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No. 31/August 3, 1999 | Middleville, Michigan 49333 | 127th year

Middleville woman recognized by Thornapple Enrichment Foundation

by Mary Warner
Staff Writer

Middleville resident Judy Sloan is this year's recipient of the Thornapple Enrichment Foundation community service award.

Sloan will be honored at a banquet Sept. 22 at the Middle Villa Inn. The public is invited to attend. Cost is $25 for one person or $40 a couple. The banquet begins at 6 p.m. For reservations, call Wayne Kiel, the foundation president, at 795-3285 or Marilyn Finkbeiner, 795-7206.

The foundation's mission is to "enrich and enhance the quality of life in the Thornapple area by acting as a leader and catalyst in the evolving needs of the community." The community service award "honors people who bring quality to our community," Kiel said. This is the third year the award has been bestowed.

Judy Sloan, owner of "Hair We Are" in Middleville, is this year's recipient of the Thornapple Enrichment Foundation community service award.

Kiel said Sloan was chosen for the award because of her work with Rotary International. She has helped to provide numerous people in Mexico and Central and South America with housing, medical supplies, medical care, emergency services equipment, and school housing and supplies.

Sloan has "helped people who are hurting to have a better life," Kiel said. "Because of all the things she's done, she has lifted up to our community the idea of helping others, which helps us as a community to become more caring."

Sloan said she was "honored and flattered" when told of the award, "but I'm not sure I deserve anything like this."

See Sloan recognized, pg. 2

Caledonia man appointed Christian college president

A Caledonia resident has accepted the presidency of a Christian college.

On Sept. 5, Lawrence L. (Larry) Carter, former senior minister of Kentwood Christian Church, will be installed as the ninth president of Great Lakes Christian College in Lansing.

Carter is a graduate of Cincinnati Bible College and Seminary, with a master's degree from Huntington College. He led growing churches in St. Joseph, Ind., and Delta, Ohio, before coming to Kentwood in 1984. Under his leadership the Kentwood congregation grew from an average attendance of 289 to 530 and expanded its facilities.

In 1995, Carter, in addition to his work with the church, became a professor at Great Lakes Christian College. During that time he instituted a program where-

Larry Carter

by the Kentwood church became a "hands-on laboratory" for ministerial students at GLCC.

Carter's wife, Judy, is the director of the church's Child Development Center of 250 students and 30 staff members. She and Larry have three children: Jason, who lives in Birmingham, Ala.; Brian, who is a '99 graduate of GLCC; and Jill, who is a junior of Hope International University of California.

The inauguration will be held in Memorial Hall on the campus of Great Lakes Christian College Sunday, Sept. 5, at 4 p.m. This evening will conclude the 50th anniversary celebration of the college, which is Sept. 3-5. The theme for the weekend is "A Faithful Past... A Promising Future." Friday evening the celebration is being held at Rock Lake, near Vestaburg, where the college began in 1949. Saturday's festivities include a program at the Lansing Turner-Dodge Estate, which housed GLCC from 1958 to 1972, and other activities on the present campus.

Great Lakes Christian College is a four-year institution, accredited by the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges.

Caledonia Plan Commission begins work on master plan

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

A consultant helping the Caledonia Township Planning Commission with creating a new master plan gave an overview of the expected process July 19.

Steve Langworthy of Langworthy and LeBlanc said the commission is the primary group responsible for the master plan. He stressed that consultants are not contracted to dictate the process, but to advise the best way to get supporting information, and how to be appraised of public consensus on issues affecting and affected by the plan.

Langworthy said commissioners need to know what is in the existing plan and asked them to evaluate it, identifying problems and opportunities each saw for the present.

The initial phase will be to identify sources and availability of various information to be collected. Identification of issues will focus the direction and content of the plan. Also, the framework for the vision, goals, objectives, policies and recommendations contained in the final plan document will be set in the beginning phase.

> Obtaining public participation is not as easy as it might seem. Newspaper notices don't seem to be effective. People don't come to meetings, even when they read the notices. Often only those who have an axe to grind show up, Langworthy said.

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Often only those who have an axe to grind, show up, Langworthy said.

One way to have public input is to form a Citizens Advisory Group (CAG.) Members have been invited to become part of this group by nomination by township board members and planning commissioners. The idea is to have this focus group would be representative of the public at large. These members would have no voting power, but would function as advisors.

Langworthy suggested setting up a workshop in which commissioners would set up displays on various issues. These displays and exhibits would be stationed around a room and citizens would be invited to come to visit and talk one to one with commissioners on various points. They could question, view displays, and talk with officials at each of the stations.

See master plan, page 14

Manager-planner urges Caledonia Twp. to join regional Metro Council

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Manager/Planner John Wallace last month recommended that Caledonia Township join the Grand Valley Metro Council, mentioning several benefits in so doing.

In his report, he mentioned areas the Metro Council is working on that might be of interest to Caledonia officials.

The Metro Planning Organization (MPO) is the authorized body for grant planning and use of transportation funds in the area. It is affiliated with the Kent County Road Commission, and does all long range transportation planning. Meeting on a regular basis, this body makes decisions on capital projects for new road construction and improvements.

Wallace said being involved could give representation and leverage in the use of the money, while non-members have no input, he said.

He said the council was willing to intercede in airport issues, something of concern to Caledonia residents. He said he believed their involvement in creating a road network around the airport also could be beneficial.

Wallace said membership also offers representation at the state level through a lobby in Lansing. The group is being recognized by legislators as large enough to be influential. The Metro Council is achieving better equity, compared with the attention usually given in state government to the southeast area of the state.

