

EATON RAPIDS - IN THE NEWS  
1990's

# Two killed in traffic crashes

## Man killed when car hits tree; woman killed in two-car crash

By John B. Albright  
Lansing State Journal

A man and a woman were killed in weekend traffic crashes south of Lansing.

In Onondaga Township, a Lansing man in his 40s was fatally injured when his 1991 Chrysler LeBaron convertible left Onondaga Road at Plains Road and struck a tree about 1:20 a.m. Sunday, Ingham County sheriff's deputy Jon Martin said.

The accident is under investigation, and the victim's name will not be released until relatives are

notified.

At the northern edge of Eaton Rapids, Leona Marie Sinclair, 79, of Olivet was killed in a two-car crash about 6:40 p.m. Saturday at M-99 and Grandview Drive, Eaton County sheriff's deputies said.

The accident left one 13-year old boy in critical condition and another in fair condition.

Sinclair, alone in her car, was westbound on Grandview in Eaton Rapids Township when she failed to stop at the intersection and pulled out in front of a car northbound on M-99, deputies said.

The driver of the northbound car, Maggie Loraine Collins, 17, of Eaton Rapids was treated and released at Greenlawn Campus of Michigan Capital Medical Center, a nursing supervisor said.

Christopher Collins, 13, of Eaton

Rapids is in critical condition at Sparrow Hospital. Tyler Hare, 13, also of Eaton Rapids, is in fair condition at Sparrow Hospital, said nursing supervisor Millie Spurbeck.

The two youths were wearing seat belts, Jackson said, but investigation has not yet determined whether Maggie Loraine Collins or Sinclair were wearing seatbelts.

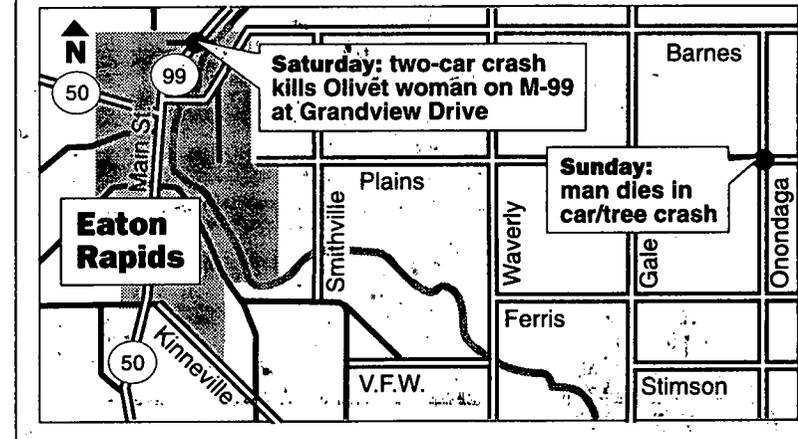
An airbag in the Sinclair car did inflate, Jackson said.

At the scene of the Sinclair/Collins collision, Thomas George Frith, 39, of Hastings stopped to give aid and was struck in the leg by a passing vehicle, deputies said. The vehicle did not stop.

Frith was treated at Greenlawn Campus and released.

Staff writer Jodi Upton contributed to this report.

### Two road deaths



CHRIS SILVAS / Lansing State Journal

# E. Rapids tree's fall put on hold

By JOHN B. ALBRIGHT  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — A plan to remove an old bur oak tree behind the post office here to make way for more parking has been stopped for two weeks, a U.S. Postal Service official said Tuesday.

Grand Rapids-based Barbara Martin, manager of post office operations for the 488 ZIP code ar-

eas, said she will delay the 10-space lot expansion plan to make time to confer with whomever wants to save the tree.

"At this point, the project's on hold, and we're investigating ways to do the parking expansion while still not disturbing the tree — even if it means losing a couple of spaces," Martin said.

Last week, Hamlin Township resident Albert Clegg asked the

Eaton Rapids Kiwanis Club to take up the cause for the tree. Robert Dickins, president-elect of the group, said he would take that up with Kiwanians in October.

A former federal forester, Clegg said the tree was 4½ feet thick and perhaps 250 years old.

Postal officials had planned to remove the tree, which is about 14 feet from the Grand River shore, build a concrete retaining wall

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*Lansing*



Lansing State Journal/ROD SANFORD

Albert Clegg guards a 240-year-old tree slated to be cut down in Eaton Rapids. Tree supporters show community pride.

## Saved?

### Old oak's reprieve a grass-roots cause

Not even a wave of nostalgia can forestall the lumberjack's ax forever, although a little grass-roots campaigning can work wonders, practically overnight.

In Eaton Rapids, a plan to expand post-office parking by removing a 240-year-old tree is on hold for two weeks. U.S. Postal Service officials will make time to talk with area tree lovers and consider alternatives.

Credit for the re-evaluation goes to Albert Clegg, a retired forester with a heart. Clegg has befriended the lonely oak by focusing community attention on its historic value.

The tree reprieve proves a massive bureaucracy listens to community concerns and responds.

If the old oak can be sensibly saved without sacrificing too much customer parking, it should be.

*Lansing State Journal  
9-29-97*

# Old oak tree saved from ax; post office parking to adjust

By John B. Albright  
Lansing State Journal

**EATON RAPIDS** — An old oak tree marked for the ax to make way for more parking behind the post office will be spared.

But it's still in line for a bough trimming.

After weeks of protest by area residents who want to save the tree, postal officials have decided to scrap a \$50,000 proposal to take down the nearly 250-year-old tree on the Grand River shoreline.

Instead of building a retaining wall and making 10 more parking spaces, the traffic flow on the post office lot will be changed, outside collection boxes will be relocated and present parking spaces will be rearranged, said Barbara Martin, a postal operations manager based in Grand Rapids.

"We're just going to try to do something with what we've got," Martin said.

The decision to spare and trim the tree and to make changes in the present parking lot and driveway of the post office was made Wednesday by her, Eaton Rapids Postmaster Jack Bohne and Murry Weatherall, acting manager of the postal district, Martin said.

Tree lover Elise Harvey of Lansing was overjoyed.

"Trees are part of the earth," she said. "This tree has been a landmark on the river. It's alive."

The Save Our Bur Oak Committee will stay in business to gather funds for the care of the tree, said the group's secretary, Helen Clegg of Hamlin Township.

Boughs of the tree, some of them hanging over the parking and traffic areas behind the postal facility, will be trimmed.

Rearrangement of parking spaces and relocation of outside boxes for mail collection may add two or three more parking spaces to the 20 there now, the postmaster said.

For better visibility of vehicle movements, a one-way traffic flow around the building will be reversed, with vehicles to enter at the south driveway, Martin said. Now, traffic enters from Main Street at the north drive and exits at the south drive.

Here's the history behind the tree:



GREG DeRUITER/Lansing State Journal

**Long live the tree:** A 250-year-old oak tree on the Grand River shoreline in Eaton Rapids won't be cut down to make room for more parking spaces at the post office, officials have decided. Instead, the tree will be trimmed, and parking at the post office will be rerouted.

■ On Sept. 27, Martin ordered a hold on the project to study whether the parking could be expanded without felling the tree.

■ An Oct. 5 letter from Eaton Rapids Kiwanis Club President Robert Dickins told Bohne that the club urged preservation of the tree.

■ Nov. 14 — Postal officials announced that the project and tree-cutting would go ahead. A project consultant said the tree was to be cut the week of Dec. 12-16.

■ Nov. 30 — Twelve residents of the Eaton Rapids area met to

## Tree stats

- Height: 75 feet
- Crown spread: 100 feet.
- Trunk diameter: 4.3 feet.
- Age: Nearly 250 years.

form the Save Our Bur Oak Committee.

■ Dec. 5, Weatherall ordered a second stay of execution for the tree.

Staff writer Gisgie Gendreau contributed to this report.

# Eaton Rapids puts on pressure to save tree

By Anthony Spangler  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — A committee of residents to save an old oak tree behind the city's post office is not waiting for postal officials to decide the tree's fate.

The committee, Save the Bur Oak, met Tuesday night to discuss strategies to save the nearly 250-year-old tree, which stands between the post office parking lot and the Grand River shoreline.

"We're losing more and more trees everyday," said Judith Coriz. "This tree is a symbol of what the government can do to us."

Postal officials have said the 75-foot-tall tree is in the way of a proposed 10-spot parking expansion project at its facility on Main Street.

While postal officials delayed deciding on the tree's fate Monday, committee members said they plan to stop the project before

it continues next spring.

"They say it is supposed to be cut down next spring," said Coriz, "but you never know if they will cut it down anyway."

Lansing attorney Thomas Baird, who is working for the group for free after being contacted by the Sierra Club, is seeking an injunction to prevent the tree from being cut down.

The committee is also circulating a petition and has contacted several local and federal politicians.

Committee members said they were outraged Monday when post office officials posted no trespassing signs around and on the tree.

Leah Johnk says the signs were posted to keep protesters away.

She said the committee is waiting for a plaque from the International Society of Arboriculture.

The Illinois-based tree society declared the oak a bicentennial tree last week.



Lansing State Journal

**Saved:** The old bur oak behind Eaton Rapids' post office will be spared. The postal service did the proper thing by compromising on a parking lot improvement plan, thus saving the tree.

## The oak 'Christmas' tree is saved

They're calling it Eaton Rapids' newest Christmas tree.

The old bur oak nestled against the Grand River — and on U.S. Postal Service property — has received a Christmastime pardon.

The postal service did the right thing by sparing the bicentennial oak. The official change of heart was made Thursday.

The tree had a date with a chainsaw in order to make room for an expanded parking lot. The date was postponed when a citizens protest group was formed.

Eaton Rapids adults and students wrote letters to the postal service and their congressmen, begging for clemency. They got it.

The result: Instead of creating 10 more parking spaces, the traffic flow around the post office will be changed and outside collection boxes will be relocated. There still will likely be a net gain of needed parking spots.

The postal service has settled on a good compromise between customer convenience and saving the oak, judged to be more than 200 years old.

The only thing the old oak will have to endure is some judicious bough-trimming.

It's nice to see a citizenry in action and a bureaucracy willing to listen.

Lansing State Journal  
December 24, 1994

Lansing State Journal 12/17/94

# Bur oak to carry new honor

## Eaton Rapids tree will be named for former assistant postmaster

By John B. Albright  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — As a boy in knickers, Earle Miller played tag with pals around an ancient oak tree on the Grand River's west shoreline.

Miller, now 83, will join a rally of the Save Our Bur Oak Committee from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. today at Island Park, where the group will name the tree in his honor.

The great tree spreads its boughs behind the Eaton Rapids Post Office, and when postal authorities said last fall that it would come down for a parking lot expansion, Miller and others were alarmed.

"I was horrified that anyone would even think of cutting down that tree," Miller said as he looked up to the sky through a pattern of the oak's branches.

"Any living thing that has struggled and survived 250 years should be allowed to live out its natural life, without being sacrificed," said Miller, one of four Kiwanis Club board members on the Save Our Bur Oak Committee.

The great oak was an unremarkable part of the scene on a slope behind a Main Street hotel where Miller played before the 1920s.

The post office was built on the old hotel site in 1937, and Miller gave little thought to the oak behind the postal building where he was assistant postmaster from 1942 to 1966.

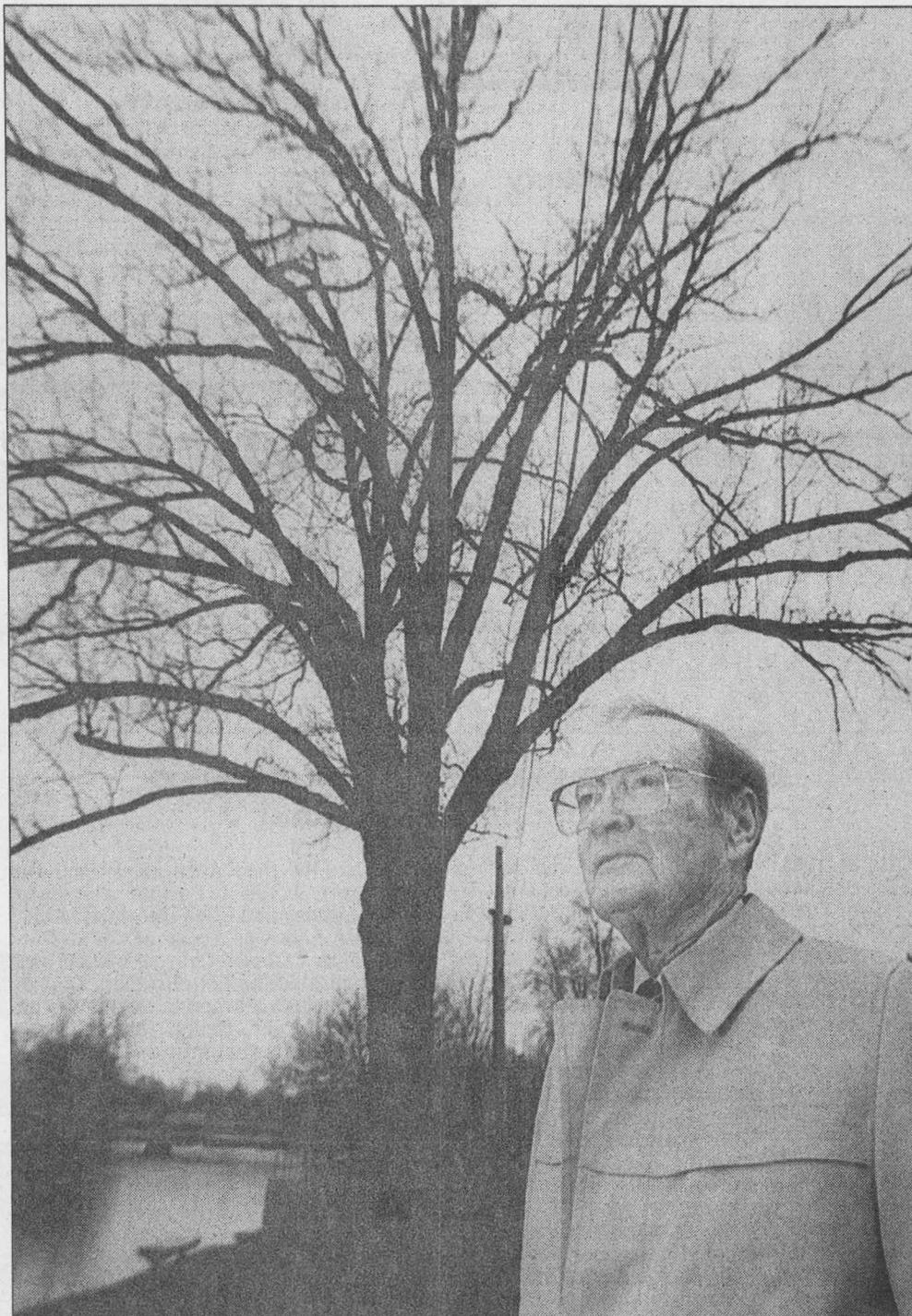
Spurred by numerous telephone calls by Lansing tree buff Elise Harvey to officials and others, a community outcry to save the tree persuaded postal officials to drop the parking lot expansion plan.

"I put my heart into saving this tree," Harvey said.

Today, as bands play and Eaton Rapids schoolchildren recite their thoughts about trees, the committee at 1 p.m. will:

- Dedicate the oak as the Earle Miller Bicentennial Tree but with no sign to note Miller's name.

- Dedicate a 25-pound bronze marker that declares the oak as a bicentennial tree, alive in 1787 when the U.S. Constitution took effect.



DAVID OLDS/Lansing State Journal

### The Miller file

- **Name:** Earle Miller
- **Age:** 83
- **Occupation:** U.S. Postal Service retiree.
- **Residence:** Windsor Estates Mobile Home Park, Dimondale.
- **Education:** Graduate of Eaton Rapids High School, attended Michigan State University.
- **Family:** Wife, Evelyn; two children, three stepchildren.

**Tree gets a name:** Earle Miller, who stands with the old bur oak tree behind the Eaton Rapids Post Office, will join a rally of the Save Our Bur Oak Committee from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. today at Island Park, where the group will name the tree in his honor.

A structure to hold the plaque will be installed this summer, said committee President Albert Clegg of Hamlin Township.

Clegg said the posting will be about 20 feet from the tree, at a back corner of the Eaton Federal Savings Bank, south of the post office. However, no confirmation on the plaque-site plan was available from bank officials.

Eaton Rapids Postmaster Jack Bohne had urged that the tree be

cut down to make way for extra parking. For years, postal customers had called for extra car spaces, Bohne said.

Clegg, a former forester, rang the first alarm last September that the tree was doomed by the parking lot project. Miller, a longtime member of the Eaton Rapids Kiwanis Club, led the club into the effort to save the tree.

Postal officials in Grand Rapids put a two-week hold on the project

last September but announced in November that they would remove the tree in December.

But on Dec. 5, the project got a second stay, and before Christmas it was off altogether.

"I have felt since all this uproar started that I was protecting that tree," said Miller, now a Dimondale-area resident. "As the saying goes on our shirts, 'A magnificent oak was once a little nut that held its ground.'"



Harvey

## Williamston

**Mead, Hattie T. (Dotts), 87,** died Friday. Services 2 p.m. Tuesday

of people to call if you have news

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**B. Albright,**

-1050.

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nal in 1989. Her number is 377-



Miner

Center, April 19.

**Winnie:** To Edgar Winnie and Amber Eaton, a son, Michael Vincent Winnie, at Sparrow Hospital, April 21.

**Trevino:** To Edward and Cynthia Trevino, a daughter, Kali Marie, at Sparrow Hospital, April 25.

## Courts

### Ingham County

#### Sentences

##### Judge Carolyn Stell

Robert Michael Delacruz, 32, 2300 block of Dillingham, Lansing, absconding on a felony, one year in jail, \$40 to Crime Victims Rights Fund.

Dashawn Anthony Johnson, 17, 1200 block of Cleveland, Lansing, carrying a concealed pistol on the person, three years probation, six months jail with credit for two days, first 15 days to be served at beginning of probation in remainder on tether after release from jail, \$40 to Crime Victims Rights

given, 1600 block of Boston Div., Lansing, first degree retail fraud, 90 days jail with credit for 73 days, \$40 to Crime Victims Rights Fund.

## Marriages

### Marriage licenses applied for:

#### Ingham County

Theodore Michael Terzian Jr., 38, and Beth Ann Lehman, 28, both of Lansing.

Feliciano Hernandez, 22, and Jenica Lynn Moore, 20, both of Lansing.

Richard Casper Williams, 20, and Natasha Bernadette Marietta, 19, both of Lansing.

Brian Scott Pentecost, 34, and Sonya Mae Pentecost, 34, both of East Lansing.

Michael Allan Burgoyne, 31, and Carla Rochelle Fuller, 40, both of Lansing.

Keith Richard Carlson, 41, and Carol Lynn Atwood, 25, both of Lansing.

Troy Neal Trumble, 23, and Cunthia Ann Brammer, 24, both of Lansing.

ium, #2 milk and water jugs, newspapers and inserts; 641-6211 or 641-6833.

**DeWitt Township:** Granger Recycling, 3535 Wood St., dropoff center always open; clear, brown and green glass, plastic milk containers, #2 colored plastic containers, newspapers (with inserts), brown paper bags, glossy magazines and catalogs, aluminum, tin cans, corrugated cardboard and automobile batteries; 372-0555.

**St. Johns:** St. Johns Lions Club, Swegles and Steel streets, dropoff center always open; glass containers separated by color with lids removed (no window glass), clean tin or steel cans flattened with labels removed, clean milk jugs with lids removed, clean HDPE2 plastic with lids removed, tin foil, aluminum doors with glass removed, bundled or bagged newspapers, telephone books, magazines, corrugated cardboard; 224-1361.

Browning Ferris Industries, curbside pickup Fridays, glass (green, brown, clear), tin, milk and water jugs, #2 colored plastic jugs, #1 plastic containers, newspapers and inserts, magazines,

## Funerals

For paid obituary notices, call 377- Thanks appear in classification 067

### SWENK, NELLIE J.

Mason

Nellie J. Swenk, died April 28, 1995 in Mason, MI. She was born October 19, 1915, to parents Dr. Edward and Nellie Hawkins in Belleview, PA. Nell Swenk is survived by 2 daughters, Susan Phipps of Mason, MI and Janet Wagner of Hudson, MI; and 5 grandchildren, Colter Phipps, Ginger Phipps, Micah Wagner, Dana Wagner and Erica Wagner. Mrs. Swenk has 3 sisters, Pauline Hebert of Monroe, MI, Doris Tag-sold of Sylvania, OH, and Gladis Conway of Wyandotte, MI; and 1 brother, Edward Hawkins of Fullerton, CA. Nell Swenk taught public school for 31 years. She was Principal of Comstock and Michener Schools and Director of Special Education for the Adrian Public Schools. She also headed the Reading Improvement Program. She was a President of the Association of Childhood Education and a President of the Lenawee Reading Council. In Adrian, Mrs. Swenk was a member of the First United Methodist Church and a choir member for over 50 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Swenk, May 12, 1985. For the last 10 years, Nell Swenk has resided at Daytona Beach, FL, in the Riverside Condominiums on Halifax Avenue. There she was a member of the Seabreeze United Methodist Church. She was a circle leader and hospitality leader for a number of years. She was also a member of the

### GREEN, NORMA LANDON

Traverse City

Age 89, passed away on Monday, April 17, 1995 in Traverse City, MI. She was born on October 6, 1905 near Okemos, MI where she grew up on the family farm with her two brothers. Her grandfather owned the land and pastured his sheep on what is now the State Capital Building and grounds in Lansing. Over the years she lived in many towns which include Haslett, Lansing, Saginaw, East Lansing, Norfolk, VA, Milton, FL and Columbus, MS where she was a House Mother at the Palmer Home for Children. She graduated from Michigan State University in 1926 with a BA in Home Economics. While in college she was a member of Kappa Delta Sorority, and enjoyed field hockey, fencing, tennis and playing the piano. After her children were raised, she went back to Michigan State University and received a Masters Degree in Home Management. She married Marion W. Landon on August 5, 1926 in East Lansing, MI. He preceded her in death in 1961. She married Clarence P. Green on October 8, 1970 in Columbus, MS, he preceded her in death in 1988. She also was preceded in death by a brother, Morris Collins. Mrs. Green's pastimes included gardening, piano, camping, traveling, golfing, sewing, tating and Girl Scout activities. She had past affiliations with the following churches: Presbyterian Church in Lansing, MI and Newport News

### LEIK, GEORGE E.

Portland

Age 89, died April 25, 1995. Born April 30, 1905 in Portland, the son of Anthony and Ellen (Moriarty) Leik. Mr. Leik was a member of St. Patricks Catholic Church; owned and operated the Leik Brothers Dodge-Plymouth Garage in Portland with his brother, Henry. Mr. Leik was active in farming and forestry, planting walnut and pine trees. On his 400 acre farm in Vanderbilt, MI, he planted over 30,000 pines. Mr. Leik wrote many articles on the history of Portland, having one published in the January-February, 1995 issue of Michigan History Magazine. He was very active with the Michigan Conservation and was an early environmentalist with the bottle law helping to clean up the roadways, receiving several awards; and was on the Portland Co-Op Board. Surviving are 2 sons, Charles (Wilma) of Great Falls, VA and Edward (Maria) of Pembroke Pines, FL. Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated Monday, May 1, 10 a.m. at St. Patricks Catholic Church, 140 Church St., with Fr. Larry J. King, officiating. Interment will follow in Portland Cemetery. Friends may call at the Gorsline-Runciman Co., Neller Chapel, Portland, Saturday, 2 p.m. where the family will receive friends Sunday, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. The Rosary will be prayed Saturday and Sunday, 3 and 8 p.m. Those desiring

### VARGAS-PRADA, PATRICIA J.

Lansing

Born September 13, 1930 in Owosso; died April 27, 1995 at the age of 64. Patricia was a 1949 graduate of Sexton High School and had retired in 1993 from M.S.U. after 20 years of service. Surviving are 1 son, Roque (Leslie) of Atlanta, GA; and her mother, Joyce Carpenter of Lansing. Graveside services will be held Saturday, April 29, 9:30 a.m. at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens. There will be no visitation. Those desiring may make contributions to the Hospice of Lansing, Inc., 6035 Executive Dr., Suite 103, Lansing, 48911; or the American Cancer Society, 416 Frandor, Suite 104, Lansing, 48912, in memory of Patricia Vargas-Prada. The family is being served by the Gorsline-Runciman Co. Lansing Chapel.

### LAYCOCK, LYLE H.

Mason

A lifelong resident of Alaidon Twp., Mr. Laycock was born October 17, 1915; died April 26, 1995 at the age of 79. He was retired from M.S.U. Transportation Department and was a past member of the Farm Bu-



# Grisly scene

Who dumped dead  
animals in backwoods  
remains a mystery

EATON RAPIDS — It looked like the remains of a grotesque backwoods ritual. Todd Marriott could hardly believe the extent of the carnage.

Marriott owns property southeast of Eaton Rapids. Last Wednesday, following the directions of a friend who had stumbled upon a grisly scene while out enjoying the fall color show, Marriott ventured into the woods just off Gale Road.

Marriott found the remains of a dozen or more animals — some of them alien to the fields and farms around Eaton Rapids.

A hunter, Marriott is intimately familiar with the realities of converting living things into food. This was something else.

Scattered along the roadside were carcasses and parts of carcasses, as well as skins and various animal parts shoved, along with common trash, into a dozen plastic garbage bags — some on land and some in the shallows of the river.

The animals Marriott could recognize made up an odd assortment. It included what he believed to be a nondomestic sheep, a boar, a bobcat, various kinds of deer, a wild turkey and a mink.

But perhaps the most bizarre element of the macabre scene — something that added a genuine touch of weirdness to the gruesome setting — was a 10- or 12-pound dead salmon wrapped in a blanket.

# Eaton Rapids man missing; car is found in Grand River

By David Wahlberg  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — Divers probed the chilly Grand River on Tuesday for a 26-year-old man missing after his car landed in the river.

Two search efforts failed to produce any sign of Robert Duane Miller of Eaton Rapids. The Michigan Packing Co. worker's black 1989 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme was found about 1 a.m. Tuesday in the river near Waverly Road and M-188 southeast of Eaton Rapids.

The left rear window was broken out, the front door was shut and the car keys were in the ignition. In the back seat, paper money and plastic figures from a "Life" board game were scattered about along with a pizza box, a plastic bag of food

scraps and a pair of gloves.

"It's very perplexing," said Ingham County Sheriff's Capt. Richard Fitzgerald.

The search was to continue today for Miller, whose daughter lives with his ex-wife in Haslett, officials said.

A family member reported hearing last from Miller by phone at 10 p.m. Monday, Fitzgerald said. Nobody at Michigan Packaging knew of his whereabouts Tuesday, officials said.

"There's no alternative other than he's somewhere at the scene," Fitzgerald said.

A resident on Waverly Road near the river reported hearing a car traveling north on Waverly at a high speed near a sharp curve. He heard

screeching tires but no crash.

When he went to check what happened, he found the car submerged in the 10-foot-deep river with its headlights on, Fitzgerald said.

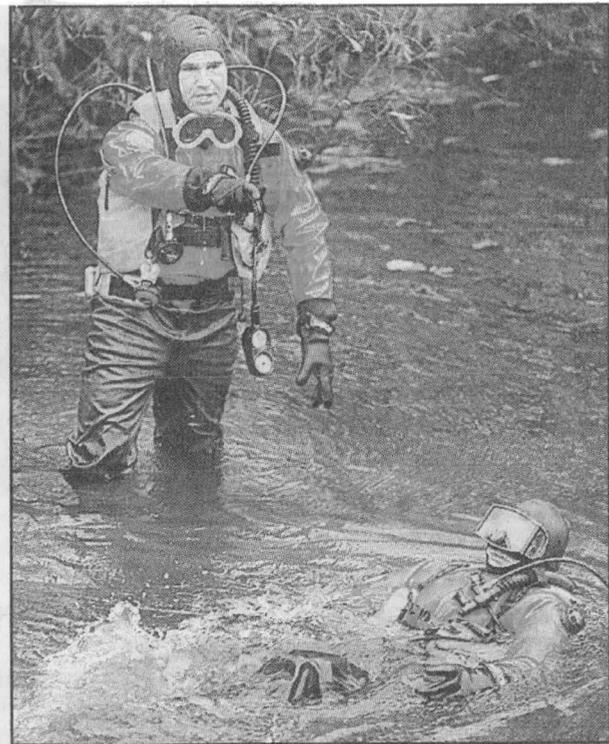
"It appears that (the car) swerved to avoid hitting a mailbox," Sheriff Gene Wriggelsworth said at a morning news conference.

There was little damage to the car, except the broken triangular window and some scrapes and scratches on the side.

"Is it stolen? Is it an accident?" Wriggelsworth asked. "That's the question mark. It could be a murder. We don't know."

The car had not been reported stolen, he said.

The window could have been broken by air pressure from the impact of the water, he said.



GREG DeRUITER/Lansing State Journal

**Search efforts:** Vern Elliott (left) and Paul Nieuwsma, divers with the Ingham County Sheriff's Department, search the Grand River Tuesday near Waverly Road in Eaton Rapids.

State Journal October '95

# A BIT O' THE IRISH

*Dusty's lucks into Dublin chef with golden pot*

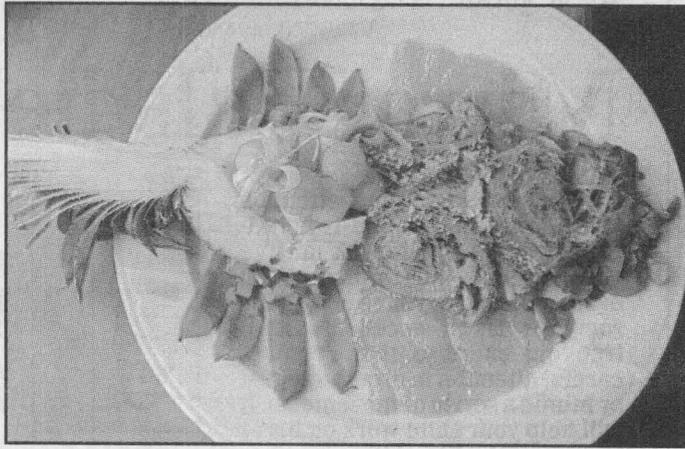
**By Karen Douglas**  
Lansing State Journal

**H**e sits at a table by a window in the small dining room, his arms resting on the white linen table covering. A white mug of black brewed coffee sits untouched as he begins to gaze at the spacious grounds that surround the elegant manse. Garrett Scanlan is deep in thought. It is mid-morning at Dusty's English Inn in Eaton Rapids. The luncheon menu has been

planned, food preparations are underway in the kitchen and Scanlan, the executive chef, is ready for his guests. Scanlan's dark eyes exude a warm glow. "It is so comforting to know that there is still a niche for people like me," he says, softly. As a lone bird flutters by the window on this frosty, wintry morning, Scanlan begins to speak of the journey down a road of circumstance that brought him here from Ireland. It's a road pebbled with a pas-

sion for his profession. Scanlan was only 10 years old when his father introduced him to the fine art of classical cuisine in his restaurant in Dublin. "Cooking was very European in those days and learning how to do good classical cooking was of the utmost importance," Scanlan says. He began training and studying under skilled chefs at places like the Royal Hibernian Hotel in Dublin and the Grosvenor House in London. Then it was on to Switzerland, Spain and France. Scanlan's efforts percolated in success. In 1974 and 1975, the Irish chef was chosen to represent the Irish Culinary Team in Culinary Olympics in London and Brussels. "I had some tremendous learning experiences, things that you don't get in a book or a school," he says. "I got used to making everything from scratch. "When we purchased beef we learned what to do with the whole beast. We butchered the cow and everything was used. Nothing was ever thrown away." Scanlan's ambitious quest for professional self-development continued. He became a managing partner in a moderately successful nightclub in Dublin, a post he held for two years, until he was lured to the United States by a major hotel chain. "That was a huge change for me to adjust to, and I didn't realize what was happening," Scanlan says. Instead of using the creative culinary classical skills he had been trained in, he would be given responsibilities like overseeing the preparation of 3,200 lunches in a

**Taste and pretty:** Papaya Beef Roulade with sesame crust is one of the dishes chef Garrett Scanlan brings to Dusty's.



ROD SANFORD/Lansing State Journal

**In the kitchen:** Garrett Scanlan learned about cooking in the kitchen of his father's restaurant in Dublin, Ireland. Now he's executive chef at Dusty's English Inn in Eaton Rapids.

Please see **IRISH, 3D**

## Irish celebration

St. Patrick's Day will be celebrated in style at Dusty's Inn in Eaton Rapids. Chef Garrett Scanlan is Irish — a native of Dublin. ■ On the menu: Corned beef and cabbage and Irish soda bread. "And real Irish stew, made with lamb, not beef," said Scanlan. ■ There also will be some Irish specials in the dining room. ■ Price range: \$15 to \$21. ■ Most of the partying will take place in the downstairs pub, Scanlan said. ■ Call 663-2500 for reservation information.

# Irish: Classic and creative head chef

Continued FROM 1D

banquet-type atmosphere — a situation he did not take readily.

By 1982 Scanlan was simmering in frustration.

"I could not see where there were any jobs for me," Scanlan says. "A lot of what I had learned, what I had been trained for, was suddenly obsolete.

"Opening cans and defrosting prepackaged food was not a creative outlet for me."

Scanlan returned to London to oversee the operation of some restaurants and pubs. When the company was sold in 1991 he went to Ireland and got a job as a district sales representative and food and beverage consultant.

That's when Clarence "Dusty" Rhodes stepped in.

"Dusty has an eye for elegance, beauty and grandeur and a great appreciation for good food," Scanlan says.

