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Canton Observer

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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

Coming soon: An Unsolved Mysteries segment on a Plymouth murder will feature Eagle the police dog. /A6

Book him: Canton resident Ron Koller helped write a book about making organizations work effectively. /A3

Burned up: Family escapes mobile home fire. /A2

AT HOME

Accessible: Kathy and Kevin Renas renovated their Farmington Hills home to make the home more comfortable for their children and easier access for the children's wheelchairs. /C1

ENTERTAINMENT

Theater: Zingers go back and forth in the Plymouth Theatre Guild's production of "Vaudeville: A Play with Music." /B1

Musical: "Phantom of the Opera" cast members take off their masks to talk about the show. /B1

REAL ESTATE

Paying the price: Living in a home isn't all lollypops and rainbows. Being a home owner takes time and money. /E1

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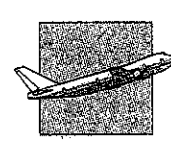
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Airport runway shift shot down



Township officials have told the state to take its Mettetal runway shift and shove it in the wake of news that state officials knew the airport was out of compliance with federal guidelines when it was purchased in 1994.

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER
cmarshall@oe.hometown.com

The Canton Township Board of Trustees grounded plans to shift the Mettetal Airport runway when it unanimously voted down the action Tuesday.

At the heart of the denial to shift the runway 240 feet to the south was the

balance between pilot and Joy Road motorist safety - and the concerns expressed by Covos of Canton condominium residents.

Also weighing heavily in the vote was the board's hostility about falsehoods reported to them when the state bought the airport in 1994.

The big lie

"The FAA and MDOT, people who

are supposed to look after our safety and welfare ... intentionally lied to the people who are involved," said Trustee Melissa McLaughlin. "They lied about FAA standards they are now trying to enforce."

The Michigan Department of Transportation Bureau of Aeronautics and the Airport Advisory Board brought the proposal to the board earlier this year, stating new FAA standards would require a shift.

Representatives from MDOT told the board pilots had grown concerned over pilot and motorist safety, and the runway's proximity to Joy Road.

The runway is 50 feet south of Joy,

east of Lilley.

Supervising Engineer Mark Noel said the shift to the south would decrease the likelihood of an aircraft sliding off the end of the runway and onto Joy.

Noel said the proposal is a shift, not an expansion, and the pavement at the north of the runway could be torn up or left in place to provide a paved buffer between the runway and the road.

By contract, the 2,500-foot runway cannot be modified without a resolution from Canton and the state.

However, the board recently learned

Please see AIRPORT, A2

Carol's wreath



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Proud crafter: Carol Bollman of Canton shows off her wreath after customizing the dried-vine decoration with faux flowers and a bow during a Canton Senior Center crafts session at the Summit on the Park. Several area women joined two staff members from the Westland JoAnn Etc. store to create the springtime door hangers.

Toast to Canton wine tasting event set

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER
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Canton wine aficionados and amateurs alike will gather for a Toast to Canton next week.

Leadership Canton Alumni, the Canton Chamber of Commerce and Holiday Market will co-sponsor the event, which will be held at Yazaki North America.

Leadership Canton Alumni President Paul Schrauben said the event not only raises money for local community groups, but offers Canton's wine connoisseurs and wine-curious the opportunity to do something new.

The Toast to Canton will feature a wide variety of hors d'oeuvres and about 150 wines, and for the first time will also offer beers to sample. As usual, non-drinkers as well as drivers will not have to miss out on the fun, and there will be a table of sparkling and non-alcoholic beverages for tasting as well.

Another change will be the location. In the past,

the wine tasting was held at the Summit, but Schrauben said Yazaki North America offered to host in its new building on Haggerty Road, and Leadership Canton couldn't pass on the offer.

"A lot of people are curious about Yazaki, and we thought this would be a unique opportunity for people to go inside and check it out," he said.

Last year's Toast was Schrauben's wine tasting debut. He said that, although he's not an experienced wine drinker, he wasn't intimidated by the event.

"You see a lot of people that obviously know wine," Schrauben said. "And the distributors are there. But then there are a lot of people like me that say 'Huh. Besides color, what's the difference between red and white?'"

Nancy Williams, Leadership Canton alumni, said the wine tasting has been a good time and a great education.