Some areas have gone through bitter battles over how urban areas expand. The Metro Council has helped communities find common ground over how their urban areas will develop, and to avoid annexation battles where growth is occurring in an area. The council has developed position papers with common ground policies that both cities and townships have come to accept. They are still working to continue to improve the process, Wallace said.

A regional plan is being established for the metro area. He said they have developed policy goals, promoting the concept of village centers, promoting an open space network, a balance of travel networks and a framework for planning with broader regional concepts in mind based on areas researched throughout the U.S. so local planners could proceed within this larger vision.

They have made liaisons with other agencies, Wallace explained, such as the Home Builders Association, and others, for developing concepts for compact developments, cluster developments, employing strategies to preserve natural resources in the path of development.

See Metro Council, pg. 16

In This Issue...

- Speed limit near new school debated
- Tims capsule reveals TK school history
- Recreational facility needs assessed at first meeting

Sloan recognized, continued from front page

Born in 1946, she is a graduate of Thornapple Kellogg High School and Chic University of Cosmetology. She has owned the "Hair We Are" beauty salon in downtown Middleville for 13 years. She is married to Todd Sloan and has two sons, Todd and Rustie, and three grandsons, Ian, Mason and Devin.

Over the years she has been involved in many activities. She has been a den mother and a member of the TK athletic boosters. She was involved in Little League football. She is currently a YMCA board member. Since becoming a Middleville Rotary member in 1988 she has served twice as president, first in 1994-95 and again in 1998-99 (she just completed her latest stint as president.) Currently in Rotary she serves as a board member, International chair, Life Leadership chair, and district foundation board member.

She became involved in her chapter's international program in 1990. Since then, she has made six trips to Belize, an English-speaking country in Central America, four trips to Mexico, and nine trips to Nicaragua. She has done everything from ferry emergency vehicles from Michigan to Belize to build homes and schools in Mexico, Belize and Nicaragua.

Her first trip was to Belize. Clubs within the Rotary district (which is comprised of 66 area clubs) adopted various schools in Belize and purchased supplies for them. Sloan and a group of Rotary members from the district flew to Belize, split into smaller groups, and distributed the supplies to 33 schools. While at the schools the teams also repaired school buildings and built some additional classrooms.

"When we got there the children were doing (math) problems in the dirt floor with their fingers," Sloan said. The Rotary members gave the school writing tablets, writing paper, books, chalk, pencils, and crayons.

That initial trip "hooked" her on helping the less fortunate in other countries, Sloan said. "I've never done anything that made me feel as good when I was done — so completely needed."

Rotary clubs conduct fund-raisers to purchase the materials they donate for such trips, Sloan said. Those who make the trips must pay their own travel expenses. It's a lot of work, she said, but worth it. "You definitely get back more than you give."

Twice, Sloan has made a long 3,200-mile trip by vehicle from Michigan to Belize, staying in motels along the way. Sloan was with a caravan of Rotarians driving donated vehicles to Belize. "We drove ambulances, school buses, fire trucks, and bookmobiles from Stevensville, Mich. to Corozal, Belize," she said. "The first trip, we had 11 vehicles, the second trip 13." The vehicles were old, donated to or purchased by various Rotary clubs for Belize.

Both times, Sloan drove ambulances donated by a Kalamazoo ambulance company. The first trip was "the hardest thing I've ever done in my life," she said. She took turns driving with Gina Blough, manager of the Middleville branch of Hastings City Bank. The trip took nine days, including a three-day delay at the Mexican/American border. The ambulance broke down every day, she said, and had to be repaired by mechanics brought along on the trip. "The heat was horrendous. The roads were horrible in Mexico, with potholes the size of a Volkswagon."

The Mexican roads were also very curvy, she said, making it hard to pass large oil trucks crawling slowly along the highway. Using CBs, those at the front of the caravan called those in the rear to let them know when it was all right to pass a truck. The drivers in the rear, having to trust those in front, would then pull out and pass the rigs without being able to see if there was oncoming traffic. "The caravans taught me a lot about teamwork," Sloan said.

The second caravan fared much better, she said. They traveled at a different time of the year when it wasn't so hot, the Mexican roads were repaired, and Blough and Sloan were accompanied by Sloan's husband.

Members of the Thornapple Enrichment Foundation board of directors met at the Middle Villa Friday to plan the banquet honoring Sloan. From left are Don Williamson, Wayne Finkbeiner, Marilyn Finkbeiner, Wayne Kiel and Katie Wieringa.

On trips to Reynosa, Mexico, Sloan and other Rotarians worked at an orphanage for street girls run by nuns. They performed electrical work, painted the girls' dorms, installed ceiling fans, and worked in the bakery.

"Of all the places we've worked, Nicaragua was the most needy," she said. She was with a Rotary team who traveled to the country in the fall of 1998 to assess damage done by Hurricane Mitch.

"We went down there 10 days after the hurricane," Sloan said. "It was horrible. They'd closed schools all over the northern part of the country so families could live in the classrooms. Fifteen to 20 families would be in one classroom. They were sleeping on the floor with blankets. They were cooking in the middle of the playground in great big pots.

"The banana crop was ruined. A lot of the coffee crop was ruined. We went one place where a mud slide had taken out five villages at the base of a mountain. The Peace Corps figured there were over 5,000 people there. In less than two minutes they were covered in 70 feet of mud."

The following February, the Rotarians went back, helped build new homes for the hurricane victims, and showed the people how to build additional houses. Thus far, 20 houses have been completed in that area. "We're going down in November. The district's planning to build over 250 houses in that particular area.

"Our immediate goal is to get 500 houses built in two different areas of Nicaragua," she said, at a cost of $2,000 per house.

Local builder Bill Getty has lent his expertise on the two hurricane trips and other Nicaragua trips, Sloan said. Other local residents accompanying Sloan on various trips sponsored by Rotary International were Mike Boysen, Jerry and Lyndy Bolthouse, and Sloan's son Rustie.