"He told me he had a real desire to take the Inn's menu from excellent to exceptional. I could understand what he meant because I am of like mind."

Scanlan was hired and began his work last November.

"Everything on the menu is made from scratch," he says, proudly. "We grow our own herbs and we buy fresh products locally every day."

"I would much rather buy a fresh trout from the stream down the road than take a chance on having something frozen flown in."

Scanlan encourages phone calls to his kitchen and invites guests to challenge him with special requests. He also visits the dining room during meal hours. It is important to hear comments and criticism, along with the praise, he says.

Scanlan admits he's a dreamer. Someday he'd like the Inn to be one of the top three restaurants in Michigan. Maybe one of the best in the United States.

His recipe for success calls for three ingredients: Classical culinary skills, creativity and ambition.

Rhodes has given him the carte blanche to pursue.

Scanlan's dark eyes begin to sparkle as he peers out the window, once again, and speaks of the upcoming summer and the picnics on the patio. A Cajun festival? Perhaps. And maybe a garden party or two.

The thoughts are more refreshing than the untouched cup of cold black coffee.

"This my love and passion," Scanlan says, softly. "It is a part of me."

"And that will always be so."

## BUBBLE AND SQUEEK

*This is a dish eaten in every Irish household the day after St. Patrick's Day. It's a term used for any dish that uses up the corned beef, cabbage and potatoes from the day before. This recipe has been served in London's Grosvenor House and makes "a knockout lunch offering," says Scanlan.*

6 tablespoons butter, divided  
1/2 onion, diced  
1/2 cup celery, diced  
1/2 red or green bell pepper, diced  
8 ounces cooked corned beef, cut into small pieces  
4 ounces cooked cabbage, cut fine  
6 ounces cooked potatoes, mashed roughly  
Salt and pepper to taste  
2 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley  
1 cup raw green cabbage  
1/2 egg, beaten (about 2 tablespoons)  
3 tablespoons heavy cream  
Flour for dusting  
Vegetable oil (for frying)

Melt 3 tablespoons butter in large frying pan. Add onion, celery and pepper. Cook until translucent. Add corned beef and cooked cabbage. Cook 3-4 minutes. Add hot mixture to mashed potatoes. Season with salt, pepper and parsley and mix well. Allow to cool. Slice raw cabbage and place in a pot with remaining 3 tablespoons butter and a few drops of water. Put lid on pot and cook until just tender. Keep warm. Form meat/potato mixture into patties and dust with flour. In separate bowl, mix egg and cream. Add floured patties to egg mixture, then back to flour, thus forming a crust. Fry in hot vegetable oil. Drain cabbage. Place golden potato/corned beef patty on top of warm cabbage and top with parsley sauce.

## PARSLEY SAUCE

1 ounce butter  
1 ounce flour  
1 cup half and half  
2 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley

Melt butter, add flour. Cook 1 to 2 minutes. Add half and half, stirring constantly until thickened. Add salt and pepper to taste and chopped parsley. Allow herb to steep 5 to 6 minutes before serving.

Irish

# E. Rapids schools millage vote today

By Mark Andrejevic  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — Voters will pick from a menu of four bond proposals totaling \$31 million for the public schools today.

Supporters say the money will help ease crowding in the classrooms and give the district's facilities a much-needed upgrade.

"People know there's a need," said Lisa Wilson, a parent who is active in the district. "The schools are overcrowded. We've got 15 portable classrooms with a projected need for another 16 in the next five years."

The proposed package would add a total of 5.5 mills in property taxes, costing the owner of an \$80,000 house \$220 a year.

Here are the four proposals:

■ Proposition I — \$25.1 million for a new fifth- and sixth-grade building and improvements to the district's elementary and high schools.

The new 22-classroom building would be built next to the middle school on Greyhound Drive at a cost of nearly \$8.9 million.

The other \$16.2 million would go for additions, remodeling and equipment for the three elementary schools and the high school.

■ Proposition II — \$2.82 million to add gymnasium/multipurpose rooms at Lockwood, Union Street and Northwestern elementary schools.

■ Proposition III — \$2.47 million for air conditioning for the proposed fifth- and sixth-grade building and the five existing schools.

■ Proposition IV — \$685,000 to build a new bus garage/maintenance building.

Schools Superintendent Mike Rocca said Propositions I and IV can stand alone but Propositions II and III depend on the passage of Proposition I.

"Passage of the bond issue will allow Eaton Rapids to take a great leap forward in providing quality education opportunities for all the students," he said.

*Lansing State Journal 3/14/95*

# E. Rapids OKs bond issue

Voters approve plan to add building, ease crowding in schools

By Jodi Upton  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — The city will get a new \$9 million school to help ease overcrowding for fifth- and sixth-graders after voters approved a bond issue Saturday. The total \$25.1 million bond was the only one of four proposals that passed. The 30-year bond also will allow for additions, remodeling

and equipping at the three elementary schools and high school as well as other works. Of 2,954 voters, 1,577 voted yes and 1,360 voted no. The 5.5 mills means about \$220 extra a year on a \$80,000 house.

"We will be able to build a new building and add to all the facilities. We've got 15 portable classrooms and more coming because we're growing," said Administrative Assistant Jim Carl of the Eaton Rapids School District. Four other construction proposals failed: ■ \$2.8 million to add gymnasium/multipurpose rooms at Lockwood, Union Street and Northwestern elementary schools. The proposal failed 1,392 to 1,495 voted.

■ \$2.47 million for air conditioning in the proposed fifth- and sixth-grade building and the five existing schools. It failed 1,192 to 1,697. ■ \$685,000 to build a new bus garage/maintenance building. It failed 1,250 to 1,636. "This is wonderful. It could have been better, but the community is really been helping us here," Carl said for the proposal that passed.

Eaton Rapids schools have 3,080 students and 160 teachers. But enrollment is expected to climb by nearly 7 percent over the next four years, to 3,280 by 1998-99.

The new 22-classroom building will be built next to the middle school on Greyhound Drive and will include new technology — from wiring the building to new equipment.

It would draw fifth-graders out of the elementaries and sixth-graders out of the middle school, and end the need for portable classrooms, officials said. One of the biggest losses of the

failed proposal is the proposed gym in the elementary building. "They don't have to feed all students at lunch, and they can't put them all in here for assemblies. We can make the buildings bigger but they won't have a gym big enough to accommodate all the kids in there," he said.

The district's students and property tax dollars come from Eaton Rapids and nine neighboring townships.

The district reaches into parts of Hamlin, Onondaga, Brookfield, Aurelius, Eaton Rapids, Eaton, Delhi and Windsor townships.

*Lansing State Journal March 5, 1995*

## E. Rapids bond vote satisfies schools

Partial approval of construction plan is enough, officials say

By John B. Albright  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — Voters have OK'd the main nugget in a school construction package, and top administrators say they aren't about to push another ballot for the cast-off options.

The \$25.1 million bond issue approved Saturday will mean a new building for fifth and sixth grades may open by the fall of 1997, Curriculum Director Tim Culver said Monday.

The issue, which passed with 53.6 percent of the vote, also will mean additions and remodeling at the high school and three elementary schools, and remodeling at the middle school — all done by the fall of 1996, Culver said.

Voters rejected nearly \$6 million in bonding propositions for gymnasium/multipurpose rooms at the three elementary schools, air conditioning in all buildings, and a new bus/maintenance garage.

"The first proposition was a very comprehensive package," Culver said. "Ninety percent of what we wanted to have happen in our plan will happen."

Culver and schools Superintendent Mike Rocca said they knew of no move to go back to the voters for any of the rejected items.

"We've got two years' worth of construction, building and renovation to address, and I think our plates are going to be full in accomplishing what lies before us," Rocca said. "Eaton Rapids has made a big investment in itself, its future and its youth."

Proposals for the gym/multipurpose rooms, air conditioning and bus garage started with enough community support to justify spots on the ballot, but in a form that they could be rejected without sinking the main issue, Rocca said.

Ballot results: 48.2 percent support for the gym/multipurpose rooms, 41.3 percent for air conditioning, and 43.3 percent for the bus garage.

The 22-classroom building for the fifth and sixth grades will rise on tennis courts and some other athletic fields at the Greyhound Drive schools complex.

Rocca said negotiations are continuing to buy 40 to 50 acres near the complex to replace outdoor athletic facilities. The land was to have been used also for the site of the new bus garage.

*Lansing State Journal 3/7/95*

## HOMETOWN ISSUES: EA

# City looks to get

Loud, mean animals and droppings make park less enjoyable

By Sally Trout  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — Domestic geese are turning into a honking big headache for city residents and visitors to Eaton Rapids' scenic Island Park.

The Eaton Rapids Parks and Recreation Board Commission tonight will review a five-year parks plan for the city and announce the fate of about 22 domestic white geese — birds that Kim Byerly, the parks and recreation director, describes as Easter basket leftovers.

"We have never caught anyone in the act of dumping their once-little-Easter-pets who have become too troublesome and messy as adult geese," she said. "But we believe that is how the problem geese got established on the island."

The white geese are prospering among 50 ducks and a pair of swans people have enjoyed watching over the years.

The public hearing will be at 7 p.m. today at city hall, 200 S. Main St.

Among the solutions being considered is turning the geese over to area farmers who've expressed an interest in them. Killing the birds is not an option.

Sue Vanderveen lives across from the island and frequently walks with her children over to the park.

"These domestic geese are big, noisy, dirty and nasty mean," she said. "They are dumb but finally figured out how to breed, and now there is a big bunch of them who chase little children and make a general nuisance of themselves."

"I love animals but don't want to pick up after 20-plus white geese."

Laurie Tierney, a receptionist for Eaton Rapids dentist David



Feeding the fowl: Kim Byerly, Eaton water fowl Monday near Island Park.

Lindow, says it is fun to watch the waterfowl from the office window, but it's no fun walking where they have been.

"The white geese have taken to wandering toward town and even waddle up and down Main Street like little old ladies on a shopping trip," she said. "We like to give patients food to feed the ducks, but we hesitate to now because the geese will chase them."

Tierney says it no longer is fun to eat lunch in the park because the geese won't leave people alone, and the droppings are horrendous.

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## House considers bill for judges

It would take at least five years experience as a lawyer to become judge under a proposed constitutional amendment approved Tuesday by the Senate.

The legislation passed 38-0 went to the House. It requires approval by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to go on the 1996 ballot.

It would say that to be qualified a trial judge, a Court of Appeals judge or a Supreme Court justice person must have been admitted to practice law at least five years, passed both chambers before not in the same term.

The Senate also passed, 37-0 sent to the House a bill to make felony to impersonate a police officer in order to commit a crime would be a felony punishable by two years' imprisonment, a minimum fine of \$2,000 or both.

## Science lab error forces evacuation

ESSEXVILLE — A Bay City school was closed Tuesday, and a class' science experiment went awry.

Science teacher Gary Gordon having his Cramer Junior High School class do an experiment involving chlorine, when the pipe started giving off fumes, said Superintendent Bob Winters.

Gordon evacuated his class, started having breathing difficulties. He and his students were treated at hospital and released, Winters said.

Classes for the school's 46 students were canceled for the day as a precaution, the superintendent said.

## Illness forces special precaution

BATTLE CREEK — Public and county health officials were taking precautions against the spread of bacterial meningitis that killed a year-old girl.

Autumn Lynn Marshall of Battle Creek died Sunday afternoon at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo.

Her family and teachers notified classmates at Ann J. Kellogg Elementary School, where she attended preschool, were given medication.

# New city manager settles in

LeFevere helps people of Eaton Rapids tackle obstacles in City Hall

By John B. Albright  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — A West Street resident complained to Councilman Thom Norris, about her water and sewer bill, and the new city manager picked up the beat.

In two telephone chats with Elonda Watts, William LeFevere sized up the complaint about water

meters.

He ordered a cut in the sewage-treatment portions of Watts' water bills.

"She was working all day and couldn't get in here to resolve it, and wasn't getting the satisfaction she needed," said LeFevere, who became this city's manager three weeks ago. "It didn't seem fair."

Watts said Norris and LeFevere did well by her. "They were both very responsive — quick and responsive."

Helping residents over the hurdles at City Hall is an ordinary part of his job, LeFevere said.

But fast action isn't always called for, he said, as some decision-making needs time to search out agreement. "If you look hard, you can find a lot of common ground."

LeFevere became the chief executive of this town of 4,695, located 16 miles southwest of Lansing in Eaton County, in the wake of 1994 factional strife and a January 1995 recall of two City Council members.

Fabian Knizacky quit as city manager in January 1994.

Clerk-Treasurer Marietta White, herself a candidate for the

manager job, helped run some city departments over many months.

Poring over stacks of papers in her office, next to LeFevere's, White said she's glad the new manager is on the job.

"This is just my backlog," White said, shuffling the papers. "Now that Bill's here, I'm whacking away at it."

Some of the main work now, LeFevere said, is preparing next year's budget of about \$18 million for council approval and a proposal for \$20,000 in sidewalk repairs.

The city's electrical system also will be reviewed by a consultant, LeFevere said.

## The LeFevere file

Name: William LeFevere

Age: 43

Occupation: Eaton Rapids city manager

Education: Master's degree in public administration and bachelor's degree, both from Central Michigan University.

Family: A 9-year-old daughter.

Hobbies, interests: Flyfishing, camping, backpacking, canoeing.

LeFevere worked in St. Johns as administrator of Clinton County government for nearly 13 years before becoming city manager at Vassar, 22 miles north of Flint, in mid-1993.

Born in Mount Pleasant, he is a 1970 graduate of St. Johns High School. His father was high school guidance director; his mother a school social worker.

While a student at Central Mich-

igan University, LeFevere worked to start a social-work program. He was elected to the Student Council and helped to organize a campus chapter of a statewide consumer interest group.

"Things needed to be done, somebody had to do them," LeFevere said. "I really hate sitting on sidelines and letting other people take the lead. I need to be involved."

# E. Rapids council seat won by Grimes

By Anthony Spangler  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — Mayor Don Colestock may breathe easier following Tuesday's election to fill two City Council seats.

Donald Grimes, the candidate the mayor was backing, defeated Jeffrey Rochester 382-176.

Donald "Bucky" Harris, who ran uncontested, won the Precinct 3 spot with 171 votes.

"I think it's going to make the City Council more even," Colestock said. "It's not going to be as divided as it was."

Colestock said that with Grimes and Harris on the council, he will have a 3-2 edge against Claudia Brown and Tom Norris.

Brown says, however, that she won't block the mayor, and Norris said he can work with anybody who is elected.

The election was held to fill two council vacancies that occurred when voters recalled council members Cheryl Johnson and Sondra Olin on Jan. 10.

The recall move sprang from a council review of the administrative performance of police Chief Mike Seeley last August.

Colestock said Tuesday that the city government now can get on with running the city.

"There are several issues that we have to address now that have been sitting on the side for over a year due to the controversy of recalling the people."

Some of those issues include sidewalk repairs and electrical problems on the south side of town.

But Rochester said the mayor will be able to do whatever he wants now. Still, he hopes that problems between the council and the mayor are over.

"I hope that everything that has happened in the last eight months can be put aside, and the city can move on and take care of a lot of business that has been unattended to."

Harris will serve the remaining seven months of Olin's term. Grimes will fill the at-large seat for the remaining 33 months of Johnson's term.

Voters in January also recalled Alan Wernette, who had quit the council Dec. 13, while they narrowly spared Brown.

Tuesday's balloting sets the scene for a Nov. 7 council election. Residents will go back to the polls to vote for three council spots.

3/15/95

Lansing State Journal

## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Eaton Rapids council to meet Tuesday on police chief's fate

By JENNIFER VAN DOREN  
and JOHN B. ALBRIGHT  
Lansing State Journal

**EATON RAPIDS** — The City Council will hold a public meeting to discuss charges against police Chief Mike Seeley at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Eaton Rapids High School Auditorium.

Officials remained tight-lipped Wednesday about the charges, but rumors abound in this small community of 4,695, which lies 16 miles southwest of Lansing.

Mayor Don Colestock said Wednesday that the charges came from within the city's police department and that they were not criminal, were policy-oriented and had to do with the way Seeley ran the department.

When the council met Tuesday night with the issue of Seeley's employment listed on the agenda, Co-

lestock recessed without discussing the matter. That left more than 100 residents who packed city hall frustrated and angry.

Colestock said there was more behind the recess than met the eye.

"I thoroughly believe that it was the intent of council to terminate Seeley's employment (Tuesday) night," Colestock said. "Therefore, I wanted myself to have more time to gather information. I do not feel Chief Seeley is being treated fairly."

At next Tuesday's meeting, the community will have its first chance to address the issue. The council has been discussing Seeley's possible termination for just under a month.

"I think it sounds like a personal vendetta," said Eaton Rapids resident Lon Curtis. "But I really don't

know what's going on."

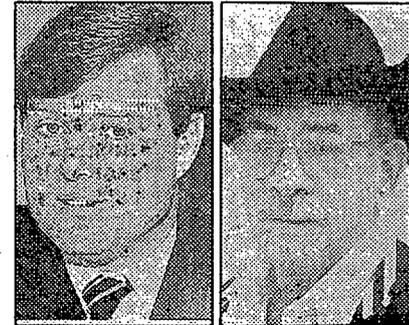
Under the Michigan Open Meetings Act, government bodies can meet in private to discuss the hiring, firing or disciplining of a governmental employee.

Tuesday night, Seeley refused to comment on the issue and was accompanied by Okemos lawyer Tom Baird, said city Clerk Marietta White.

A letter detailing the charges was written by Councilwoman Cheryl Johnson and Councilman Alan Wernette and was presented to other members and Seeley on July 20, Johnson said.

The complaints were reviewed in closed session by council members on July 26 and Aug. 4, she said.

The council has taken no action against Seeley, who was on the job Wednesday at the city's police



Seeley

Colestock

station.

Johnson said she was not certain Colestock was on solid legal grounds Tuesday night when he recessed the meeting.

But Colestock said he has full authorization to do so under the state's Open Meetings Act.

"I'm sure my actions will be contested," Colestock said. "I feel I had the legal right to recess the meeting on the grounds that I needed more information and also that the room was overcrowded."

The controversy is not the first to plague Lansing-area police departments. The City Council of Webberville made a move Dec. 7 to disband the village's police department amid accusations of improper police actions.

*Lansing State Journal 8-11-94*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Eaton Rapids council puts off decision on police chief's job

By JENNIFER VAN DOREN  
Lansing State Journal

**EATON RAPIDS** — More than 100 people packed the Eaton Rapids City Hall Tuesday night to find out if their police chief, Mike Seeley, has a future with the department.

They will have to wait, for now. The Eaton Rapids City Council has been meeting in closed session over the past two weeks to discuss the dismissal, suspension or disciplining of Seeley.

Under the Michigan Open Meetings Act, government bodies can meet in private when the matter concerns the hiring, firing or disciplining of a government employee.

At issue is an interdepartmental complaint about Seeley received by council members Cheryl Johnson and Alan Wendette from someone in the Eaton Rapids Police Department, Johnson said.

Seeley declined to comment Tuesday, and Johnson said she couldn't talk about the allegations because Seeley had requested to keep the matter under wraps.

"Mike decided he didn't want to give a black eye to the department or to disgrace the city in any form," said Mayor Don Colestock. "I think he's the right one to make the decision since it's his job on the line."

Tuesday night was the first chance residents had to address the issue that has been keeping rumor mills churning in the 4,695-population town 16 miles southwest of Lansing.

After spending about 45 minutes on other council business, Colestock announced to the restless crowd that

the council would recess for at least 36 hours to get more information and because the building was filled beyond capacity.

During the recess, the council will consult with city attorneys to find out how much information it can release from the closed meeting sessions, Johnson said.

The city then will post the next meeting time and place at least 18 hours before the meeting.

Johnson said she hopes this information will help quell some of the misinformation that has been circulating.

But exactly what the issue is, exactly what people like J.D. Searles wants to know.

"All I've heard is rumors," said Searles, who clutched in his hands a small sign reading "We support Mike" during the standing-room-only meeting.

"Mike has always stood up for us 100 percent."

Laurel Wilson gave Seeley, dressed in full uniform, a tearful hug after he walked into the council chambers.

"He has supported me in the past and now I have to support him," Wilson said.

Colestock said the first time the council met to discuss Seeley was about two weeks ago. Since then, it has met behind closed doors for about eight hours, he said.

"I just think this is very strange that anything like this would ever come up," said Colestock, who has known Seeley for about 14 years. "I thought he was doing a wonderful job as chief."

*Lansing State Journal 8/10/94*

## Eaton Rapids keeps police chief

By JENNIFER VAN DOREN  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS. — Tensions eased Tuesday night after the City Council decided to set up a schedule of reviews for police Chief Mike Seeley instead of opting for a suspension.

Seeley recently had come under fire after allegations were made about a month ago.

Mayor Don Colestock said the charges are from within the department, not criminal and had to do with the way Seeley ran the police department.

Okemos attorney Tom Baird, who accompanied Seeley to the meeting, said that while some of the charges were true, others were false.

### Seeley will be subject to performance reviews

Rumors of police mistreatment and misuse of funds are false, Baird said. A charge that Seeley failed to have his officers vaccinated for hepatitis B was true, but Seeley paid the fine out of his own pocket, Baird said.

"I'm looking forward to working with the department," said Seeley as he was hugged by tearful supporters.

"I'm happy with the decision and look forward to moving forward. I think we can all work together and I think that Eaton Rapids will be even better because of it."

The reviews will be done every

four months. If Seeley or the police department doesn't meet the council's expectations, Seeley may be terminated.

The plan, submitted by Councilman Alan Wernette, passed unanimously.

Wernette first submitted a motion that would have suspended Seeley, but the idea was shelved after disapproval from the audience.

More than 500 residents filled the Eaton Rapids High School Auditorium looking for answers to the controversy that surrounded Seeley.

During a three-hour public hearing, residents quizzed the

council members on its actions involving Seeley, the process of closed meetings and the city's motivations in pursuing complaints against the chief.

"I like Mike, I think he's doing a good job," said Robert Napieralski, who wore a blue ribbon in support of Seeley.

"He has a job to do. It's my personal belief that there are some officers who work under him who are unhappy. I don't think that is just cause to do this."

Officer Mike Hellmann said he could not speak specifically about the allegations, but added: "He's

my chief and I support him." When Seeley entered the auditorium shortly before 7 p.m., he was greeted by thunderous applause and a standing ovation.

The council often was met with boos and shouts of "recall." But not everyone thought the council deserved the criticism.

"I just don't think it is right that people are attacking the City Council," said Cheryl Hanna. "If Chief Seeley doesn't want these allegations released, I can't back him until I know what they are."

Colestock said he hoped the issue would help the council work better together.

"This may actually bring myself and the council closer together."

# Eaton Rapids council meets Friday

By JOHN B. ALBRIGHT  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — Two City Council members have called a special meeting for 8:30 p.m. Friday for moves toward hiring an interim city manager and interim assessor, Mayor Don Colestock said.

However, there may have been a mix-up, and the meeting call may have been meant for tonight, Councilwoman Cheryl Johnson said.

"I'm hurt about it," Colestock said Wednesday. "I saw all four of these council people at a Planning Commission meeting last night (Tuesday) and there was not one

word they were meeting on Friday or anything like that."

Complaints that those manager and assessor posts have remained open have figured in a recall drive against all four council members.

The meeting at City Hall was called in a Wednesday morning memorandum from Alan Wernette and Johnson, Colestock said.

The special-meeting agenda calls for hiring an interim assessor to represent the city before the Michigan Tax Tribunal, Colestock said.

It also calls for council members to take steps to act in place of the mayor for appointing an interim city manager and interim assessor, Colestock said.

Colestock said he had proposed former Charlotte City Manager Howard Penrod for the Eaton Rap-

ids manager post, but could not get support from the council members. Colestock said that he has another manager candidate to be screened.

Council members had rebuffed his suggestion that Eaton Rapids real estate agent Michael Baker be named to the assessor job, Colestock said.

"They said if we hired locally, it would be too political."

All four council members — Wernette, Johnson, Claudia Brown and Sondra Olin — are under threat of a recall drive.

Recall petition wording submitted by four Eaton Rapids residents was rejected Tuesday by an Eaton County election panel. But new wording was to be submitted today, said Linda Husby, one of the petition makers.

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

*Lansing State Journal 9-8-94*

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

# Recall talk stirs Eaton Rapids

## Residents taking aim at all four City Council members

By JOHN B. ALBRIGHT  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — Lags in hiring key city employees and peeks into personnel records about the police chief are cited by residents who want to oust all four city council members.

If petition wording is approved next month by an Eaton County election panel, Eaton Rapids voters may see a special election on whether to recall council members Cheryl Johnson, Claudia Brown, Alan Wernette and Sondra Olin.

Mayor Dan Colestock is the only elected official spared in the move.

Procedural deadlines make it too late for recall action on the city's Nov. 8 general election ballot, Eaton County Clerk Linda Twitchell said.

City Clerk/Treasurer Marrietta White said an election just for recalls in this community of 4,695 about 18 miles southwest of Lansing, might cost \$3,000.

"If we keep letting these loose cannons go off, they're going to cost us a lot more than a city election would cost," recall activist Michelle Rose said of the recall targets.

“We’ve got to take our community back.”

— Michelle Rose,  
recall activist

Firing back on accusations in recall papers, Olin said the council wasn't involved in recent talks that led city manager applicant Kevin Cornish to back away from the job.

"What discussion took place and what happened can only be referred to the mayor and city clerk for comment," Olin said.

Cornish, executive of the Adrian-area village of Clinton, had accepted the job. But he backed out with a letter asserting that the council used city employees as pawns.

Eaton Rapids has been without a city manager since February.

Work by the city assessor/building inspector had drawn what Olin called outside interference, but she would not elaborate. Judith LePage quit the job June 14.

Olin said she might prefer to see the assessor/building inspector

work done by a private contractor.

Wernette said council members were on good legal ground when they obtained information from personnel files related to police Chief Mike Seeley.

Last week, the council discussed complaints about Seeley's administrative performance and said they would make periodic reviews of his work.

Without mentioning the police chief, the recall papers accuse Wernette and Johnson of making illegal access to personnel information. Rose said the council failed to make formal resolution to get personnel data on Seeley.

Wernette might be off the council before any recall balloting.

A state parks employee, he said that he'll soon be working near Muskegon and that he's trying to sell his Eaton Rapids house.

Brown, the longest serving member of the council, said she was not immediately prepared to comment on the recall drive. But, she said, "It upset me."

Rose, a former member of the city's Downtown Development Authority, said: "We've got to take our community back." She is one of four people who have asked the Eaton County Board of Election Commissioners to approve recall petition wording.

A hearing on wording of the recall papers will be held by the board at 1:30 p.m. Sept. 6 in the Eaton County Courthouse in Charlotte.

If the panel approves the wording, the recall group may circulate petitions to set an election.

Rose of Plain Street is seeking recall action against at-large council member Johnson, who could not be reached for comment.

Linda Husby of Grove Street has submitted recall petition wording against Wernette of the city's 1st Precinct, Linda Scott of Michigan Street against Brown of the 2nd Precinct, and Vickie Miller of Wicklow Street against the 3rd Precinct's Olin.

## STATE DIGEST

### 5 Michigan women killed in Ohio crash

Ohio state troopers continued their investigation Wednesday into a traffic accident that killed five Michigan women on an outing.

No charges were immediately filed in the accident that killed Elizabeth Mary Carter, 68, of Monroe and four passengers as they headed to Marion, Ohio, to visit the Warren G. Harding Museum, the home of the former president.

Highway Patrol Sgt. Mark Sigler said a dump truck loaded with gravel slammed into the car Tuesday afternoon as it pulled out in front of the truck at an intersection about 40 miles northeast of Columbus.

Sigler said the car stopped but pulled into the path of the truck, driven by Lauren McNeil, 70, of Marion.

He was treated and released from Marion General Hospital, nursing supervisor Debbie Robinson said.

The car skidded sideways into a steel pole at a restaurant. The truck flipped on its side, spilling gravel on the road.

### Zebra mussels blamed for rotting lake weeds

Rotting weeds that fouled Lake St. Clair beaches this summer could become a more frequent sight — and smell — around the Great Lakes as

the zebra mussel population continues to grow.

"They have completely changed the ecosystem," said Jeffrey Reutter, director of the Ohio Sea Grant program, who has studied zebra mussels in Lake Erie. "We have never seen changes — ever — of the magnitude of what we're seeing. And we've got a lot of inland lakes that could be severely impacted."

Scientists have observed rapid plant growth in shallow Lake Erie, Saginaw Bay and Lake St. Clair, many attribute it to the mussels, which apparently filter sediment from the water, making it clearer and allowing more sunlight to reach plants.

Zebra mussels have been found in 16 of the 62 Michigan lakes studied so far.

### 80 volunteers to count homeless in Battle Creek

BATTLE CREEK — City leaders aren't sure how many homeless people roam the streets here.

But they are sure of one thing: The number isn't zero, as the U.S. Census concluded four years ago.

So about 80 volunteers will hit the streets this week to look for people who weren't found when the Census counters came to town.

In addition to counting the number of people staying in local shelters and eating at various agencies, the volunteers will survey the homeless to find ways to help them.

Many communities in Michigan and across the country disputed the 1990 Census figures. Many argued that entire populations were missed such as the homeless and those living in foster-care facilities.

From wire reports.

# Eaton Rapids to prepare for March election

By John B. Albright  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — Jubilant recall supporters gave flowers to city workers Wednesday as officials set a March 14 election to fill two openings on City Council.

"Looks like about a dozen roses in my vase," Clerk/Treasurer Marietta White said as five bunches of flowers were brought in by recall activists Linda and Tom Husby.

Voters on Tuesday ousted Councilwomen Cheryl Johnson and Sondra Olin by wide margins. They spared Councilwoman Claudia Brown by 16 votes.

The Husbys left a box of cigars for Mayor Donald Colestock, White said.

Then came a bottle of champagne and a large flower arrangement from recall activists Jean Kline and Jill Skinner, addressed to everyone at City Hall.

White interpreted them as gestures to City Hall employees who had to work throughout the recall turmoil that rocked the local government since last August.

"I'm sorry that the citizens of Eaton Rapids have been deceived by a small group of vigilantes that felt free to assassinate the character of Sondra Olin and myself by telling outright lies and making defamatory statements," Johnson said Wednesday.

Said Olin: "I still wound up being a winner because when you're honest and tell the truth, you never lose."

If the March 14 election date is OK'd by an Eaton County ballot scheduling panel, the deadline for candidates' petitions would be Jan. 30, White said.

The special election would have:

■ Citywide voting to fill the seat of Johnson, councilwoman at large, elected in November 1993 to



Johnson



Olin

a four-year term.

■ Voting in the 3rd Precinct to replace Olin, who was appointed a year ago to take Colestock's council seat after Colestock became mayor.

The winners of the March election would serve until the Nov. 7 general election.

"I feel like I worked hard to answer the questions, talking with the constituents," said Brown, whose seat will be up for re-election in November.

Brown said she was saddened that Johnson and Olin were turned out. "I had looked forward to working with them."

Voters of the 2nd Precinct kept Brown on by a count of 161 to 177.

The other counts: 674 to 358 to oust Johnson, 259 to 124 against Olin, and 188 to 99 against Alan Wernette, who quit the council's 1st Precinct seat in December. Tom Norris was appointed to replace Wernette.

Eaton Rapids, population 4,695, is 16 miles southwest of Lansing in Eaton County.

"We're sorry we didn't remove Claudia Brown, but the people have spoken and that's what we wanted more than anything," recall activist Vickie Miller said.

"They were rude, they were ornery and they didn't help anybody out," Miller said of the four recall targets.

# Ionia, Eaton Rapids vote today

Futures of hospital and council members to be decided

By John B. Albright  
Lansing State Journal

A hospital issue in Ionia and proposed recalls of three city councilwomen in Eaton Rapids are being decided by voters today.

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in both communities.

A yes-vote in Ionia would put the city government out of the hospital business, City Manager Tom Wiczorek said.

The 42-year-old, 77-bed Ionia County Memorial Hospital on Lafayette Street is the only hospital in Ionia County, and it is owned by the city government.

"It would totally remove us from the hospital business, which we probably no longer needed to be involved in for the last 20 years," Wiczorek said of the proposed change.

The ballot says: "Shall the city of Ionia transfer the Ionia County Memorial Hospital to a locally organized, non-profit corporation for health services purposes on terms satisfactory to the City Council?"

If voters approve, the council would create an Ionia County

Health System as a non-profit corporation to manage the hospital.

Equal-part owners of that management arm would be:

- A new, private, non-profit corporation that would own the hospital

- Lansing's Sparrow Hospital
- Blodgett Memorial Medical Center in Grand Rapids

The hospital is operating without a financial loss and without the aid of tax dollars, said Evonne Ulmer, chief executive officer.

The management alliance with Sparrow and Blodgett would make the Ionia hospital stronger in the eyes of doctors, City Clerk Jean

Barker said. There's been no organized opposition to the hospital reorganization measure, she said.

In Eaton Rapids, council members Claudia Brown, Cheryl Johnson and Sondra Olin face separate recall proposals.

Petitions for recall charged they peeked into personnel files about Police Chief Mike Seeley, lagged in hiring key officers of the city and had threatened to fire some city employees.

The ballot also names Alan Wernette, who quit the council last month.

All four targeted people refute the charges in statements printed on the ballot.

# 3 in E. Rapids council recalled

By Anthony Spangler  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — A group of citizens dissatisfied with their local government got their way Tuesday when residents voted to remove three City Council members.

Voters removed council members Cheryl Johnson by a 674-358 margin; Sondra Olin, 259-124; and Alan Wernette, 188-99.

