

Dialing for dinner,
other delights, 6D



Wrestling
results, 1C

Informal party
is just super, 1B



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Trustees move to block airport purchase

By Diane Gale
staff writer

Canton took steps Friday to force Plymouth and Plymouth Township to abort a plan to buy Mettetal Airport.

Canton joined a citizens group, Plymouth Concerned Citizens, in a request for an injunction against the airport purchase, charging that state law requires that the host community, Canton, approve the purchase.

During a special "emergency meeting" Friday afternoon, Canton trustees voted 6-1 to join the asking for the injunction. The re-

quest was expected to be filed Friday afternoon.

Trustee Elaine Kirchgatter cast the only dissenting vote against, saying that she wanted a legal opinion about Canton's potential liability.

"I think we owe it to the citizens of the community to get our own legal advice," she said.

THE INJUNCTION request charges Plymouth and Plymouth Township with "conspiring to purchase a small private recreational airport in Canton" without seeking approval from Canton's elected offi-

cial, who have voted against buying the airport.

"It's not an accident we're meeting in an emergency session at 12 p.m. (noon on Friday)," Canton Supervisor Tom Yack said adding that he believed actions were taken last week to speed up the purchase process before an injunction could be granted.

"Some prefer Mettetal Airport stay as a private airport and some believe, as I do, that it's not the business of the City of Plymouth to take public funds and operate an airport," said Bill McAninch, Plymouth Concerned Citizens member.

The group submitted a petition, with

more than 900 signatures, last week to Plymouth's clerk calling for a citizens' vote on the public purchase of Mettetal.

Meanwhile, Yack said, it's curious why Plymouth Township has pushed for the public purchase.

"There's a great deal of speculation of the motives of Plymouth Township and issues so incredible they would create a potential liability to that community, that they would treat a neighbor the way they have," Yack said.

HE TEMPERED his tone when he said that the relationship between himself and

Plymouth Township Supervisor Maurice Breen has been friendly on other joint programs that the communities currently share and those they hope to create.

However, Yack was stern in a public letter about the airport.

"It is apparent that the driving motivation behind this effort has not been what is in the best interests of the greater community and its residents, but rather what is in the best interests of Plymouth Township's resident and developer, Bob DeMattia."

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Rose Meyer hangs her grandson's name, Michael Knott, on a bulletin board commemorating troops in the Canton Recreation Department. Troops names are family and friends of Canton

senior citizens in the Persian Gulf. Watching Meyer are Parnell and Lillian Johnson, Edna McLaughlin, Dixon Berry, Lucille Domzal and Ether Klann.

Comfort patrol

Residents join forces to show support for troops

By Diane Gale
staff writer

Canton residents are showing troops in the Persian Gulf that they care.

So many events and programs had been launched last week that the Canton Community Foundation set up a hot line, 454-5428, noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, to tell people what's going on.

The hot line also is available to friends and family members of troops in the Middle East who need emergency financial help or moral support, said Bill Joyner, Community Foundation executive director.

Topping the agenda of events is a reception 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10 at Fellows Creek Golf Club, Canton. Large red, white and blue posters have gone up around Canton and Plymouth inviting anyone who is interested, especially family and friends of troops, "to attend and let our neighbors know and feel our support."

"I would like the war to be over by Feb. 10 and then this will be a celebrating peace party," said Canton resident and attorney Bruce Patterson. He planned the reception, sponsored in part by the Canton Community Foundation, with Cathy John-

THE GULF

WAR

Hitting Home

son, Canton planning commissioner, Cindy Burgess, Canton Community Foundation executive director, and Joyner. The purpose is to provide a forum for brainstorming ideas for other troop support programs. For instance, what happens to families of reservists who are forced to get by on limited incomes? Patterson asked.

"We all lived through the Vietnam War and it had a tremendous impact on troops and especially MIAs," said Patterson, adding that anti-war protests were "demoralizing" for the troops who returned home.

The men and women who return from the Persian Gulf will need financial and psychological support long after the "ticker tape" parade, Patterson said.

War does horrible things to people's minds, Burgess said. "When

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War is really scary; kids need assurance of safety

By M.B. Dillon
staff writer

Teri Tibus, 32, was waiting at a Westland restaurant when the allied forces bombed Baghdad Jan. 16. As soon as her sons, R.J., 11, and Bradley, 9, heard the news on TV, they ran for the phone.