At an orphanage in Nicaragua, Sloan's Rotary group put in a new kitchen. "They were trying to feed 60-some kids over an open fire." The group also did some wiring, put in windows and installed a washer and dryer. At a Nicaraguan school Sloan's Rotary group completely refurbished a building, turning it into a schoolhouse with five classrooms. At a Nicaraguan hospital Sloan's Rotary group put in and furnished a hospital laboratory, wired the entire hospital, and bought and installed a water tank to be used when the hospital's electricity went out.

Accommodations have varied on each of the trips, she said. Some hotels were "fairly decent places that even had air conditioning," while others were not very good. One of the places, dubbed "Rat Hotel" by the group, only had running water one hour a day and had no seat on the toilet. Showers were taken with a five-gallon pail of water.

Each time a group goes on a trip, she said, Rotary members take medication. Each person fills one suitcase with clothing and personal items and fills two others with medications, she said. In Mexico, cholera is rampant during certain times of the year, she said. International Aid of Spring Lake gives medicines to Rotary members for one-tenth of their normal cost.

"When we went down (to Nicaragua) after Hurricane Mitch, we took over $100,000 worth of medications," she said, which cost the individual Rotary clubs a tenth of that.

Sloan said the main comment she hears from those who hear about her work with Rotary International is, "Why do you do it?"

Her answer to them, she said, is "because they need help and it makes me feel so good. Somebody has to help them. I'm also a very firm believer in we are our brother's keeper. What we waste here in a day would feed a village down there for a month. They really need it."

The people she's met have been hard-working and friendly, she said. "They insist you come to their house and eat. You may get a bowl of soup that's more water than anything else. Maybe a chicken neck was in there at one time."

Sloan said that since her husband retired last year from General Motors, they have been traveling during the winter to McCallen, Texas, which is 89across the border from Reynosa. The couple is able to spend time helping out at the Reynosa orphanage, she said. She hopes to eventually take her older son, Todd, on a trip. He is a builder, she said, and would be "a real asset."

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Petter stands with his Holstein heifer "Eva."

Caledonia boy wins high marks in dairy competition

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Derrik Petter, 11, took first place in showmanship at the Michigan Dairy Exposition in Lansing July 6.

His Holstein heifer also took third place in the spring yearling class.

Petter's parents helped him buy the calf last year from a trucker they know from Lake Odessa. He has raised "Eva" from that point.

Petter said this was his first experience showing an animal.

"First, I was really nervous, and after getting the award, I was really happy," he said. "The whole thing was really exciting."

Getting ready meant practicing leading his calf. She has to hold her head up and must be "set up," so legs are in the right position in relation to the judge's viewpoint. He also had to become familiar with all the cow's parts, and the heifer had to be clipped and washed.

At the state show three days later, Petter's heifer took fourth place statewide, and second in the junior division. Petter also received seventh in showmanship.

Derrik Petter of Caledonia holds his first place in showmanship award from the Michigan Dairy Exposition in Lansing.

Petter also took his heifer to a show in Hudsonville where he received first for his animal, and third in showmanship.

The boy attends Moline Christian School.

Another Caledonia resident, Gene VanRhee worked with Petter to teach him how to prepare for showing. Derrik's mother, Jeannie Petter, said VanRhee is a man who gives a lot to kids in the area, acting as a mentor to them in their projects with raising animals.

Speed limit near new school debated

by Nick Kacher
Staff Writer

Should there be a new, reduced speed limit near the new Thornapple Kellogg Middle School, should there also be a new speed limit?

That was the question discussed at the July 27 Middleville Village Council meeting.

As it stands now, the speed limit is 25 mph near the high school, but increases further west on West Main beyond the high school, going to 35 mph and then 45. So for the moment, the speed limit outside of the new middle school is 45 mph, but maybe not for long.

The council discussed extending the 25 mph zone all the way out past the middle school. Some thought that 25 mph is to slow for that stretch of road. Others thought that with the school there, it is necessary.

One suggestion was to put up one of those flashing signs, which when flashing the speed limit is 25, but otherwise it's 35 or possibly 45.

The issue will be placed in front of the Public Safety Committee, so for now no decisions have been made.

In other business at its meeting last Tuesday evening, the council:

• Held a public hearing to discuss whether the village clerk and treasurer should be appointed, rather than elected. Since the Clerk and treasurer have no vote in council decisions, the State of Michigan has decided it is allowable to appoint these positions. However, each council has a choice of whether they want to switch to have them be elected. No decisions were made at this time.

• Decided to allow the Department of Public Works to take care of the drainage problem on West Main. To drain the accumulated water, a 20- by 20-foot leaching basin will be constructed. A proposal was made that if the public works crew is unable to fix the problem by the end of the year, the work will be contracted out, with costs exceeding no more than $3,000.

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Turtle term 'shell game' needs a few definitions

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

An article about the Eastern box turtle in the Sun and News last week has generated comments and questions, both to the newspaper and to biologist Patricia Pennell of the Thornapple River Watershed Group.

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Referring to the "Michigan Turtles and Lizards" handbook, published by the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service and the MSU Museum in 1990, some clarification is included here.

The Eastern box turtle is not "endangered," but is defined as a "species of special concern" by the Department of Natural Resources. No wild turtle may be kept as a pet in Michigan.

Clayton Smith of Rockford said the sexes can be distinguished also by the under shell of the box turtle, which is concave in the male.

The handbook described the "Eastern box turtle, or Terrapene carolina carolina, a small land turtle. This is Michigan's only truly terrestrial turtle." It is described as inhabiting open woodlands, living near water and sometimes wandering into grassy meadows and gardens. Pennell said they swim poorly and though they would rarely drown, people moving them out of roadways would do best by not placing them in water.