Escaping the recall ax was councilwoman Claudia Brown, 65, the longest-serving member of the

council. She was elected to a four-year term in 1988 and re-elected in 1991.

Brown, who beat the recall 161-177, campaigned hard against efforts to oust her.

Thirty-two percent of registered voters — 1,036 — turned out for the special election.

"Considering it is wintertime, it was comparable to regular elections," said Marietta White, city clerk/treasurer. "It was a good voter turnout."

White said she was pleased with

the turnout and the results.

"It hasn't been much fun having the council fighting with the mayor," she said. "We're going to be better off. Now we can take care of city business."

Johnson, 35, is a substitute teacher, and was elected to the at-large seat in November 1993 to a four-year term.

Olin, 33, is an administrative assistant to the director of human resources at Michigan State University. She was appointed by the council in January 1994 to fill a

vacancy left by Don Colestock who was elected mayor.

Wernette was voted out even though he resigned Dec. 13, 1994, after switching his state parks work assignment to the Muskegon area. The council last month named Tom Norris to serve in that seat until the November 1995 general election.

The two vacant seats will be filled during a special election in March.

Proponents of the recall charged council members with:

- Peeking into personnel data

on police chief.

- Lags in hiring key officials
- Barring clerk from some council meetings.
- Threats to fire several city employees.

It's a second recall election in two years in the city of 4,695 people, located 18 miles southwest of Lansing.

In 1992, Eaton Rapids residents voted 746 to 344 to keep then-Mayor Larry Holley, who was accused of mixing private and official business.

# E. Rapids votes Jan. 10 on recall

By John B. Albright  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — A special election for proposed recalls of four City Council members has been set for Jan. 10, the Eaton County clerk's office said Wednesday.

A citywide ballot will be held on whether to recall at-large member Cheryl Johnson, officials said.

The other three council members will be named on recall bal-

lots to be voted on by residents within the elective precinct of each official.

They are: Alan Wernette of the 1st Precinct, Claudia Brown of the 2nd and Sandra Olin of the 3rd.

Recall supporters say the four failed to hire a manager and assessor, improperly looked into police personnel files, barred the clerk from council meetings and threatened to fire some city employees.

There was no recall move against Mayor Don Colestock, the

only other member of the council.

Eaton Rapids, population 4,695, is 16 miles southwest of Lansing.

The recall ballot date was set by the county's special elections scheduling committee.

On a 1992 recall ballot, Eaton Rapids voters balloted 746 to 344 to keep then-Mayor Larry Holley.

That election cost the city \$2,021, city Clerk/Treasurer Marietta White said. The January election costs will probably be near that sum, White said.

*Lansing State Journal 11/10/94*

Lansing State Journal • Sunday, January 8, 1995 • 3B

# Recall election Tuesday

City Council members in Eaton Rapids are named on the ballot

By John B. Albright  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — Months of prickly feelings among elected officials and resident factions will climax Tuesday in a recall election.

Aimed at City Council members Cheryl Johnson, Claudia Brown and Sandra Olin, the ballot says that they:

- Peeked into personnel data about the police chief.
- Lagged in hiring key officials.
- Barred the clerk from some council meetings.
- Threatened to fire several

city employees.

Alan Wernette, who quit the council Dec. 13 after switching his state parks employment to the Muskegon area, remains named on the ballot.

Rebuttals from each of the four targeted people are printed on the ballots.

"It was not illegal for Ms. Johnson — whether in her capacity as a member of council or private citizen — to request and review personnel files of the police chief," said lawyer Kenneth Brooks in a part of Johnson's ballot reply.

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. All voting will be in King Street School.

Recall drive fallout at council meetings and in advertisements of the Flashes Shopper's Guide & News have thrown a swirl of accusations and replies.

In a Sept. 27 council meeting, resident Tom Husby called for an investigation about Brown keeping horses at her Brook Street home, in a possible violation of zoning rules.

"I am not in violation of the code concerning my two ponies . . .," Brown responded on the printed ballot. Her 32 acres came under a zoning-code exception when they were purchased 24 years ago, Brown said.

The recall move popped up last August after the City Council reviewed administrative actions of Police Chief Mike Seeley, said City Clerk/Treasurer Marietta White.

"That was the issue that put people over the edge," said White. Seeley, head of the police department nearly 10 years, has had widespread support, she said.

It's a second recall drive in 2½

years in this Eaton County city of 4,695 located 18 miles southwest of Lansing.

In 1992, Eaton Rapids voted 746 to 344 to keep then-Mayor Larry Holley, who was accused of mixing his private and official business.

That election cost the city \$2,021, said White. She expects Tuesday's ballot costs to peak at \$2,500.

Spared from the recall whip, Mayor Don Colestock said he has done his best to stay out of the fray.

"If this recall doesn't go through, I still have to work with these people," he said.

Still, Colestock — a Seeley supporter — said he'll vote in favor of all four recall proposals.

"I think they've hindered this town," Colestock said of Johnson, Brown, Olin and Wernette.

But a Flashes advertisement



Johnson



Wernette



Brown



Olin

## Recall-petition writers

- Michelle Rose of West Plain Street against Cheryl Johnson, who was elected citywide.
- Linda Husby of Grove Street against Alan Wernette, who represented 1st Precinct before he quit Dec. 13.
- Lon Curtis of West Knight Street against Claudia Brown of the 2nd.
- Vickie Miller of Wicklow Road against Sandra Olin of the 3rd.

paid for by Valerie Kunkel's Citizens for the Future said:

"If the recall is a success, it will be followed by another election with carefully selected candidates

who will be expected to blindly follow the policies of the mayor and unofficial advisors who lurk in the background as a shadow government for our city."

## EATON RAPIDS

# Local postal report clarified

A recent notice carried in the "Flashes," a shopper newspaper, may have startled local readers with the report of a child's decapitation.

Eaton Rapids Postmaster Jack Bohne placed the note to explain a switch in two curbside deposit boxes on Main Street, with regular deposit boxes replacing those with extended chutes.

As for a decapitation caused by the old boxes, that is not a local horror story — and officials, including Bohne, can't vouch for any head-ripping incident anywhere.

The postmaster says he got the story from Bob Davis, a Lansing-based maintenance supervisor of the U.S. Postal Service.

Davis admits he repeated a story from California that has been around for several years, but says he did not use the word "decapitation." Further, any changes in postal equipment are made to comply with very specific U.S. Postal Service safety regulations, Davis said.

*Lansing State Journal 1-10-95*

## Eaton Rapids

# City, township officials to make land use plan

Officials of Eaton Rapids and two adjoining townships are preparing to hire a consultant to help make a comprehensive plan for land use in all three communities. Bids, submitted by several firms, range from \$33,000 to \$44,000, Mayor Don Colestock said. Pulling together on a plan for land development would be a big step in renewing cooperation among the city, Eaton Rapids Township and Hamlin Township, Colestock said. Relations soured in 1989 when the townships stopped buying the city's firefighting services and formed separate, volunteer fire departments.

*Lansing State Journal 1/14/95*

## Fruit shortage

EATON RAPIDS — A poor growing season upset the apple cart for members of the Community Christian Action Group, made up of members of various churches in Eaton Rapids and Springport.

The group's main function is to provide Christmas baskets for up to 350 local needy families, ranging in size from one member to nine. The baskets consist of various types of food, toys and small clothing items like hats and mittens — most of it donated by individuals and organizations in the community.

A member of the group, Rudy Dickson, wrote to describe the group's dilemma this year.

"One of our generous donors, a local fruit grower, normally donates around 40 bushels of apples. Due to the poor season and late chilling weather, his crop failed to live up to expectations. Therefore, I was hoping that, with your assistance, we could find another orchard or a large grocery chain in this area to donate some apples for our Christmas baskets."

What do you think? Call John Schneider at 377-1175. His column runs daily.

*Lansing State Journal  
12/14/94*

# Eaton Rapids drops ban on roaming cats

By John B. Albright

Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — A proposal to ban free-roaming cats has been sent to the litter box by the City Council.

If it's not going to be enforced, it's better not to have the law on the books, Councilwomen Claudia Brown and Sondra Olin said in telephone interviews.

"I have a hard time trying to imagine police officers out trying to catch cats," Olin said.

Mayor Don Colestock joined Brown and Olin in rejecting the proposed ordinance Tuesday night. It had been reviewed in previous meetings.

Voting for the measure were Cheryl Johnson and Alan Wernette.

The proposed amendment to the Animal and Fowl Ordinance said a cat should not be allowed off the premise of its owner or other responsible people unless the cat was under reasonable control.

The measure would have been enforced by city police, with mis-

demeanor provisions for fines up to \$500 and/or jail terms to 90 days, Assistant City Attorney Eric Tomal had said.

However, Brown and Olin pointed to an ordinance the council adopted in 1983 to ban bike riding on downtown sidewalks, stating that it had not been enforced.

"So why put another that we are not going to enforce?" Brown said.

"I would like to see this done, but at this point in time we did not have any participation or input from animal control on how we would control this," Brown said, referring to the Animal Control Division of the Eaton County Sheriff's Department.

Enforcement of the cat measure might have been clouded by questions about whether police were supposed to take cats into custody, and what was meant by reasonable control, Police Chief Mike Seeley said.

Commenting on the biking ban, Seeley said there aren't enough police to crack down on biking in the central business district.

*Lansing State Journal 11/25/94*

## Eaton Rapids resolves flap over officials

By John B. Albright  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — City Council members may have settled a long-standing dispute about filling the jobs of building official and assessor.

The council voted 4-1 this week to contract the assessing of 2,250 homes and business to Stover Appraisal Service of Holt at \$24,600 for six months.

Starting Tuesday, Frank Stover will be available in a City Hall assessor's office for 20 hours a week.

Stover said he has done assessing work for more than 20 Michigan communities over the past 33 years.

Mayor Don Colestock said he had wanted to hire a local real estate agent, Michael Baker, for the assessing job. Baker would have worked 40 hours a week as a city employee at \$21,000 a year, Colestock said.

Council members had objected to Colestock's push for Baker before all applications had been reviewed and said Baker was too close to home.

Fire Chief Richard Freer got the extra duty of building official on a 4-1 vote, with Councilman Alan Wernette dissenting, Colestock said.

His pay has yet to be set.

Freer has been assistant building inspector at a salary of \$5,000 a year. In the first nine months of this year, the city issued 180 building permits.

Now the city is seeking to fill the vacant manager post, Colestock said. Fabian Knizacky left that job last February.

Local/State

Lansing State Journal ■ Thursday, Sept. 29, 1994

# City lacks an assessor

## Eaton Rapids council to interview applicants on Oct. 10

By JOHN B. ALBRIGHT  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — It's tough doing real estate business here without a city building inspector on the job, broker Rhea Wrigglesworth said Wednesday.

Perhaps it was lack of an assessor/inspector's advice to City Council on a request to split a lot in June that caused a delay. That delay, in turn, dumped a Tompkins Street home site deal here for a Lansing mother of three, Wrigglesworth said.

"The fire chief is acting as building inspector because our City Council is so busy fighting among themselves that they can't get to the details that need to be taken care of," Wrigglesworth said.

After four months of debate, seeking applications, and being prodded by a group bent on recalling four City Council members, the council has set Oct. 10 for interviewing selected applicants for assessor and building official.

The new assessor must be available for office visits here for 20 hours per week, officials said.

Neal Hart retired at the end of 1992 after years as assessor/building inspector. Successor Judith LePage quit in June.

Fire Chief Richard Freer and

Clerk/Treasurer Marietta White are sharing building inspection duties. White fills in on assessment duties.

City Hall services in this community of 4,695 located 18 miles southwest of Lansing are further strained by absence of a city manager, White said. Fabian Knizacky left that job Feb. 15. Six have applied for city manager, including David Boes, manager of Eaton Rapids' sewage treatment plant.

Mayor Donald Colestock said he's ready to name a building official and an assessor, if council members would go along. His plan:

■ Twenty-year Fire Chief Freer, 53, would get added duties and pay as building official.

■ Real estate agent Michael Baker, 39, would be assessor for 2,250 home and business properties, also taking some building inspection duties under Freer's supervision.

Councilwoman Cheryl Johnson objected to Colestock saying whom he'd hire before all applications are in and reviewed.

"He's been doing it for two months," she said. "He never came into this whole process, since the middle, with an open mind."

Both contract and payroll routes should be aired, Johnson added.

"That's what I have been elect-

ed to do," she said, "make decisions based on all information available, not who is my friend, who has lived here forever."

Assessor and inspector should be employees, Colestock said. "The city isn't going to get the services it deserves by contracting it out."

Council members have objected to Baker as too close to home, Colestock said. "They figure him, being a hometown person, he could be politically motivated."

But assessors work by state manuals — not politics, said Baker, head of the city's Board of Review for tax assessment appeals.

October 7 is the council's deadline for applications for assessor and building official jobs.

Baker is one of four applicants for assessor as a payroll position. Seven others want it on contract.

Freer's the only applicant so far for building official. In the first nine months of 1994, Freer said, the city had 53 fire department calls and issued 180 building permits.

Lags in hiring an assessor and city manager are cited on petitions being circulated in a recall drive against council members Johnson, Alan Wernette, Claudia Brown and Sondra Olin.

# 4 compete for Eaton Rapids manager

By John B. Albright  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — Clerk/Treasurer Marietta White, one of four finalists for the city manager job here, has an initial nod from Mayor Don Colestock.

"Marietta is, by far, my choice right now," Colestock said Thursday when he announced the City Council's selection of finalists. "I will listen with an open mind to the other three candidates."

White, a 25-year employee of Eaton Rapids government, and three men who are now managers of small Michigan cities will be interviewed Nov. 15.

White said she filed her application Oct. 20 without consulting council members. "I thought I should just do it and let the chips fall."

Councilwoman Sondra Olin said she'll weigh White's long experience at City Hall, although White's schooling does not match the others' education credentials.

"I hope we have a city manager in place by Dec. 1," Olin said.

Chosen from a field of 17 applicants for the manager post left open since January were:

■ White, 55, who started as an aide to the clerk/treasurer in 1969, and who was appointed clerk/treasurer in 1990. White said she has been doing city manager duties for the last nine months.

She has attended Lansing Community College and Oakland City Baptist College in Indiana.

■ Larry Burkhardt, 56, manager of Gratiot County's city of St. Louis for one year and previously deputy manager of a Detroit-area planning firm. He has a master's de-

gree in urban planning and a bachelor's degree in political science, both from Wayne State University.

■ Alan Hartley, 30, manager of Ionia County's city of Belding for two years, previously Belding's director of finance and administration. He was a budget analyst in the Ingham County controller's office from February 1986 to April 1987.

Hartley has a master's degree in public administration from Western Michigan University and a bachelor's degree in public administration from Michigan State University.

■ William LeFevere, 42, city manager of Vassar, 22 miles north of Flint, since July 1993. He was in St. Johns as Clinton County administrator from May 1980 to February 1983.

LeFevere has a master's degree

in public administration and a bachelor's degree, both from Central Michigan University.

Eaton Rapids, population 4,695, is 16 miles southwest of Lansing in Eaton County.

Fabian Knizacky left the Eaton Rapids manager job Jan. 28 to become administrator of the Ludington-based government of Mason County.

In June, officials said that Kevin Cornish, manager of the village of Clinton, north of Adrian, had taken the manager post here. Cornish later withdrew.

Eaton Rapids is offering a manager's salary of about \$45,000 a year. White's current pay: \$42,369.

White said that if she were named city manager she could hold her clerk/treasurer posts too, provided she could hire another clerical employee.

11/4/94 Lansing State Journal

## 3 to interview for city manager job

By John B. Albright  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — Three applicants for the city manager job here will be interviewed by the City Council in separate sessions Wednesday at City Hall.

Open to the public, the interviews are:

■ From 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. for city Clerk/Treasurer Marietta White, who is seeking the manager post after 25 years of other city employment.

■ 10 a.m. to noon for William LeFevere, city manager of Vassar, which is 22 miles north of Flint.

■ 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. for Larry Burkhardt, manager of Gratiot County's city of St. Louis.

A fourth finalist, Belding City Manager Alan Hartley, withdrew early in November, Mayor Donald Colestock said.

The manager job at Eaton Rapids

has been open since Jan. 28, when Fabian Knizacky left to become administrator of the Ludington-based government of Mason County.

In June, Eaton Rapids officials said Kevin Cornish, manager of the village of Clinton, north of Adrian, had taken the manager post here. Cornish later withdrew.

Eaton Rapids officials have been offering a salary of about \$45,000 a year for the job. Eaton Rapids, population 4,695, is 16 miles southwest of Lansing, in Eaton County.

Failure to hire a city manager was one item in a list of complaints on a petition circulated recently to promote a recall against the four City Council members.

Targets of a Jan. 10 recall election are Cheryl Johnson, Alan Werrette, Claudia Brown and Sondra Olin. Colestock was not named in the recall drive.

Lansing State Journal 11-29-94

# Vevay land awaits packaging plant

## Eaton Rapids-based company will begin to move operations

By JOHN B. ALBRIGHT  
Lansing State Journal

MASON — Under the rustling leaves of maple trees, Noland Douglas looks from the front yard of his Vevay Township home to open land where a \$20 million packaging materials plant will soon rise.

"I don't think it's going to bother me. It's going to bring jobs for other people," said Douglas, a retired autoworker who has lived for 37 years in a stucco-sided house on Eden Road south of Mason. "I don't see anything the matter with it."

An aging red barn across Eden from Jewett Airfield will come down to make way for the factory that Michigan Packaging Co. will start building next month to replace one in Eaton Rapids.

But Township Clerk Susan Kosier ponders whether township residents would want to draw a line — however temporary — against more industrial advance at Mason's edge.

"We're in a dilemma here," Kosier said, throwing up her hands in the Township Hall, which will be next door to the corrugated materials plant.

"Do we keep relinquishing more township land to the city? That's the kind of feedback we need from the residents."

She noted that only officials came to a recent hearing on a move to switch the new plant site

to the Mason jurisdiction. Mason, population 6,768, is 12 miles south of Lansing in Ingham County. Surrounding Mason, Vevay Township has about 3,668 residents.

Michigan Packaging, its plant and headquarters in downtown Eaton Rapids for 27 years, will begin construction next month on 32 acres north of the Vevay building.

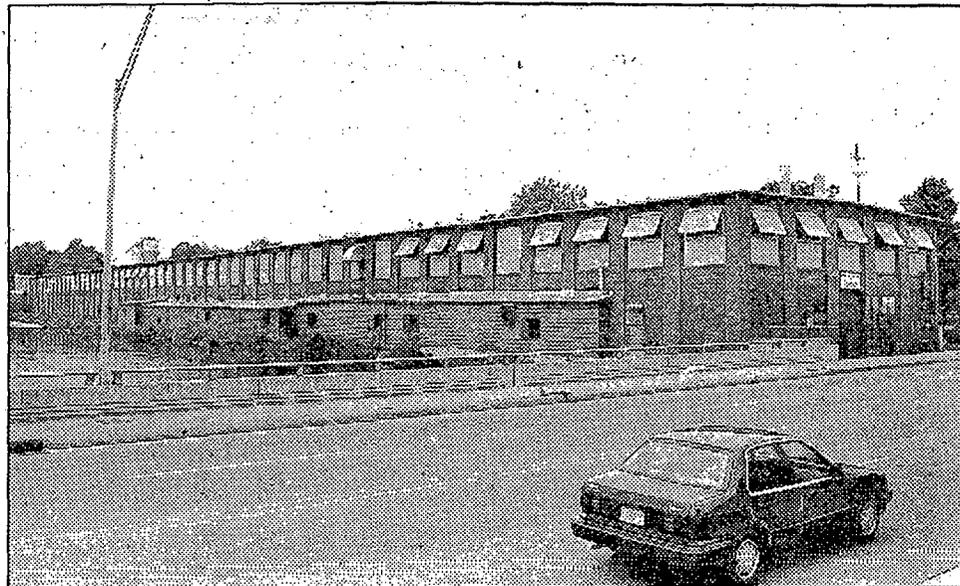
"Our intent is to come into Vevay with a first-class operation, both in appearance and the way we conduct our business," said Ralph Stoner, company vice president.

The new plant will open in November of 1995. Several years later, it will employ 150 people in making 150 million square feet of corrugated material per year, Stoner said. That's twice the output in Eaton Rapids.

Michigan Packaging, which also has plants in Grand Rapids and Charlotte, N.C., started manufacturing in the century-old Horner Woolen Mill plant in Eaton Rapids in 1967.

But the economics of the operation took a hit in 1979 when Conrail stopped hauling on the Eaton Rapids trackline, Stoner said. The Vevay site has rail service and is close to U.S. 127 for truck shipments to the firm's Detroit-area customers.

Ninety people work in the Eaton Rapids plant, which is to be phased out in 1998 to 2000, Stoner said.



For the Lansing State Journal/A.C. WILLIAMS

The Michigan Packaging Co. will move its plant and most of the people employed there from this location in Eaton Rapids to a new building in Vevay Township near Mason. Construction at the Vevay site begins next month. The new plant is expected to open in November 1995.

No plans have been set about the sale or other uses for the old plant on the Grand River shoreline in Eaton Rapids, Stoner said. Most of the employees of the Eaton Rapids facility will transfer to jobs at the Vevay plant when the time comes, he said.

As Michigan Packaging wraps up a deal to buy the Vevay site from Capitol Excavating and Paving Co., Mason and Vevay officials are forging a pact to put the site under city jurisdiction for 25 years.

That would clear the way for the city to stretch water and sewer lines to the plant site.

The company property would be under Mason's 11.42-mill levy during the transfer years, instead of the township's 1-mill.

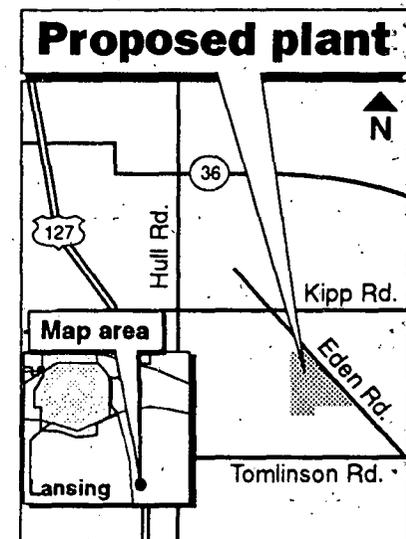
Kosier opposed the terms of the jurisdictional switch.

Instead of carving into open area along Eden Road, the company should have bought into the city-controlled Sycamore Creek Industrial Park, which is close by at Kipp and Hull roads, she said.

"My first preference would have been some sort of joint water-sewer district with the city."

But the industrial park has no unreserved tracts large enough for the packaging firm project, Mason Building Inspector Mark Fineout said.

Construction of the packaging plant will probably lead to more home building in the area, said township supervisor Jeff Oesterle, who lives a half-mile from the site.



Lansing State Journal / A. BOUDREAU

# E. Rapids gets \$1 million to finish industrial park

By WAYNE TOMPKINS  
Lansing State Journal

The City of Eaton Rapids has been awarded the \$1 million federal grant it needed to finish an industrial park. The park will house the Magnesium Products of America plant scheduled to open this fall.

The grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce will allow the city to complete the multicorporate facility by installing water and sewer lines, paving roads and installing traffic controls so the park can be certified under Michigan standards.

"A lot of money goes into a project like this," said Marietta White, the city's treasurer and clerk. "A city our size can't do this without some help from the state and the

federal government."

The park is anchored by Magnesium Products, a magnesium diecasting plant expected to create about 140 jobs when in full production by the end of the year. The city is working with other businesses to fill the remaining spots in the industrial park, White said.

"At a time when Michigan's economy is on the road to recovery, I am delighted to see the federal government aiding Eaton Rapids' local economic development," said U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich.

White said the grant from the Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration had been expected earlier, but was delayed by the California earthquake and Midwest floods.

*Lansing State Journal 5-12-94*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Eaton Rapids pushes youth center

## Teenagers try to sway wary residents

By JOHN B. ALBRIGHT  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — Helen Davidson walked across State Street on Wednesday to lay it on the line to a teen panel.

She and some neighbors don't want a youth center to be developed in one corner of an old ice cream plant across from her State Street home of 56 years.

But the youngsters, guided by school teachers Chick Fox and Meri Bradford, sought to assure Davidson that a supervised drop-in place would cause no trouble. The site is just west of the High School/Middle School complex.

"We're trying to work with you as much as possible on this," assured Krisie Schmieder, 16, after Davidson protested that a center would bring too much noise, traffic and litter.

"What we're hoping, really, is to be practically noiseless here," Fox quipped as the persuasion mounted.

That got a ripple of laughs from the several teens and adults at a conference table inside the Miller House on the old ice cream plant property.

"I feel like an old ogre here," Davidson replied. "It's just that I've lived here so long. It is my home. There's a lot of traffic and noise already."

Youngsters would be inside the building, Fox said. No partying outside.

"A group of young people here — I don't expect them to go in



Lansing State Journal/GREG DeRUITER

Kristina Schmieder (right), a junior at Eaton Rapids High School, leads the meeting with classmates Betony Pulido (left), and Jennifer Johnson at the old Miller Ice Cream factory, which may be turned into a youth center.

there and be totally quiet," Davidson responded.

The longtime resident of Eaton Rapids' east side stayed for a while after the meeting to talk it over with Schmieder and two other 16-year-olds, Jenny Johnson and Betony Pulido.

The give and take between Davidson and the Youth Advisory Committee of the Eaton Rapids Community Heritage Foundation

may be an opening salvo in attempts to square the center plan with nearby residents.

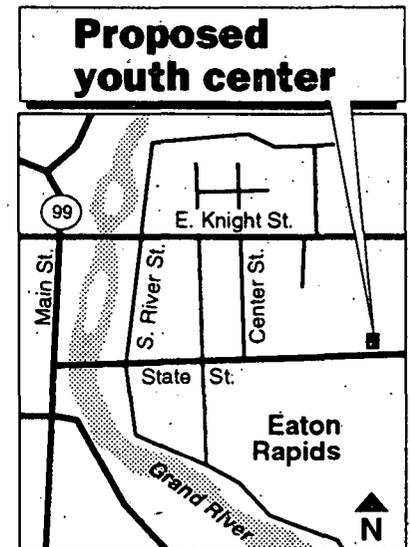
The panel will meet with whoever wants to talk at 10 a.m. Aug. 17 in the Miller House.

Two nearby residents who did not attend Wednesday's meeting OK'd the center plan.

"The kids that are hanging around the downtown by the Quality Dairy and the Island Park, I think

they just don't have anything to do," said Tim Aben, father of three school children. His house is next to the ice cream plant. "If they got some place they can call their own, with supervision, I have no problem with it."

Another nearby resident on State Street, Maxine Mentink, gave a nod. "Kids ought to have something to do, some place to go."



Lansing State Journal

Resident Peggy Riethmiller protested in a letter to the panel: "Our property values and the quality of our neighborhood living would be adversely affected by such a youth center located only yards from our State Street residences."

Riethmiller and Davidson suggested the group look at school sites or downtown locations. But Fox said those places were unsuitable. "That's the point of having a center — to get away from school," Pulido told Davidson.

On the governmental front, Fox is gathering signature-petitions from circulators to put a 10-year, quarter-mill tax issue on the Nov. 8 ballots of the city of Eaton Rapids, Eaton Rapids Township and Hamlin Township.

There may be slightly more than enough of the required numbers of signatures to put to ballots the tax measure which would yield a total of \$38,000 a year for center operation, Fox said.

# Eaton Rapids struggles through political turmoil on city council

By JOHN B. ALBRIGHT  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — Veiled issues about the police chief's administrative work and a move to unseat all four City Council members are latest bumps for a city government steeped in turmoil.

"Eaton Rapids is just like any other small town," said Mayor Don Colestock, quick to note that he's not part of a petition group that has spared him from a recall drive.

Other areas also have felt unrest.

Webberville residents were rocked last December when the village council disbanded its po-

lice and Charlotte's voters last fall turned over their City Council in protest against a proposed power station.

"These are cycles that small towns go through periodically," said Colestock, a retired truck driver who favors cowboy hats and boots.

"You don't want it to happen. You just wish everything would run along nice, and nobody make any waves. But it happens occasionally."

Council members Cheryl Johnson, Claudia Brown, Alan Wermette and Sondra Olin have been named on separate recall papers filed by four city residents.

An inquiry by council members into accusations about Chief Mike

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

See TURMOIL, Page 4E

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

# Turmoil: Town's troubles aren't new

From 1E

Seeley by unnamed people may have set off the recall move by four of the several hundred people who attended a council meeting on the issue Aug. 16 in the Eaton Rapids High School Auditorium.

"That was the straw that broke the camel's back," Coilestock said.

If enough signatures are gathered, recall petitions could force a special recall election.



Wernette

Petition makers Michelle Rose, Linda Scott, Linda Husby and Vickie Miller had attended the meeting as the council set periodic reviews on Seeley's performance.

There was a feeling in the community that the council was about to fire Seeley, said Brown, a six-year veteran of the city's governing body.

But keeping most details of any accusations against Seeley out of public discussion was proof that the council treated him fairly, Brown said.

Brown said she hopes the council members will, in turn, get fair treatment from the community.

Rose, who filed petition papers against Johnson, said that she and the other petition makers are supporters of Seeley. But there are other matters behind the recall effort, she said.

Wording of proposed recall petitions — to be reviewed for clarity by an Eaton County election panel Sept. 6 — criticizes the council members for not hiring a city manager and an assessor/building inspector.

"We must stop being so shortsighted in filling employee positions and hiring individuals for our vacant positions by using emotion and friendship as a criteria for placement," Brown said.

Strife in the government of this city of 4,695 located 18 miles southwest of Lansing peaked also:

In a 1992 recall drive that led voters to retain then-Mayor Larry Holley after foes said Holley's business and real estate dealings got too close to city affairs.

In 1990, when City Manager Dennis Craun quit after a leader-



Lansing State Journal/ROBERT KILLIPS

Claudia Brown, an Eaton Rapids City Council member since 1988 and mayor pro tem, says she hopes four council members targeted by a recall petition will get fair treatment from the community. Brown is one of the four; the others are Cheryl Johnson, Alan Wernette and Sondra Olin.

ship dispute with Holley, taking a \$25,000 severance payment in return for his pledge to speak well of the Eaton Rapids officials.

The latest city manager, Fabian Knizacky, resigned in February, and Judy LePage left the assessor/building inspector job in June.

Clerk/Treasurer Marietta White has taken on much of the duties of those posts — in addition to her regular work, which includes billings to homes and business for electricity service. Part-time Fire Chief Dick Freer doubles as assistant building inspector.

The city operates with a \$5.5 million budget and 47 employees.

Over the years, council members have sometimes grappled with administrative details and disputes without enough knowledge of them, said White, who has worked in City Hall for 24 years.

"I feel they're trying to micro-manage the government, when that really is the role of the department heads."



Olin



Johnson

Council factions have shown unwillingness to compromise, White added.

"Seems like one side is not going to tell the other side they're right, even when they are," she said. "Unless we get beyond that, it's not going to be possible for everyone to work together."

Inside politics at City Hall may have chilled one prospect for the Eaton Rapids city manager job.

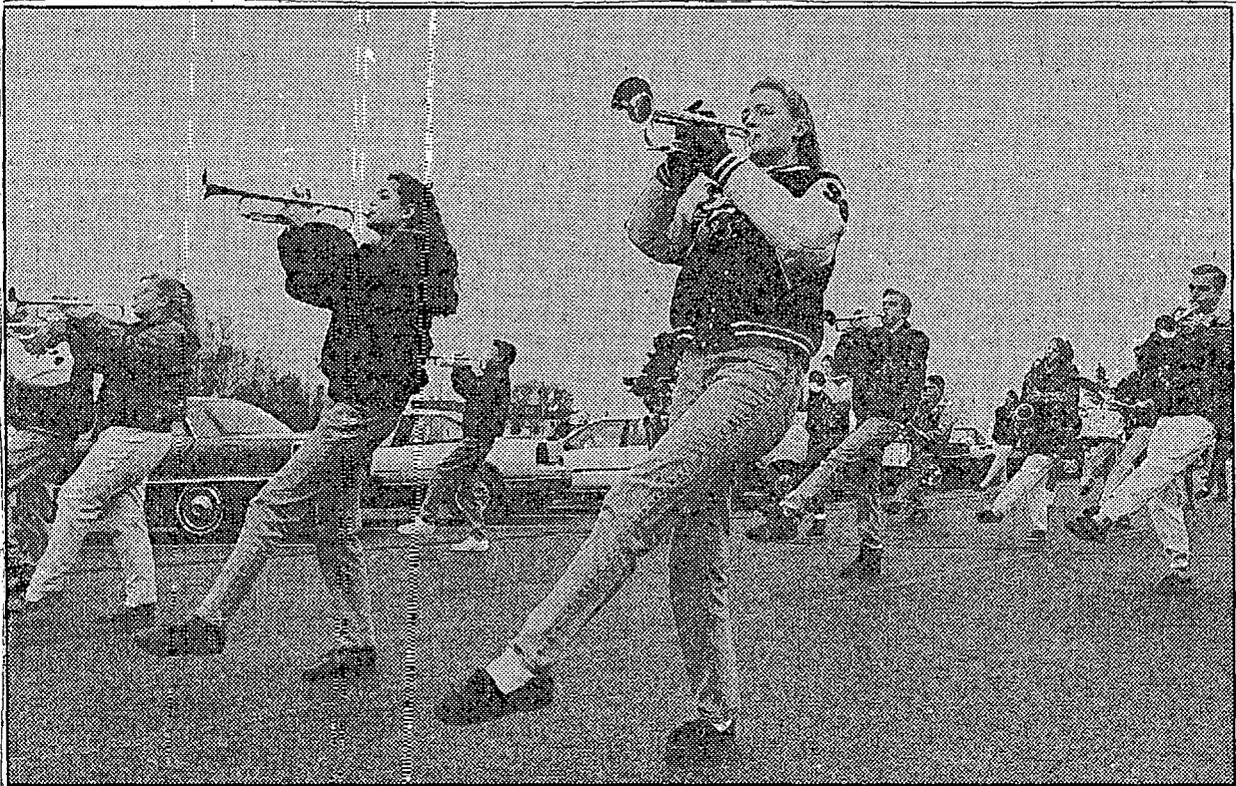
Kevin Cornish, manager of the Lenawee County village of Clinton, withdrew his acceptance of the



Lansing State Journal

Eaton Rapids post last month.