"They called me and said, 'Mom — the war started. You have to come home.'"

"They were really afraid," Tibus said. "Kids don't get the concept. They fear the war will be fought in here and it scares them to death. In their little heads, they're convinced

the war will be in their own back yards."

IN BETWEEN "Sesame Street," cartoons and their favorite TV shows, many youngsters are experiencing war for the first time — live and in horrific color in their family rooms.

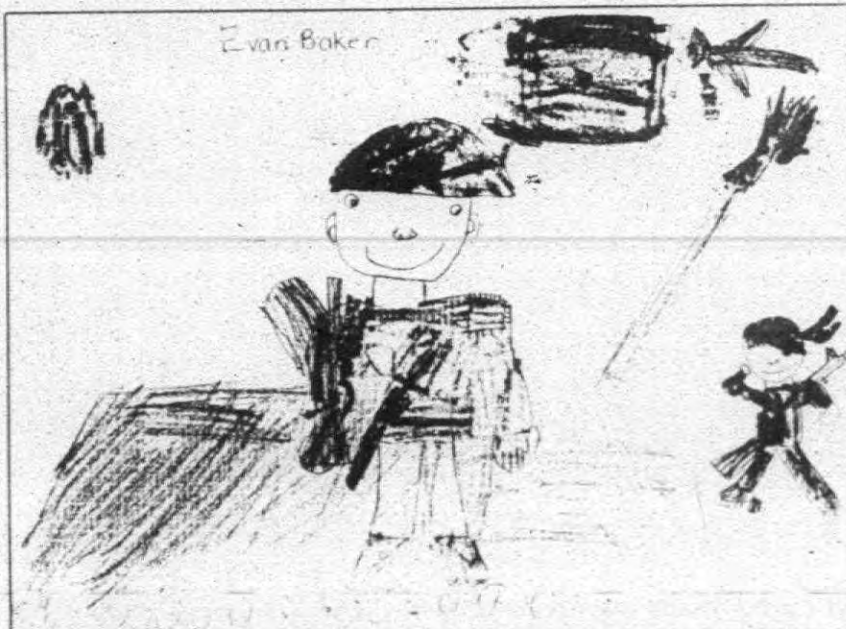
For many children in Plymouth-Canton schools, the war hits home because they've corresponded with service men and women in Saudi Arabia for several months. Others are affected more severely because they have relatives in the Middle East.

Cathy Campbell, a counselor at Eriksson and Hoben elementary schools, is spending time with children who have loved ones in the Gulf as well as other youngsters troubled by the outbreak of hostilities there.

"A LOT OF times if children can talk about their feelings and be listened to, it does a world of good for them," Campbell said.

"The kids want to be assured of their safety. Parents and teachers can help by just reassuring them that they're safe and that it's OK

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Counselors and teachers say children can best cope with the trauma of war by expressing their feelings and fears. Evan Baker, a first grader at Eriksson Elementary School in Canton, illustrated the Persian Gulf War this way.

Landscape architect sows beautification ideas

By Diane Gale
staff writer

With more than two-thirds of the land in Canton undeveloped, it isn't too late to adopt a new look.

That's the message from Barry Burton, Canton's landscape architect, who goes a step further when he says even the developed areas, like Ford Road, can be improved with the right kinds of landscaping.

A recently released beautification master plan for Canton, and Burton's job, which was created last year, represent steps toward sprucing up Canton's image, said Supervisor Tom Yack.

The theme throughout the 42-page plan is to plant trees and flowers that will give the township a "country character," which reflects Canton's rural heritage and gives Canton an identity, said the introduction to the master plan, prepared by Burton and planners, Harley, Ellington, Pierce, Yee Associates, Inc.

"The goal of the report is to present to the board of trustees ideas and concepts on beautification," Burton said. "We didn't want to say where every tree and shrub would go."

One suggestion is that trees should be clustered, instead of lined up like soldiers in straight rows, "to give them a more rural look and natural setting," Burton said.

The master plan also addresses the fences along major thoroughfares, like Sheldon and Lillian roads. Passersby say the fences resemble barracks and look terrible. Homeowners argue that they're needed for privacy and noise control. Both groups can be appeased with the right kinds of landscaping along the open space between the fences and roads, Burton said.

The plan serves more as a guideline than a rule book, Yack said. "I hope each year we can do a portion of the plan and in some time we could complete it."