The wood turtle, thought to be another rare Michigan land or terrestrial turtle, is described by the handbook as follows: "Wood turtle, Clemmys insculpta, in scattered populations in the upper and lower penninsula, usually in the northern lower penninsula." It too is designated as a species of special concern.

Its habitats, according to the handbook, are in and near rivers and streams of northern woodlands. They are never far from moving water and it is reported that they even mate in the water. These characteristics classify them as aquatic turtles, according to the handbook.

Pennell is the education director of the Thornapple River Watershed Group. She is trying to conduct a survey of people in the watershed area on watershed issues, using e-mail. Anyone interested in participating can find the survey at this address:
http://www.thornappleriver.com.

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Evening Worship ... 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting ... 7:00 p.m.
Rev. Royle Ballard, Pastor
Phone 868-6437

UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES
Middleville – Parmelee
Parmelee Morning Worship ... 9:30 a.m.
Middleville Sunday School ... 9:45 a.m.
Middleville Morning Worship ... 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Lee Zuckman
Church Office Phone – 795-9266

CALEDONIA UNITED METHODIST
Worship Service ... 10:30 a.m.
Jr. Church (Licensed Nursery & Child Care)
Rev. Norman Kohen – 616-891-8167
Youth Minister: Randy Powell
250 Vine Street
Church Office: 616-891-8669
Fax: 891-8648

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Sunday School 9:45
6:00 Caraway St.
(Children's Ministry Ages 4 to 5th Grade)
Choirs for Children and Adults
Jr. & Sr. High School Youth Group
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Sunday Morning Worship ... 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship ... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Midweek Prayer & Bible Study ... 7:00 p.m.
Rev. Thomas Sluys
Rev. Karl Bratton, Assoc. Pastor/Youth Ministries

Time capsule reveals TK school history

No one knew what to expect July 14 when the Brick Sculpture Committee members opened the time capsule in the cornerstone of the old TK Middle School.

In among the many magazines was an envelope containing a history of the district and surrounding community. The following is a copy of that letter compiled by the Middleville Women's Reading Club and submitted to the school board on July 14, 1931:

"Thornapple Township so named from Thornapple River, which received its designation from the beautiful growth of Thornapple trees upon its banks, its location on the United States survey as township 4-N in range 10W.

"Thornapple Township was organized under a legislature act approved March 6, 1838, and then included the N.W. 1/2 of the county now occupied by the township of Thornapple, Yankee Springs, Rutland and Irving. Yankee Springs became a separate township March, 1839. Irving, including Rutland, in April 1839.

"The first annual meeting in Thornapple was held at the house of B.S. Dibble, April 2, 1838.

"The earliest white settler in Thornapple, and the founder of the village of Middleville was Calvin G. Hill. In the fall of 1834, he purchased from the government 400 acres lying on both sides of Thornapple River, within the present limits of the village of Middleville.

"The stage route from Battle Creek through Yankee Springs, crossing the river one mile north from the location of the present bridge, and so on to Grand Rapids, passed through Middleville and by old log school building.

"The first meeting of the school inspectors was held April 12, 1838. Calvin G. Hill was chosen chairman, and the township divided into five school districts, the present township of Thornapple constituting District No. 1. This was subdivided into four districts, but these were soon after again united as one.

"Middleville was so named from the Indian village called Middleville Village, by reason of being midway between Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids. The name of Middleville was adopted in 1839. However, the village was not formally recorded until April 12, 1859.

"The first school house built in the township stood in what is now Middleville, on the west side of the river one half mile north of present main street, on Arlington Street. There was the main stage road between Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids.

"The structure consisted of one road made of logs. Charles Paull, the carpenter, finished it off in a high style of art, as circumstances permitted. Sarah Paull was the first teacher, and Mr. Coman the second. Teachers were changed at least twice a year. Rev. Mr. Wilcox, a Disciples minister, taught the school and preached also to a church organization, which met in the school house.

"About 1840 a frame school house replaced the log building.

"In a report made by the inspectors of this district in 1843, the number of children in the district between the ages of 4 and 18 was 19; the number attending over 18 and under 4 years age, 10.

"The report also states that the school was kept seven months, J.H. Hare and Jane Hill were the teachers, that Mr. Hare received $43 for the three months of service, and that of four months Jane Hill received but $16. Both teachers boarded around.

"In May 1843, Jane Hill and Amanda Harwood were appointed teachers. In November 1843 George B.Manchester and A.C. Hill received appointments and in that year $40 were raised for a township library.

"May 4, 1844, Jane Hill was appointed to teach in district No. 2, and Nov. 2, 1844, Samuel C. Sprague became a teacher in the same district. Mary A. Bugbee was appointed to teach in June 1845, and Johnson C. Goodrich in October 1845.

"District No. 3, was organized Nov. 29, 1845, and the first meeting in the district was held Jan. 17, 1846, at the house of Robert Scales. In 1846, Caroline Leonard and W.B. Goodrich were appointed teachers.

"District No. 4 was organized in September 1849; No. 5 in 1853; No. 6 in 1857; and No. 7 in 1868. The condition of seven townships schools, as set forth in the official report for 1879 appears the following abstract: No. of Districts - 7; No. of Children of School Age - 573; Average Attendance - 458; Value of Property - $21,000; Teacher's Wages - $2,058.

"The school directors for 1879 were John Mee, P.C. Freeman, J.S. Johnson, J.C. Syter, J. Carlisle, C. Rosenberger and A.A. Thompson.

