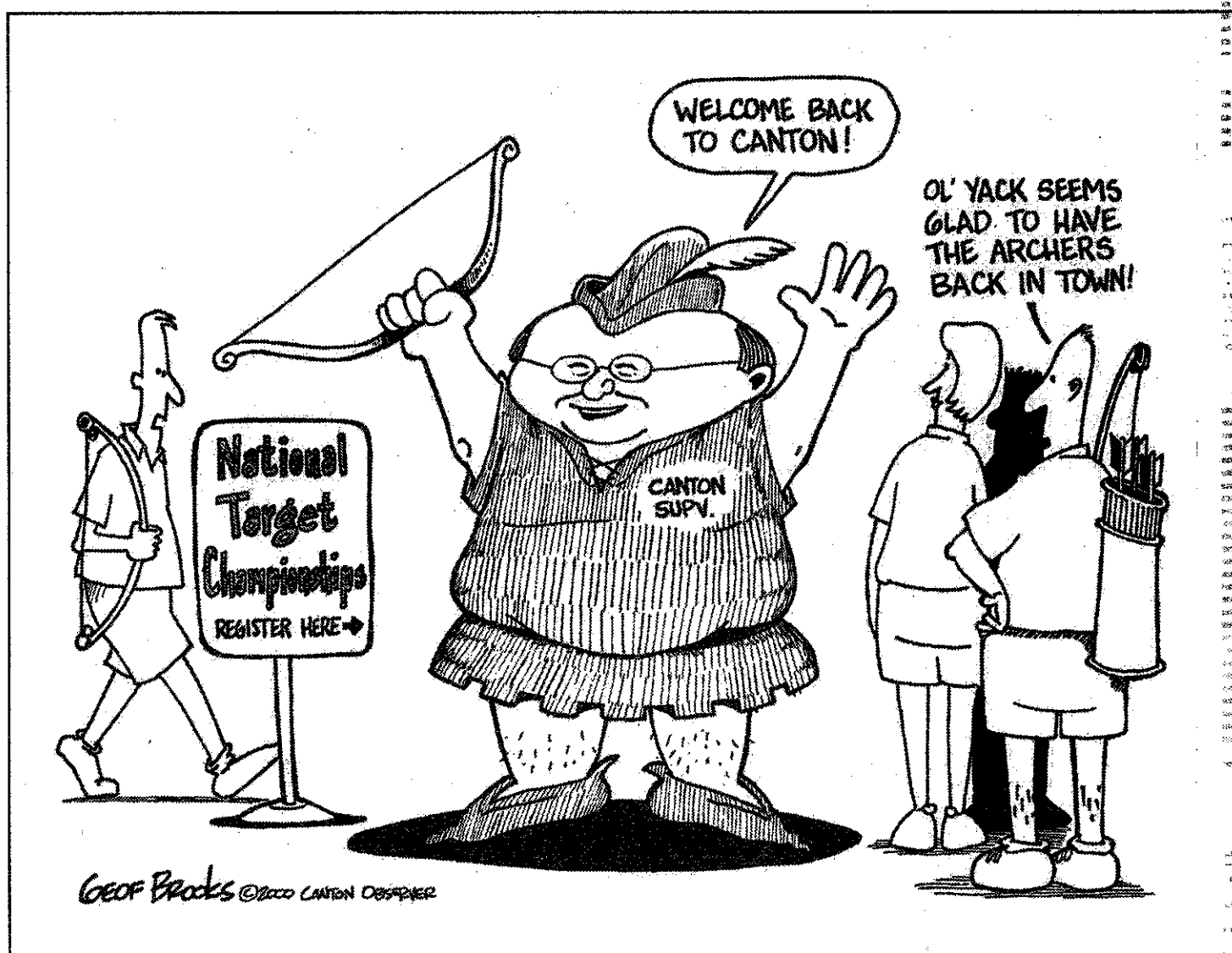
This is a serious divide between the sheriff and his men and one that Ficano should give some time and thought to bridging.

Ficano has also been criticized for his administration of the budget, especially department overtime. Ficano argues that mandated hours for jail coverage and a cut in the county budget have made it impossible for him to adequately address the problem.

It seems that Ficano also has to bridge the gap with the county commission and the county executive's office as well.