Some of the project price tags include \$96,220

per mile in residential corridors; \$126,300 per mile in regional corridors, like Michigan Avenue and \$3,780 for key intersections along Ford Road.

After the master plan was presented at a recent board meeting, trustee Elaine Kirchgatter suggested that more time should be taken for trustees to digest the plan. "I'm not sure I'm willing to spend \$200,000 a year for this," she said.

Just how much of the plan will be used depends on how much money the township board of trustees agree to spend. "It becomes a budget issue," Yack said. Costs can be cut in various ways, Burton said, like having homeowners associations maintain projects nearest their subdivisions.

The master plan is an example of a commitment to improving Canton's look and image to outsiders and residents, alike. "There aren't too many communities that have a landscape architect," or for that matter, a beautification master plan," Yack said.

Two men arrested in robbery at inn

Two Detroit men were arrested Sunday night in connection with an armed robbery at the Fairfield Inn on Haggerty.

According to police reports, at about 9:30 p.m. two men in their mid-20s entered the Inn and pointed a shotgun at two employees. One of the men told an employee, "Put your money in a bag or I'll blow your head off."

The robbers disconnected the phone and left in a 1979 Pontiac Grand Prix. A Canton officer spotted the car

with three men at I-275 and Michigan. Police pulled the car over but the driver sped away. Canton police were joined in a chase by Van Buren Township police.

At Van Born and Michigan, the driver of the Pontiac lost control. The men ran into nearby woods where two of them were arrested.

Officers confiscated \$110,000, ski masks and shotgun under hood of car.

The men are expected to be arraigned today.

Talking about war helps put kids at ease

Continued from Page 1

here. In lower elementary that is really important. In upper elementary, they want to know more specifics.

"It's good to answer only the questions they ask and not impose your fears upon them, because they tend to pick that up and go with it," Campbell said.

"Be very factual, answer questions, and in every case do reflective listening. For instance, you could say, 'It sounds like you're afraid. It's a pretty scary situation for you.' You might even say, 'At times, I worry about it too.'"

JUST BECAUSE a child doesn't talk about something doesn't mean it's not bothering him or her, she said.

"It doesn't mean they're not thinking about it. If they don't talk about it, it will manifest itself in other ways — stomach aches and other

kinds of things.

"What we really need to do in this situation, like in any crisis, is listen to how they're feeling as opposed to telling them how they should be feeling," Campbell said.

"A lot of times we impose our feelings on children. It's real important to listen to what your child has to say."

SANDI FULLER, a math teacher at Central Middle School, said that so far, her students are "really handling this well."

"I think it's because the staff is handling it so well. We're keeping things at a low key, saying we need to think about the people in the Middle East and send them positive thoughts."

"I think the kids understand we need to pull together, we need to wish for peace."

Each school day since the Persian Gulf War began, Fuller and her class

have spent a moment in silence.

"I told them their thoughts have energy, and that they can send it through their prayers or meditations. Or they can just visualize something happening. I told them they could visualize Saddam Hussein and George Bush shaking hands, or Hussein with hearts around him."

THE DAY after Iraq was bombed, Fiegel Elementary School teacher Ron Myers distributed in reading class 33 copies of the newspaper with the headline "War" bannered across the front page, and discussed the war.

"Many of the kids expressed fear. They're afraid," Myers said. "They have concerns about bombs in this country, and the range of the Iraqi missiles. Talking about that put their minds at ease."

Myers also talked about prejudice with his students.

"A couple of kids mentioned a

fight in East Dearborn. We talked about those people being as much afraid as we are. We talked about stereotyping. Just because someone is Arab doesn't mean they're out to fight us."

MYERS EMPHASIZES to his students that "they need to be able to communicate with their parents and write daily in their journals about their feelings of war. A lot of times, kids can put it in writing better than they can say it."

"It's like anything else — if you have fears or anger and don't get it out, it continues to build. It's much better to try and get that out in the open rather than have it fester inside."

"I think that's the root of many of our problems," he said. "Talking about it is a positive way to vent. The worst thing is to ignore it."

ANDREA DUBRINSKY, a math

and science teacher at Central, said one of her students knowledgeable about the Korean War has led class discussions on the Persian Gulf conflict.

"Most all of the children have someone over there," Dubrinsky said. "They are concerned but feel they need to be there and hope they'll come home. They've all listened to the president, know what he's talking about and understand it."