"The village school was kept on the west side of the river until 1854 when a brick two-room, one-story building was built on the present grounds, now occupied by the union school, the lot being donated by Calvin g. Hill, and thereupon the school on the west side was abandoned.

"In 1871 the present Union school consisting of a basement and three story structure was built, on the same grounds just back of the old building, at a cost of $15,000. It contained four departments primary, intermediate, grammar and high school. Four teachers were employed. The fourth floor was used as an auditorium and later when needed as classrooms.

"The attendance of pupils in March, 1880 was 288. The principal was Charles W. Pickel.

"The village school house was used for worship until 1863, when Charles Paull's hall was occupied. In 1866 this was vacated for Swift's Hall, which served until the completion of the present church edifice, in the spring of 1871.

"The school building was badly damaged by fire in 1877. The school was closed six weeks for repairs.

"In 1878 the school was organized into a 12-grade accredited high school.

"Due to the growth of the school in the fall of 1924, a two-room portable building was purchased for the use of the primary department. Teachers were increased as needed until the present faculty numbered eight. Music, kindergarten and athletic departments have been added. In athletics, the basketball teams have been very successful. Have won the cup for the county several times and been very close contestants for first place in baseball.

"In 1928-29, Mr. Jennings, superintendent, drew a salary of $2600 a year.

"The bell that calls the children to school now is the same one used in the two-room school building in 1854.

"In December 1930 at a special election it was voted that again the township schools, including Middleville High School, become a township unit to take effect in the fall of 1931.

A building is being erected again on the west side of the river at cost of approximately $90,000. A beautiful structure, and expertly equipped.

"The teachers for 1929-1930 are as follows:

Superintendent, D.D. Wolverton; principal, B.F. Harris; languages, Emma Vaughn; mathematics, Geraldine Wolverton; seventh and eighth grade, Dorris Hyde; fifth and sixth, Reva Moored; third and fourth, Mary Blosser; kindergarten and music, Vera Lewis; first and second grade, Minnie McFall.

District No. 1, Helen Brog; District No. 3, Vere Carter; District No. 4, Julia Eaton; District No. 5, Dorothy Synder; District No. 6, Crystal Finkbeiner; District No. 7, Marjorie Currier and District No. 9, Barbara Windes (Jackson Dist.).

"The teachers for 1930-1931 as follows: superintendent, LeRoy Bell; principal, Ivan Lyons; manual arts, Irving Forthworth; domestic service, Zetta Thomas, Geraldine Wolverton and Emma Vaughn; grades, Barbara Windes, Chrystal Braddon, Evelyn Thomas, Lydia Marsh, Minnie McFall and Winnifred Gentzler.

"Middleville School closed year of 1929-1930 with enrollment of 239. Expect to begin 1930-1931 with enrollment of at least of 400.

Board of Education are: Charles Parker, president; G.E. Blake; James L. Rugg; Philip Bender and Howard Smith.

"A Committee of the Middleville Women's Reading Club hereby respectfully submit the above report and data to the School Board of Middleville on the day July 14, 1931 A.D.

"Committee: Mrs. John Otto, Mrs. Harry E. Bennett, Mrs. Frank Pratt, Mrs. John Dietrich and Mrs. Frank Prindle.

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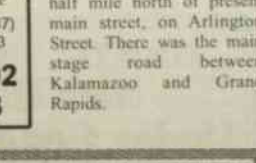

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Caledonia planners may tighten development applications process

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

The Caledonia Township Planning Commission's Site Plan Review Committee tried to accommodate five applications in about an hour July 19, but that wasn't adequate time for consideration of each proposal, commissioners said.

Commissioner Deb Steketee said applicants should be required to bring all relevant background materials. Some of the preparations by applicants have been inadequate, which takes up a lot of time for township officials, already under pressure, because half of their meetings are already designated for developing the new master plan.

The commission in the future may have to enforce some restrictions already stated in commission by-laws or even additional guidelines, in order to operate more efficiently.

Commissioners discussed a need for standardized procedures for developers bringing applications and changes to previous plans before the commission and for site plan review.

"We may need to limit the number of applicants on the site plan review agenda, and stick to it," said Commissioner Dan Timmer. He also suggested dividing the available time equally between applicants.

Commissioners said it is the applicant's responsibility to give the commission adequate background documentation so they can make informed decisions. This applies whether the meeting is with the the Site Plan Review Committee, the Planning Commission or the Township Board.

In fact, the supporting documentation needs to come to officials in advance of the meeting to give them time to review the information and apply the rules which are relevant to the situation. This is the only way most decisions may be efficiently expedited during regularly scheduled meetings, officicals say.

Builders and developers often lack studies, and have not obtained approvals and signatures from authorized agencies such as the Road Commission, the Health Department, the Department of Natural Resources, etc., in advance of their hearing with the commission.

Township Manager-Planner John Wallace said applicants often have come without supporting reviews. They should not come expecting their recollections of past instructions or verbal understandings to be sufficient to move ahead, especially if they are operating under their own tight schedule.

One commissioner asked if extra fees could be charged when extra meetings are needed because the applicant has not provided information. Wallace said special meetings should not be dependent on an applicant's ability to pay.

Special meetings might be held based on the urgency of the project, and impact on surrounding community rather than because of negative impact on the applicant, however.

Wallace said though usually no extra charges would be levied, the applicants should understand delays can result in their projects when they neglect to bring in everything they can think of that conceivably could apply to their application.

Wallace said the Site Plan Review Committee can sift through a lot of problems, and help expedite the process with its recommendations. He also suggested that sometimes a pre-meeting could be held to go over all the possible issues. Some applicants have asked for this, because they have very little knowledge of the process.