But the sheriff can point to some solid accomplishments such as the Internet Crime Task Force and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

As a "lawyer and a politician" Ficano is in the best position to argue for the department under the current budgetary restraints. We recommend his re-election.



Geoff Procks ©2000 CANTON OBSERVER

## LETTERS

### Supporting Duggan

With the retirement of Wayne County Prosecutor John D. O'Hair, voters are given the responsibility of determining who should replace him at the election primary Tuesday, Aug. 8. Of the five Democratic candidates (no Republican filed), two have emerged as leaders in the race: Deputy Wayne County Executive Mike Duggan and Sharon McPhail, former Detroit mayoral candidate and former county executive candidate.

In evaluating the candidates it is important to ask what we (citizens of Wayne County) want and expect from the county's chief law enforcement officer. Most of us would like this community to be safe for our children and elderly residents. We would like to see crime rates reduced, crime victims protected and criminals held responsible for their actions. We would like a prosecutor who would not just espouse these ideals as part of a political platform, but rather, take action to accomplish them.

One candidate's track record for accomplishing large scale tasks for the benefit of our citizens merits acknowledgment. As deputy wayne county executive, Mike Duggan took Wayne County from being \$10 million in debt and near bankruptcy in 1986 to achieving a balanced budget by 1988 and every year thereafter. When Detroit schools were critically in need of repair, Mike took \$77 million and repaired 270 schools in 10 weeks so schools could reopen in the fall. When Wayne County residents complained of crack houses in their neighborhood being raided repeatedly and reopening, Mike filed suit to have the property forfeited and then tenaciously went out and picketed the drug houses with neighbors until landlords had to bring the homes into habitable condition or risk forfeiting them. Mike started the drive to build a new jail which stopped the early release of 2,000 criminals a year. He started a groundbreaking suit to stop the sale of guns to minors. In fact, the list of Mike's accomplishments goes on and on.

It is not necessary here to criticize Sharon McPhail. It suffices to say that her last minute filing reflects a lack of the dedication that is so pronounced in Mike Duggan's candidacy. We need a committed prosecutor who will represent the interests of everybody in Wayne County. Because of this, I would encourage people to get out and vote in this primary. We must have a good turnout at the polls to insure the success of Mike's candidacy.

There is a reason that the Wayne County Assistant Prosecutors have endorsed Mike almost unanimously. We believe that he is a strong leader, and represents positive change for all of the residents of Wayne County.

**Wade D. McCann**  
 Assistant Prosecuting Attorney,  
 Wayne County  
 Livonia

### Educate yourself

I am writing in response to an article about school vouchers ... It was stated in that article that this initiative is divided along economic lines.

I do not believe that this is the case. It is divided between those who support public schools and those who do not. Most who are against the voucher initiative believe, as I do, that a good public school system is the backbone of our society and provides equal opportunity to all children.

Although the voucher supporters have good intentions — to improve opportunities for students in failing districts — this proposal is not the answer.

The proposed voucher is not enough money to educate a child. Nor does it provide transportation to school or even guarantee admission to a private school. What it does is to take much-needed money from the public school that needs it most.

In addition to the immediate detrimental effect of loss of revenue on public schools, the proposal also leaves the door open for changes to the Michigan Constitution that allow for tuition tax credits. Tuition tax credits are credits against taxes owed by an individual or company and used in place of income, property and single business taxes.

The tax credits could reduce fiscal support for public services, such as State Police, corrections, parks and higher education. Funds for these programs would have to come from either the current school fund or the state's general fund. Or, more likely, from an increase in taxes!

I urge the voucher supporters to spend their time AND MONEY on better ways to help the public schools, not taking money from them. Voters, please educate yourselves on the implications of this complicated proposal and vote in November!

**Suzanne Dershem**  
 West Bloomfield

### Tax hypocrisy

Let me get this straight: Tri-county governments are working to enact a "regional arts and culture tax" to support the destitute and endangered cultural institutions of the area.

Meanwhile the Detroit Institute of Arts, one of these needfully noble cultural institutions, is building a 35,000-square-foot addition, at a cost of over \$300 million. And the money will be coming from where? An emergency cultural welfare fund?

No! From greedy, wealthy corporate and private interests, of their own volition! Russia, China, and Cuba have Ministries of Culture. While we rail against the mixing of church and state, we now endorse the state as arbiter of culture. Aside from the moral wrong of forcing one person, against their will, to subsidize another's pleasure, the hypocrisy of the proposed tax is disgusting.