"I think sometimes we don't give children the benefit of having the ability to have those thoughts, concerns and fears. We tend to tell them whatever we feel they should know. That's not good, because sometimes maybe we're not answering their concerns."

JAN DERSEY is a counselor at Miller, Bird and Isbister elementary schools.

Residents move into position to help troops

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these people come back they'll need support."

THE CANTON Chamber of Commerce hadn't finalized Friday what it would do to support troops, said Hazen Hiller, chamber first vice-president. However, ideas, to be discussed at a meeting tonight, include encouraging store owners to decorate their front windows and to aid support groups.

"Our goals are that we want to support service people and their families overseas," Hiller said. "We want to downplay the war effort, because no one likes war. We don't want to inflame the Jewish-Arab problem, because both those people are under a lot of pressure."

The popular practice of residents and businesses tying ribbons on houses, cars and trees throughout Canton and other communities has been so strong that area fabric stores and craft shops are out of red, white and

blue ribbon, according to Johnson, who tried getting the ribbon for Canton. Johnson also is working on a letter-writing campaign to troops.

Canton police are showing allegiance by decorating squad cars with yellow ribbons and Desert Storm troop insignias, as suggested by Canton officer George Sharp, a Vietnam veteran, and police Capt. Al Wilson, who served in the Army.

"We're not trying to make a political statement, it's just a show of support for the men and women on ac-

tive duty in Saudi Arabia," Wilson said.

Operation Desert Storm' t-shirts are on sale at Travel Tyme, on Ford Road between Sheldon and Canton Center roads. Two shirts cost \$17.95. One goes to the buyer and one is shipped, with a personalized message written by the purchaser, to a troop in the Persian Gulf.

"We decided nothing was being done in Canton or Plymouth and we decided to start selling them," said Mary Spindler, owner of Travel

Tyme. "Obviously being a travel agency we're kind of slow right now and we are open until 8 p.m.," she said.

Bumper stickers that say, 'Canton is proud of our troops in Desert Storm' and 'We are proud of troops in Desert Storm' are on sale at various locations around the township.

Local blood drives have been set up to support the American Red Cross including one 2:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4 at Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 Sheldon Road.

Trustees join request for injunction against purchase

Continued from Page 1

Yack's comments refer to the industrial zoning of the land Mettetal is on. If the land was not used as an airport, future developments could be competition for DeMattia's projects in other communities.

"What's in it for Plymouth Township, because they were the shepherds on this? Why would they go through a fire storm of controversy?" Yack asked.

DeMattia, who was out of town last Friday, adamantly rejected the theory by telephone. When asked if an industrial development on Mettetal property could become competition, he said: "Give me a break."

"I take flying lessons there. My customers use it for business and I use it for business. I have no present, past or future economic ties to that airport."

METRO WEST Industrial Park in Plymouth competes against other industrial land in a 500-mile radius, he said.

"And there is a plethora of competition that we deal very effectively with at this present time."

DeMattia said that about two years ago he had been approached to buy the airport.

"If I wanted it, I would have bought it then."

He referred to Yack's comments as slanderous.

"You have to understand how completely taken aback by that I am."

Trustee John Prenczky suggested during the special meeting, and the board agreed, that all references to DeMattia be taken out of the injunction document.

Yack said he doesn't believe public funds should be used to buy the airport, because only a small group

of people use it.

OTHER CHARGES that the injunction makes are as follows:

• The Michigan Department of Aeronautics intends to expand the airport, which would include large jet aircraft. "Mettetal is planned to be a Willow Run-type facility, handling many more operations and jets," Yack said.

However, Kirchgatter presented a letter Friday from the Michigan Department of Transportation that said there are no plans for expansion. Clerk Loren Bennett said at the special meeting that he didn't trust the validity of that letter.

• Canton will lose valuable land which contributes significantly to its tax base and "with the expected expansion, will lose even more;"

• Canton residents would be subjected to noise pollution and other environmental problems;

• And Plymouth and Plymouth Township residents will have to pay anticipated liability costs for operating Mettetal.

The attorney representing the citizens group said his legal fees would be paid by the citizens group, and, as far as he knew, Canton was not responsible for those costs.



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PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE
 CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN
 7:00 P.M.
 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1991

A special meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on Monday, February 11, 1991 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall to consider the following:

A Public Hearing will be held on the proposed revisions to the Zoning Ordinance of the Plymouth City Code.

All interested persons are invited to attend.

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