Though guidelines already prescribe many kinds of documentation expected in the approval process, not every situation is the same and it is not possible to strictly standardize the documentation the developer should provide. Usually the requirements are included in previous resolutions for the development, as well as a history of the past transactions with the Township Board, Planning Commission and Site Plan Review Committee.

Handling applications in an efficient manner is to the applicant's advantage, and if applicants provide the needed information, they can help speed up the process. They often come under pressure to complete the project and want the approval "last week."

Wallace said though there are already guidelines about what should be supplied by the applicant, it might be advisable to send letters to developers working on PUDs to alert them to a change in the way things will be done in the future. If this is not the way things were enforced in the past, this would inform them of what to expect.

Wallace said he would like to audit all PUDs with developers, but at present there was not enough time.

Timmer said it also should be made clear that the earlier applicants get the materials to the commissioners before their scheduled appointment, the better their chance to be put on the agenda. If it is necessary to cut off the number of applicants for an agenda, some applicants might have their hearing postponed. If developers understand this, Timmer thought the effort by applicants to supply needed materials in advance would improve.

Applicants often come expecting Wallace or planning commissioners to research years of history of that particular development to verify something the developer claims was said or was verbally promised.

Wallace said this research time was actually costing the township much more than the fees actually charged for each type of application. He also said applicants were putting heat on the township for delays caused by their own failure to document their own cases.

Meanwhile, commissioners also operate under a 90-day deadline for dispensation of requests. They do not want to postpone applications longer than necessary. Steketee said they did not want to get backed up or behind, but poorly documented applications were taking up a lot of their time. The 90-day clock starts when Wallace declares all the documentation for the application has been received.

GFWC-Gun Lake Area plan to meet Aug. 11

The General Federation of Women's Clubs-Gun Lake Area will have their Aug. 11 meeting at 9:30 a.m. at O'Neil's Restaurant and Pub, Chief Noonday Road, Gun Lake.

After the business meeting, Tom stone, an instructor at the Ebersole Environmental Education Center of Wayland will present a program about the center.

The Ebersole Environmental Education Center, owned and operated by the Lansing School District, is 158 acres of a diverse ecosystem that includes wetlands, lake, swamp and beech/maple forests and a prairie restoration project. Children from all over Michigan are welcome to come and learn through direct contact with nature. Pond study, wildlife observation, bird, owl and mammal studies are among the many programs offered to excite interest and create lasting memories.

Ebersole also offers a full range of outdoor recreation and group building experiences as well as traditional camping activities. Anyone interested in GFWC-Gun Lake Area club or the days program should call hostesses Marilyn Page (795-7817) or Marilyn Finkbeiner (795-9206).

Club business will include reports on Interlochen trip of July 13 and 14; board meeting of Aug. 2; and recently held homes tour and program committee meetings.

GFWC Gun Lake Area Club meetings are open to the public and anyone interested should contact the hostesses listed or club president, Jose Vogel (795-7367) or vice president, Marjory Richards, (795-3969).

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RUNAWAY BRIDE (PG)
12:00, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:20
DEEP BLUE SEA (R)
DIGITAL / STADIUM SEATING
11:40, 2:10, 4:30, 7:20, 9:25
INSPECTOR GADGET (PG)
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Obituaries

Lloyd James Colvin

HASTINGS - Mr. Lloyd James Colvin, age 67, of Hastings, passed away Tuesday, July 27, 1999 at his residence.

Mr. Colvin was born on January 13, 1932 in Irving Township, the son of Lloyd James and Virginia A. (Kidder) Colvin.

He was raised and attended school in Vermontville.

Mr. Colvin married Jeanette Marie Horton on March 1, 1952 in La Grange, Indiana. The marriage ended in divorce.

He was employed and retired from Oven Fresh Bakery in Grand Rapids as a Hi-Low Driver.

Mr. Colvin was a member of the VFW Post in Nashville, Moose Lodge and the Teamsters Union.

He served in the United States Army, was a Corporal in the Korean Conflict. He received an Infantry Badge, Korean Theater Ribbon with three Campaign Stars and Korean Presidential Unit Citation with three bronze Campaign Stars.

Lloyd was an avid reader, he enjoyed traveling, was an outdoor enthusiast, with a special fondness for fishing, and enjoyed the friendship of many.

Mr. Colvin is survived by his four daughters, Marlene Newton of Hastings, Luella (Ray) Boze of Plainwell, Virginia Harper of Battle Creek, and Velma (Michael) Mcleod of Hastings; sister, Betty Garrow of Hastings; ten grandchildren; seventeen great grandchildren; many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Memorial Services for Mr. Colvin were held Monday, August 2, 1999 at the Beeler Funeral Home, Middleville. Reverend Richard Taggart officiated.

Burial was at Ft. Custer National Cemetery, Battle Creek with full Military Honors.

Marie Lehnert

Mrs. Marie Lehnert, age 82, went to her heavenly home, Thursday, July 28, 1999.

Mrs. Lehnert for 27 years farmed in Remus and retired to Greenville where they resided for 21 years.

She was preceded in death by her son, David Lehnert.

Mrs. Lehnert is survived by her loving husband of 64 years, Adolph; her children, Gerald & Ellen Lehnert of Caledonia, Patricia & Allen Pike of Belmont; twelve grandchildren; 29 great grandchildren; sisters & brothers-in-law, Cora Vander Werf, Clara & Harold Pierce, Alice & Frank Krause, Marge & Bill Berrevoets, Grace Smith, and many nieces & nephews.

The Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Saturday, July 31, 1999 at Holy Family Catholic Church. Reverend Father David E. Le Blanc, Celebrant.

Interment Services were at St. Michael's Cemetery in Remus.

A Rosary/Scripture Service was held Friday at the Funeral Home.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to Holy Family Catholic Church Futures Foundation.