"He explained that politics and lack of teamwork seems to have made department heads, employees and the past city manager political pawns for council," Wernette said in a July 20 memorandum to the council.



Lansing State Journal/DAVID OLDS

Eaton Rapids High School senior Carrie Crose (foreground) and other members of the band practice the routine they will present when they march in the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Detroit this week.

# They're small, but mighty

## Eaton Rapids band to play in Detroit parade

By AILEEN M. STRENG  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — Forty-three Eaton Rapids High School students will be steppin' high and proud Thanksgiving Day as they march for the first time in Detroit's annual parade.

The Greyhound Marching Band is among 21 bands selected statewide to play in the parade.

"Most of the bands chosen are from monster programs," said band director Brian Nutting. "We're not a large program, so we're excited that our quality was noticed."

"I think it's really great we were selected," said junior Brad Bush, the band's drum major. "We're not big, but we're mighty."

The band submitted a tape of its performance in the Charlotte

### ON TV

- **What:** The Eaton Rapids' Greyhound Marching Band.
- **Where:** Detroit's Thanksgiving Day parade.
- **When:** 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, on channels 6 and 12.

Frontier Days Parade.

"Something must have caught their eye. It was the first time we ever did any dancing," Nutting said. "A little bit of footwork adds some interest."

The students will be showing off their fancy footwork through the

parade's 4-mile route while playing the tune "Frosty the Snowman."

Hopes are high for a less-than-frosty parade day, Nutting said. However, the band uniforms are wool and precautions are being taken.

"Everybody has gone out and bought long underwear and gloves," Nutting said. "The band boosters will also be at the end of the parade waiting with hot chocolate to warm them up."

"We're going to be too excited to think much about the cold," the drum major said.

Since Eaton Rapids' football season ended in early October, the band has been marching through the streets of Eaton Rapids on Wednesday evenings to build endurance and get used to playing in the ever-dropping temperatures.

# 8 men face charges in holding pit bull dogfight

By JOHN B. ALBRIGHT  
Lansing State Journal

CHARLOTTE — An Eaton Rapids man testified in District Court Wednesday that he saw several men and two pit bull dogs Sept. 1, in an area at the edge of the city.

The sighting led to felony charges against eight men.

Shane Wiltshire said he saw two dogs close together, straining on leashes. But he said he didn't see them in combat.

Wiltshire said he was riding a motorcycle near the scene, which he described as a secluded area between M-99 and Canal Road.

In a preliminary examination watched by the head of the Capital Area Humane Society, the defendants were charged with attending a dogfight. Conviction carries a prison term of up to four years.

Two defendants — Tim Morrow, 21, of Onondaga and Kenneth West, 24, of Eaton Rapids — also are charged with possessing fighting dogs and making them fight — also a four-year felony, Eaton County Assistant Prosecutor Larry Wysocki said.

The preliminary hearing before Judge Paul Berger was to continue at 9 a.m. today.

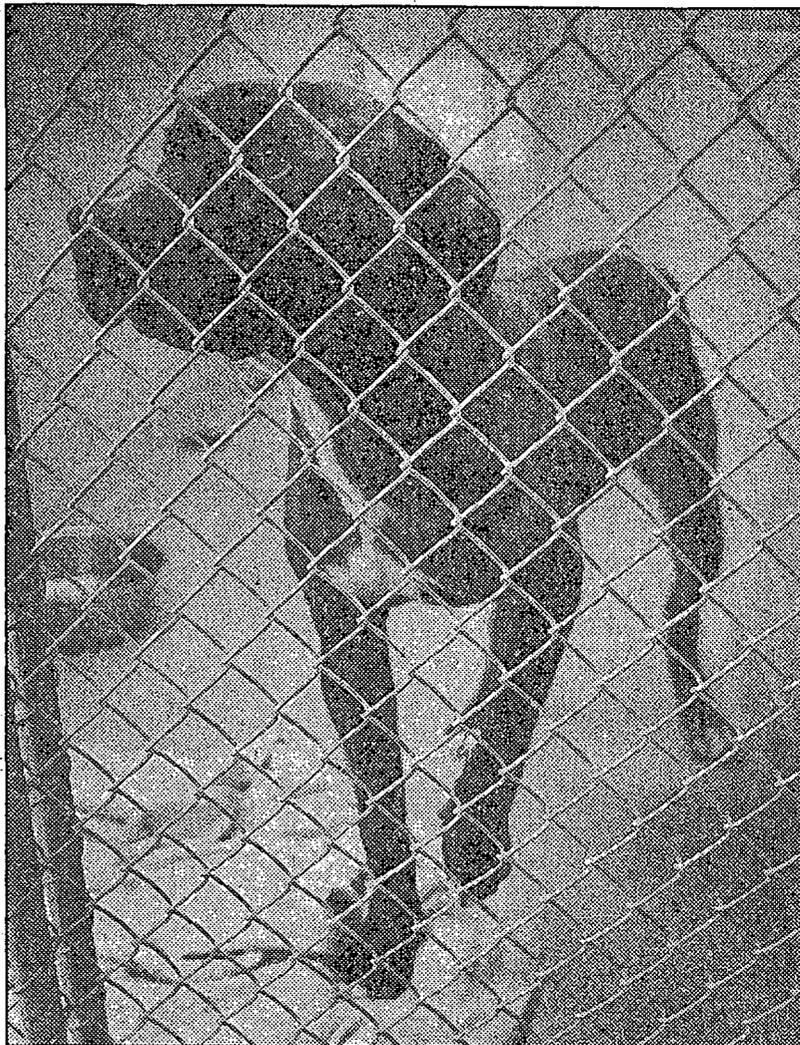
"Dogfighting is sick, and it's against the law," said Judy Seaman, executive director of the humane society.

Seaman said she was joined by several other dogfighting foes in observing the court action.

"No dogfight took place," said Tom Dutcher of Charlotte, one of seven defense lawyers. "There was no planned dogfight. This approximates a witch hunt."

Seaman said: "We had dozens of phone calls at the shelter office yesterday. There's a lot of interest. A lot of people are going to be writing letters to Judge Berger."

"If these people are found guilty — we certainly don't know if they're guilty or not — but if they're found guilty, a message needs to be sent to people who might do dogfighting that it is illegal, and that it's going to be pun-



Lansing State Journal/CHRIS HOLMES

A pit bull dog named Sam, reportedly involved in a Sept. 1 dogfight, is housed at the Eaton County Animal Control Facility with two others.

ished."

In addition to Morrow and West, the accused are: Jefferson Race III, 20, of Mason; Robert Armbruster, 20, and Kerry Long, 19, both of Eaton Rapids; David Helton, 21, of Charlotte; Chad McHaney, 20, of Leslie; and Brian Watson, 19, address unknown.

Eaton Rapids police Sgt. Paul Malewski said he found the eight

men on the scene when he investigated a tip from Wiltshire. Three pit bulls were taken into custody, he said.

One had a puncture wound on its head, Malewski said.

The dogs are being held at the Eaton County Animal Control Facility, county Prosecutor Jeffrey Sauter said.

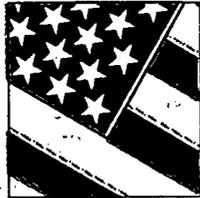
# Eaton Rapids vote tied to school woes

*Lansing Journal*

By SHERIDAN F. HONORE  
Lansing State Journal

Some Eaton Rapids residents are hoping to get more money for their school district to keep it from busting at the seams with a growing student population.

Eaton Rapids schools next Monday will ask voters to pass a \$24.4 million bond issue for expansion of the district's present buildings and construction of new structures.



## SCHOOL ELECTIONS

The bond is a 4.55 mill increase over the existing tax rate. For a home with a market value of \$50,000 and a state equalized value of \$25,000, this would represent an annual tax increase of \$113.75 for the owner.

Students, parents and teachers are complaining about the lack of room that is making it difficult to do everything from playing to learning.

"It is very crowded," said Kate Vanderveen, a 15-year-old freshman at Eaton Rapids High School. "It's difficult to get to my locker. Usually the library is quite crowded. It does make it difficult to study, because it's always noisy."

"I don't eat in the cafeteria because there is never enough room," Vanderveen said. "We're sitting on the floor in the library eating."

The goal is to use the money for district-wide expansion.

The changes would include:

- Improving the heating and

cooling systems in all buildings.

- More gyms and other facilities for student athletes to create equity between men and women's sports.

- Construction of a bus garage.

- A fiber optics network.

District officials say the money also is needed for growth.

About 18 months ago, the school board hired an outside firm to look at student population projections, said Ken Pierce, an Eaton Rapids School Board member. The study concluded that growth will continue at a rate of 72 to 100 students per year, Pierce said.

An architectural firm was then hired to study the district's school buildings and made these recommendations:

- Build an elementary school.

- Turn one of the existing elementary schools into a pre-primary care center. The center would serve kindergartners during the half day away from classes while their parents aren't home.

- All other buildings would be brought up to code by adding sprinklers and new wiring.

"I think it's absolutely necessary," said Sheryl Thompson, president of Lockwood Elementary Parent Teachers Organization. "It's apparent watching my kids stuffed into schools that are overflowing that if it takes that much to do it then we'll have to."

Some people, however, might not be too happy with the bond proposal.

"There are always a lot of problems with the older people who don't want to pay more taxes," Thompson said.

2-17-92

# Court rejects suit to halt Eaton Rapids senior center vote

By SHERIDAN HONORE  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — A three-quarter mill request to give money to the Eaton Rapids Senior Citizens Center will remain on Tuesday's ballot.

On Friday, Judge Thomas Eveland struck down a lawsuit filed by two Eaton Rapids residents in 56th Circuit Court to keep the millage off the ballot.

Plaintiffs Roderick Schultz and Eileen Sullivan said they filed the suit Thursday because of what they saw as a conflict of interest.

Councilwoman Jean Kline, director of

the Eaton Rapids Senior Citizens Center, had voted to put the millage on the ballot.

"It's unfortunate that the senior citizens have to be made a pawn in this," said Schultz. "We're saying it's an illegal ballot."

Kline, who is running for re-election to the council, said she took steps to ensure there was no conflict of interest when she voted to place the senior center funding proposal on the ballot.

"The mill is to replace funding that was cut by the state," Kline said.

The senior center lost \$20,000 in state budget cuts, she said. She conferred with city attorney Bob Warner to determine if

her voting to put the millage on the ballot was a conflict of interest. When Warner said no, she voted.

"In my mind I was not in conflict," she said. "But I checked with the attorney to make doubly sure. It's interesting how all this is coming up just before the election."

Warner supports Kline's stance.

"The council wasn't voting for the millage," Warner said. "They were voting to decide to let the people vote if they wanted to pay it. They passed it on to the people who would be paying the tax."

Warner said he is suspicious about the timing of the allegation.

"It seems like more than a coincidence

that this is coming up now," he said. "That vote was taken six months ago."

The pre-election mudslinging doesn't stop with the millage issue. Residents have made charges of shady land dealings and nepotism that involve city officials.

Among the charges:

■ Mayor Larry Holley and Councilman Bruce U'ren engineered a deal that let them sell land to the city through a third party for a profit.

■ U'Ren, along with Councilwoman Martha Jo Hoffman, negotiated salaries for unionized city employees one year ago. U'Ren has a son-in-law who works for the city; some residents say his negotiating

was a conflict-of-interest.

■ Bob Hoffman, a former firefighter who is married to Martha Jo Hoffman, is a party in a lawsuit pending against the city. Martha Jo Hoffman has been discussing the case with the city attorney, Schultz charges.

Holley sees the whole issue as being motivated by spite.

"I'm convinced it's mudslinging" Holley said. "It's OK to disagree, but it always bothers me when they attack someone personally."

City officials deny any wrongdoing.

See EATON RAPIDS, Page 3B

## Eaton Rapids

From 1B

When accused of illegally profiting in a land sale, U'Ren insists the dealings were honest.

Holley and U'ren own Eaton Rapids Community Development Corp. The corporation purchased 10.3 acres of land from Penn Central Rail Road for \$26,000 on April 27, 1990, U'Ren said.

The city had been interested in buying the northern half of the site for some time; Holley and U'Ren wanted the southern half.

A joint purchase between the corporation and the city was suggested, U'Ren said. The City Council rejected that deal by one vote, so Holley and U'ren purchased the property on their own.

"We tried to discuss it with the City Council, and one of the council members didn't want to discuss it," U'Ren said.

U'Ren and Holley then sold the northern half of the parcel to an Eaton Rapids couple for \$15,500. The \$2,500 profit the corporation made in the sale covered taxes, insurance, closing fees and finance charges, said U'Ren, who is up for re-election Tuesday.

The couple sold the property to the city for \$15,500 two weeks later.

■ Everything was above board when U'Ren negotiated city employees' wages between the city and union, although he has a son-in-law working for the Eaton Rapids Department of Public Works, U'Ren said.

"I discussed it with council at the time," he said.

The council was made aware of his family connections in government, he said. They didn't see it as a problem. Although his son-in-law is still legally married to his daughter, they no longer live together.

■ Hoffman's husband lost his job as a firefighter with the city four years ago. Several of the former firefighters filed a lawsuit against the city, and Hoffman has been discussing the case with the city attorney, Schultz said.

"That's the biggest conflict of interest you could have," he said.

Hoffman denies the allegations.

"I have not been talking to the city attorney about the case," Hoffman said. "I have never gone

and talked to him about it secretly. Any information I got as a part of my job was never passed on to my husband or the union attorney."

City attorney Warner also denied the charge.

"That's an extremely serious charge," Warner said. "If that's true, that would be grounds for disbarment, and it would be criminal."

However, even if no one goes to jail over the charges, there is still a question of how ethical these actions are.

"It's absolutely true that anytime anybody gets in the business of trying to make some money, buy land or invest when they're also on the public payroll, there is the potential for charges to be raised," said Bill Ballenger, editor of the newsletter Inside Michigan Politics.

"Unless it can be demonstrated that a member of his family profited disproportionately as a result of Mr. U'Ren's negotiations, and unless he had hidden from the City Council his relationship to this employee, I don't see a problem."

# Thorns snag nature trail

## Some Eaton Rapids residents fear park will attract crime, pollution

By SHERIDAN HONORE  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — In May, it sounded like a good idea: Convert an abandoned railroad line into a nature walk from Eaton Rapids to Caledonia.

The Eaton Rapids City Council gave the proposal a ringing endorsement.

But the plan may be more than the council bargained for — and some residents in the city 18 miles southwest of Lansing are adamant about preventing the park from becoming a reality.

Property owners in Eaton Rapids who live along the path of the proposed 50-mile Sugar Bush Trail fear the park will attract crime and pollution.

Department of Natural Resources officials say the community's fears are unfounded, as do residents of other communities with similar parks.

The trail also would pass through Charlotte, Vermontville, Nashville, Middleville and Hastings.

Property owners are now in court with Penn Central to decide who actually owns the land. If it's decided in Penn Central's favor, DNR officials said the railroad has agreed to sell the land to them for the park.

If the court decides that private citizens own the land, some residents are angry enough to say they won't sell — and thereby put gaps in the linear concept.

William Russell owns a summer home off Shaytown Road, adjacent to the rail line. The home has been

broken into once already, and he fears a park nearby would increase the likelihood it will happen again.

"They would be within 25 feet of my summer home," Russell said. "It would be operated like a state park, and that's a joke. People are tearing up and down there all night long."

Protest from property owners may cause the council to revoke the proclamation it issued in May approving the concept.

The DNR had given the council a letter describing a nature-walk trail for non-motorized recreation, said Eaton Rapids Mayor Pro Tem Bruce U'Ren.

Property owners' fears include:

- People would operate motorized vehicles on the trail.
- Too many possible points of entry and exit would prevent effective policing.
- Some areas on the trail are very remote, possibly making it unsafe for young children.
- People may use the trail for dumping.
- Drug deals could take place on the trail.

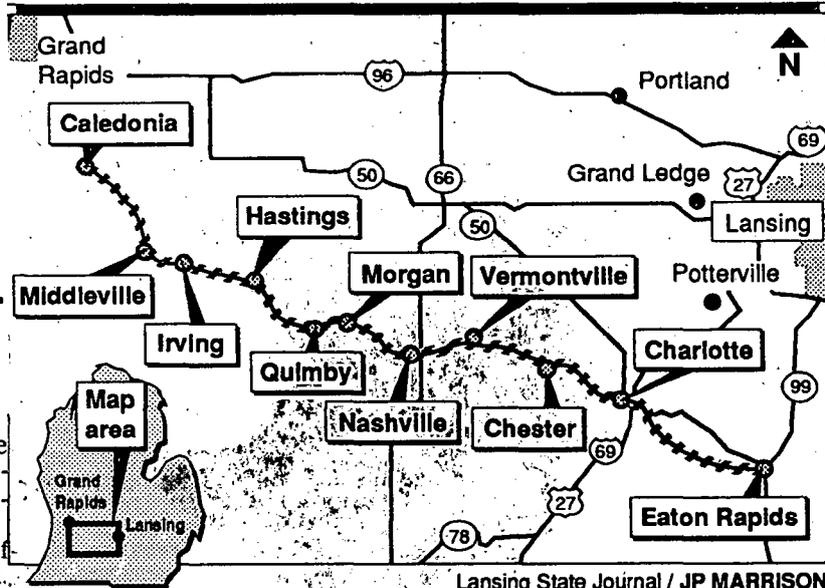
Despite the concerns in Eaton Rapids, some towns are still in favor of the park.

"The City Council went on record as supporting the concept," said Charlotte Mayor Kathleen Wright. "We feel it will provide a safe place for our families to walk and ride."

There may be economic benefits to the trail, Wright said. Most

See RAIL, Page 3B

## Rails to Trails route



Lansing State Journal / JP MARRISON

city residents like the idea, she said.

"I'm really not convinced that this is going to be a problem," she said. "Other places where trails have been open have been pleasantly surprised."

"Similar parks have fared well in other parts of the state.

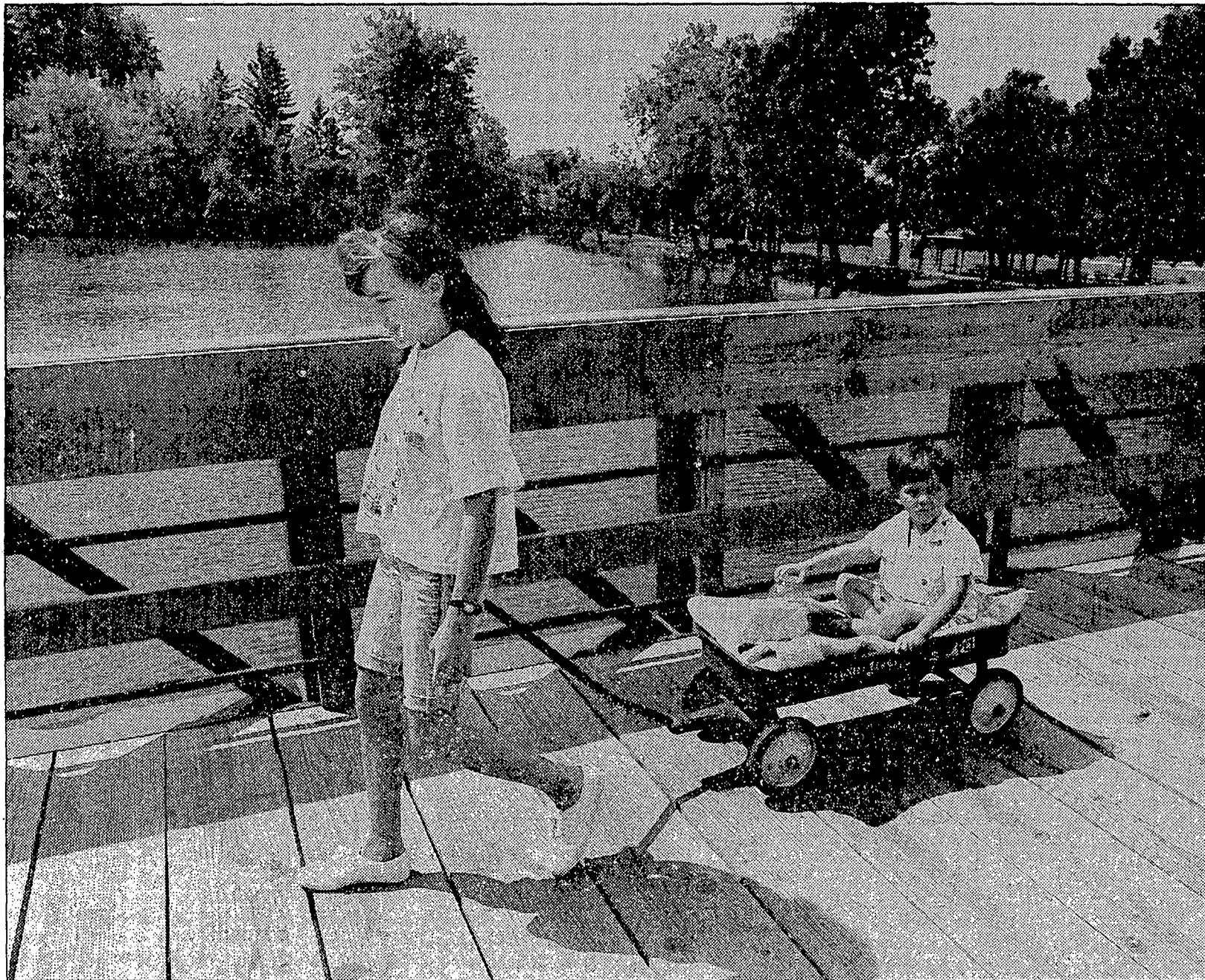
"Originally we had a lot of opposition to the trail," said Mitch Wells, assistant manager of Van Buren State Park, which administers a linear park from Kalamazoo to Grand Haven. "We have very little opposition any more, but it

was an uphill battle convincing people that it would work."

Before an abandoned rail line became a linear park, people used isolated areas to party and for off-road vehicles, Wells said. Since the DNR has started patrolling the area, problems have been cut considerably.

"This summer we've had more use than any other summer," he said. "Almost everybody loves it. The only vandalism we do have is on state park signs. The only complaints we do get is for late operation of a snowmobile."

# OVER THE RIVER



Lansing State Journal/GREG DeRUITER

Danah Lawhead pulls her brother Dennis across the bridge that is part of the new riverwalk in Eaton Rapids. The new \$225,000 riverwalk includes a bridge, a fishing pier and an asphalt walkway.

## Eaton Rapids embraces new walkway through the woods

By SHERIDAN HONORE  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — An idea that residents dreamed up seven years ago has stepped into reality.

The city recently completed a \$225,000 riverwalk that includes a bridge over Spring Brook. The riverwalk, named after community activist and bandleader W. Scott Munn, is the new darling of the community.

"It's better than what it used to be," said Josh Meersma, 15, an Eaton Rapids resident. "It used to be nothing but trees and bushes along the water. Now it's nice."

The riverwalk was the brainchild of the city's Downtown Development Committee, Mayor Larry Holley said.

The volunteer committee developed the idea in 1984. Work began in March this year.

The new walk has been popular with families in Eaton Rapids.

"People have been using it before it was completely in place," Holley said. "A lot of people would come all hours of the day. A lot of people go fishing there, and a lot of old people use it."

The roughly 300-foot riverwalk includes a bridge, a fishing pier and an asphalt walkway next to Old Athletic Field.

A Department of Natural Resources grant provided \$180,000 toward the project, and another \$45,000 matching grant came from the city.

The city already has plans to expand the walk, Holley said. Eventually it could encircle the entire downtown area.

The bridge also has made getting from downtown to the athletic field easier, Meersma said.

Before the bridge, going back and forth between Old Athletic Field and downtown required a person to use the driveway entrance to the field at Brook Street, Seeley said.

Lansing State Journal, Aug. 21, 1991

# New program to teach kids about sex

## Eaton Rapids public school plan will require parent involvement

By SHERIDAN HONORE  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — It's difficult to talk to children about sex.

So Eaton Rapids Schools are starting a sex education program in grades five through nine to help parents and children in discussing it.

The new program requires parental involvement, which the district hopes will ease anxiety around discussing the subject.

"Parents are shy about doing that," said the Rev. Steven Erkel of First Congregational Church in Eaton Rapids. "They don't have the time or the interest. They have a difficult time anyway communicating with their children."

Erkel was one of two ministers who sat on the board that developed the program's curriculum.

The program is not an attempt to pick up parental slack, however.

"I don't feel we're doing this because the parents have been irresponsible," Erkel said. "That is not the reason why we're doing this. We want them to be involved in the education of their children."

Parents have the option of taking their children out of the program if they wish.

Material taught in the fifth grade is part of the Michigan health model, a comprehensive program that covers all phases of health. Material taught in grades six through nine recently was developed by the district.

Some of the topics covered by the program include the differences between males and females, the six stages of life, pregnancy and the consequences of having a baby, AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The program was developed after budget cuts caused the district to do away with its original sex-education curriculum. Parents, ministers and teachers worked on a new curriculum with the help of a consultant from Wayne State University.

"I just think that the kids aren't aware of a lot of the different things going on in the world," said Annette Badgero, a parent who sat on the board that developed the program. "It touches on drugs and it touches on AIDS. I know that many parents don't talk to their kids about sex."

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“I don't feel we're doing this because the parents have been irresponsible.”

— Rev. Steven Erkel  
Eaton Rapids

So far, no curriculum has been developed for high school students, Erkel said. The logic for working with the early grades first is that's where teen pregnancies start.

"They're getting pregnant at the middle school level, too," he said. "We felt that we needed to get started from the younger ones up."

Program designers hope the classes will enlighten grade school and middle school students about their sexuality.

"There is a curiosity," said Lark Slayton, a sixth, seventh and eighth-grade teacher at Eaton Rapids Middle School. "They're exposed to a lot of sexual things in the movies, in literature and on TV. Even though there is a lot of it being flashed in their face, they know very little about what is going on. It sounds like some of the things they say they might know what's going on, but they're really ignorant."

Most parental reaction to the new three-week course has been positive.

"Parents see a need for it too," said Tim Culver, Eaton Rapids Schools curriculum director. "They know that their kids are going to have to make some hard decisions pretty soon, and they want their kids to have all the information that they need to make those decisions."

But some parents' reaction has been less than positive.

"Parents against us feel that the school has no business getting involved in these areas," Culver said. "They feel that it belongs in the family or in the church. Some parents feel that it's an invasion of their privacy."

Most parents react favorably to the course when they are told what is intended ahead of time, Slayton said.

# Population in Michigan

Here are final 1990 census numbers, provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Place	1980	1990	Change
■ INGHAM CO.	275,520	281,912	2.3%
■ Alaiedon Twp.	2,845	3,173	11.5%
■ Aurelius Twp.	2,460	2,686	9.2%
■ Dansville	479	437	-8.8%
■ Delhi Twp.	17,144	19,190	11.9%
■ East Lansing	51,392	50,677	-1.4%
■ Ingham Twp.	1,974	1,942	-1.6%
■ Lansing	130,414	127,321	-2.4%
■ Lansing Twp.	10,097	8,919	-11.7%
■ Leroy Twp.	3,413	3,561	4.3%
■ Leslie	2,110	1,872	-11.3%
■ Leslie Twp.	2,190	2,436	11.2%
■ Locke Twp.	1,456	1,521	4.5%
■ Mason	6,019	6,768	12.4%
■ Meridian Twp.	28,754	35,644	24.0%
■ Onondaga Twp.	2,299	2,444	6.3%
■ Stockbridge Twp.	2,914	2,971	2.0%
■ Vevay Twp.	3,113	3,668	17.8%
■ Webberville	1,535	1,698	10.6%
■ Wheatfield Twp.	1,523	1,571	3.2%
■ Williamston	2,981	2,922	-2.0%
■ Williams Twp.	3,972	4,285	7.9%
■ CLINTON CO.	55,893	57,883	3.6%
■ Bath Twp.	5,746	6,387	11.2%
■ Bengal Twp.	1,067	989	-7.3%
■ Bingham Twp.	2,371	2,546	7.4%
■ DeWitt	3,165	3,964	25.2%
■ DeWitt Twp.	10,038	10,448	4.1%
■ Duplain Twp.	2,330	2,235	-4.1%
■ Eagle	155	120	-22.6%
■ Eagle Twp.	2,060	2,151	4.4%
■ Elsie	1,022	957	-6.4%
■ Essex Twp.	1,688	1,677	-7%
■ Fowler	1,021	912	-10.7%
■ Lebanon Twp.	697	644	-7.6%
■ Maple Rapids	683	680	-4%
■ Olive Twp.	2,111	2,122	5%
■ Ovid	1,719	1,442	-16.1%
■ Ovid Twp.	3,241	3,105	-4.2%
■ Riley Twp.	1,547	1,543	-3%
■ St. Johns	7,376	7,284	-1.2%
■ Victor Twp.	2,287	2,784	21.7%
■ Watertown Twp.	3,602	3,731	3.6%
■ Westphalia	896	780	-12.9%
■ Westphalia Twp.	2,350	2,099	-10.7%
■ EATON CO.	88,337	92,879	5.1%
■ Bellevue	1,289	1,401	8.7%
■ Bellevue Twp.	2,725	2,938	7.8%
■ Benton Twp.	2,405	2,528	5.1%
■ Brookfield Twp.	1,380	1,331	-3.6%
■ Carmel Twp.	2,168	2,433	12.2%
■ Charlotte	8,251	8,083	-2.0%
■ Chester Twp.	1,622	1,602	-1.2%
■ Delta Twp.	23,822	26,129	9.7%
■ Dimondale	1,008	1,247	23.7%
■ Eaton Twp.	3,315	3,492	5.3%
■ Eaton Rapids	4,510	4,695	4.1%
■ Eaton Rap. Twp.	2,823	3,003	6.4%
■ Grand Ledge	6,920	7,579	9.5%
■ Hamlin Twp.	2,195	2,351	7.1%
■ Kalamo Twp.	1,683	1,665	-1.1%
■ Mulliken	550	590	7.3%
■ Olivet	1,604	1,604	0.0%
■ Pottersville	1,502	1,523	1.4%
■ Roxand Twp.	1,975	1,903	-3.6%
■ Sunfield	591	610	3.2%
■ Sunfield Twp.	1,998	2,086	4.4%
■ Vermontville	832	776	-6.7%
■ Vermont Twp.	1,942	1,896	-2.4%
■ Walton Twp.	1,601	1,729	8.0%
■ Windsor Twp.	6,078	6,460	6.3%
OTHER COUNTIES:			
■ Alma	9,652	9,034	-6.4%
■ Ashley	570	518	-9.1%
■ Carson City	1,229	1,158	-5.8%
■ Corunna	3,206	3,091	-3.6%
■ Durand	4,206	4,283	1.8%
■ Fowlerville	2,289	2,648	15.7%
■ Howell	6,976	8,184	17.3%
■ Ionia	5,920	5,935	3%
■ Ithaca	2,950	3,009	2.0%
■ Laingsburg	1,145	1,148	3%
■ Lake Odessa	2,171	2,256	3.9%
■ Livingston Co.	100,289	115,645	15.3%
■ Owosso	16,455	16,322	-8%
■ Perry	2,051	2,163	5.5%
■ Pewamo	488	520	6.6%
■ Shiawassee Co.	71,140	69,770	-1.9%
■ St. Louis	4,107	3,828	-6.8%

# Country air, convertible, ice cream provided family closeness

All families have rituals, those traditions gradually formed over the years, that bind them and draw them close. The true value of these rituals lies in their inherent sharedness. Time spent together as parents and children and siblings gives us a solid sense of identity and of belonging that carries through our lives.

My family has enjoyed a unique ritual. It is something that I have always enjoyed greatly, but not until I moved away from home did I realize its significance.

Our summers were filled with convertible rides. In the afternoons, after finishing work in the field, the six of us would pile into the 1972 Eldorado, three in the back and one in the front between Mom and Dad. We had more than enough room in that enormous white car.

Our farm in rural Michigan was situated in countryside very similar to central Indiana: fertile



**KRISTI KLEE**

Kristi Klee, 24, Indianapolis, is a product engineer in electric propulsion systems for Delco Remy Division of General Motors Corp., based in Anderson.

fields, wooded backdrops and country homes. We traveled countless miles on those back roads; the fresh green smell of hay hung heavy in the air, and people on porches always waved as we passed.

## On the road again

Dad enjoyed driving, and he liked looking at farms and homes.

From a convertible, a whole new perspective is gained. Smells and sounds and colors are more intense and more immediate than they are from inside a closed car. You become part of the landscape as the sun shines in and the wind swirls through.

Together we laughed, talked and sang. Dad kept the radio set on the "oldies" station, and he sang Diana's part while we did the Supremes'. In between the signing and laughing, the three of us in the back seat bickered over who was taking up the most room, who had to keep the blanket tucked underfoot for us to share later when it got cold, and whose turn it was to sit in the middle and for how long.

We counted Volkswagen "Bugs," played I Spy and gave truckers that universal signal for horn honking. Although Dad never had a specific destination in mind, we typically found ourselves at an ice cream shop. The one in

our hometown, Miller's, was a favorite primarily because of the homemade ice cream, but also because of the ducks.