**Ted Gomulka**  
 Livonia

### Thanks sponsors

"Stardate 2000" was the theme for the Livonia Churchill High School Senior All-Night Party. The annual party was held June 15 following commencement and again was a huge success because of the support received by businesses and individuals from Livonia and neighboring communities such as Canton.

Without their help we would not have been able to provide our graduates with such a wonderful way to celebrate the culmination of 13 years of education. The graduates of the Class of 2000 would sincerely like to thank the following Canton businesses for their help in providing the seniors with a party they will remember for a lifetime: Central City Diner, Domino's Pizza, Don Pablo's, and Zap Zone. Thank you Canton!

**Cynthia Abar,**  
 Churchill High School Senior  
 All-Night Party Committee

### Witnesses wanted

My wife was involved in an accident Monday, July 10, at about 5 p.m. at Joy and Sheldon Roads. My wife was taken by ambulance before she could be interviewed by the police. We would like to contact anyone that may have witnessed the accident. Please send a reply to P.O. Box 6094 Plymouth, MI 48170.

**Bob Reckinger**  
 Canton

### Too much cronyism

I am writing in response to the article about the proposed change in selecting university regents in the Thursday, July 20, 2000, Observer & Eccentric. While I agree that many people are disinterested in who is elected to these boards, I find Senator Schwarz's proposal inadvisable.

People who care enough about the public universities in this state do vote "the bottom of the ballot." That not everyone does is no reason to do away with this system. If 100 percent voter turnout or compliance were the criteria for election, I dare say Mr. Schwarz would be out of a job. His proposal to have the regents appointed by the governor rather than by the electorate reeks of cronyism. I would think that would "unnecessarily politicize" the position more so than allowing the electorate to speak (or whisper, as the case may be).

**Suzan Hysseff**  
 Livonia

### Share your opinions

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. In order to be fair to everyone, this newspaper will not run letters to the editor the week prior to an election that open new issues. Expressions of thanks to political supporters are best made by buying an advertisement.

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# It's time for Canton to add King Day to holiday list

*I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.*

Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial "outside agitator" idea. Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider anywhere in this country.

—The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., letter from Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963.

The NFL told the state of Arizona it couldn't host a Super Bowl until it recognized Martin Luther King Day. The consequences for Canton aren't quite so bold, of course. But the backpedaling by some local officials is an impressive display nonetheless.

How can we possibly (emphasis mine) set aside a day for King without honoring other great Americans, township Supervisor Tom Yack intones. Why we don't even recognize President's Day. "Where do you draw the line?" Yack actually made this last comment verbatim, as if a township holiday for the civil rights champion would somehow unleash a torrent of resolutions seeking days off to honor Patrick Henry, Thomas Edison or even Mark McGuire.

Better yet, why not stage a township celebration on the Sunday before King's birthday, suggested treasurer Elaine Kirchgatter. That way everyone can participate, including school kids. Sure, and then people could use the third Monday in January, which has been designated as a federal holiday since 1994, to take care of routine business without missing a beat — like paying their property taxes.

Of course Trustee Melissa McLaughlin may have had the best solution. Why set aside a single day for symbolic ceremony? By treating everyone with respect and dignity 365 days a year, you really pay tribute to King without all the trouble of closing down the township administration building.

OK, so I'm stretching here. Putting a spin on people's thoughts that may or may not reflect their true intent. But I find it troubling that a municipality which is considered a leader in so many respects appears to be dragging its institutional foot on this issue.

In case you missed it, two local ministers are

pushing Canton to recognize King with a local holiday. They, along with a representative from the NAACP, spoke at a township board study session last week. And board members — when they weren't thinking up "alternative" celebrations — said they would consider it. Actually, Yack said he wasn't completely opposed to the idea, which would require board approval and agreements with municipal unions.

Area communities that grant the holiday include Belleville, Dearborn, Inkster, Northville Township, Romulus, Sumpter Township, Van Buren Township, Wayne and Westland. Others, including the Plymouths, don't but are considering a change.

Many of America's leading private companies give employees a paid holiday as well. The list includes the Big Three auto companies, Coca Cola and Time Warner.