Jeffery B. Fountain

MORLEY - Jeffery B. Fountain, age 34, of Morley and formerly of Caledonia, passed away Thursday, July 29, 1999 at home.

Mr. Fountain is survived by his children, Tiffany Sue, Jeffery J., Tabitha A. and Linda J.; parents, Bruce and Phyllis Fountain; one sister, Beth (Walter) Gulch all of Middleville; grandmother, Violet Jennings of Ohio; two nieces, Nicole and Jessica Gulch.

Funeral & Committal Services for Mr. Fountain were held Saturday afternoon, July 31, 1999 at the Beeler Funeral Chapel, Middleville. Pastor Robert Gerke officiated.

Interment was in Curtice Cemetery, Bitely, Michigan, Monday, August 2, 1999.

Give A Memorial That Can Go On Forever...

A gift to the Barry Community Foundation is used to help fund activities throughout our county in the name of the person you designate.

Ask your funeral director for more information on the Barry Community Foundation or call 945-0526.

Watershed management short course series set for Sept. 9-Oct. 2

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

The Thornapple River Watershed Group is ready to take applications for its watershed management short course on various dates between Sept. 9 and Oct. 2 at Caledonia High School.

The course is designed for local officials, residents, land owners, educators, builders, developers, and real estate agents concerned with water quality and land use issues in the West Michigan area.

Participants of the short course will learn about:

- Thornapple River features and watershed science.
- Historical perspectives of watershed management.
- Sources of local information and resources.
- Watershed planning and community action.

Managing water resources from a land use perspective is called watershed management. Examining land use and its impact on water quality is the first step toward protection of surface and groundwater from non-point pollution.

Supporting partners for the project include the Barry County Conservation District, Caledonia Township, W.K. Kellogg Biological Station, Kent County Health Dept., Land Conservancy of West Michigan, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and others, totalling over 20 agencies.

Class topics are as follows:

- Sept. 9, 6-10 p.m. After a visual tour of the Thornapple River watershed, MSU faculty will introduce the science behind the watershed, including geology, watershed boundaries, soils and hydrology.
- Sept. 16, 6-10 p.m. Learn the true meaning of "clean water," possible contamination routes, land use impacts and management solutions.
- Sept. 23, 6-10 p.m. WMU faculty will examine the historic relationships between west Michigan's abundant water resources and its land use patterns.

Current land use trends specific to the Thornapple River watershed will be highlighted along with successful local and state-wide watershed projects.

- Sept. 30, 4-7 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. Network with organizations involved in water quality issues and projects at the Watershed Expo.

Explore the role of local officials and resource professionals in the watershed planning process. Learn to move your message through effective and fun educational activities. Get your message into the media.

- Oct. 2, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Take part in a hands-on visit of local sites, features and problem areas discussed during previous sessions. Bring waders. Lunch included.

Credits for completion have been requested. The course will cost $75. To obtain registration forms, call (616) 891-8817, or contact thornappleriver@hotmail.com www.thornappleriver.com.

Former local woman earns master's degree

Catherine Elizabeth Hart, formerly of Middleville, last May received her master's degree in horticulture from the University of Illinois.

Hart, a 1993 graduate of Thornapple Kellogg High School, earned her bachelor's degree in biology.

She is the daughter of Douglas and Elizabeth Hart of Middleville.

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'Bat Buddy' helps dispel bat myths

This shy spearnosed bat from Trinidad eats fruit, insects, frogs, mice and other small things.

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Young library patrons who came to learn about bats saw the living creatures last month at close range.

Bats from different parts of the world were the focus of the program presented by Dale Smart, a representative for the Organization for Bat Conservation.

Smart's presentation, featuring live bats, at Caledonia's Village/Township Hall in July drew 171 visitors for the largest turnout ever at any of the library sponsored programs.

"The World of Bats," included a slide show that attempted to dispel myths about bats and raised enthusiasm about the gentle creatures.

"Bats are the only mammals that can fly," Smart began. "All bats can see," he said, dispelling the "blind as a bat" myth. Bats are not generally dangerous to people, as some think. Bats are extremely timid and afraid of people.

A bat's wing has five fingers and one thumb, with skin stretched between. The wing skin feels like the skin on a person's eyelid, Smart explained, though he said people should not handle bats to find out. They are wild, and will bite when afraid.

If a bat gets into the house, he says people only need to open the windows and doors and it will voluntarily fly away. If a bat is sick and won't fly away on its own, Smart says to call a bat specialist, like him, to take the bat away. (Phone 1-517-655-9200)

Like all mammals, about one in 200 wild animals can get rabies, including bats, but they will die of it like most others. Bats do not carry rabies, Smart said. Only skunks and possibly raccoons can be infected without dying of it.

Bats come in different sizes, but Michigan bats are no larger than five inches long. Even the Big Brown Bat is the size of a mouse. Bats in Michigan are extremely beneficial for several reasons.

They are one of the main pollinators of flowers. The small creatures spread pollen, dusted on their heads as they drink nectar, one of their food sources. Some plant species are totally dependent on bats for pollination. Bananas are fertilized only by bats.

Bats eat June bugs, beetles, cockroaches, and caterpillars. Bats protect farmers from root worms. They will eat flying moths, including gypsy moths, before they have a chance to lay eggs for the next season. Although many bats are omnivores, they eat mostly flying insects. Some carnivorous bats eat mice, reptiles, snakes and lizards.

Sanguivores only eat blood, but none eat human blood. Of three species, one eats bird blood, eating a small amount of blood from a surface cut on the bird's foot. This does not harm the bird.

Bats are beneficial in that they literally eat tons of insects. All of Michigan's bats feed on a variety of night flying insects. A colony of bats can eat a half million bugs in one night and one bat can eat up to 1,000 mosquitoes in one hour! They can be more effective than many insecticides.