## Cones and ducks

Miller's was situated on the Grand River, and the ducks flocked to the ice cream shop to gobble up the last bites of ice cream cones. When the cones were finished and the ducks, protesting loudly, had been shooed away from the car, we were off again.

Often, the drives would stretch into the evening hours. The oranges and lavenders and crimson spilling out of the west gradually spread over us until we were swallowed up by the night. We fell quiet and glided home under a canopy of stars. Fields flickering with fireflies made it seem that the stars surrounded us.

Marshes erupted into a chorus of a million frogs. As the night air grew cooler, we shared the blan-

ket in the back seat, and Dad rolled up the windows. Those nighttime rides home were the most peaceful and close-knit times we had.

As time passed, our trips together became fewer. Six dropped to five, and then four as adolescence arrived. Individual agendas were established, and time spent together became less, just as it does in every family. Soon, Mom and Dad were alone in the convertible, and eventually the trips dwindled to just a handful each summer. I've been away from home for two summers now.

## Longs for one last trip

I visit frequently, and I've really enjoyed the convertible rides with my parents over the last two years. Somewhat wistfully, though, I remember how the rides once were. Part of me desperately wishes that the six of us could take one more trip just like those we used to take together.

But it wouldn't be the same — I'm here in Indianapolis, Keith is preparing to build a house, Kim is married, and Karri is in college. Even so, the spirit of the ritual lives on: It has given us wondrous memories and strong ties, and it has helped us grow into the close-knit family we are today.

That closeness, established and nurtured in childhood, gives people something to lean on and draw from. Someday, my own family and I will have our own traditions that will bind us and draw us close. Convertible rides are a distinct possibility!

We want to hear the stories of your life. Send essays to Life Lines, *The Indianapolis Star*, P.O. Box 145, Indianapolis, Ind., 46206-0145. Entries must be typewritten, double-spaced and no more than two full pages. Include name, age, occupation, address, phone number and reason for writing. Writers selected will receive \$25 and a replica of their published essay. Unpublished essays cannot be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

**Onondaga — Man hurt in car crash:** A 45-year-old Eaton Rapids man was in serious condition at Lansing's Ingham Medical Hospital Wednesday after an early morning car crash on Onondaga Road, Ingham County sheriff's department officials said.

Daniel Morris was taken to the hospital after his car swerved off Onondaga Road, south of Stimson Road, and hit a tree about 12:30 a.m., said Ingham County Sheriff's Department Deputy Paul Cole. It is believed Morris fell asleep at the wheel, said Cole.

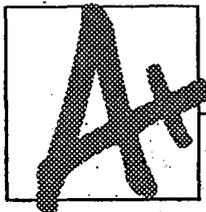
*Lansing Journal Oct 15, 1992*

## Troutner attends conference

Jason Troutner of Eaton Rapids represented Eaton County as a delegate to the National 4-H Dairy Conference Sept. 27 to Oct. 1 in Madison, Wis.

Youth from all over the United States attended the conference which included dairy seminars on marketing, careers, and production. Tours highlighted the event.

Jason is a member of the Island City Variety 4-H Club. *Charlotte Shoppers Guide 10-13-92*



## A-PLUS IDEAS

*Lansing State Journal  
9-28-92*

By MARY E. IORIO  
Lansing State Journal

Things were up in the air for three students and a teacher at Eaton Rapids Middle School recently.

They spent a week at NASA's Space Camp in Alabama, aboard a simulator of the shuttle each day and practicing in a mission control mock-up.

"During simulated flights, crew members were responsible for achieving proper orbit, completing experiments and docking at a space station," said teacher Paul Wegner, who made the trip with seventh-graders Kris Hendrickson, Cori Hughes and Matt Sturgell.

They studied aerospace technology, rocket history and space shuttle systems. During off hours, space campers stayed in a housing complex that Wegner said had "cabin-like accommodations similar to what might be available on future space stations."

Hendrickson won the "Right Stuff" award for her enthusiasm, effort and accomplishment.

This is the second year students from Eaton Rapids made the trip. Teacher Jim Noyes came up with the idea to interest students in technology education.



Kris

Cori

Matt

**How they did it:** Students applied for scholarships in May with acceptance based on grades and teacher recommendations.

**Cost:** Noyes and Wegner raised \$3,000 selling 17,000 candy bars after school each day. Students paid for their transportation.

**What it teaches:** Greater interest in math, science and technology. Space travel, research and teamwork.

**Want to try it in your school?** Call Wegner at 663-8151 for more information.

# Factories could shape area's future

## Foreign firms check options

By JODI UPTON  
 Lansing State Journal

Two foreign-owned auto industry suppliers moving or planning to move into mid-Michigan provide more than job prospects for 240 workers.

It could be a sign of things to come.

Canadian-based Meridian Magnesium Products wants to break ground in January on a \$35 million complex near Eaton Rapids.

Illbruck near Howell is a German-based foam products company that

supplies Lansing-made cars as well as other Big Three models. Each company eventually will provide about 120 jobs.

"This is the wave of the future as we move to this cluster theory of auto production," said Dale Brickner, a Michigan State University professor in labor and industrial relations. "We're seeing the front-end of a trend."

In a cluster system, small, specialized suppliers move close to the assembly plants they feed, often making parts on the same day they're installed in a vehicle.

A cluster system could prevent situations such as the one that almost occurred at the General Motors Corp. plant in Anderson, Ind. A threatened strike there would have shut down GM production nationwide because one plant supplied the entire company.

Foreign investment also becomes critical to get new investors into an area.

"Years ago, for economic development we looked almost exclusively at the U.S. for investors," said Trygve Vigmostad, Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce's senior vice president of economic development. "Now over half of our net new investment tends to be foreign anywhere in the country."

Lansing has at least 11 foreign-owned companies, four of which currently supply the auto industry. Total foreign investment is estimated at more than \$100 million.

Several companies are currently looking at Lansing — including some that could supply parts for GM's electric car, scheduled to be made in Lansing in the mid-1990s.

"Auto parts will continue to be an important part of our business attraction because of the strength of the Lansing Assembly Operation," Vigmostad said.

Smaller suppliers can be more efficient because they keep lower

### The others

Foreign ownership has played an important role in Lansing's economy. Besides two new companies in Eaton Rapids Township and Howell, here are 12 other foreign-owned Lansing-area companies:

#### GERMANY

■ **Bekum America Corp.**, a plastics blowmolding equipment maker in Williamston.

#### ITALY

■ **Himont Inc. Advanced Materials**, a plastics resin company in Lansing.

#### JAPAN

■ **Enprotech Mechanical Services**, a repair/rebuild metal forming company in Lansing.

■ **Nissui Corp.**, a plastics processing, microwave dryer for plastic resins in East Lansing.

■ **Roberts Sinto/America Corp.**, a foundry equipment and material handling equipment manufacturer in Lansing.

#### SWITZERLAND

■ **Ciba-Geigy**, a formulated epoxy and polyurethane business in East Lansing.

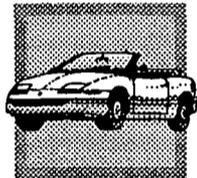
#### UNITED KINGDOM

■ **Eaton Technologies**, an electric motor and small engine parts company in Eaton Rapids.

■ **First Nutritional Foods Corp.**, **Health Food Snack Bars** in Dansville.

■ **Jackson National Life**, a life insurance company in Lansing and the largest foreign-owned company in the Lansing area.

■ **Decra-Loc**, a paving stones maker in Eaton Rapids.



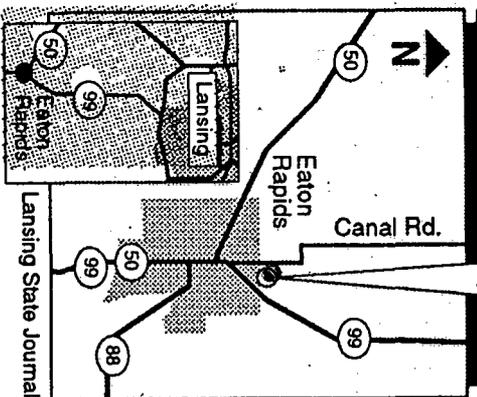
**AUTO INDUSTRY**

# New factory awaits federal OK

## Eaton Rapids plant could employ 120

**Proposed plant**  
 Meridian Magnesium Products Ltd.

- Ownership: Canadian.
- Makes: Die cast magnesium parts for the Big Three.
- Jobs: 120.
- Other locations: Strathroy, Ontario.
- Investment: \$35 million.



By JODI UPTON  
 Lansing State Journal

An auto parts manufacturer is hoping to build a \$35 million plant near Eaton Rapids that would employ 120 people within two years, the company said Monday.

The expansion by Canadian-based Meridian Magnesium Products into Michigan is still waiting to clear one hurdle. If the federal government today tentatively reduces the import taxes on the magnesium that Meridian uses, construction could start in January.

Meridian Magnesium is a division of Meridian Technologies. It makes large parts such as instrument panel reinforcement beams and steering column parts for Big Three automakers. The new plant will make Meridian the world's largest supplier of magnesium die-casting.

If Meridian locates at Eaton Rapids, it will be the second major auto parts company to

come to mid-Michigan in recent months.

Illbruck, a German-based foam products maker, began production in Howell a few weeks ago and hopes to have 100 to 120 employees in the next few years. It makes acoustical, insulation and interior trim products for the three Lansing-made cars as well as other Big Three models. Howell is 34 miles east of Lansing.

The 240 possible jobs could spark new life in a local auto industry hit hard by recent layoffs and downsizing.

Both companies decided on mid-Michigan because Detroit's auto industry is hurting by a good highway system and good hustle by the people recruiting businesses to the area.

"The people in the township really jumped through hoops for us," said Stan Gillett, Illbruck vice president. Illbruck chose the site from 48 around the country.

Meridian is the biggest plum yet for the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce's Capital Choice economic development program. Capital Choice officials helped the company scout locations and pulled together resources from federal grants to Lansing Community College worker training programs.

"This is a high-tech business. We're not looking for a large number of workers," said Ed Estergaard, new facility project manager, who helped choose the Eaton Rapids site out of 30 considered.

"Lansing has a high-quality, technical work force with a strong work ethic and good training-support systems," he said.

Meridian will anchor about one-third of a new 64-acre industrial park Eaton Rapids will annex from the township.

Meridian gets a 50 percent tax abatement, and more than \$1.25 million in state and federal help.

"We don't have the resources to lure a company like this ourselves," said Richard Monroe, Eaton Rapids' development director. "We had to have the help of Capital Choice."

Because the company's \$3 million in equipment runs on electricity, the company got a rate deal with Consumers Power — a price that's available to all companies using that much power, Monroe said.

Area attractive to foreign investors. **5B**

# U.S. smoothes way for plant at Eaton Rapids

By PAUL SOUHRADA  
Lansing State Journal

The U.S. Department of Commerce on Tuesday knocked down a major hurdle to the start of a \$35 million auto-parts plant in Eaton Rapids.

Magnesium Products Ltd., based in Strathroy, Ontario, said Monday it would expand here if the United States reduced import taxes on the magnesium alloy the company would import from Quebec.

Commerce on Tuesday tentatively agreed to cut the taxes from 21.61 percent to 7.61 percent.

With that, the auto parts manufacturer could start construction in January.

"We're delighted," said Trygve Vigmostad of the Lansing Regional

## ■ Why Eaton Rapids? 5B

Chamber of Commerce. "We were just arguing for free trade."

The government had slapped the duties on the magnesium supplier to protect domestic companies, he said. The problem for them, however, is coming up with enough magnesium to meet the plant's needs.

The magnesium supplier — Norsk Hydro Produksjon of Norway — owns 19.6 percent of Meridian Technologies, the Toronto-based parent of Magnesium Products.

Plans are still tentative, Vigmostad said. The company still needs contracts from Ohio and Indiana customers before it commits to the expansion.

# What plant means to area

By PAUL SOUHRADA  
Lansing State Journal

Magnesium Products Ltd., a Canadian company, is preparing plans to build a \$35 million auto-parts plant near Eaton Rapids.

Approval of a cut in import taxes came from the U.S. Department of Commerce on Tuesday and opened the way for the plan to proceed.

Questions and answers about the proposed plant:

**Q:** What is Magnesium Products Ltd.?

**A:** Magnesium Products is one of six wholly owned subsidiaries of Meridian

Technologies Inc., a Toronto company that makes parts for the automotive and other industries. Based in Strathroy, Ontario, the company makes magnesium auto parts. Meridian reported 1992 sales of \$105 million and profits of \$1.77 million. The company's stock is traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

**Q:** Why locate in mid-Michigan?

**A:** Three reasons: It's near Magnesium Products' customers — mainly the Big Three automakers, suppliers and Strathroy headquarters; it got financial and other help from Consumers Power and from local, state and federal governments; and the local la-

bor force meets its needs.

**Q:** How many jobs would the plant create?

**A:** The company says the plant would employ 120 within two years, said Trygve Vigmostad of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Magnesium Products promised to try to hire all but six of the plant's workers locally.

**Q:** Where would the plant be located?

**A:** It would anchor a new 64-acre industrial park north of Eaton Rapids that the city would annex from the township.

**Q:** What is magnesium?

**A:** A strong, corrosion-resistant and lightweight metal. The company uses it to make components for car dashboards, transfer cases and other auto parts.

**Q:** Why is it needed?

**A:** U.S. automakers are increasing their demand for magnesium parts because of tighter emissions control and fuel-efficiency regulations, Meridian Technologies said in its 1992 annual report to shareholders.

Magnesium is 36 percent lighter than aluminum and allows car companies to reduce vehicle weight — and increase mileage — without sacrificing strength, the company said.

*Lansing State Journal  
Oct. 14, 1992*

## It's de Plant is going

By PAUL SOUHRADA  
Lansing State Journal

**EATON RAPIDS** — Orders in hand, a Canadian auto parts supplier committed Thursday to building a \$35 million die-casting plant that will create 115 local jobs.

Meridian Technologies Inc. said it had received \$49 million in new orders from U.S. automakers that will enable it to start construction in January.

The contracts call for delivery beginning in the summer of 1994 and continuing through the summer of 1996, officials said.

It was the second piece of good news this week for the world's

**MARKETS at a Glance**

**Dow Jones Activity over the past Oct. 15, 1992**

HIGH	3,207.37
LOW	3,147.66
CLOSE	3,174.68
CHANGE	Down 20.80
VOLUME	207 million

**LATEST RATES**

F	MTWTF	MTWTF	MTWTF	MTWTF
4	7	14	21	28
Sept.				

**Dollar**

In New York, the British pound fetched \$1.6945, down from \$1.7065

Other late dollar rates:

Japanese Yen: 2.88

Canadian dollars: 1.2480, up from 1.24795

French francs: 4.9325, down 4.9620

**Money**

Three-month Prime rate: 2.95

Six-month Federal fund rate: 2.95

Gold: \$341.00

Silver: \$3.685

# Eaton Rapids middle schoolers collect hatful of hurricane aid

EATON RAPIDS — Remember when middle schools were junior high schools and the adolescents who attended them would gladly freeze their ears off before they'd suffer the indignity of wearing a hat?

All that's changed. Today's average middle-school boy removes his baseball cap only when he's in the shower — and then only if he's planning to shampoo his hair.

At Eaton Rapids Middle School, some enterprising students recently found a way to cash in on the hat craze.

The 17 students in Gwen Bradish's eighth-grade homeroom recently organized an event called Hats for Hurricane Victims. They raised \$206 for the American Red Cross by charging students 50 cents each for a license to wear a hat all day in school — a fashion statement not normally tolerated by the administration.

Each student who paid the 50-cent hat tax got his or her hand stamped.



**JOHN SCHNEIDER**

"There's a school rule against hats," Bradish said. "It was kind of a thrill for the students to break it."

And philanthropy, Bradish explained, is a part of the curriculum in Eaton Rapids.

"We try to do a service project each year," she said. "It's become an accepted program that you do something to help someone else."

The students made signs to advertise the hat trick beforehand. Then they promoted it heavily on the

school's public-address system.

"The kids loved it," Bradish said. "We had lines down the hall of kids who wanted to wear hats."

Past service projects include tutoring, visiting nursing homes, saving pop-can tabs to help kidney dialysis patients pay for their treatment and adopting needy families at Christmas-time.



This month's best coincidence comes from Catherine Reed of DeWitt Township.

She and her son, Michael Reed, collect old postcards bearing postmarks from Custer, a town of about 350 people east of Ludington.

Yes, there's a reason for their highly specialized hobby. Catherine was born and reared in Custer and her father, George Mallison, was the town's only rural mail carrier from 1905 to 1926. He delivered mail from a horse-drawn cart.

Virtually all the mail that left Custer went through Mallison's hands.

Last Sunday, Michael was at the Lansing Center

browsing the Michigan Antiquarian Book and Paper Show when he came upon a postcard from Custer. It was dated July 12, 1926. He bought the card and brought it home.



**Reed**

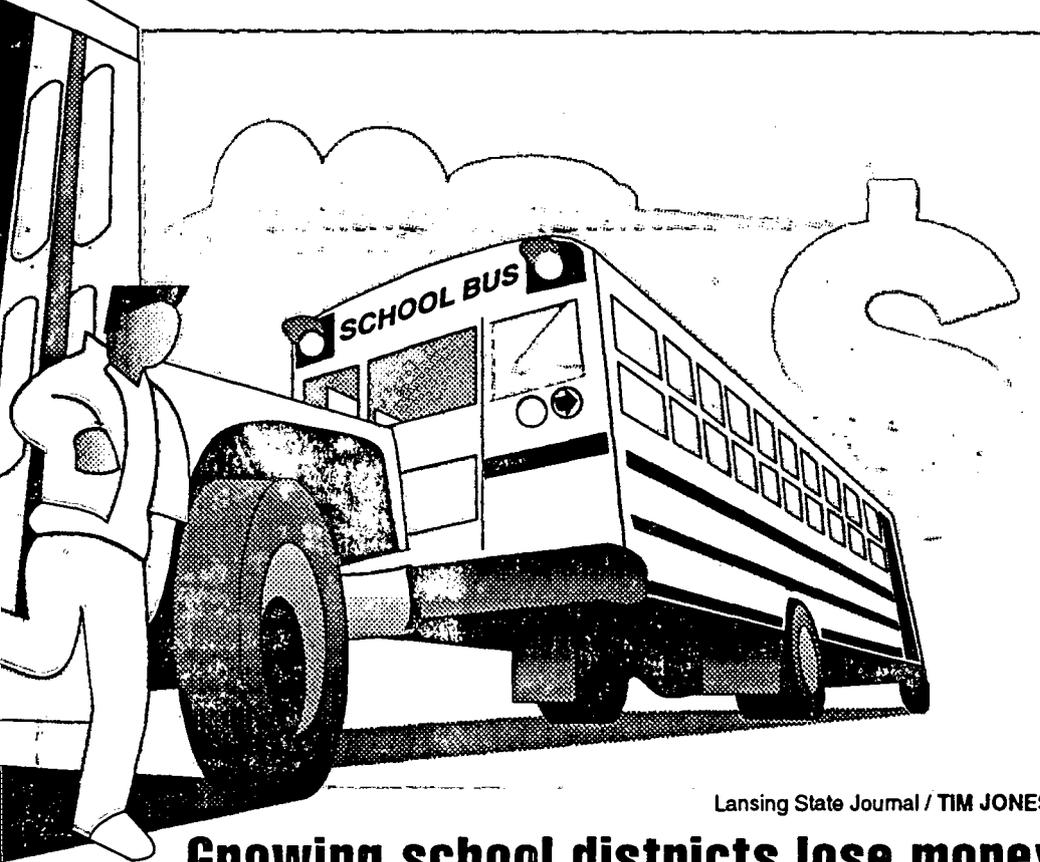
Only later, when Michael got around to actually reading the postcard, did he realize it was a much bigger find than he had bargained for. "The postcard was sent by my sister, Vera Mallison," Catherine said. "She sent it to a woman in Perrington."

Vera Mallison died three months ago at age 88. "I was so excited that I called my other sisters," Catherine said. "This will be a wonderful keepsake."

What do you think? Call John Schneider at 377-1175. His column runs daily.

*State Journal*  
Oct. 6, 1992

# SCHOOL AID DRIES UP



Lansing State Journal / TIM JONES

## Growing school districts lose money

The state Legislature in July decided to change the way it pays state school aid. Instead of basing it on the current year's student count, it bases it on last year's number. Since districts get about \$4,200 in state aid per student, growing districts in effect lost money. This is how it affected a few mid-Michigan districts:

District	Money lost and what that money could buy:
<b>DeWitt</b> gained 104 students	loses <b>\$436,000</b> 11 teacher salaries and benefits or automated library equipment, computers, a school bus, yard equipment, school supplies, teacher training.
<b>Eaton Rapids</b> gained 53 students	loses <b>\$222,600</b> Two guidance counselors, upgrades for computers, science and social studies materials for new courses, \$60,000 worth of library books, replacement driver ed car, staff development.
<b>Holt</b> gained 96 students	loses <b>\$403,200</b> 11 school buses or 16 teacher salaries
<b>Mason</b> gained 24 students	loses <b>\$100,800</b> All teaching supplies for the four Mason elementary schools for a year: paper, pencils, glue, science materials, video tapes, math manipulatives.

/// We're spending more than we're taking in and we're using up our savings. ///

*State Journal*  
 Oct. 7, 1992

**Glenn Doran, Mason superintendent**

## Mid-Michigan districts scraping to fill void

By MARY E. IORIO  
 Lansing State Journal

The DeWitt School District lost enough money to pay for 11 new teachers.

Or money it could have spent on an automated library system, new computers, a new school bus, yard equipment, more teacher training, maybe even more school supplies.

That's what \$436,000 could buy. It didn't.

Because of a change in the way Michigan pays state school aid, DeWitt won't get aid for its 104 new students this year. Neither will other mid-Michigan districts that are growing. The change will cost them more than \$1.3 million.

Last year, Michigan based state aid on the current year's enrollment — a certain number of dollars for every student enrolled. This year, the average is \$4,200 per student in state aid, said Linda Lauzun of the Ingham Intermediate School District.

In July, however, the state Legislature decided to base aid on last year's enrollment. For growing districts, that change is a nightmare.

■ Dansville won't see \$84,000 it expected. The money could have paid for three new teachers. "In a small school district like ours, that's a significant amount of money," Superintendent Dean Atkins said.

■ Eaton Rapids students would be practicing in a new driver-education car. They'd have two new guidance counselors, upgraded computers, \$60,000 worth of library books and more materials for new social studies and science courses.

■ Holt could have paid 16 teacher salaries. The \$403,200 loss also is equivalent to the value of 11 school buses.

■ Mason lost enough money to pay for all the teaching supplies for all four of its elementary schools for a year. That's paper, pencils, glue, science materials, video tapes, math manipulatives, chalk.

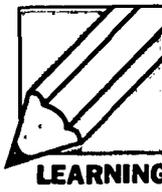
And the change comes in a year when schools across Michigan already are scraping. Total state aid increased by 0 percent to 2 percent, while most teacher contracts call for 4 percent to 5 percent salary increases.

"This year, \$100,000 would have been very useful," said Mason Superintendent Glenn Doran. "Basically, we're looking at a deficit budget of a half million dollars. We're spending more than we're taking in, and we're using up our savings."

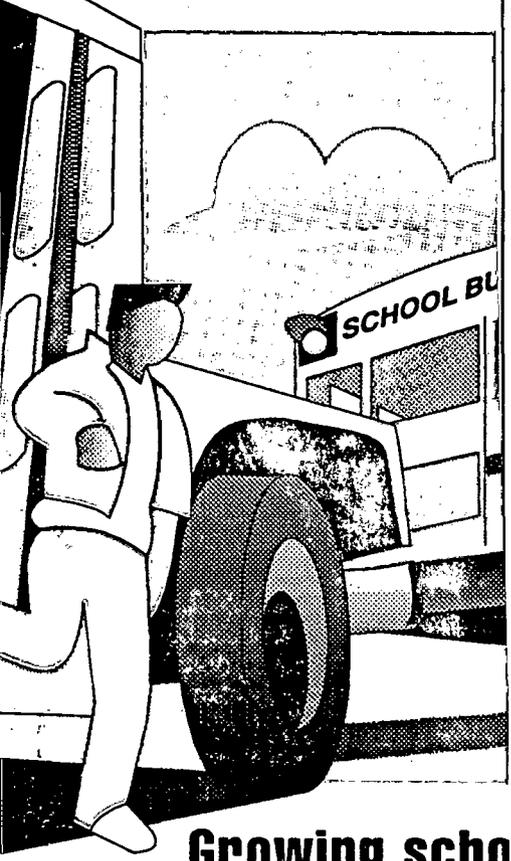
That's what most area districts are doing: Using up their savings this year and hoping for a better future.

But in Holt, where officials slashed \$1.5 million from this year's budget, Superintendent Mark Maksimowicz said the district can only put off purchases for so long. Holt put off buying one school bus this year. It won't do that again next year.

"Who's benefiting?" asked DeWitt Superin-



# SCHOOL



## Growing scho

The state Legislature in July bases it on last year's number aid per student, growing distr affected a few mid-Michigan

Saturday: 50s/mid-30s to low 40s/  
partly cloudy.  
Sunday: 50s/mid-30s to around 40/  
chance of rain

Friday:  
Saturd  
Sunday  
chance

# AID

From 1A

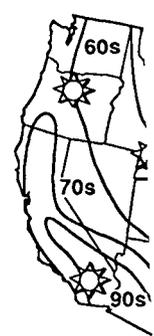
## Yesterd

High: 66 Low  
Record high,  
State high/lc  
Nation high/  
Lake, NY, W.

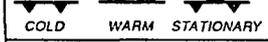
## Skywatc

Sunrise: 7:4

The Accu-Wea



### FRONTS:



tendent John Cook. "There are more students in the state of Michigan so the state of Michigan is benefiting. It was a cost-saving measure for the state of Michigan."

State officials argue the change makes it easier for the Legislature to plan its aid package. They'll have a concrete number of students on which to base state aid. In the past it was a guessing game.

Schools that gained students this year will get the money next year. Leslie's enrollment only grew by one student this year.

"We're stable," said Superintendent Tom Dove. "I am concerned for the districts that are growing. For many, many districts in the state, there wasn't enough time to do any significant planning and saving if you knew you were going to grow because they didn't make the change until June."

It should not be a problem in the future because schools will have time to plan, he said. "And from a state perspective, the Legislature can plan its budget more accurately."

Holt's Maksimowicz has teamed with 45 superintendents statewide to evaluate the possibility of suing the state for the money.

He said the new system doesn't make sense because districts with a declining student population are still getting aid for the number of students they had a year ago. That includes Lansing, which lost about 100 students this year but will still receive the \$420,000 in aid for them.

"Districts who have lost students are getting paid for the ghost students," Maksimowicz said. "It doesn't make sense, but politics never does."

## Today's travel planner

<b>Chicago:</b> Clear; 71, 43.	<b>Los Angeles:</b> Clear; 90, 63.
<b>Cleveland:</b> Clear; 68, 39.	<b>Minneapolis:</b> Rain; 50, 45.
<b>Detroit:</b> Sunny; 70, 45.	<b>New York:</b> Clear; 68, 46.

District	Money
<b>DeWitt</b> gained 104 students	loses <b>\$436,0</b>

<b>Eaton Rapids</b> gained 53 students	loses <b>\$222,8</b>
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<b>Holt</b> gained 96 students	loses <b>\$403,2</b>
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<b>Mason</b> gained 24 students	loses <b>\$100,8</b>
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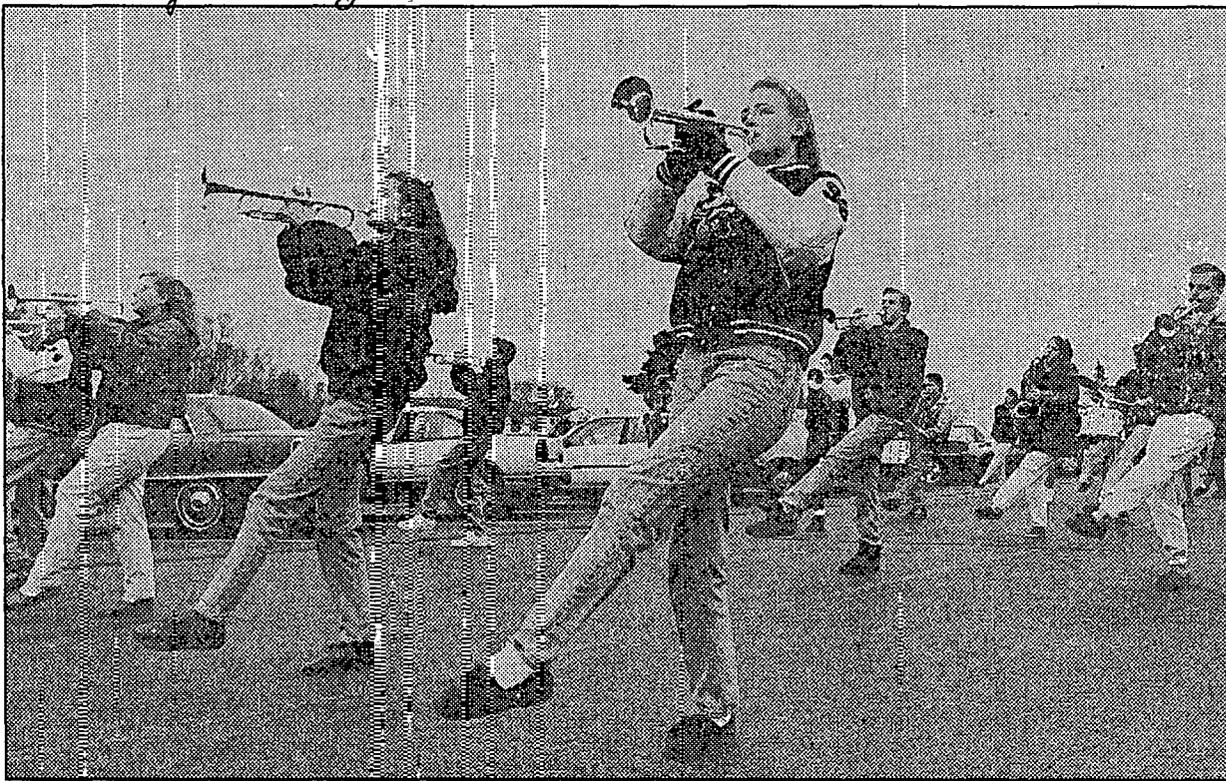


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- Randi Austin, Human Resources  
377-1030
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377-1076
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/// We're spending more  
we're taking in and we're  
up our savings. ///

Glenn D



Lansing State Journal/DAVID OLDS

Eaton Rapids High School senior Carrie Crose (foreground) and other members of the band practice the routine they will present when they march in the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Detroit this week.

# They're small, but mighty

## Eaton Rapids band to play in Detroit parade

By AILEEN M. STRENG  
Lansing State Journal

**EATON RAPIDS** — Forty-three Eaton Rapids High School students will be steppin' high and proud Thanksgiving Day as they march for the first time in Detroit's annual parade.

The Greyhound Marching Band is among 21 bands selected statewide to play in the parade.

"Most of the bands chosen are from monster programs," said band director Brian Nutting. "We're not a large program, so we're excited that our quality was noticed."

"I think it's really great we were selected," said junior Brad Busby, the band's drum major. "We're not big, but we're mighty."

The band submitted a tape of its performance in the Charlotte

**ON TV**

- **What:** The Eaton Rapids' Greyhound Marching Band.
- **Where:** Detroit's Thanksgiving Day parade.
- **When:** 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, on channels 6 and 12.

Frontier Days Parade. "Something must have caught their eye. It was the first time we ever did any dancing," Nutting said. "A little bit of footwork adds some interest."

The students will be showing off their fancy footwork through the

parade's 4-mile route while playing the tune "Frosty the Snowman."

Hopes are high for a less-than-frosty parade day, Nutting said. However, the band uniforms are wool and precautions are being taken.

"Everybody has gone out and bought long underwear and gloves," Nutting said. "The band boosters will also be at the end of the parade waiting with hot chocolate to warm them up."

"We're going to be too excited to think much about the cold," the drum major said.

Since Eaton Rapids' football season ended in early October, the band has been marching through the streets of Eaton Rapids on Wednesday evenings to build endurance and get used to playing in the ever-dropping temperatures.

Jan. 7, 1993

# Eaton Rapids losing several retail stores

## Merchants cite pressure from big shopping malls

By JOHN B. ALBRIGHT  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — A hemorrhage of retailers from downtown Eaton Rapids may be a call for new blood and fresh strategies in merchandising.

Keith Smith, 68, will close his jewelry store at 5:30 p.m. Saturday after 28 years of retailing in this Grand River town of 4,697 on M-99, located 17 miles south of Lansing.

W.R. Thomas Family Variety store, a 30-year tradition here, is holding a going-out-of-business sale. Erica Lee dress shop closed last month. The Corner Collections gift shop shut down Dec. 31 as owners prepared to reopen at Marshall.

Though he praises the city's downtown beautification works, Smith does not recommend that anyone buck the stores of Lansing and Jackson by following up on his jewelry trade here.

"The malls are killing us," Smith said. "Now, the drug stores and grocery stores have jewelry and watches."

Closure or flight of a handful of retailers could seem a big bite out of the central business district's array of 45 stores and restaurants.

But the empties will fill as paychecks hatch from local industrial expansions and the anticipated opening of a 120-job plant to make magnesium parts for cars, predicted Rick Monroe, executive director of the Downtown Development Authority.

And a stylish restaurant is to open this summer in a riverfront building revamped by Jan Squires, Monroe said.

