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The Community Crier

The Newspaper with Its Heart in The Plymouth-Canton, MI Community

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School bond passes by 96 votes

BY BRYON MARTIN

Plymouth-Canton Schools' $79-million bond proposal passed by 96 votes in last Saturday's special election.

The bond received 5,733 "yes" votes and 5,637 "no" votes, according to P-C Schools' official election returns.

The weekend election, the district's first, brought out more than 11,000 voters in Plymouth and Canton and, as in past elections, emphasized the schism between the communities.

All 10 of Canton's voting precincts approved the bond. All eight in Plymouth — except the East Middle School precinct — voted the bond down.

According to school and municipal officials, this division is not suprising.

"I'm very cognizant of feelings of division between the communities and it's very disturbing to me," Betty Bloch, Plymouth-Canton Schools Business-Partnerships Program coordinator, said.

A Plymouth Township resident and a school employee since 1989, Bloch said, "It's an issue that has bugged me for a lot of years.

"Plymouth doesn't feel connected to Canton, and Canton doesn't feel connected to Plymouth," Bloch said. "I don't know how to overcome it."

Canton Supervisor Tom Yack agrees. "The pattern is nothing new," he said, comparing this school election's results to those of '89 and '95, in which Canton cast more "yes" votes than Plymouth did.

Rapid growth in Canton has led to overcrowding in elementary schools there, and inspired a sense of need not felt in Plymouth, Yack said.

"Plymouth is a stable community. Schools are in place and there is little disruption so voters see no reason to support schools for children they don't know," Yack said.

What voters have told Plymouth Mayor Ron Loiselle corroborates this view.

"I've heard a number of people complaining that they are paying for, and building schools for Canton," Loiselle said. "They say, 'Why should we pay for a school for Canton? Why shouldn't they pay for their own schools?'"

Some have suggested a separation of the two communities — Canton schools bought and used by Canton. Plymouth schools bought and used by Plymouth. Both Yack and Bloch said this is unlikely.

"We need some of the powers that be up in Lansing to come down here and tell

Please see pg. 3

Confusion over computerized voting equipment causes 720 lost votes

BY ROB KIRKBRIDE

Plymouth-Canton School officials and their touch-screen-voting-machine manufacturer are wondering why 720 votes were "lost" during Saturday's 96-vote bond issue victory.

Of the 12,091 voters to show up at the polls, 11,370 actual ballots were cast. According to the schools, 720 voters — about 6 percent — did not follow voting instructions for the Unilect computerized system, spoiling their ballots.

The bond vote has been certified as passing by 96 votes, with 5,733 "yes" votes and 5,637 "no."

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Canton's new cable television studio will serve the entire community. (Crier photo by Scott Spielman)

Canton cable studio to open next month

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

The studio has been built, the room sound-proofed and the ceiling lowered, and even some of the shows have been taped. The only thing Canton's new cable studio needs now is a cable.

"There's just one last piece to the puzzle," Scott Zuchlewski, manager of Canton's new cable studio, said. "We need the fiberoptic cable from Ameritech and Continental Cablevision. We're kind of in limbo until then."

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Artley won't run for 5th term on Plymouth-Canton School Board

BY BRYON MARTIN
AND W. EDWARD WENDOVER

Seniors are supposed to graduate.

Dave Artley, the senior member of the P-C School Board, is graduating after 14 years there, the normal time it takes between starting kindergarten and leaving Salem or Canton High School.

Artley, says his 14 years of school board service taught him about family, friends and education, and describes the time, "like having a kid."

What started as an active role with the schools' band boosters became Artley's catapult to the school board. He helped organize the first state-wide marching band competition held in Plymouth-Canton.

Once there he became known as a vocal debater — arguing with teachers on the picket line or parents at a coffee.

At commencement ceremonies over the years, Artley has "seen a whole generation matriculate," he said, "more than 15,000 kids."

DAVID ARTLEY

Included in that generation are his two daughters, Sandra and Kimberly, Salem grads of '84 and '85.

"Giving my children their diplomas — that was the best of times," he said.

Artley counts the present among those

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COMMA, Crier offices closed to worship

The Community Crier and COMMA, will close at noon Friday to allow its staff to observe the Easter weekend.

The offices will be open again Monday at 8 a.m. for regular business. Advertising and editorial deadlines will not change.

Talk it up

Plymouth Optimists name winners in annual oratorical contest

See Friends & neighbors pg. 6

Whalers out

Detroit Whalers lose to Soo, 4-1, in season-ending playoff game

See Sports pgs. 27-29

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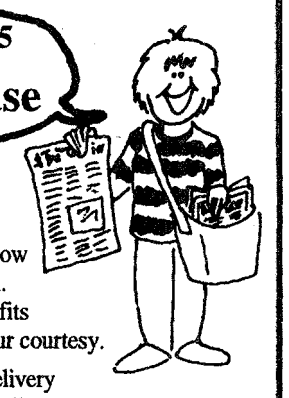

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