"I think it would allow people to see our community as being (in touch) with the concerns of people of color," said the Rev. Bryan Smith of Geneva Presbyterian Church. "It's an opportunity for the people of Canton to make a statement." The Rev. Joe Stevenson of New Liberty Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit agrees. Stevenson, a Canton resident, said a local holiday that mirrors the national one would be "an investment in the dream of Dr. King."

It's easy to see where township officials don't feel a great deal of pressure to act. The African-American population in Canton, though growing slightly, is still tiny. But people representing other ethnicities are making the township home in increasing numbers and you'd think allowing the King holiday — with all it entails — would be seen as embracing that diversity.

Board members should also recognize that the momentum is already in place here. Holding out to be one of the last communities to declare a King holiday makes little sense.

Of course there is a cost to shutting down the township to honor King. And residents do have a right to expect the municipal services they pay taxes to support will be available to them. But I think most would agree that a one-day holiday for King isn't too much to ask.

The cost in human terms for not honoring King is far greater. King's letter from jail, a 10,000-word missive put together on scraps of paper discreetly passed along to King by a trusty, was actually a response to published remarks by eight area ministers following his arrest in Birmingham, Ala. The confrontation between the freedom marchers and legendary racist Birmingham public safety commissioner "Bull" Connor was particularly harsh.

The echoes of King's letter are abundantly clear in the fight to recognize what he stood for in communities across the land: We are all in this together.

*Tedd Schneider is the community editor of the Canton Observer. He can be reached at (734) 459-2700 or via e-mail at: tschneider@oe.homecomm.net*



Phil Power

# November school voucher proposal raises 3 red flags

The school voucher proposal will be on the statewide ballot in the Nov. 7 general election.

Placed on the ballot by a petition drive sponsored by a well-funded outfit called Kids First! Yes!, the proposal, if approved by voters, would create a voucher program for students in schools where the graduation rate is less than two-thirds what it was during the 1998-99 school year. Students in these districts would get a publicly funded voucher worth \$3,150 to help pay tuition at any public, private or religious school.

To my mind, there are three big problems with the voucher plan.

First, the proposal won't affect just poor, badly managed districts with low graduation rates, such as Detroit. A section of the ballot proposal would amend the state Constitution to let voters in any school district decide whether to adopt the plan. To get the voucher plan on the ballot in any given school district in Michigan would require only a petition signed by 10 percent of district voters who voted in the school election the previous June.

Most local school elections have pretty low turnouts, sometimes as low as 50 votes cast in an uncontested school board election. And 10 percent of this small number is a very small number, indeed. For example, all it would take to get the voucher proposal on the ballot is 291 signatures in Plymouth-Canton or 78 in the Van Buren Public Schools district.

Skeptics of the voucher plan have been quick to charge this provision in the proposal is nothing more than a device to open the door to wholesale privatization of the public school system in Michigan. Advocates say that's OK, because all it does is give local voters a choice.

I think it's a dangerous proposal because it provides a way for an organized minority to dabble with serious issues: separation of church and state and the future of our public schools. Serious matters should require seriously large public participation.

Second, the voucher proposal would authorize \$3,150 in public tax dollars for each voucher to fund private and religious schools. However, these schools are not subject to a variety of accountability and public disclosure statutes that public schools are, despite the fact that they would be receiving public money.

Private school boards are not subject to the Open Meetings Act, for example. So a private

school getting public voucher money would not have to hold its board meetings and transact business in public. And religious schools are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act. So a parochial school receiving public tax funds would

**The plan provides a way for an organized minority to dabble with serious issues; lacks provisions that scrutinize how state money is being spent; and subsidizes religious schools whose doctrines some may oppose.**

not be subject to scrutiny about how the money is being spent.

This is not an abstract concern. One of the biggest problems with charter schools, which also receive state per-pupil support, is that many object to public scrutiny of their activities. An investigation two years ago turned up well-documented cases of abuse — the principal of a charter school renting a building owned by his brother, for example.

If we are serious about supporting private and parochial schools with public tax dollars, at a minimum we ought to make sure these schools are required to be subject to the same protections of public accountability and open decision making that public schools are.

Third, the voucher proposal in effect overturns the long-standing principle that public funds should not be used to pay for religious or private schools.

If parents wish their children to attend a parochial or private school, that certainly is their choice, which they pay for with their own dollars. But it's hard for me to see why my tax dollars should be used to subsidize another family in sending their child to a religious school whose doctrines I oppose.

*Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047 Ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@homecomm.net*

# Metro works to restore image

Twelve miles south of Detroit Metro Airport, herons fly among reeds rising from a wetlands. A boardwalk leads through watery gardens and trails surround the ponds and wind through the woodlands at Crosswinds Marsh.

This pleasant 1,000-acre oasis, oddly situated next to a landfill, is a wetlands mitigation project Wayne County developed to allow for airport expansion over existing wetlands. The marsh is pleasantly removed from the noise and muscle of the airport and the controversy surrounding it.

Driving north on I-275 toward I-94, you can see the superstructure of the new \$1.2-billion Midfield Terminal rising across a sweep of open land. This is where the future lies, a promise of better service and more competition.

I was invited by Brian Lassaline of

the airport's external affairs department to join him for a tour of the emerging terminal, which is scheduled to be finished in December 2001. As one who has always been fascinated by architecture and building sites, I couldn't resist. So we donned hard hats and drove to the site.

The new terminal will be accessible from I-275 at the Eureka exit and then on to a south access road that was begun in the early 1990s on a "build the road and the terminal will come" philosophy. The new road will end a decades' long bottleneck on I-94.

The terminal and east concourse today form a skeleton slowly developing a skin. From the air, the building resembles an elegant airliner with a mile-long wingspan and a gracefully curved tail wing, connected by an arched body.

As we walk into where passengers will enter the terminal, the structure is large and awe-inspiring. It is here that 104 ticketing positions will hurry passengers through. A state-of-the-art luggage handling system is planned, with 11 domestic luggage-claim carousels.

But like all modern airports, handling passengers' needs doesn't end with giving them a ticket and checking their luggage: The terminal also will have 125,000 square feet of retail space. Local and national vendors have been invited to share that space, providing a variety of dining choices and specialty shops. The vendors are required to use "street pricing," meaning their prices have to be consistent with their stores elsewhere.

We walked from the terminal and its linking

shopping mall to the East Concourse. It is here that a people-mover will whisk the length of the concourse, depositing passengers at one of the 74 jet gates. There will also be moving sidewalks. Fast food shops will be conveniently positioned.

A pedestrian tunnel will connect the East Concourse to a smaller West Concourse, which will have eight jet and 24 commuter gates. There is already talk that Northwest wants more gates.

Though Northwest is the project developer and will be the primary tenant (in addition to its commuter line Mesaba), the new terminal will also handle commercial international flights by Northwest, British Airways, Lufthansa, Canadian Air and KLM. Only charter flights will continue at the current International Terminal.

It's all pretty impressive and at \$1.2 billion, it ought to be. But it was clear long ago that Detroit has more fliers than could be comfortably and efficiently handled by the existing facility, which has aged badly since it became the major passenger airport in the early '50s. The airport this year is marking its 70th anniversary.

Complaints about Metro's poor service and run-down condition have been long and loud. The dominance of Northwest, whose hub at Metro accounts for 75 percent of all flights, also has been criticized.

Metro is a dynamic part of the local economy, with over 34 million passengers last year. Airport companies employ 15,000 people and support another 60,000 jobs in the area. The economic impact is estimated at \$4.2 billion a year.

The county is proposing Pinnacle Aeropark, an 1,800-acre mixed-use project of offices, commercial developments and a golf course, to surround the airport. It's a projected investment of \$1.6 billion, creating 25,000 jobs and generating \$30 million a year in taxes.

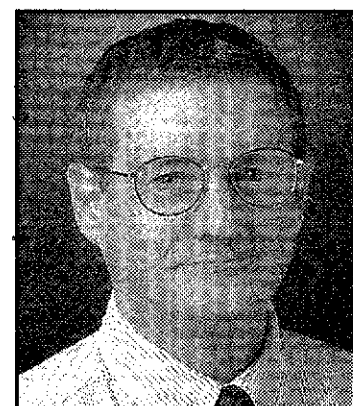
The airport improvements are being paid for by a combination of bonds, passenger-fee charges, federal and state grants and a debt-service charge to Northwest.

Most would say that's a pretty good deal. But Airports Director Lester Robinson, responsible for managing Metro and Willow Run, knows it won't be easy to turn public opinion around. Even as these new wonders are rising from a barren field, serious questions continue about oversight of airport contracts and auditing practices.