No closing date is set for the Thomas store, said David Tape, local manager.

The chain of six stores is folding because owner Phil Spear of Warsaw, Ind., plans to retire, Tape said. In separate moves behind the scenes, another store chain and an Eaton Rapids resident are studying whether to buy the Thomas outlet here, Tape added.

The development authority put up rent money to fill the Erica Lee store vacancy for Christmas. Holly Bowman, 27, who sold fitness wear there throughout December, said she may buy the building.

"I love the people in this town," Bowman said. "They're conservative, but very accepting of other people, and you don't find that in a lot of other small towns in Michigan."

In another development, the Pettit twins — 71-year-olds Hal and George — are trying to sell the Main Street hardware business their grandfather

started in  
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the time  
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### AUTOS & CLINTON

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structive dialogue,  
Chairman Harold  
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## Unruly fans

After reading the sports opinion of James Maddix regarding sportsmanship in the Feb. 21 edition, I felt compelled to write.

I feel it was unfair to single out Eaton Rapids as being poor sportsmen. I'm not saying that there haven't been instances where unsportsmanlike behavior hasn't been displayed, but people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

I'm referring to the Feb. 5 Eaton Rapids/Mason basketball game in Mason. The Mason student section was at one end of the bleachers designated for visitors. The students occupying that section decided to stand up and stay standing for what turned out to be  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the game. Several Eaton Rapids people, my husband and friend were two of them, asked several times for the students to please sit down so all the spectators could see both ends of the court. Asking the students seemed to set them off. The students who weren't standing were urged to do so by the ones that were.

At halftime, my husband and his friend went at the scorekeeper's table and asked four different school officials to please make the kids sit down or we would ask for our money back. Not one of the four people they talked to would do anything to rectify the situation. My husband and friend finally got to talk to Mason's athletic director, who went and sat in the student section which made the students sit down. At the end of the third quarter, the athletic director left the section and the students immediately stood up again.

The thing that disgusted us more than the students' juvenile behavior, was the juvenile behavior of the adults sitting opposite the students section. When my husband and his friend complained, they were told by the fans sitting behind the scorer's table to stand up if we didn't like it. They then encouraged the students by motioning with their arms to keep standing — even after the athletic director had made them sit down.

I've witnessed poor sportsmanship with Okemos, Charlotte, and Lansing Catholic games — not only our opponents but Eaton Rapids spectators as well. I'm not proud of this type of behavior for Eaton Rapids spectators, but I'd like Mr. Maddix to realize that it's everywhere. Unless the parents everywhere set the example; the students will not change.

**RONDA BUNKER**  
Eaton Rapids

## Don't pass judgment

In regards to Mr. James Maddix of Mason's letter on sportsmanship. I agreed with your letter about some of the fans at wrestling. It does get out of hand sometimes, but before you start talking about other team's fans, maybe you should look in your own backyard. Don't judge a whole community because of a few bad ap-

ples, because yours also has a few of those same apples. I don't judge a team and all of the fans because of one bad fan. In other words, "He who lives in a glass house shouldn't throw stones!"

Please, let's show our kids how to be adults, and show them how to be caring and concerned people.

Is it any wonder we can't have peace in the world if we can't even sit next to someone from another team without fighting over such petty things as a sporting event or something that happened a year ago.

**NANCY MARSH,**  
Eaton Rapids

# Eaton Rapids, Stockbridge flunk school tax increases

By GISGIE DAVILA  
Lansing State Journal

Two more school districts suffered blows when voters turned down requests for more tax money Tuesday.

With a 811-639 vote, Eaton Rapids residents rejected a Headlee override request Tuesday.

Stockbridge voters also said no to requests that they approve a Headlee override, 764-564, and a 1-mill increase, 757-602.

In Eaton Rapids, the school's tax rate will be rolled back by .67 mills because property assessments in Eaton Rapids climbed faster than the rate of inflation.

That means \$200,000 more for school officials to cut, administrative assistant Jim Carl said. They already had cut \$646,000 on July 1.

"It's going to have a definite impact on our school system," he said.

Cuts already made include two school buses, 19 classroom or library aides and a high school teacher.

More cuts could include a subsidy for senior-citizen programming and the administration's travel budget. Students also will have to pay to participate in sports or clubs.

Optimism also was met with dis-

appointment for Stockbridge school officials Tuesday.

"We were at a bare bones budget coming in here," Superintendent Andrew DeSaeger said. "We are looking at pure cuts. There are no adjustments to be made from any sort of account."

The no vote means that about 1,800 students will suffer, he said.

"It's going to affect the kids," he said. "It doesn't look like we will be able to provide the same services we were able to in the past."

It means a loss of \$640,000 — on an \$8 million school budget.

By approving an override, voters could have prevented a tax rate drop. A yes vote would have returned the tax rate to the same level as last year.

The extra 1-mill would have raised another \$173,000.

For a homeowner, the cost would be \$1 per mill for every \$1,000 of assessed property value. Since there was a freeze on property assessments last year, the percentage rise in assessments was double digit this year.

That meant the Headlee Amendment kicked in and automatically lowered the school's tax rate by 3.9 mills.

*Journal 8/11/93*

## EATON RAPIDS: Call it Classic Car City

Some Eaton Rapids promoters are suggesting a new nickname for this city.

Why? Because Peter Tierney, owner of the Old Mill Restaurant, plans to bring classic car shows to town every two weeks throughout the summer.

At the first show in May, more than 100 cars registered. The shows feature vintage vehicles, food, live music, dancing and prizes. Admission is free with any donations given to the Eaton Rapids Community Hospital Auxiliary.

The car shows are co-sponsored by the Eaton Rapids Merchants Organization and the Downtown Development Authority. Future summer show dates are this Wednesday, July 28, and Aug. 11 and 25. Show times are 7-9 p.m. All activities are in downtown Eaton Rapids.

*Lansing State Journal 7/13/93*

# Paint brigade

## Church project brightens homes

By SALLY TROUT  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — A church mission project is keeping paint brushes flying while improving neighborhoods in this rural community.

The two-bedroom home of Leslie DeWaters at 917 Grove St. is getting a facelift.

Mark McGee, organizer of the First United Methodist Church Paintbrush Brigade, came up with the idea in response to his congregation's query: "Isn't there a mission project we can do locally?"

That was three years ago. The first house project went well, but fate intervened the second year and the work had to be postponed.

"To make up for the lapse, we are doing two houses this year: the DeWaters home on Grove in August and one on Plains Street in September," McGee said.

DeWaters is excited. "My home hasn't been painted since the early '70s and needs it very badly — I used to do it myself, but my health prevents me from taking on that big a job now," he said.

DeWaters took an early retirement from General Motors and has spent a lot of time in and out of hospitals with a military-related disability.

Each project requires work on two Saturdays. This past weekend, DeWaters' home was scraped and primed. The final painting is to be done Saturday.

"What started out as a church program has been expanded. We have asked for volunteers from all Eaton Rapids churches, service clubs — anyone who would like to help is welcome," McGee said.

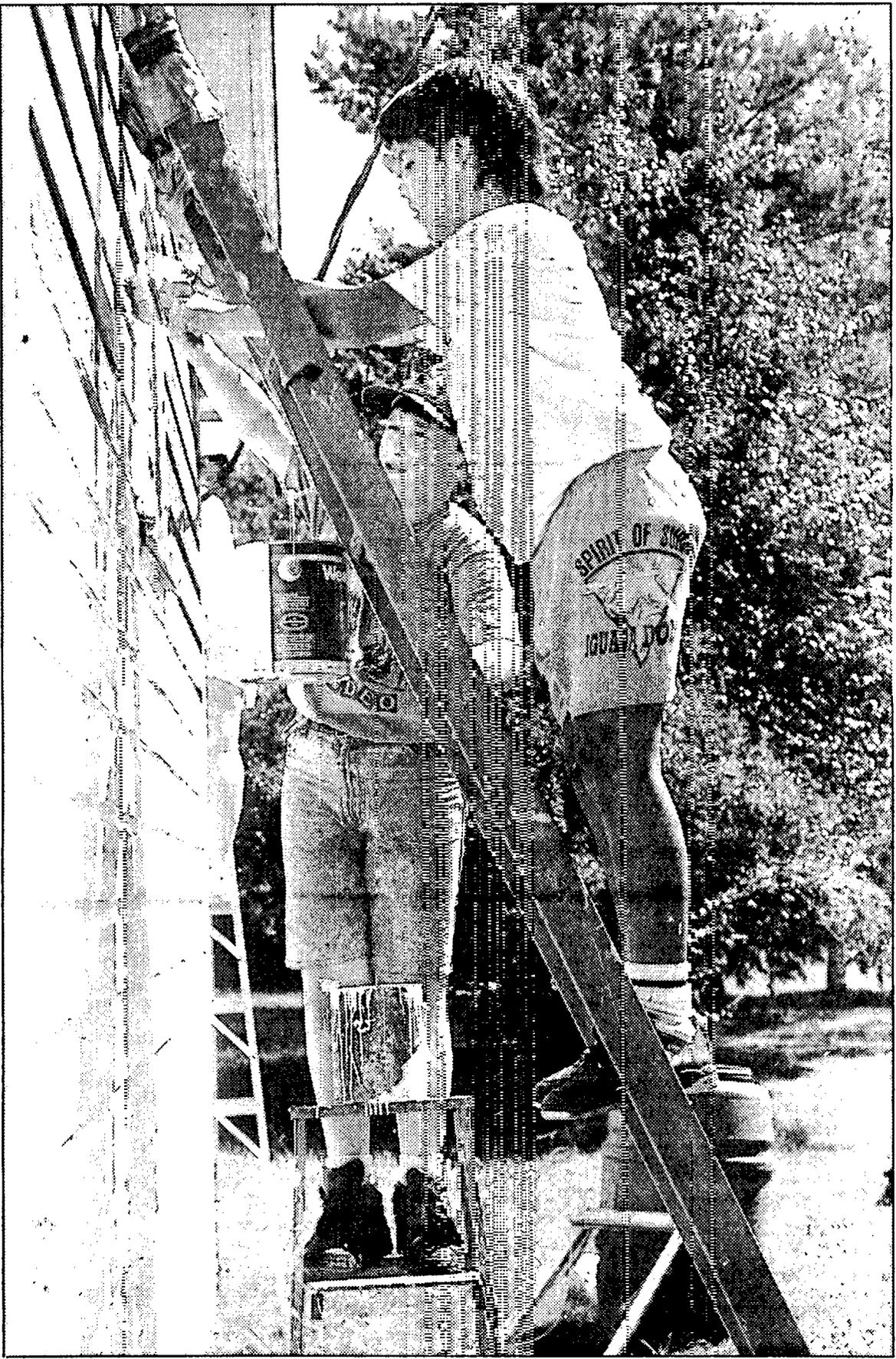
"Each time we start a house, we never know how many are going to show up to paint, but we close our eyes, say a little prayer and the workers always show up."

Two of those workers are Bruce Connally and his wife, Pat. Bruce helps coordinate the work teams while Pat grabs a paint brush.

"We got active in this through our church and believe it is a worthwhile community service project," Bruce Connally said. "It is a way Pat and I can return something to our community."

Connally said he and his wife are believers in letting one's hands show what you are thinking.

"We have lived in Eaton Rapids for four years and this paint project not only has improved the city's appearance, it also works to boost community spirit," Connally said.



Lansing State Journal/MARIE JARRISON

Matt Connally (left) and Mark McGee II team up to paint a house wall Saturday as part of a community mission of the First United Methodist Church of Eaton Rapids.

Joyce Showerman scrapes and paints on each brigade project because she wanted to do something to make a difference for the community 16 miles southwest of Lansing.

"Each time I have painted, the homeowner has been most appreciative and some of the family members even come out and help if they are able," she said.

Before the brigade sets to work, there is a selection process.

The community of 1,355 is asked for project nominations. McGee then goes out and videotapes the suggested homes and a selection committee makes its choices.

"So far donations have paid for most of the costs, but if we fall short the Methodist Church guarantees to cover the shortage," McGee said. "We are thinking about a fund-raiser for next year's projects because we may continue to do more than one home a year in the future."



Lansing State Journal

Best WEEKLY 8/7/93 SUNDAY  
Lansing State Journal

# Quilt traces town's historic roots

## Eaton Rapids to celebrate its heritage

By SALLY TROUT  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — Bits and pieces of historic material will become a permanent part of this community's heritage today.

Sewn together into a quilt, the pieces trace life from Eaton Rapids' early beginnings, depicting its original buildings and sites.

This record will be given to the city's Area Historical Society, Inc. during opening ceremonies for the annual Founders' Days events at 9 a.m. today.

Founders' Days events will be centered on the island in downtown Eaton Rapids today and Sunday, but also will go on at the Miller House complex, 635 State St.

A labor of love, the quilt took Pauline Wernette, Jan Duxtader, Julie Wernette and members of the American Association of University Women about two years to complete.

"I have always liked to sew and my mother used to quilt," Pauline Wernette said. "My mother died leaving a partially completed quilt and it was then I decided to learn how quilt again."

Founders' Days begin at the Miller House, where the quilt will be displayed. Activities continue through Sunday.

The celebration is designed to encourage an interest in Eaton Rapids' history and raise funds for the maintenance and restoration of the Miller Farm complex.

"Through the years a lot of work has been completed on existing buildings, especially the Miller House, by various groups," said Bud Drago, Heritage Society president. "The house is about 90 percent complete and is now being used for special dinners, wedding parties, and business and community activities — when complete it will become a bed



Lansing State Journal

and breakfast."

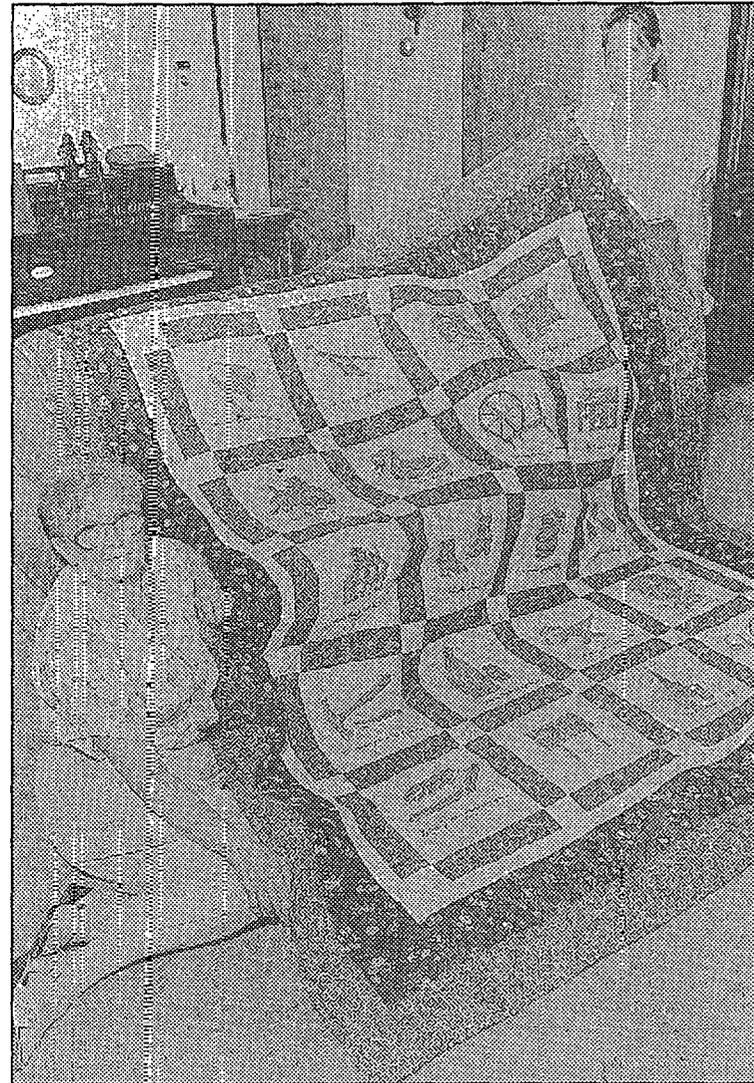
The society is also working to preserve the complex's ice cream factory for a museum, a barn for community activities and theater and a utility barn. Most recently, the society acquired an Eaton Rapids one-room school house that dates from 1842.

"We are approaching this much like Detroit's Greenfield Village working on all projects at once," Drago said.

"When it is complete visitors will be able to walk or drive through the seven-plus acre complex, which also may include an ice cream parlor, old print shop, old furniture and farm equipment display areas."

Founders' Days activities downtown include a Civil War encampment complete with drills, firing demonstrations, surgical tent, Fife and Drum Corps and youth camp provided by the 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry.

Visitors can trace Eaton Coun-



A.C. WILLIAMS

Pauline Wernette and daughter-in-law Julie Wernette display their quilt. The artwork traces life from Eaton Rapids' beginnings and will be included as part of the city's Founders' Days beginning today.

ty ancestors, Civil War relatives or find out what happened throughout history on a specific date at the Eaton County Genealogy Society booth.

There will be an antique fair,

old-time photo reproduction booth and an old-fashioned barbecue. The full schedule of events begin each day at 9 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. on Saturday and 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

# Mobile homes on the range?

## Residents fight businessman's housing project

By JOHN B. ALBRIGHT  
Lansing State Journal

**EATON RAPIDS TWP.** — Known as a Chevrolet-pitching cowpoke on area TV screens, Terry Hanks is preparing to close some wide open spaces east of Eaton Rapids with hundreds of mobile homes.

That's an owl-hoot shot to some in these parts, pard'ner.

"I don't want to see a bunch of tin trailers back there, or plastic trailers," Plains Highway resident Nick Wells said Friday while looking out his back windows to Hanks' fields and woods.

"When I moved out here from Holt, I moved away from that kind of environment that he proposes to put back here."

Hanks wants to build a 500-lot mobile home park on the southeast corner of the township, which is five miles south of Lansing and has a population of 3,315 with no mobile home parks.

Housing in his proposed Sundance Village would compare to moderately priced conventional houses, he said.

"They'd have to be all double-wides, and have to be of vinyl siding, with vinyl windows," Hanks said. "They're going to look like the 1,000-square-foot and 1,200-square-foot homes you see along the roads."

Hanks operates Sundance Chevrolet near Grand Ledge and Sundance Family Home Center in Delta Township.

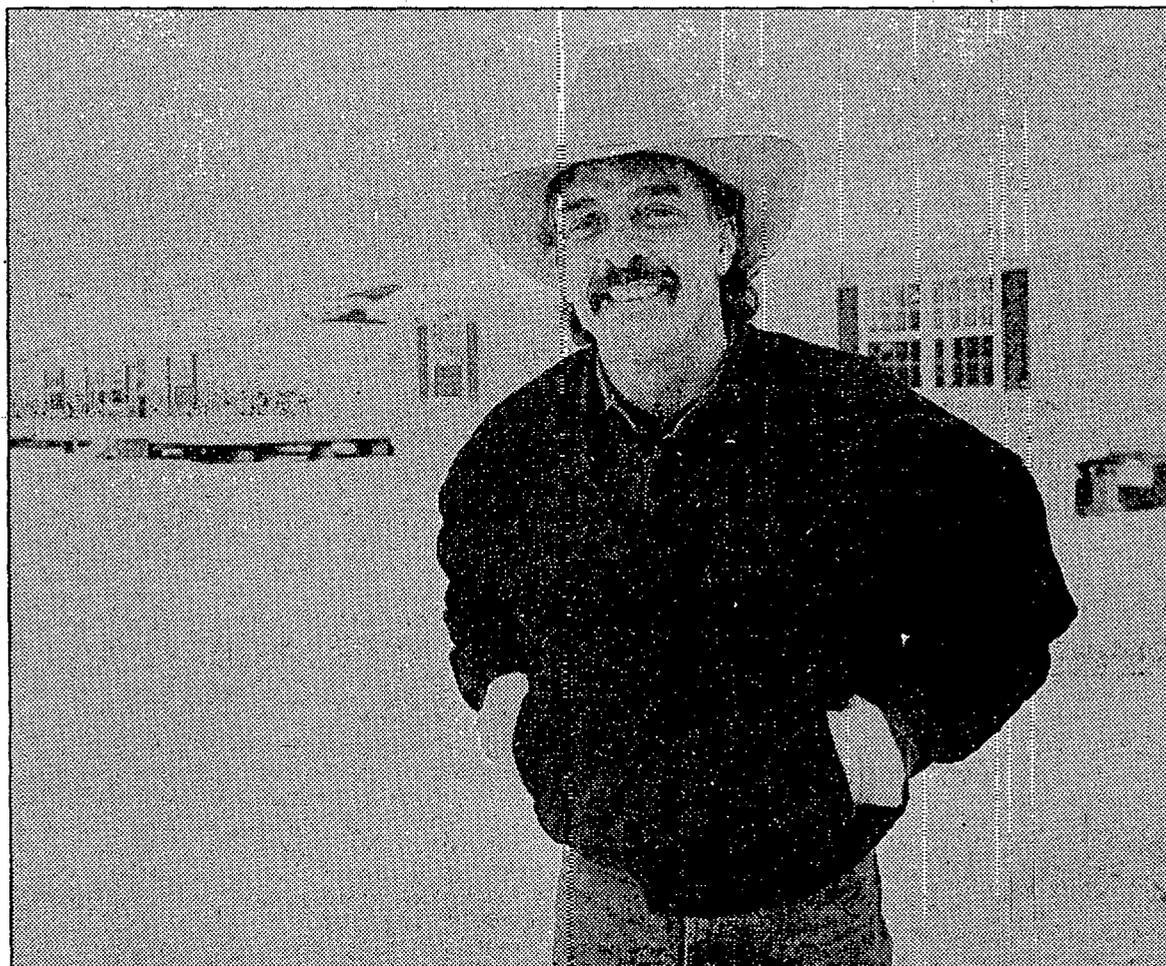
Throughout Eaton County, there are more than 2,400 mobile homes, making up nearly 7 percent of the county's housing.

Hanks, 53, lives on Bunker Highway, near the Grand River in Eaton Rapids Township, three miles north of the proposed home park.

The well-known businessman said he would offer to buy any of the 11 adjoining houses on Plains Highway from dissenting neighbors at market values, and resell to people who wouldn't mind being a neighbor to a mobile home park.

"These aren't Taj Mahal houses lined up along this park," Hanks said. "The houses that border are just adequate, nice houses. We're not going to ruin anybody's \$300,000 houses."

About 150 area residents — most of them opposed to Hanks' call to rezone his Plains Highway property from agricultural use to general housing — showed up this week for a township board



Lansing State Journal/CHRIS HOLMES

Terry Hanks of Sundance Chevrolet wants to build a mobile home village in Eaton Rapids Township. Behind him are examples of homes that would be in the proposed park.

### What's next

Eaton County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on a rezoning request for the proposed mobile home park.

■ **When:** 7 p.m. Wednesday.

■ **Where:** County Courthouse, 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte.

meeting in Eaton Rapids High School Auditorium, township Clerk Sidney Risk said.

After lengthy discussion by Hanks and others, the board voted 5-0 against the rezoning.

The vote was an advisory note to the Eaton County Planning Commission, which will hold a hearing on Hanks' rezoning bid at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the County Court House at Charlotte.

Protesters of the rezoning turned in petitions bearing 551 signatures, Risk said.

Objectors say the proposed Sundance Village would spoil the area's rural character, add more children to Eaton Rapids' already crowded schools and put unwanted traffic on Plains Highway, which becomes State Road in the segment near Eaton Rapids High.

The development also could purge soil nitrates into groundwater, and create a setting for

increased crime, some residents say.

Hanks has replied that the first 120 units could yield only 30 children — a number that would pay its own way in the schools with state aid based on pupil count.

State and county regulators could halt the project to head off any possible groundwater contamination, he said. And because they have few entrances and watchful residents, the parks for mobile or modular homes have low crime records, Hanks said.

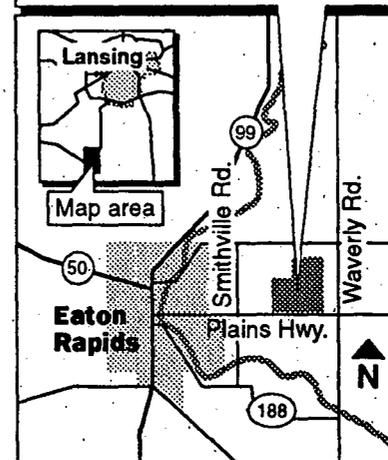
But Agnes Robertson isn't convinced.

"I don't like the idea of having several hundred homes in that area," said Robertson.

Regular, stick-built homes on Hanks' land would be better than mobile homes, said neighbor John Metcalf, because the occupants would have more stake in the community.

"They're going to stay there.

### Proposed mobile home park



Lansing State Journal

once they invest \$80,000 to \$150,000 in a house."

Mobile homes are a growing part of the housing in Eaton, Ingham and Clinton counties, said Director Jon Coleman of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.

In 1990, less than 4 percent of the 149,300 housing units in the three counties were mobile homes. Ten years later, mobile units accounted for 6 percent of the 165,000 housing units.

*Hamlin State Journal* 2-1-94  
**EATON RAPIDS: A friend wonders, what if?**

Barbara Rogers wonders why a prison sentence of life doesn't really mean a life behind bars.

She also wonders whether her neighbor Jeanne Getter might still be alive today if a man charged in connection with Getter's death had not been paroled after serving less than half of the minimum sentence for a murder in 1977 and a robbery and assault conviction in 1986.



This gets to the heart of the truth-in-sentencing issue.

On Feb. 19, a small group of concerned Hamlin Township residents will gather for a breakfast meeting at the township hall to talk specifically about this issue with representatives of the Eaton County Sheriff's Department, prosecutor's office and invited legislative representatives.

**Rogers** Jeffrey Sauter, Eaton County prosecutor, says the public is angry about the current sentencing methods. "There is a lot of fear surrounding this issue; many believe our revolving prison doors are operating much too fast," he said. "To many, it seems just common sense that a person should serve at least the minimum term a judge gives them."

Getter was shot to death in her home last October. Two men have been charged with murder and burglary.

The impact of this tragic crime has had a dramatic impact on the rural Hamlin area.

"We now know this neighborhood is no longer immune to crime; violence can happen anywhere," Rogers said. "People are locking their doors and taking the keys out of their cars, something many have never done before."

In addition to representatives from the county offices, others attending include Sen. John Schwarz of Battle Creek, Rep. Clyde LeTarte of Jackson and congressman Nick Smith of Addison.

"Jeanne Getter was a neighbor, a friend," Rogers said. "I could look across our farm field and see her house. I will always wonder if she might be alive today, if a life sentence really meant life."



MARGIE GARRISON/Lansing State Journal

**Post office provides history:** J.S. Postal Service worker Beverly Sims handles duties under a Russian mural in the renovated

Eaton Rapids Post Office lobby. The 55-year-old mural was done by artist Boris Mestchersky, whose works are considered rare

# City stays true to artist's wish

**E. Rapids post office new decor matches its famous painting**

**By Cynthia Jo Johnson**  
Special to the State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — Fifty-five years later — almost to the day — Boris Mestchersky has gotten his wish.

His desire in 1939, when he painted a mural for the Eaton Rapids Post Office, was to have the walls and lobby decorated to harmonize with the warm tones of his painting. The oil on canvas was created with the red tiles of the lobby floor in mind.

A Russian prince and famous artist, Mestchersky visited Eaton Rapids to gain a perspective of the community and look at the layout of the post office.

This past summer, the reconstruction of the post office lobby coincided with cleaning and re-arranging of the painting, titled "Industry and Agriculture."

Mestchersky, who wrote a letter

requesting that the colors of the lobby remain coordinated, would be glad to know that the warm tones and red tile floor are still there to keep harmony with the mural.

In that era, it was common for the U.S. Treasury Department to commission a professional artist to paint large works for new post offices in the country. No documents exist to say why a Russian prince from so far away was commissioned to do the Eaton Rapids painting.

One unsigned letter indicated that "the decoration in the lobby might be made to represent in a symbolic way the progress and transformation of the region during the last 100 years."

The letter goes on to suggest what the painting should look like. The writer recommended a scene including improved farms with dairy animals, a church and a smokestack. The river, controlled at the time for the production of water power, also was to be included.

As documented by Michigan State University in 1972 during an inspection, the oil on canvas depicts "two women millworkers

working skein-winder machinery. A deciduous tree lot by river and dam with sky beyond.

"An expanse of wheat field, a farmer's wife with sheaves, daughter with strawberries. At top right is white, long-horned cattle, two farmers standing, facing left, in front, son with sheep, ewes and ram."

Judging from documented remarks from local citizens and business owners, the folks from Eaton Rapids were a bit skeptical about the work. According to documents from MSU, "reactions to the mural varied from acceptance of the artist's right to take liberties to an insistence on correct details. The following paragraphs local comments:

"Earle J. Miller (assistant postmaster, retired): 'Mestchersky was ... around the community a week or so. Criticism of the mural was mostly from two sources. Workers from the woolen mills — especially the skein winders — would come in and laugh. Then the farmers were critical. I was a joker and the farmers used to kid me about the cows coming from Texas and those long horns.'

"Frank Kloppel (former Horner sales manager): 'I agree that the art-

ist can take liberties. I'm not a technical stickler. Look, the sheaf of wheat is bound with rope that would be enough for the Queen Mary, but that is a detail."

Mestchersky is famous as a painter, having exhibited in New York, Canada and Los Angeles.

In spite of his fame, the New York Times stated in 1941 that "he adheres to a scheme of stylization that is cold, uningratiating, and his color is frequently unpleasant."

The painting now hangs over the new window service area of the post office lobby. The painting is treasured and well-cared for.

It is now considered to be of rare value since the artist died in an automobile accident in 1957. The painting also has been examined and requested by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

It seems as if Boris Mestchersky's impression of Eaton Rapids is destined to be recognized and remembered in the annals of art history.

Cynthia Jo Johnson is a freelance writer who lives in Orondaga.

*Bryce Thomson of the 172nd Combat Engineer Battalion served overseas from mid-1944 to January 1946. During that time he wrote several accounts of his experiences for "home consumption." The following account was written on 5 May 1945.*

**As the war in Europe was winding down, the men in Corporal Bryce Thomson's unit befriended Russians and Poles who had been forced to work in German mines and factories.**



**R**ecently our outfit was located at Gelsenkirchen-Boer, a small German city surrounded by coal mines and factories, most of which had been destroyed by Allied bombers. The town itself was scarcely damaged and former Russian and Polish slave workers were roaming the streets. They didn't know what to do with their newly found freedom. They just walked up and down the streets picking up cigarette butts.

There was little food in the town for either the foreign workers or civilians. One day a crippled Russian was eating from our garbage pile. The next day our cooks put two Russians on permanent KP [kitchen police] for their meals. They grew fat in a few days. The boys at our Battalion Supply let another Russian do their laundry and gave him several tins of sardines. He broke down and cried for ten minutes. Kindness was a new experience for him.

These people still lived in wood barracks located near a large civilian hospital at the edge of town. One evening I accompanied two other GIs (one spoke Russian, the other Polish) to the hospital and gave an impromptu entertainment for the Russian and Polish patients. As we walked down long corridors, passing open doors, German patients, seeing us would gesture with two fingers held at their lips. They wanted cigarettes.

The patients in the Russian ward were as thrilled as children over my tricks. It was the first time I'd ever given a show with the aid of interpreters but we had a good time. I gave them tobacco and cigarette papers left over from our rations. They were also amused looking at some old copies of *Life*, *Look* and *Yank* magazines I had brought and were more interested in the pictures of airplanes than the pin-up girls.

We found the Polish boys wondering about what was happening at the San Francisco Conference. I doubt if the Russians there had ever heard of San Francisco. Altho I always try to refrain from discussing politics with foreigners, I could tell they were gravely concerned about the future of Poland. These Poles were not satisfied with the Communistic Provisional Government and wanted to see their old Democratic Government in exile return to

Poland. As one Pole said, "In a Democratic Government a man has a chance to better himself."

Most of these men had been civilians and brought to Germany to work. A few were former soldiers. Some had been injured while working but more had been victims of Allied bombs.

Our conversation was interrupted once when a pretty German nurse came in for a thermometer one of the Russian boys had been using. She joked with him for a moment and left.

Their treatment from the Germans had been better since the Americans came they told us, but on a whole conditions hadn't been too bad. They had been allowed certain freedoms such as taking snapshots or a stroll downtown. Punishment was severe, however, for anyone caught stealing food or committing similar petty crimes.

Then they told us about the bombings. Their eyes grew big and they talked fast with uncontrollable excitement as they related the stories. During air attacks on the factories, Germans had priority in the shelters. The foreign workers would run to the street and wave white handkerchiefs and our fliers seemed to know who they were and never strafed them. They saw our large bombers shot down but none of the fighter planes. The Germans saw that one camp was never touched during the air raids so they moved out the workers and took refuge there themselves. Two days after this, direct hits were scored on the camp barracks.

The future of these displaced people seems uncertain. Most of them want to return to their own countries when conditions permit but they do not know if their homes will be intact or if their parents still live. Some think they will stay in Germany. ■

Bryce Thomson lives in Eaton Rapids.

# NICYRA Bulletin

National Ice Cream and Yogurt Retailers Association

## NICYRA ANNOUNCES BRYCE THOMSON SCHOLARSHIP

One of the highlights of NICYRA's 62nd Annual Convention, held in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 21-24, was the announcement of the formation of the Bryce Thomson Scholarship Fund.

Beginning in 1996, funds will be made available to deserving young persons in high school or college that are employed by NICYRA active member companies.

The recipients will be nominated by their employers, and will be selected by an independent panel.