For two years, Williams and her husband, Pat - also Leadership Canton alumni - have paid extra for

the privilege of being volunteer wine pourers.

"It's a blast," Williams said, adding she plans on being a pourer again this year. "Of course drinking the wine's not so bad, either."

Williams said the education about wine she receives while pouring is the reason she loves volunteering at the event.

"You don't have to know a thing about wine," she said. "But you come away with a little more knowledge and have more of an appreciation for it."

The event has raised \$12,000 during its two years, and Schrauben said he hopes it will bring in more than last year's \$7,000.

Schrauben said proceeds from the third annual wine tasting gala will benefit the Canton Historical Society, Leadership Canton Alumni Scholarship and the Canton Firefighters Charity Foundation.

Schrauben said Leadership Canton chooses different community groups annually and they're chosen

Please see WINE, A2

Coffee talk

Congresswoman Lynn Rivers will discuss issues and drink coffee with constituents 8:30-10 a.m. Monday, May 7, at LaMocha, 7760 N. Canton Center Road. Call (734) 485-3741 for additional data.

Good grades

The Canton Observer salutes Superstar Carriers for earning straight-A marks on their recent report cards. They include:

■ Lina Nowland, 13, a student at Discovery Middle School who delivers the paper in Palmer Place.

■ Joshua Osinski, 8, a student at Hulsing Elementary School who delivers papers in Mayfair Village. His favorite class is math.

CANTON CONNECTION

■ Ryan Skonieczny, 10, a student at Hulsing Elementary School who delivers papers in Mayfair Village. "I like delivering the paper because it's something to do in my spare time," he wrote.

New equipment

A new piece of equipment will allow more complete crime scene forensic examinations to be conducted by the Canton Police Division. The Omniprint 1000 will help officers detect physiological fluids such as urine, semen and saliva as well as

certain drugs like cocaine. The Omniprint provides a tunable wavelength source of light and costs \$7,822.

All-day kindergarten

The Van Buren Public Schools is looking to determine parent interest in a full-day kindergarten enrichment program for the next school year at its newly opened Early Childhood Development Center. The program would be open to all parents of kindergarten students, but just 40-44 spaces would be available. Children would be selected by a lottery system. To be included in the survey, call (734) 697-9123, Ext. 225.

To place a classified ad 734-591-0900

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Community Chorus spring concert set

Plymouth Community Chorus will present its 2001 Spring Concert, "Smooth & Sassy", this Saturday, April 28 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 29 at 4 p.m.

The chorus takes center stage in an exciting exploration of rhythm, jazz and swing.

The concert features a variety of music from Carlos Santana and Mark Anthony to the ballads of Stephen Sondheim and Frank Sinatra.

William Grimmer founded the Plymouth Community Chorus in 1973. Since that time, their membership has grown to over 125 singers drawn from southeastern lower Michigan.

The concert will be performed at Plymouth Salem High School (Joy and Canton Center Roads). Tickets are available by telephoning the chorus at (734) 455-4080.

based on their presence and involvement in the community.

"We want to keep the money in Canton, since the event is based in Canton," he said.

A Toast to Canton will be held 7-9 p.m. Friday, May 4, at Yazaki North America, 6700 N. Hagerly Road.

Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. They can be purchased now at the Canton Chamber of Commerce, Holiday Market, the Canton Township supervisor's office, Canton Fire Station No. 1, or by calling Paul Schrauben at (734) 981-3475.

Wine from page A1

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Family escapes mobile home fire

A family of four escaped a fire without injury early Sunday morning.

Canton police reports stated the fire erupted in their Mott Road trailer at about 5:30 a.m. while the family slept inside.

The man in the home awoke, coughing, to the smell of smoke. The man woke the others in the home — a woman and two boys, age 3 and 7, and all got out safely.

Window peeper

Canton police report they have requested a warrant for the arrest of a man who has allegedly been window peeping in Canton.

The 19-year-old Westland man is suspected of at least nine confirmed window peeping and indecent exposure incidents since last October. Canton Police Sgt. Charles Raycraft said he suspects there were many more

COP CALLS

incidents than the nine confirmed.

Police were able to track the man down after a Canton woman spotted the man in the act.