As we welcome the changes at Metro, we'll also continue to question airport operations and finances. We'll continue to demand that Metro meet the highest standards of public service and accountability. We'll continue to demand that airport business be done in public.

Maybe the best is yet to come. We'll see!

*Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the Observer Newspapers. He can be reached by phone at (734) 953-2149, by e-mail at hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net or by fax at (734) 591-7279.*



Hugh Gallagher

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# Pugs from page A13

plied with humane treatment standards mandated under the Animal Welfare Act, passed by the U.S. Congress during the mid-1970s.

"The USDA is violating the law by allowing irresponsible dog breeders to cause suffering to thousands of puppies," said Holly Hazard, executive director of the DDAL. "The agency's negligent actions not only take a tragic toll on animals but also fail to protect those buying pets. This suit will force USDA to ... shut down cruel and inhumane puppy mills, and other unscrupulous pet outlets."

Larry Nathan would welcome such developments, primarily to put an end to those who breed and sell with no other motivation than "the almighty dollar." That goes for puppy mills and pet shops.

According to Nathan, puppy mills "will never be like a loving home. And if pet stores didn't buy them we wouldn't have puppy mills."

Pet stores rely on puppy mills for the dogs they sell.

The problem with puppy mills, as documented in numerous reports and articles, is that conditions are plain unhealthy. Wire cages filled with puppies, of all breeds, often are stacked one on top of another. Animal waste drips down on poor, unsuspecting animals in lower cages.

And, said Heather Secco, the dogs "could be locked up for five or 10 days in a cage, and they never get to run, be out and socialize (with other dogs and humans). They'll start going crazy."

### Not what it seems

Customers at mall pet stores also might not get the "perfect breeder dog" they think they're purchasing, and for top dollar, too, she continued.

Secco and others suggested trying to not get emotionally hooked to a pet store puppy that's placed into their hands by an employee, simply because the lives of their moms and dads back in the puppy mills are abysmal.

Nathan's organization, through donations, pays for medical bills of the animals it rescues. That includes having

females spayed and males neutered.

Farmington veterinarian David Carron agreed that dogs endure terrible conditions in puppy mills.

"I've seen the same things on TV that you have," said Carron, on staff at Plaza Veterinary Hospital. "They just don't get the socialization they need. But that's not to say you can't find a nice puppy" that took the puppy mill-pet store route.

The problem is, those dogs often have health problems that go undetected for several years.

# Pugs are 'dear ones' who need your help

**Name:** European slang for "dear one."

**Type:** Recognized by the American Kennel Club as a member of the toy group.

**Disposition:** Bred to be companion dogs, pugs are known as a big dog in a small package, usually weighing 14-20 pounds. They are stubborn and confident, yet friendly. Pugs are social animals and get along well with children and other dogs.

**Description:** They have a short, square muzzle, large prominent eyes, massive round

head, thin small ears, black mask and a curly tail.

**ABOUT MICHIGAN PUG RESCUE**  
**Slogan:** "Pug Luv."

**Chairpersons:** Larry and Kathy Nathan of Farmington.

**Web site:** You can find out more by logging on to: [www.michiganpugrescue.homepage.com](http://www.michiganpugrescue.homepage.com); adoption packages are available to download. The telephone number is (248) 473-8389.

**Donations:** The nonprofit organization relies on donations to further its efforts. Volunteers

also are essential, including anyone interested in fostering a rescued pug. Anyone interested in donating can send monetary donations to Michigan Pug Rescue, 23927 Wesley, Farmington, 48335.

**Needs:** The organization can always use supplies such as dog food, crates, blankets and shampoos, among other items.

**Mission:** "It is our goal to provide every pug with a loving, safe and happy home."

**ABOUT SURRENDERING A PUG**  
**Procedure:** Michigan Pug

Rescue will make every effort to place rescued dogs in a loving home. All homes are carefully screened before placement is made. Each applicant must complete an adoption application, provide vet records and a home visit is completed. Follow-ups are made. The organization does not have a policy on euthanasia.

To make arrangements to release a pug to Michigan Pug Rescue, contact the Nathans at (248) 473-8389.

- Source: Michigan Pug Rescue

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STAFF PHOTO BY MATTHEW TAPLINGER

A pug puppy shows signs of weariness after playing with his friends in the Nathans' back yard.

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