Contributions to the Bryce Thomson Scholarship Fund are currently being accepted at the NICYRA headquarters office. It is anticipated that donations to the Bryce Thomson Scholarship Fund will be sufficient to provide one or two scholarships annually. Both NICYRA active and supplier member companies are urged to contribute to the Scholarship Fund, which has already received several contributions. The following are charter contributors that have set the pace for others to follow. Their contributions were presented either before or at the Convention in Las Vegas.

The Big Dipper Ice Cream Factory, Prospect, CT  
Braum's Ice Cream Stores, Oklahoma City, OK  
*The National Dipper*, Park Ridge, IL  
Promised Land Dairy, Floresville, TX  
Springer's Homemade Ice Cream, Stone Harbor, NJ  
Hillside Farms, Inc., Shavertown, PA

The Bryce Thomson Scholarship was announced to the general membership at the conclusion of the general business session which featured a review of the submissions for the Promotion of the Year Award for 1995. Lynda Utterback, publisher and editor of *The National Dipper* presided over that session, along with Bryce Thomson. The Scholarship was made public by Scholarship Chairman Frank Conyngham, and Lynda Utterback introduced it as follows: "Marketer, educator,

writer, editor, consultant, soldier, husband, father, magician, world's greatest painter and the last of the great Soda Jerks, all of these words actually describe Bryce Thomson.

"His experience in the ice cream business began as a youth, behind the soda fountain of a small town drug-store. It was here that his promotional talents first caught the attention of Miller Dairy Farms of Eaton Rapids, Michigan, an ice cream manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer.



Bryce Thomson ... at home

Bryce first took time out to serve his country with the 172nd Combat Engineer Battalion and served overseas from mid-1944 to January, 1946. During that time he wrote and published several accounts of his experiences for the folks at home.

"When he returned home, Miller Dairy Farms hired him as Marketing Manager. It was a relationship that spanned four decades, during which time his positions included Store Supervisor, Sales Manager, Vice President and General Manager and President.

"He is the originator of the 'Ice Cream Sundae Poll,' as well as numerous imaginative and provocative promotions that have received national attention via press, radio and TV. He authored a number of articles dealing with ice cream marketing techniques, and his 'Environmental Ice Cream Menu' became a classroom teaching aid in many schools and colleges.

"He assisted a number of secondary schools in the development of 'Education Through Ice Cream,' a teaching and learning concept in which students served up frozen treats during the noon hour in an actual in-school ice cream parlor. Ice cream was the vehicle, using real life situations, for teaching career education, special education economics and distributive education. Students also learned about nutrition; and the program was used for giving exposure to music and the arts as well as

## CALL YOUR NICYRA SUPPLIER MEMBER FIRST

back-to-basics aid for teaching math, social studies and a wide range of other subjects. The first ice cream classroom, called the 'Cold-Tongue Ice Cream Parlor' was set up at Eaton Rapids, Michigan High School in 1973. From the beginning the multi-flavored, career-oriented parlor proved to be the most popular classroom in the building. The idea soon spread and other schools were installing mini-ice cream parlors of their own with names like 'Creamee Corners,' 'Super Lick,' 'The Igloo,' and 'Cone Zone.'

"In addition, Bryce has delighted and amazed many of us with his skillful magic tricks, and, of course, his famous paintings. My favorite is the one of the polar bear eating an ice cream sundae in a snowstorm.

"He started the 'Ideas' newsletter for the ice cream entrepreneur and eventually began writing *The Sundae School Newsletter* for NICYRA, which has given members countless ideas for fun and profit in their stores.

"Over the years, Bryce has received many honors: Dairy Manufacturer of the Year Award, Michigan State

University Dairy Department's most prestigious award; Idea of the Year Award (four-time winner for exceptional ingenuity in the promotion of ice cream); Business, Labor and Industry Award, Michigan Education Association for the ice cream classroom project; 1984 Forrest Mock Person of the Year Award and he became President of the National Ice Cream Retailers Association in 1965.

"Now, it is fitting that we come to honor this great Soda Jerk once again, with a scholarship in his name, The Bryce Thomson Scholarship Award."

NICYRA congratulates Bryce Thomson upon the occasion of this well-deserved honor and looks forward to a long and lasting relationship.

The Scholarship's Co-Chairman Garry Buttermann III, of Derby Cone Company, Louisville, KY, joined with Frank Conyngham in presenting Bryce with a gift commemorating the occasion. He received two ice cream related figurines — "Scoop" and "Peaches" created and signed by noted artist Thomas Clark of North Carolina.

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# Eaton County

# NEWS

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## Giving a hoot for animals

### Center helps wildlife get back to natural habitat

By CAL STONE  
Staff Writer

People who find a wounded or misplaced animal often wonder what the proper steps are to ensure its safety. The folks out at Wildside Rehabilitation & Education Center in Eaton Rapids can help.

It's located on the 20-acre property of Louise Sagaert, co-director along with Cathy Gidner-Worthington, whose husband, David, serves as the center's naturalist.

Wildside was created to "provide care and treatment for injured, ill and orphaned wildlife," according to its mission statement. "The focus is on rehabilitation of wild animals for successful release to their natural habitat and education that will promote a peaceful co-existence and respect between the public and wildlife."

Sagaert, originally from Grosse Pointe, is a special education teacher in Ionia with 10 years of experience instructing fourth- and fifth-graders. She graduated with a master's degree from Grand Valley State University.

"I realized four years ago that I should have been a veterinarian," she said. "But I don't even want to think about going back to the other side of a school desk at this point."

The next best thing was available at the Critter's Alley rehab center in Grand Ledge. Sagaert volunteered her services there for three and a half years, with the last one and a half as assistant director. In September 1995, she moved to this Hamlin Township locale.

"This center is run all on donations — and a teachers' salary," noted Sagaert. "I've got four Michigan State University interns who work 20 to 30 hours each per week here."

The work involves nursing a variety of animals back to health to be released. A visit to Wildside reveals a range of animals being cared for, including a short-



**THE WILDSIDE:** Mary, a short-haired owl, perches on the arm of Louise Sagaert, co-director of the Wildside Rehabilitation & Education Center in Eaton Rapids. Photograph by Cal Stone.

haired owl named Mary.

"Mary's species is endangered in Michigan," explained Sagaert. "We had her since December from Bay City. She's got a broken wing, which is unreparable, so she won't be released. I use her for our educational program."

The center offers programs on Michigan mammals, bats, birds of prey, Michigan songbirds, NIMBY (not in my backyard, which focuses on animals people fear and consider to be pests), and Michigan's threatened and endangered wildlife. The programs are available seven days per week from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., June 15 through Aug. 15.

In addition, Sagaert also brings the animals into her classrooms. "The kids love it," she said. "They have a lot of wildlife education. Most of them know that I'm the 'animal lady,' so they're always bringing me in animals, especial-

ly in the fall and spring."

Two animals people bring her or drop off are cats and dogs, which she does not want.

"We get lots of them, but we're not a humane society, and we're not licensed to handle them," Sagaert stated. "Plus, I've got three dogs of my own!"

The center does not deal with skunks or bats either, for it is illegal for wildlife rehabs in Michigan to do so. Raccoons are also not allowed at Wildside.

"I saw about 800 to 1,000 raccoons at Critter's Alley, and that was enough," said Sagaert.

While rehabs such as Capital Area Wildlife have about 15 to 20 people who take the animals home to care for them, the Wildside is considered a "center" because the animals stay there. It can get kind of crazy, according to Sagaert. The animal area has to be cleaned twice a day, birds have to be fed every hour and let out of their cages each day.

The Wildside works with a local veterinarian, TLC's Dr. Elizabeth Blount, when professional care is required. The center currently has a map turtle with a cracked shell and an infection, which Blount will fix up and prepare for release in three to six months.

There's also a variety of animals, the majority of which have fallen out of their nests, including a pair of red squirrels, three robins, two sparrows, a starling, a grackle, two screech owls and Starry, a great horned owl.

"She's not releasable," said Sagaert. "She's 'imprinted,' which means she doesn't realize she's an owl. We had her at Critter's Alley a couple of years ago, and she focused on people instead of owls during rehab. We tried to release her in Bay City,

but three weeks later she came back."

Sandy Miner does the flight training and takes care of the releases in Bay City. The only birds released on the Wildside property are songbirds. Most of the animals that are brought in by people are requested to be released back on their property, said Sagaert.

Word about the Wildlife center has spread quite quickly, and they put out a quarterly newsletter to help keep people informed about what's happening.

*The Wildside Rehabilitation & Education Center is at 8601 Houston Road in Eaton Rapids. Phone (517) 663-6153 for more information.*

"I realized four years ago that I should have been a veterinarian."

— Louise Sagaert

### What to do

- If you find an injured, orphaned or sick wild animal, put your own safety first.
- Place the animal in a well-ventilated box, in a warm, dark, quiet area away from pets and humans.
- Do not attempt to feed it or give it water.
- Avoid any physical, visual or auditory stimulation (i.e. no loud noises).
- Do not handle it.
- Do not transport an animal without speaking to a rehabilitation volunteer first.

## INSIDE

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Phone  
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# New Release Video gets new ER address

## Owners: Customers like store's new location

By CAL STONE  
Staff Writer

Amid all the construction that recently took place on the bridge at Main and State streets in Eaton Rapids, one may not have noticed that New Release Video is no longer located next to the Subway restaurant.

Owners Joe and Mona Chin have relocated their video outlet to 215 S. Main after two years at 401 S. Main.

"We've found that all our customers like it," Mona said of the new locale. "It's nicer and brighter. And there's better parking."

Customers can conveniently leave their vehicles on Main Street or in the lots next to Car Quest and the Hamlin Street bridge.

The Chins, whose son Joe helps run the store, made the switch April 15. They have five children, and it's not unusual to find at least one of them in there helping out.

The move didn't affect their great service and unique rental options. How about five movies for five days for five dollars?

"People love that," said Mona. "That includes children's products, so you can grab five different movies and watch them whenever you want during the week."

There's also a two-day rental for the one-day price, which covers everything but the very newest releases. New Release has a huge selection of \$1.50 videos and plenty at \$1. The brand-new releases are just \$2.50. Videos don't have to be back in the store until 6 p.m.

"We really do have the largest selection of new releases in Eaton Rapids," said Mona. "We specialize in new videos, but we've also got a variety of older movies, too. We get whatever comes out each week, whether it's 10 or 100 new releases. We literally buy everything that's decent and in large numbers."

Once releases are six to eight weeks old, they're put on sale for around \$10, as opposed to brand-new copies, which run around \$75 at most places.

New Release also stocks game videos for Super Nintendo and Sega Genesis, and snacks are available, as well.

*New Release Video is located at 215 S. Main in Eaton Rapids. Store hours are noon to 9 p.m., Sundays through Thursdays, and noon to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Phone (517) 663-2777 for more information.*



**NEW LOCALE:** New Release Video, owned by Mona and Joe Chin, recently relocated from 401 S. Main to 215 S. Main in Eaton Rapids. Photograph by Cal Stone.

# Hospital offering attention-deficit help for area adults

Most of us have heard of attention deficit disorder, and when we think of it, we are usually reminded of children.

Unfortunately, ADD doesn't go away when you grow up, and many American adults suffer from this problem. The good news is that you can learn how to live with ADD. Hayes Green Beach Hospital, in conjunction with Samaritan Counseling Center of Central Michigan Inc., is sponsoring a seminar to help you learn more about this.

"Adult Attention Deficit Disorder — No, It Doesn't Go Away," a free seminar sponsored by HGB, is scheduled for Monday, June 24, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the hospital's classroom at 321 E. Harris, Charlotte.

The seminar features R. Thomas Lucas, Ph.D., M. Div., licensed psychologist; Wayne Schaefer, Ed.D., limited licensed psychologist; and Barrett Zink, D.O., family practitioner. The speakers

will discuss a variety of issues, including characteristics of ADD, related problems, diagnosis, treatment approaches, medications, and myths associated with ADD.

Lucas says the fact is that adults do have ADD, but ADD has gone through several name changes. "At one time it was known as 'minimal brain dysfunction,'" he says. "Later, it came to be known as 'hyperactivity.' The current diagnostic and statistical manual of the American Psychiatric Association identifies it as 'attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder' or 'ADD.' When the focus is on overactivity, it is referred to as 'AD/HD.'"

Estimates of the prevalence of ADHD in children run between 5 percent and 7 percent of the population of children. Estimates are that as many as 2 percent to 4 percent of adults continue to be bothered by the symptoms they had as children. If a person had ADHD as a child, he will

have it as an adult. It is a neurological problem, a problem with brain chemistry. It does not go away.

However, says Lucas, as people get older, they may learn skills to help them cope with the symptoms and may not be bothered by the disorder. ... Boys are much more likely to have the hyperactivi-

ty as the main feature; girls are more likely to have the attention difficulties as the problem that results in loss of productivity, relationship difficulties, and general dissatisfaction with life.

Preregistration is required. For more information and to register, call (517) 543-1050, Ext. 200.

## Fund-raising event set for Children's Miracle Network

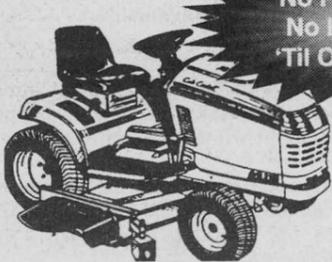
Gaylene Johnson, associate at RE/MAX Riverwood Properties, Sparrow Hospital, Lansing and Spartan Speedway are sponsoring a fund-raiser for Children's Miracle Network.

Sparrow Hospital is one of more than 160 hospitals in the United States and Canada affiliated with the Children's Miracle Network. Together,

these hospitals treat more than five million children, whatever their affliction.

The RE/MAX balloon launch is scheduled for Sunday, June 30, weather permitting, from the Spartan Speedway infield at approximately 5:30 p.m. All proceeds from the ticket purchases at the speedway go to Sparrow Hospital.

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Lansing State Journal 7-1-96

# EATON RAPIDS

Eaton Rapids' designation as the state's first Family Friendly City was no fluke.

"We very much think of ourselves as a family-oriented town," said Lee Anzicek, director of the newly formed Chamber of Commerce.

The city 16 miles southwest of Lansing is stretching the family-oriented Fourth of July holiday to last a week. "We would love to have Eaton Rapids be thought of THE place to go on July 4," Anzicek said.

Independence Week started with sidewalk sales and the Eaton Rapids Sprint Kart Challenge last weekend. On



July 4, the big parade's at 11 a.m., there's a crafters' bazaar on Island Park and a Kiwanis chick-

en roast, then the big fireworks show. The fun doesn't end until Saturday, with two Walker Brothers Circus shows.

## COMMUNITY

Wednesday

May 15, 1996

## HOMETOWN ISSUES: EATON RAPIDS

## Dream house will soon go up

Habitat for Humanity coming to the aid of mom, handicapped son

By John B. Albright  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — The ground has not been chosen yet, but already Juanita Schwartz is building her new house in her dreams.

"I would love to lay the very first brick," the mother of two young sons said as she sat in an armchair in her rented house on Eaton Rapids' Hale Street.

She moved her hands the way a bricklayer would to spread mortar with a trowel and to set a brick.

Schwartz, 41, and her sons have been picked to occupy the first house to be built by volunteers of the Eaton Area Habitat for Humanity.

Eaton Rapids, population 4,695, is 16 miles southwest of Lansing in Eaton County.

Wherever it rises inside Eaton Rapids, the house will have wide doors, a ramp, and other features to aid Schwartz in caring for her 12-year-old son, Chad, who has several physical impairments.

One device, Schwartz said, may be a chair suspended from a slot track on the ceilings to help her move 85-pound Chad from room to room.

Habitat leaders hope to pick a building lot by June 1. The house may be finished before Thanksgiving Day, said Jeffrey Sural, head of a Habitat selection committee.

The project's fund-raising is under way, including a bake sale that Schwartz will conduct from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturday at First of America Bank here.

"I want to pound the first nail," said Schwartz, putting a heartfelt swing on an imaginary hammer.

"I want to dig the first shovel full of dirt," she added, with a two-handed stroke in the air.

Schwartz said the rented frame house — which has been home to Chad and her other son, Sean, 14, for nine years — has deteriorated and lacks something important to her: kitchen counter space.

"To have a home that's finally go-



ROD SANFORD/Lansing State Journal

**Excited about future:** Eaton Rapids resident Juanita Schwartz and her sons, Chad (left) and Sean, have been selected to move into the first home built by Eaton Area Habitat for Humanity. The home will be designed for Chad, who has several physical impairments.

ing to be a decent, livable home," Schwartz said when asked about her dream. "Something where I don't have to look at cracks or a falling-down ceiling.

"And just to have counter space, so I can fill the counter with baked goods. I don't have any here. What I'm using is my dining room table, or I put stuff over the top of my washing machine and dryer, and that's my counter space."

Schwartz came to Eaton Rapids from Minnesota when she was 9, with her mother, brothers and sisters. She graduated from Eaton Rapids High School and, before Chad was born, she worked in a drug store and in a Kmart store on Lansing's South Cedar Street.

Now she spends much of her time caring for Chad and does not have a paid job or a car. Her income is from

### To learn more

For more information on Eaton Area Habitat for Humanity, call 622-1799.

public assistance and Supplement Security Income.

From infancy, Chad has had several impairments, including limited vision, hearing and speech, cerebral palsy and a seizure disorder.

Last year, surgeons operated to fix a hip that had been out of socket since Chad's birth, Schwartz said.

Five days a week, Chad goes to the Meadowview School near Charlotte where more than 50 children and young adults with special needs are taught.

Much of Chad's time is spent in a

hospital-type bed in the family's living room.

Sean, who is finishing the eighth grade at Eaton Rapids Middle School, helps care for his brother.

Known for good grades and his participation in bowling, football and baseball, Sean said he wants to become a professional athlete and later a lawyer.

Sural said the selection panel members hope someone will give Habitat a building lot for the Schwartz house — or a reduced price on one.

Two vacant lots are under consideration, he said. One is on Union Street, the other on Plains Street. Each is priced at about \$12,000.

A small, model house on display outside Eaton Rapids City Hall is also a box for donations to the house project.

# Eaton Rapids preparing for big-time Fourth

**BY LEE ANZICEK**  
Director, ER Area Chamber

The Eaton Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce is putting the town on the map with this year's Independence Week Celebration.

This event is ER's biggest ever and is expected to attract thousands of people over the course of the week. This year's celebration of the founding of our country will begin on Thursday, June 27, by kicking off a three-day sidewalk sale. Retailers throughout town will be offering items at special prices, so don't miss out.

Racing fans will enjoy two days of high-performance Kart Racing at the high school parking lot Saturday, June 29 (practice rounds from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.), and Sunday, June 30 (races from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.). These go-karts travel at speeds in excess of 80 miles per hour and are definitely an exciting spectator sport.

A race car display will be in the park-

ing area in front of the school, and there will be a trading card and memorabilia show in the gymnasium Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Money raised at this event will be used to support the Community Youth Center, located behind the Miller House. Add to that all the food that will be available, and one has the recipe for a lot of fun the whole family can enjoy!

The Burr Oak Society will recognize the 100th anniversary of Miller's Ice Cream with an ice cream social June 29 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Miller Historical Home.

The Eaton Rapids Community Band will perform a free concert on the Island the evening of Wednesday, July 3, at 7:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity to enjoy the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer and relax on the Island with beautiful music and perhaps an ice cream cone.

The July Fourth events will begin at 11 a.m. with the biggest parade yet seen in Eaton Rapids. The parade will start at

Marlin Street and proceed up Main Street, concluding at Knight Street. In honor of the 100th anniversary of Miller's Ice Cream, the grand marshal for this year's parade is Bryce Thomson, who managed Miller's for many years. The high school marching band will put all in the spirit of the holiday with their inspiring music and talented color guard.

Immediately following the parade, there will be lots of free kids activities, including a ride on Laura the Elephant. Other attractions include the Kiwanis Club's famous barbecued chicken, crafters galore, a Lions Club duck race, the ER Community Theater's staging of "The Miner's Daughter," the Women's Club dog show, and much more.

The day's festivities will end with a spectacular fireworks display put on by former mayor Larry Holley. This year's show will be the largest, most extravagant yet, so be sure to get to the high school stadium for a front-row view! Be generous when approached by an Eaton Rapids

firefighter for parking donations or a Chamber of Commerce raffle salesperson because the money helps pay for the fireworks show.

The week-long celebration will conclude Saturday, July 6, with the Walker Brothers Circus. Come watch the elephants set up the Big Top at 9 a.m. at the Old Athletic Field, then come back for the show at either 5:30 or 7:30 p.m. Children under 12 are admitted free when accompanied by an adult. Be sure to purchase adult tickets in advance, because the proceeds will help pay for the Fourth of July celebration. Call 663-6480 or stop at the Chamber of Commerce office at 147 S. Main for ticket information.

Spread the word and come on down for what promises to be the most memorable and exciting Independence Week Celebration the mid-Michigan area has ever seen!

*Look inside this edition of the Eaton County News for a free Independence Week Celebration program!*

# 4-H fair kicks off today

Annual event features  
music, rides, tractor  
pulls and horsepulls

By Chris Golembiewski

Lansing State Journal

7-8-96

CHARLOTTE — Teams of mighty horses took turns pulling heavy stone loads here Sunday, straining rippling muscles, stirring up clouds of dust.

It was a scene that hasn't changed for hundreds of years. Just man and horse, pulling a sleighlike wooden "boat." No machines.

The Heavyweight Horsepull was one of the weekend's pre-fair events at the Eaton County 4-H Fairgrounds, where carnival workers were busy Sunday setting up the midway for today's opening.

The 66th annual fair officially runs today through Saturday. The one-price admission of \$7 — \$4 for senior citizens — covers parking, shows and rides.

Today's fair features an 8 p.m. grandstand concert by Ricochet, with mid-Michigan's Thunder Road opening. The rest of the week includes not one, but three tractor pulls, some with trucks and one with antiques.

Sunday's horsepull drew competitors from all over Michigan and parts of Indiana and Ohio — along with dozens of majestic Percheron and Belgian horses.

The competitors are horsepull devotees such as John Auvenshine of Eaton Rapids, who participated in the lightweight class Sunday with Jerry and Billy, two red sorrel Belgians weighing in at a total of 3,180 pounds.

Heavyweight horse pairs can weigh 5,000 pounds, said Ruth Hess, secretary-treasurer of the Michigan Horsepulling Boat Association.

Auvenshine, who also breeds Belgians, has been a horsepull competitor for 20 years, traveling the country every summer.

"It's an expensive hobby but it gets in your blood. Other people have four-wheelers or race cars," he said.

Retired from Oldsmobile, Auvenshine said he farms just enough to give his competition horses some



MARGIE GARRISON/Lansing State Journal

**Life's a drag:** John Auvenshine of Eaton Rapids leads his team of Belgian draft horses on Sunday in the horsepull competition at the Eaton County Fairgrounds in Charlotte. The two horses, which weigh in at 3,180 pounds, are pulling 5,500 pounds. The 4-H fair opens today and runs through Saturday.

exercise. He also trains with them on a small track. Some owners keep their horses in shape by using them in logging.

In competition, the animals get three tries to pull progressively heavier loads for 27½ feet. These workhorses can pull anywhere from 4,000 to 12,000 pounds, Hess said.

The crowd in the grandstands was small Sunday, but the viewers watched the hot and windy proceedings intently. Some took notes.

"We don't get crowds like the

tractor pulls. We don't have noise," Auvenshine said. "But this is not going to die out anytime soon. We have a lot of young guys involved."

Rod and Kathy Hunt of Mason were among the spectators Sunday. They don't farm and they don't own horses.

But since discovering the traditional horsepull events three years ago, the couple has been going to local competitions.

"If you like horses, you appreciate them," Rod Hunt said.

## Fair schedule

The Eaton County 4-H Fair runs through Saturday at the fairgrounds in Charlotte.

■ Today's features: The midway opens at noon. A Ricochet concert, with mid-Michigan's Thunder Road opening, is at 8 p.m.

■ Admission: One price — \$7, \$4 for senior citizens.

# Gypsy moth caterpillars on rampage

Critters are here by the thousands — and hungry

By Chris Golembiewski

Lansing State Journal

6-28-96

They're baaaaack.

The hordes of hairy gypsy moth caterpillars are bigger than ever this summer in parts of Greater Lansing.

They're chomping tree leaves, swarming over cars and houses, and leaving droppings on hapless humans in their way.

Ingham County Extension agents say the infestation appears worse than last year. Few communities will find relief, since a regional aerial spraying proposal evaporated last winter.

One exception is the 105-acre Eaton Rapids Campmeeting Association grounds, where it was a balmy 85 degrees Thursday, BUT it looked like early winter after an aerial spraying.

Not a leaf remained on the tall old oaks in heavily wooded areas of the summer religious community. Dried brown leaves — and thousands of dead brown caterpillars — littered the ground and the roofs of 100-year-old cottages.

"That's a beautiful sight, really," year-round resident Mary-Esther Duckworth said of the pests killed Tuesday. Ten acres of houses along Eaton Rapids' adjacent McArthur River Drive also were treated.

Even better conditions were reported in two subdivisions where Williamstown Township paid \$3,750 to spray 250 acres three weeks ago.

"I haven't seen one gypsy moth this year. The program was successful," said Jill Langen, one of about 226 happy homeowners whose yards were sprayed with a bacterial agent.

She is active in the Pebblebrook Homeowners Association for the neighborhood whose trees were spared, along with the adjacent Red Cedar Manor area near Meridian

and Sherwood roads.

Gypsy moth caterpillars have invaded scattered areas of Ingham County, said extension horticulturalist Gary Heilig.

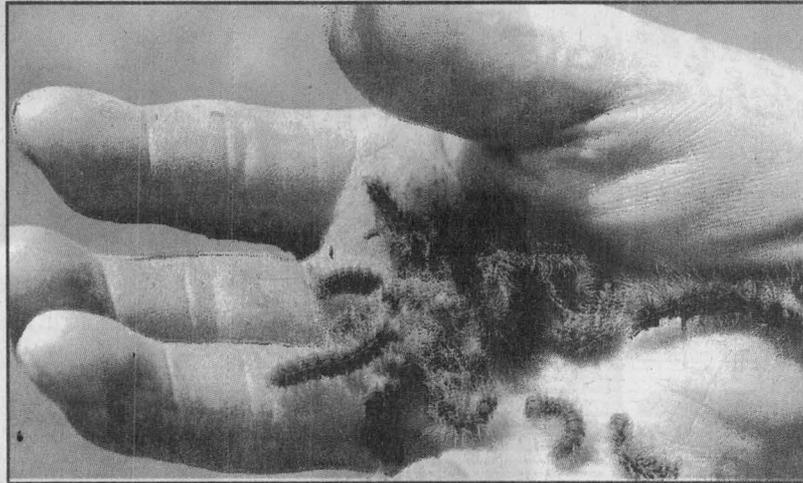
Included: Oakhill and Evergreen Avenues and the Whitehills area of East Lansing, around Lake Lansing in

Meridian Township, near Potter Park and Groesbeck area in Lansing, on College Road in Holt, and in Mason.

Despite some minus-20 degree days last winter and a late spring frost that killed some egg masses, "there were so many it didn't make a dent," Heilig said.

It's too late to organize more spraying. The caterpillars soon begin to turn into pupae before hatching as moths. "Then adults come out and mate and start the egg-laying process in August," he said.

Please see **GYPSY, 9A**



**Little pests:** Jerald Topliff holds dead and dying gypsy moth caterpillars Thursday at the Eaton Rapids Campmeeting site, which was sprayed recently to kill the pests.



ROD SANFORD/Lansing State Journal

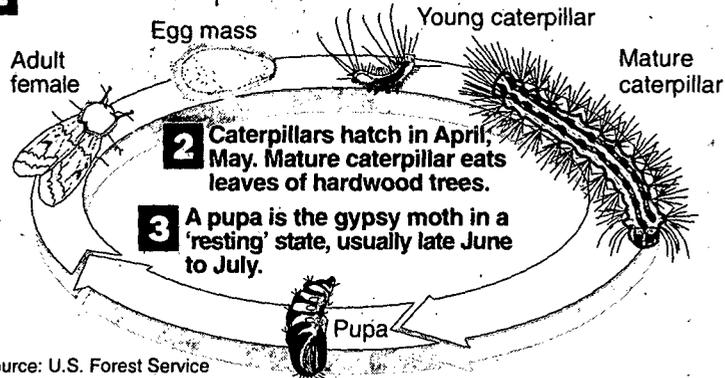
**Cleanup duty:** Robert Lamoreaux cleans gypsy moth caterpillars and tree debris knocked down by the pests Thursday from gutters on a cottage at the Eaton Rapids Campmeeting site. The caterpillars have eaten leaves on many of the site's old oaks, and thousands of dead caterpillars litter the campgrounds and roofs of 100-year-old cottages.

## Where gypsy moths roam

Gypsy moths are making a comeback.

The gypsy moth was first released in New England in 1869. Here's how they mature:

**1** In the fall, adult female moth lays clusters of 100-1,000 eggs.



Source: U.S. Forest Service

Elys McLean-Ibrahim and Julie Stacey, Gannett News Service

# Gypsy: Caterpillars chomping through area

Continued **FROM 1A**

An aerial spraying proposal for 1,117 acres in Ingham, Eaton and Jackson counties died last winter when Meridian Township refused to contribute \$10,000, saying infestation in the township was not serious. Federal authorities could have paid half the \$56,000 cost.

In Williamstown this month, the preferred treatment — a nontoxic common soil bacteria called *Bacillus thuringiensis*, or B.t. — was used. It destroys small, newly hatched caterpillars.

In Eaton Rapids, however, a bureaucratic complication delayed such plans, said retiring campground caretaker Clarence Hutchens. The job was held up for a month when the state Department of Agriculture challenged the certi-

fication of the aerial sprayer.

The caterpillars grew too large for B.t. to be effective. Because the association had planted a variety of 20,000 vulnerable young tree seedlings, it decided to spray with the insecticide Sevin, Hutchens said.

About 50 people who own cottages on the grounds had to evacuate the area for two hours during the spraying. The campgrounds will be fine for the hundreds of campers coming for the annual campmeeting July 18-28, caretaker Ed Richmond said.

Before the treatment, campgrounds resident Duckworth had been scrubbing off the caterpillars with bleach and detergent every day for six weeks, to the point where the paint chipped off her white wooden cottage.

"It got so it wore me out," she said.

# E. Rapids to review 6 for police chief

City Council plans to narrow field to three candidates on Friday

By John B. Albright  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — Lansing policeman Steven Stafford and Leslie Police Chief Tim Metts are among six applicants being reviewed for the police chief job here.

On Friday, the City Council here will narrow the field to three candi-

dates who will be invited for interviews Oct. 1.

A new chief may be working by Nov. 1, Mayor Don Colestock said Tuesday.

Chief Mike Seeley submitted his resignation July 24, telling the council that he would stay on until his replacement is on the job in Eaton Rapids, population 4,695, located 16 miles southwest of Lansing.

The 43-year-old Seeley, police chief since 1984, said recently that he has not accepted a new job.

He earns \$43,700 annually, and the new chief will probably receive

at least that much, Colestock said.

Seeley, Colestock and City Manager William LeFevere have said there was no pressure on Seeley to resign. "It was just my desire to try something new," Seeley said.

"I've been very happy with Mike Seeley and the public's been happy with Mike Seeley," Colestock said. "If someone comes in and continues with the way Mike Seeley has been doing, I'd be happy."

On Monday, the council interviewed:

■ Stafford, a planning and grants administration officer in the Lan-

sing Police Department. A graduate of Michigan State and Wichita State universities. He holds a master's degree from Western Michigan University.

■ Hillsdale County Undersheriff Bill Hendrick of Jonesville, who has a bachelor's degree from Wayne State University and a master's degree from Western Michigan.

■ Buchanan police Chief Donald Yerrick, who has bachelor's degrees from Grand Valley State College.

Thursday's interviews at City Hall will be with:

■ Metts at 10 a.m. A former Lansing police lieutenant, Metts became Leslie's police chief on June 12, 1995. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from MSU.

■ Carl Watkins, a Detroit police precinct commander, at 8 a.m. He has three degrees from Wayne State: a doctorate in educational sociology, a master's degree in public law and a bachelor's degree in police administration.

■ Former Coopersville police Chief Paul Davis at noon. A former Detroit police inspector, Davis has a

master's degree in business from the University of Detroit, and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Detroit's Mercy College.

The interview sessions are open to the public.

Each applicant is being asked to describe his leadership style and how he would deal with the council, Colestock said.

Other questions are about finance and personnel in the nine-member police department, and keeping police visible in the business district and schools.

## Eaton Rapids Detroit commander accepts police chief job

Carl Watkins, a Detroit police precinct commander, has accepted a tentative appointment as Eaton Rapids police chief, succeeding Mike Seeley, who has been chief 12 years.

Seeley, who gave notice of his resignation in July, has said he will stay on until a new chief is on the job. No starting date for Watkins has been set.

The City Council's hiring of Watkins will not be final until salary is negotiated and Watkins has been cleared by a background check, City Clerk Kristy Reinecke said.

Watkins, has three degrees from Wayne State University: a doctorate in educational sociology, a master's degree in public law and a bachelor's degree in police administration.

He was selected this week from a field of three finalists by a 3-2 vote of the council. Two council members had said they preferred applicant Tim Metts, Reinecke said. Metts is Leslie's police chief.

*Lansing State Journal  
10-3-96*

**Eaton Rapids** *LSJ 8-16-96*

## School board narrows candidate field to seven

The Eaton Rapids Board of Education has whittled the field of candidates for superintendent down to seven.

The seven are: Jack Klotz, former superintendent at DeWitt; Roscoe Smith, assistant superintendent at Benton Harbor; Diane Rivers, educational consultant from Okemos; Beulah Mitchell, former assistant superintendent in Pleasantville, N.J.; Bill Abel, former superintendent at Galesburg; John VanNieuwenhuyzen, superintendent at Litchfield; and Andy Booth, superintendent at Vassar.