She called police and told them she had reported him several times before.

She gave police a physical description and identified his car.

Jacket ID's thief

A Garden City man on probation for retail fraud made a narrow escape from Meijer. Unfortunately for him, his jacket didn't. Neither did a letter from his probation officer. According to police reports, the man was shoplifting from the store at 45001 Ford last Wednesday.

A store security officer said he

saw the man stuff a bottle of vodka into his jacket, then attempt to leave the store. Two security officers approached the man, and he started to run out into the parking lot.

One of the officers grabbed the man's black leather jacket. The suspect wriggled out of it and ran away, leaving his jacket behind.

When Canton police searched his jacket, they found a bottle of vodka, a package of cheese and two cans of cat food. They also found his cell phone and the letter from the 18th District Court in Westland, which not only identified him, but also indicated he had a meeting with probation the following day.

According to police reports, the man was on intensive weekly reporting probation for retail fraud.

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Say it with **Flowers**

by Steve Mansfield

SIMPLY ELEGANT

If lilies were movie stars, they would be Audrey Hepburn. Few, if any, flowers can match the sheer elegance of lilies. White longiflorum lilies, in particular, seem to be dressed for a black tie affair. Their graceful form fairly trumpets classical appeal. Thus, lilies require scarcely more than a clear glass or crystal vase for a simple monochromatic arrangement. The transparency of the vase allows the deep green, elongated leaves and graceful stems to play their valued supporting role. In addition, white longiflorum lilies are long-lasting and exude a wonderful scent. Each bud opens slowly, and the lower ones can be removed as they fade. This flower with star quality puts on a wonderful performance.

Like spring's social butterfly, lilies can attend both elegant and informal affairs with ease. At HEIDE'S FLOWERS & GIFTS, we would be happy to help you decorate for your occasions. Located at 995 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, we provide excellent service and the most knowledgeable staff. To place your order by phone, call 453-5140, or visit our website at www.heidesflowers.com.

Worldwide wire service is available, and your satisfaction is always assured. Since 1899, HEIDE'S has been making our community beautiful. Look for our next article in two weeks.

HINT: Put a bunch of smooth rocks in the bottom of a vase of lilies to lend support to the stems and a natural element to the display.

CANTON 6

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Airport from page A1

when the state bought the airport in 1994, the FAA standards requiring longer safety zones at the end of the runway were already in place and had been since 1989. The board alleged the bureau lied in order to push through the state purchase of the airport.

McLaughlin quoted a 1990 memo from Wendell Proudfoot, manager with the Bureau of Aeronautics, to Peter Serini, manager with the FAA.

Proudfoot stated, "The drawing (of the runway) does not depict any future development, land acquisition or obstruction removal. ... We have intentionally omitted Runway Safety Areas, Object Free Areas, and similar FAA standards, because we believe depiction of those areas would diminish and obscure the objective of converting this private airport to one owned and operated by a public agency. Once we have a public sponsor serving the 120 or so aircraft at this facility, we will then evaluate steps required to make the airport meet standards."

Safety standards

Plymouth resident Carl Schultz approached the board, asking it to reconsider the denial.

"I would like to suggest that your goal of killing the airport needn't be (accomplished) by jeopardizing public safety," he said. "I don't know how any politician can come down against safety."

Township Supervisor Tom Yack said the resolution to deny the request suggested the state seek a more appropriate and safer location for an airport.

Schultz, who serves on the advisory board and whose son is a student pilot said, "Vote your conscience because it may come back to haunt you."

Canton pilot Henry Moore asked the board whether it had considered what to do in the event of a Joy Road accident between a pilot and a motorist.

"Are you clear legally for a lawsuit?" Moore asked.

"We would defend ourselves, naturally. The entity that really has to worry about this is MDOT," Yack said. "They only have deceived us and lied."

Trustee Philip LaJoy said if the board denies the request, the township should send a letter to the FAA and MDOT addressing the safety concerns the bureau brought forward in requesting the shift.

"They really need to remedy that situation," he said.

Former U.S. Navy aviator Greg Pappas of Plymouth suggested if MDOT and FAA are "really interested in making the airport safer. ... They should either restrict the airport to only those aircraft that can easily take off and land with 2,200 feet of runway or close the airport."

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