Interviews with the seven are scheduled next week at the Middle School Media Center and are open to

the public.

The interview schedule is:

■ Monday — Klotz, 5 p.m.; Smith, 6:30 p.m.; Rivers, 8 p.m.

■ Tuesday — Mitchell, 5 p.m.; Abel, 6:30 p.m.; VanNieuwenhuyzen, 8 p.m.

■ Wednesday — Booth, 5 p.m.

**Eaton Rapids** *LSJ 8-30-96*

## New Jersey educator to succeed Mike Rocca

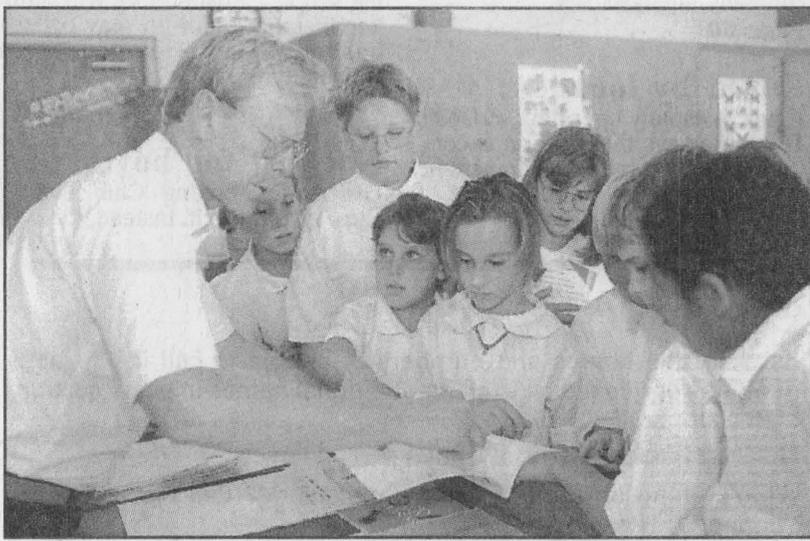
Beulah Mitchell of Pleasantville, N.J., has been named superintendent of Eaton Rapids Public Schools, to succeed Mike Rocca who has resigned. She starts Sept. 16 at an annual salary of \$85,000.

Rocca has offered to remain as consultant, but no decision has been made on how long he will stay with the administration, said school board President Judy Sutton.

Mitchell, who has a teenage son, has been an assistant superintendent of the Pleasantville Public School District in New Jersey since 1994.

She was director of instruction and literacy for Patterson Public Schools in that state from 1992 to 1994. She holds doctorates from Lehigh University at Bethlehem, Pa., and Rutgers University at New Brunswick, N.H.; and a bachelor's degree with honors from Delaware State University at Dover.

Mitchell was hired this week by unanimous vote of the Eaton Rapids Board of Education.



Lansing Journal 9-11-96

GREG DeRUITER/Lansing State Journal

**In the classroom:** Fifth- and sixth-graders at the Island City Academy in Eaton Rapids gather around Rusty Bowers, who teaches math and science at the charter school.

# Charter school choice divides Eaton Rapids

Board member defends decision to move his daughters to academy

By Mark Mayes  
Lansing State Journal

EATON RAPIDS — School board member Tony Alfaro says teachers shouldn't take personally his decision to send his daughters to a charter school.

But Stephanie Nemshak can't help it.

"I would have had his daughter in class this year, and I think it's a slap in the face," said Nemshak, who teaches math and language arts at Eaton Rapids Middle School. "He's saying 'Well, you can't teach my child well enough.'"

The president of the Eaton Rapids teachers union and other teachers also say Alfaro should resign from the Eaton Rapids Public School Board if he wants his children to attend a competing school.

But Alfaro said there's no reason he shouldn't finish his four-year term, since moving his daughters into the newly opened Island City



Nemshak

Academy was a personal choice.

He would not explain his decision but said it is not meant as an indictment of the school district he was elected to serve in 1995.

"I do not view it as a slap in the face to the present system," he said. "I hope the community doesn't feel that way."

Alfaro's daughters, Anna and Mary, are in the fifth and eighth grades at the charter school this fall after attending Eaton Rapids Middle and Lockwood Elementary schools last year.

Island City Academy opened earlier this month under a two-year-old state law that allows independent, alternative schools to compete with existing public schools for students and state funds.

With school districts' base funding doled out on a per student basis, Alfaro's daughters take nearly \$12,000 in tax dollars out of the school district's coffers when they leave.

Island City, a kindergarten-through-eighth-grade charter school in Eaton Rapids, so far has attracted 160 students and is continuing enrollment in hopes of reaching its 180-student capacity.

Half of the students come from the Eaton Rapids public schools, with the rest coming from other districts, parochial schools and home schools, said Candy Kelsey, the

## Charter: Eaton Rapids split on move

Continued FROM 1A

school's co-founder.

Alfaro's eighth-grader will only attend Island City one year. She will return to Eaton Rapids schools next year, he said.

Alfaro announced his charter-school decision in last week's *Flashes Shopper's Guide and News*, writing an open letter to the community that says the move "will not change my commitment to the public school system or to you."

But Debbie Walters, who has a seventh-grader at the middle school, said Alfaro's actions speak for themselves.

"If he thinks this school isn't good enough for his children, then maybe he thinks it's not good enough for mine," she said.

Toby Bixby, whose twins are seventh-graders at the middle school, said Alfaro has the right to do whatever is best for his children.

"It's his choice," Bixby said. Sally Baker, who has five chil-

dren in Eaton Rapids schools, said Alfaro would keep his children in the school district if he really supports it.



Baker

"To me, it doesn't make any sense at all," she said.

Pete Edick, Eaton Rapids Education Association president, said the Eaton Rapids board should not have a member who has a vested interest in a competing school.

"It would simply be the right thing to do to resign," said Edick, a high school teacher.

Alfaro has said he would abstain from any votes directly related to charter schools. But Martha Cantlin, a special education teaching consultant at the middle school, said nearly every vote Alfaro makes will affect the district's competitive stand in relation to Island City and

other charter schools.

Most school board members support Alfaro, saying he has proved his commitment to the district with hours of hard work on the school's \$25 million building project.

"I don't think it's because he thinks our school system is bad," school board President Judith Sutton said. "He's just making a different educational choice for his children."

School board member Joseph Cobe said he wouldn't have made the same choice, but it's not up to him to pass judgment.

"I think it's something that the electorate has to decide," he said.

Alfaro said he is interested in how the public will react to his decision. The first regularly scheduled board meeting since he went public is at 7:30 tonight in the high school library.

He promises to step down whenever the public wants him out.

"If the community didn't want to have me here, I would probably go along with that," he said. "I firmly believe that's who I work for."

Lansing Journal 10-4-96

## Felpausch buys pharmacy

The G & R Felpausch Co. has purchased a long-standing downtown Eaton Rapids pharmacy, hiring its local owner-pharmacist to manage a new drug store inside the Eaton Rapids Felpausch Food Center, 1411 S. Main.

Leigh Furgason, who operated his Furgason Pharmacy at 134 S. Main for 21 years, will work as a pharmacist and manager at the new Felpausch pharmacy beginning in November, Felpausch has announced. Furgason's staff will join him in the new location.

All prescription records from the Furgason Pharmacy will be maintained at the new Furgason/Felpausch Pharmacy, the company said.

Felpausch plans to renovate its food store to accommodate the new pharmacy, and plans are under way to enlarge and remodel the entire store in 1997.

Furgason's daughter, Wendi Walker, will continue to sell gifts and greeting cards as operators of the Hallmark Gold Crown gift shop out of the 134 S. Main store. "Wendi's Hallmark" will be remodeled early next year.

## Eaton Rapids woman Davenport College dean

Susan Backofen of Eaton Rapids has succeeded Don Colizzi of Charlotte as dean of the Lansing campus of Davenport College.

Backofen, who also becomes the Lansing operation's chief operating officer, has been with the Lansing campus since it opened in 1979 and has served in admissions, employment assistance and as associate dean.

Colizzi was named senior vice president of the Great Lakes College system, which recently merged with Dav-

enport. Great Lakes Junior College has campuses in Saginaw, Midland, Caro, Bay City and Bad Axe.

Colizzi, a Charlotte High School graduate, had been dean of Davenport's Lansing campus for 17 years and senior vice president of the Davenport College educational system since 1987.

Lansing Journal 10-8-96



### CONGRATULATIONS KRIS SALISBURY

*Kris Salisbury, a 1991 Eaton Rapids graduate, has accepted a Peace Corps assignment to St. Vincent Island in the southern Caribbean area. Kris completed her B.A. degree at the University of California in Santa Barbara in 1995.*

*Most recently, she was employed as a City Recreations Director in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. Kris will be in Eaton Rapids from September 16, 1996 through September 29, 1996. She can be reached at 517-663-4591 until her departure date of September 30, 1996.*

Flashes

9-17-96

3A

## NATION &amp; WORLD

Wednesday  
June 26, 1996

## FAA head criticizes agency

It was too slow reacting to ValuJet's problems, David Hinson says

By Randolph E. Schmid  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's top airline regulator told Congress Tuesday his agency acted too slowly in addressing problems with fast-growing airlines such as ValuJet. He said he would leave his job by the end of the year.

"It is apparent now that the extraordinarily rapid growth of this airline created problems that should have been more clearly recognized and dealt with sooner and more aggressively," said Federal Aviation Administrator David Hinson.

Meanwhile, a fellow safety regulator told the same House panel the problems, anything but new, were spelled out 20 years ago.

Sloppy maintenance and lax FAA supervision have emerged as major issues following the crash of a ValuJet airliner into the Everglades on May 11, killing all 110 aboard.

While poor maintenance has not been implicated in the crash, problems uncovered by the FAA in that area resulted in the grounding of the airline a week ago. Hinson said at the time that the government would strengthen inspection rules concerning airlines such as ValuJet that use outside contractors to conduct their maintenance operations.

Yet Jim Hall, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, told the committee Tuesday that his agency first addressed that issue 20

years ago, following a 1976 crash in California.

At that time, the board called on the FAA to pay closer attention to such agreements and to make sure that contractor personnel were adequately trained for their jobs, Hall said.

And Sen. William Cohen, R-Maine, said the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations held a hearing on the issue in 1986, at which time FAA Assistant Administrator Anthony Broderick testified the agency's "biggest single problem" was inspecting new carriers that hire outside contractors.

The FAA announced last week that it was accepting Broderick's retirement.

"Clearly, I bear some responsibility for the state that we found ourselves in," Broderick told the committee Tuesday.



Hinson



Schiavo

Hinson said his own plan to leave the FAA did not mark a new decision. When he took the job three years ago, Hinson said, he had promised to stay only through the end of 1996.

Transportation Department Inspector General Mary Schiavo told the committee she had complained regularly about lax inspection practices at the FAA as well as the prob-

lems of the rapidly growing airlines. Asked if she considered the ValuJet crash preventable, Schiavo said she would withhold judgment until the safety board rules on the cause of the accident.

Rep. James Oberstar, D-Minn., questioned why Hinson and other federal officials sought to reassure the public about the safety of ValuJet in the days immediately after the crash, insisting that the airline was safe even though extensive maintenance problems were known to FAA inspectors.

"The appearance is given that the airline was not at the highest level of safety and you just didn't know it, and the public flew, unsafely, for a time," Oberstar said.

Hinson said he believed that ValuJet did comply with federal safety rules at that time.

## Dole: Return of communism Clinton's fault

In campaign speech, GOP candidate claims president is 'passive'

By Sandra Sobieraj  
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — In a biting indictment of his rival's foreign policy, Republican Bob Dole laid blame for the communist resurgence in Russia at President Clinton's feet.

The GOP presidential challenger, in a speech to the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, accused Clinton of naively romanticizing U.S.-Russian relations. Dole said that since the breakup of the Soviet Union, Clinton had turned a blind eye toward Russian violations of arms-control agreements and toward indications that Communist forces were building anew.

"By remaining passive in the face of these and other troubling developments, President Clinton has given a green light to the most dangerous tendencies in the New Russia," Dole told area business and community leaders.

In his second major foreign policy speech of the campaign, Dole sought to draw sharper contrasts with Clinton. But as in his May speech on Asian policy, Dole's remarks Tuesday on Central and Eastern Europe indicated basic agreement with Clinton. Dole took issue mostly with the pace, degree and consistency of Clinton initiatives.

The World War II veteran faulted Clinton for subordinating American interests to those of Russia and American allies.

Looking ahead to Russia's July 3 presidential election, Dole softened earlier criticism of President Boris Yeltsin over the bombings in Chechnya and recent hard-line moves against Russian Jews.

Dole credited Yeltsin on Tuesday for a "central role in the demise of



STEPHAN SAVOIA/Associated Press

**Making a point:** GOP presidential hopeful Bob Dole gestures during a foreign policy speech Tuesday to the Philadelphia World Affairs Council.

the Soviet Union" and expressed hope for his re-election.

On the expansion of NATO to former Soviet-bloc states, Dole knocked Clinton for being "deliberately slow." However, in the critical week before Yeltsin's runoff with Communist candidate Gennady Zyuganov, Dole was careful not to antagonize Russia's nationalistic voters.

Dole echoed the Clinton administration line in saying that he would not allow Russia to veto the expansion, but would offer its leaders "a serious dialogue on long-term relations with NATO."

Dole set 1998 as a goal for admitting Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into the Western alliance. He also called for a Europe-wide missile defense system, deployed through NATO cooperation, to protect NATO's southern flank from attacks by "rogue states."

## President vows to push victims' rights proposal

Amending Constitution only way to guarantee them, argues Clinton

By Harry F. Rosenthal  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton announced strong support Tuesday for a victims' rights amendment to the Constitution, saying crime victims as well as defendants must have rights in court.

"This is different," said the president, who has not backed any other constitutional amendment since taking office.

"Amending the Constitution here

is simply the only way to guarantee that victims' rights are weighted equally with defendants rights in every courtroom in America," he said.

In this election year, a victims' rights amendment has bipartisan support in Congress. Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole is for it and urged the president in a letter last week to "put partisanship aside," joining him in the effort.

Introducing Clinton at the sun-baked Rose Garden ceremony attended by victims' families, Vice President Gore characterized the amendment as another part of the Clinton crime-fighting package.

"There is a lack of balance," Gore said.



EYAL WARSHAVSKY/Associated Press

**Getting started:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (left) and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher shake hands Tuesday in Jerusalem before starting their first meeting. Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai looks on.

## Netanyahu ready to talk, but not about land swaps

By Barry Schweid  
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says he is ready to talk peace with Palestinians and other Arabs but cannot be forced to swap land for diplomatic recognition by the Arabs.

Nor did he yield to urging Tuesday by Secretary of State Warren Christopher that he redeploy Israeli troops in Hebron so that they steer clear of the West Bank town's majority Arab population.

"We are studying the question of Hebron in all of its complexities," he said. "Historical complexity, religious complexity, security complexity of the highest order."

Christopher had made Hebron a test of sorts of the new government's commitment to agreements already reached with the Arabs. The deadline for the redeployment passed last spring.

Netanyahu said negotiations should be held on all fronts without prior conditions. He also stressed his terms that "no side is forced to change its position."

Netanyahu took the tough line after a meeting with Christopher, his conservative government's first direct high-level contact with the Clinton administration. The session was designed to set up the prime minister's July 9 meeting with President Clinton at the White House.

Christopher endorsed Netanyahu's statement that negotiations should be unconditional as well as his admonition about the need for security: "You cannot have real peace with terrorism."

Clear disagreement arose, however, over the cornerstone of U.S. Middle East policy: trading land that Israel won in war to the Arabs for peace.

The prime minister also reiterat-

ed his skepticism that Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority had kept its promise to deter terrorist attacks on Israelis as it took control of Gaza and much of the West Bank. Still, Netanyahu said, "We intend to resume negotiations with the Palestinian Authority."

The secretary of state will take that message directly to the Palestinian leader today. Christopher flies to Cairo to meet separately with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, then with Arafat.

In Cairo, Egypt's foreign minister was not pleased with Netanyahu's performance. "Talk about resuming negotiations with no prior conditions points to Israel's... skipping over the land-for-peace principle, which is basic," Amir Moussa said. "This represents a negative direction" and will be a key topic in Wednesday's Mubarak-Chrisopher talks.

## Unabomber suspect pleads innocent

Kaczynski accused in four cases; two could mean the death penalty

By Richard Cole  
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Theodore Kaczynski pleaded innocent Tuesday in four Unabomber blasts, including two fatal attacks that could cost him his own life.

He nodded in agreement when U.S. Magistrate Peter Nowinski appointed a public defender.

Kaczynski is charged with four of

the 16 bombings blamed on the Unabomber, whose 18-year terror campaign against technology killed three and injured 23.

The 54-year-old former Berkeley math professor appeared alert with his hair and beard neatly trimmed.

A small bandage was visible on the right side of his face. Kaczynski had stumbled on his way to the second-floor courtroom and cut his

head on a stair, said his new public defender, Quin Denvir.

Denvir, who entered the innocent plea on Kaczynski's behalf, estimated that a trial is a year to 18 months away. The next hearing in the case was scheduled for July 19.

"We're having about 1,400 pounds of discovery (documents) delivered from Montana back down here," Denvir said later.

The legality of the untested federal death penalty, the search of Kaczynski's Montana cabin, pretrial leaks by investigators and possibly the question of Kaczynski's sanity will probably be fought out before the trial.

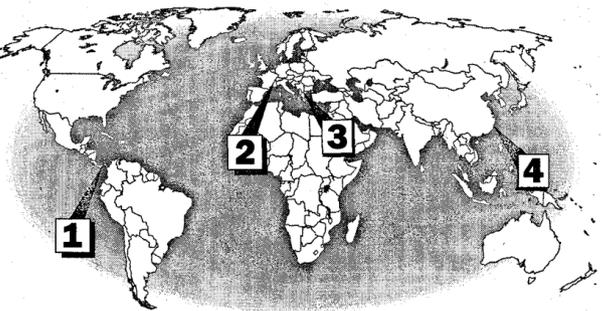
Kaczynski was taken Sunday to Sacramento from a jail in Helena, Mont., where he had been since an FBI raid on his cabin April 3.

A Sacramento federal grand jury accused Kaczynski of transporting, mailing and using explosives in the four Unabomber attacks with Sacramento links.

He is accused of killing computer store owner Hugh Scrutton in 1985 and timber industry lobbyist Gilbert Murray in 1995, and maiming University of California geneticist Charles Epstein and Yale computer expert David Gelernter in 1993.

He could face the death penalty if convicted in the fatal attacks.

## Around the World



nations, and on the same day that France itself announced nearly record-high unemployment figures.

Burning red flares and chanting to drumbeats, the workers denounced measures taken by France to meet European Union currency goals: deregulation or privatization of state industries, social security cuts and new rules that make people work longer to get benefits.

They blamed G-7 countries for supporting harmful fiscal policies.

## 3/Bosnia-Herzegovina

Aide says Bosnian Serb leader will quit

PALE — Faced with a July 1 ultimatum from Bosnia's top civilian official and threats from former ally Yugoslavia, Radovan Karadzic signaled Tuesday he may step down as leader of the Bosnian Serbs.

As Karadzic, speaking through a top aide, said he was ready to "sacrifice his power," international officials in Vienna set a Sept. 14 date for Bosnian elections.

International authorities have complained that Karadzic, an indicted war crimes suspect, should be removed from power before elections are held.

## 4/Taiwan

Foreign minister reiterates U.N. bid

TAIPEI — Taiwan still intends to seek readmission to the United Nations and raise its international profile in general, the new foreign minister says. But in an apparent effort to appease China, which regards Taiwan as a renegade province, Foreign Minister John Chang said on Tuesday that Taiwan's U.N. bid is only a long-term goal.

Taiwan, he said, has sought merely to have the United Nations consider whether it should continue to exclude the island of 21 million people.

From wire reports

## 1/Panama

Leader seeks to quell drug money scandal

PANAMA CITY — Fighting a scandal over drug-tainted money in his campaign, President Ernesto Perez Balladares called Tuesday for stronger laws against laundering drug money.

The president spoke a day after prosecutors said they planned to question a vice president and leading diplomat about contributions to his 1994 campaign.

"We have to design new ways to keep drug money out of the system," he told the National Banking Commission.

After an audit of his governing Democratic Revolution Party, Perez Balladares revealed Friday that his campaign had received \$51,000 in two separate checks from a company controlled by a reputed drug boss.

## 2/France

Workers protest austerity measures

LYON — Protesting cost-cutting measures that may threaten their economic security, 25,000 workers and retirees from across France marched Tuesday against this week's Group of Seven summit.

The rally comes just ahead of Thursday's summit of the world's richest

# Mid-Michigan's school report cards

Gov. John Engler released detailed reports on all 525 Michigan school districts, including building-by-building data on spending, test scores and salaries for the 1995-96 school year. Here are partial details on mid-Michigan schools.

### Abbreviations

**Enroll:** Building enrollment. **Staff:** Number of staff per 1,000 students. **4mth:** Fourth-grade math score. **7mth:** Seventh-grade math score. **10mth:** Tenth-grade math score. **4sty:** Fourth-grade story score. **7sty:** Seventh-grade story score. **10sty:** Tenth-grade story score.

	Enroll	Staff	4mth	7mth	10mth	4sty	7sty	10sty
<b>BATH</b>								
BATH ELEMENTARY	480	66.3	54.0	-	-	72.0	-	-
BATH HIGH	306	71.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
BATH MIDDLE	232	89.7	-	61.5	-	-	78.5	-
<b>CHARLOTTE</b>								
CHARLOTTE JUNIOR	823	74.4	-	57.7	-	-	70.5	-
CHARLOTTE SENIOR	1003	80.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
GALEWOOD ELEM	359	85.1	63.6	-	-	84.1	-	-
LEORA WEYMOUTH	30-	81.7	60.0	-	-	82.5	-	-
PARKVIEW ELEM	56-	87.5	68.3	-	-	89.4	-	-
WASHINGTON SCHOOL	359	81.6	72.9	-	-	79.2	-	-
<b>DANSVILLE</b>								
DANSVILLE ELEM	39-	73.1	68.1	-	-	88.4	-	-
DANSVILLE HIGH	292	75.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
DANSVILLE MIDDLE	22-	65.9	-	69.1	-	-	83.8	-
<b>DEWITT</b>								
DEWITT HIGH SCHOOL	617	68.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
DEWITT MIDDLE	575	62.1	-	62.2	-	-	73.9	-
FUERSTENAU SCHOOL	25-	49.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
SCHAVEY ROAD ELEM	501	82.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
SCOTT ELEMENTARY	397	73.3	68.2	-	-	89.2	-	-
<b>EAST LANSING</b>								
C.E. MACDONALD MID	583	100.5	-	75.2	-	-	83.2	-
EAST LANSING HIGH	1167	87.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
GLENCAIRN SCHOOL	221	74.7	77.8	-	-	94.4	-	-
HANNAH MIDDLE	31-	117.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
MARBLE SCHOOL	341	81.5	71.9	-	-	87.7	-	-
PINECREST SCHOOL	354	107.3	69.1	-	-	78.2	-	-
RED CEDAR SCHOOL	202	134.2	87.0	-	-	82.6	-	-
SPARTAN VILLAGE	256	87.5	-	-	-	75.0	-	-
WHITEHILLS ELEM	18-	122.1	78.8	-	-	84.8	-	-
DONLEY ELEMENTARY	267	92.9	72.7	-	-	86.4	-	-
<b>EATON RAPIDS</b>								
EATON RAPIDS MID	824	71.6	-	47.7	-	-	74.0	-
EATON RAPIDS SR HI	847	67.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
LOCKWOOD ELEM	462	76.8	71.6	-	-	89.6	-	-
NORTHWESTERN EL	592	78.7	60.7	-	-	84.3	-	-
UNION ST ELEM	405	74.1	68.4	-	-	87.5	-	-
<b>FOWLER</b>								
FOWLER HIGH	19-	80.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
WALDRON ELEM & MID	407	57.0	75.0	76.5	-	91.7	88.2	-
<b>FOWLerville</b>								
FOWLerville HIGH	676	72.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
KREEGER ELEM	64-	67.2	65.3	-	-	77.7	-	-
MUNN MIDDLE SCHOOL	645	69.0	-	63.5	-	-	75.3	-
SMITH ELEMENTARY	651	69.1	65.3	-	-	77.7	-	-
<b>FULTON</b>								
FULTON HIGH SCHOOL	385	80.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
FULTON MIDDLE	457	72.4	60.4	-	-	89.6	-	-
<b>GRAND LEDGE</b>								
NEFF ELEMENTARY	346	85.8	74.0	-	-	74.0	-	-
DELTA CENTER ELEM	539	75.9	78.5	-	-	95.7	-	-
GRAND LEDGE HIGH	1466	80.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
GREENWOOD ELEM	282	85.8	96.8	-	-	93.5	-	-
BEAGLE MIDDLE	582	83.3	-	57.6	-	-	69.5	-
HAYES ELEMENTARY	22-	93.6	83.3	-	-	83.3	-	-
HAYES MIDDLE	671	81.8	-	78.4	-	-	89.0	-
MULLIKEN ELEM	158	125.9	55.6	-	-	81.5	-	-
HOLBROOK ELEM	32-	113.4	47.4	-	-	71.1	-	-
WACOUSTA ELEM	523	73.6	89.9	-	-	90.9	-	-
<b>HASLETT</b>								
MURPHY ELEM	394	79.2	80.2	-	-	94.1	-	-
HASLETT HIGH	703	63.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
HASLETT MIDDLE	632	68.7	-	75.4	-	-	88.4	-
VERA RALYA ELEM	44-	84.1	81.7	-	-	85.7	-	-
WILKSHIRE SCHOOL	375	100.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>HOLT</b>								
HOPE MIDDLE SCHOOL	401	89.0	-	81.4	-	-	86.6	-
DIMONDALE ELEM	436	76.1	35.9	-	-	67.9	-	-
ELLIOTT ELEM SCH	368	83.2	82.8	-	-	83.7	-	-
HOLT JR HIGH	826	75.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
HOLT SR HIGH	1025	78.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
MIDWAY ELEM SCH	441	65.3	58.9	-	-	84.9	-	-
SYCAMORE ELEM	459	83.7	85.8	-	-	80.3	-	-
WILCOX ELEM SCHOOL	376	79.8	58.6	-	-	81.0	-	-
HORIZON ELEMENTARY	434	71.7	73.5	-	-	82.4	-	-
WASHINGTON WOODS	445	82.2	-	76.0	-	-	82.8	-
<b>HOWELL</b>								
CHALLENGER ELEM	662	55.9	75.7	-	-	81.6	-	-
HIGHLANDER WAY MID	779	64.2	-	79.5	-	-	83.3	-
HOWELL HIGH	1704	65.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
LATSON ROAD ELEM	558	56.5	52.1	-	-	66.2	-	-
MCPHERSON MIDDLE	66-	69.1	-	63.6	-	-	82.9	-
NORTHWEST ELEM	611	63.8	90.2	-	-	95.7	-	-
SOUTHEAST SCHOOL	655	54.2	70.9	-	-	86.3	-	-
SOUTHWEST SCHOOL	619	59.8	80.8	-	-	90.9	-	-
<b>IONIA</b>								
RATHER SCHOOL	247	92.0	84.3	-	-	86.3	-	-
IONIA HIGH SCHOOL	1081	81.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
IONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL	1103	78.4	-	68.0	-	-	70.4	-
JEFFERSON SCHOOL	391.	94.9	87.1	-	-	88.7	-	-
BOYCE ELEM SCHOOL	347	77.3	75.4	-	-	87.9	-	-
TWIN RIVERS ELEM	266	89.4	86.0	-	-	93.0	-	-
<b>LAINGSBURG</b>								
LAINGSBURG ELEM	552	81.0	88.9	-	-	92.2	-	-
LAINGSBURG HIGH	362	92.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
LAINGSBURG MIDDLE	281	79.4	-	56.3	-	-	64.6	-
<b>LANSING</b>								
ALLEN SCHOOL	384	65.1	49.0	-	-	74.0	-	-
ATTWOOD SCHOOL	304	72.4	57.6	-	-	84.8	-	-
BINGHAM SCHOOL	262	81.3	27.3	-	-	45.5	-	-
OTTO MIDDLE SCHOOL	984	82.3	-	29.6	-	-	59.5	-
CAVANAUGH SCHOOL	348	66.1	43.9	-	-	71.9	-	-
CUMBERLAND SCHOOL	328	97.6	50.0	-	-	73.8	-	-
DWIGHT RICH MIDDLE	1128	84.2	-	33.2	-	-	63.1	-
EASTERN HIGH	1543	66.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
ELMHURST SCHOOL	423	52.0	51.0	-	-	69.6	-	-
EVERETT HIGH	1754	81.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
FAIRVIEW SCHOOL	278	61.2	42.1	-	-	78.3	-	-
FOREST VIEW SCHOOL	349	63.0	65.6	-	-	83.9	-	-
AVERRILL SCHOOL	285	59.6	27.3	-	-	81.8	-	-
GIER PARK SCHOOL	377	132.8	27.5	-	-	64.6	-	-
GRAND RIVER SCHOOL	304	98.7	12.2	-	-	58.5	-	-

	Enroll	Staff	4mth	7mth	10mth	4sty	7sty	10sty
<b>GUNNISONVILLE</b>								
GUNNISONVILLE	294	61.2	34.2	-	-	55.9	-	-
<b>HARLEY FRANKS</b>								
HARLEY FRANKS	241	78.8	45.9	-	-	86.1	-	-
<b>GARDNER MIDDLE</b>								
GARDNER MIDDLE	1239	73.4	-	40.7	-	84.6	-	-
<b>HENRY H NORTH</b>								
HENRY H NORTH	609	95.2	44.4	-	-	66.7	-	-
<b>PATTENGILL MIDDLE</b>								
PATTENGILL MIDDLE	1068	75.8	-	31.6	-	52.2	-	-
<b>SEXTON HIGH SCHOOL</b>								
SEXTON HIGH SCHOOL	1557	62.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>KENDON SCHOOL</b>								
KENDON SCHOOL	329	60.8	46.5	-	-	67.4	-	-
<b>LEWTON SCHOOL</b>								
LEWTON SCHOOL	316	69.6	60.0	-	-	82.9	-	-
<b>LYONS SCHOOL</b>								
LYONS SCHOOL	269	63.2	32.4	-	-	61.8	-	-
<b>MAPLE GROVE</b>								
MAPLE GROVE	23-	91.3	60.0	-	-	97.2	-	-
<b>MAPLEWOOD SCHOOL</b>								
MAPLEWOOD SCHOOL	243	70.0	41.2	-	-	70.6	-	-
<b>MOORES PARK</b>								
MOORES PARK	208	76.9	42.1	-	-	47.4	-	-
<b>MOUNT HOPE SCHOOL</b>								
MOUNT HOPE SCHOOL	362	63.2	44.4	-	-	71.4	-	-
<b>NORTHWESTERN</b>								
NORTHWESTERN	212	70.8	33.3	-	-	66.7	-	-
<b>PLEASANT VIEW</b>								
PLEASANT VIEW	357	64.4	20.5	-	-	65.9	-	-
<b>POST OAK SCHOOL</b>								
POST OAK SCHOOL	46-	65.2	54.2	-	-	66.1	-	-
<b>REO SCHOOL</b>								
REO SCHOOL	227	224.7	36.1	-	-	68.6	-	-
<b>SHERIDAN SCHOOL</b>								
SHERIDAN SCHOOL	339	67.8	64.3	-	-	80.5	-	-
<b>VERLINDEN SCHOOL</b>								
VERLINDEN SCHOOL	226	66.4	29.0	-	-	64.5	-	-
<b>VIVIAN RIDDLE</b>								
VIVIAN RIDDLE	238	-	50.0	-	-	65.6	-	-
<b>WAINWRIGHT SCHOOL</b>								
WAINWRIGHT SCHOOL	343	90.4	45.2	-	-	64.3	-	-
<b>WALNUT SCHOOL</b>								
WALNUT SCHOOL	293	139.9	18.5	-	-	66.7	-	-
<b>WEXFORD SCHOOL</b>								
WEXFORD SCHOOL	224	183.0	37.9	-	-	79.3	-	-
<b>WILLOW SCHOOL</b>								
WILLOW SCHOOL	357	72.8	24.4	-	-	61.0	-	-
<b>WOODCREEK SCHOOL</b>								
WOODCREEK SCHOOL	335	68.7	39.0	-	-	85.4	-	-
<b>LESLIE</b>								
LESLIE JUNIOR SR	58-	76.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
LESLIE MIDDLE SCH	376	71.8	-	36.9	-	-	67.7	-
WOODWORTH ELEM	545	82.0	38.9	-	-	60.2	-	-
<b>MAPLE VALLEY</b>								
FULLER ST ELEM	505	81.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
KELLOGG ELEM	144	87.6	48.3	-	-	74.5	-	-
MAPLE VALLEY JR SR	728	74.1	-	66.1	-	78.2	-	-
MAPLEWOOD ELEM	25-	84.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>MASON</b>								
ALAIEDON ELEM	375	78.1	95.7	-	-	93.6	-	-
CEDAR ST SCHOOL	43-	87.2	95.6	-	-	91.1	-	-
MASON HIGH SCHOOL	1015	68.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
MASON MIDDLE	825	84.0	-	73.6	-	-	78.4	-
N. AURELIUS ELEM	418	83.7	82.1	-	-	92.5	-	-
STEELE ST ELEM	368	78.0	85.7	-	-	92.9	-	-
<b>MORRICE</b>								
MORRICE AREA ELEM	375	78.7						