Only insect eating bats fly by echolocation, which means the bat emits a sound which echo's back to the animal's sensitive ears, telling it where objects are in the darkness, so it can avoid bumping into them. Because of their echolocation, they can detect details in the environment, including moving insects. They

See bats, continued page 12

Bat Buddy Dale Smart spoke to 171 library patrons in behalf of bats at a library program in July. Here, he allows a close look at one of the bats from other countries he brought with him.

"Indi" is an Egyptian fruit bat that has been part of the bat organization's educational program since a baby.

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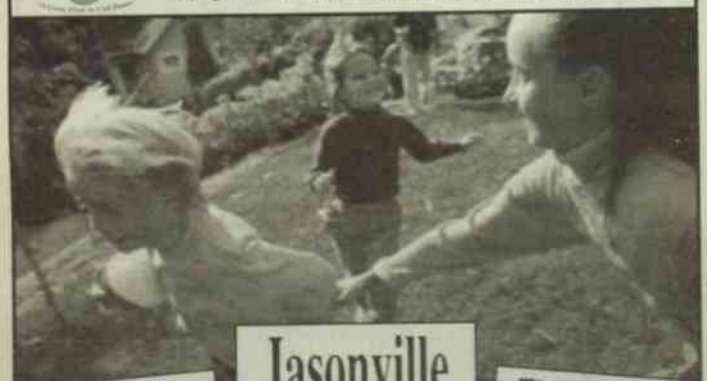

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Bats, continued from page 8

have incredible hearing. They make sounds that are above the range of sound people can hear. They can sense an object as fine as a human hair and avoid it in flight.

There are more than 1,000 species in the world, but many have become extinct, largely through loss of habitat. They come from different parts of the world, except Antarctica. World-wide, nearly half of all bats are endangered. Bats only raise one baby a year, so rapid recovery of populations is not possible.

Part of the reason so many bats are in danger is because of pesticides in the environment. People also vandalize their roosting areas, due to ignorance and misunderstanding.

If a roost is destroyed, the whole colony may not survive, and some may seek safety in buildings. Bat houses placed in the right places can attract bats away from residences, and keep colonies alive to do their work of eliminating insect pests.

A colony of 100 bats can live in one bat house, in a space of about 18 inches by 24 inches by about 3 inches deep. The natural environment for a colony would be under loose bark on a dying tree, or inside a hollow tree trunk. Saving trees helps preserve the habitat of bats, and recycling paper is one way to save trees, Smart reminded.

Information about building bat houses was included. The best place to put a bat house is not on a tree, but about 15 feet up on the side of a building, which gets full sunlight.

Nine kinds of bats live in Michigan. One is an endangered species, and all bats here are protected by law.

Michigan species include the little brown bat, which uses bat houses in northern Michigan, the northern long-eared bat, which is uncommon, the Indiana bat, the species which is federally endangered, the red bat, a solitary bat which roosts in leafy trees, such as elms and maples, the hoary bat, which is a solitary roosting bat, the silver-haired bat, a solitary bat which roosts in tree hollows, the evening bat, found only in southern Michigan, but is rare, the big brown bat found commonly in bat houses throughout Michigan, and the Eastern Pipistrelle bat, found only in the Upper Peninsular.

Michigan bat species hibernate all winter and come out in April. They give birth in June. Putting a properly built bat house on your property can help conserve bat species, and result in reducing insects.

There are different kinds of bats, ranging in size from very tiny to as tall as a goose with a six-foot wing spread. Some eat only fruit, and some eat mainly insects, and others are omnivores, eating a wide variety of foods. Most fruit bats are from Asia. They use their eyes and sense of smell to locate fruit over one mile away. Fruit bats eat 80 percent of their own body weight on the wing, digesting as they go.

The digestive waste of fruit bats is often part of nature's way of preparing seeds to grow. Most of the rain forest is planted by bats in this way.

The program was part of the series of educational programs sponsored by the Kent District Library. Many of the summer library programs have been held at the Village/Township Hall because the present building is inadequate to accommodate so many guests.

The Organization for Bat Conservation sells bat houses designed to simulate their habitat, regulate temperature, ventilate the house and protect them from predators. Call 1-517-339-5200.

AYSO referee training set for Aug. 13-14

Training for individuals interested in becoming certified AYSO referees will be Aug. 13-14 at the Soccer Exchange on 44th Street in Jenison.

The first level of training is the regional referee and training will be held for that level Saturday, Aug. 14 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The minimum age for a regional referee is 12.

Second level training is the area referee which requires two sessions beginning Friday, Aug. 13 from 7-9 p.m. and Saturday, July 14 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Minimum age for an area referee is 14 with 25 games of refereeing experience. Reservations are required.

In the Caledonia region, contact Martin Hall at (616) 891-4124. Outside of Caledonia, contact your region's referee coordinator.

Middleville church plans Bible school

The Middleville United Methodist Church at 111 Church St. in Middleville will be having vacation Bible school Monday, Aug. 9, to Friday, Aug. 13 from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Children ages 3 years to seventh grade are welcome to attend. They will be learning about Peter and how he became a followers of Jesus, singing songs, doing arts and crafts, and more.

Middleville woman receives award

Susan A. Foster of Middleville, owner of Thornapple Financial Center and president of Money Concepts Middleville, received Money Concepts International's special Millionaires Award for outstanding performance during the past year. The award was given at Money Concept's International Financial Planning Congress in Cancun, Yucatan, Mexico

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Thornapple Manor

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Yankee Springs Township Zoning Board of Appeals

NOTICE of PUBLIC HEARING

TO: THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP, BARRY COUNTY, MI AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1999, COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM AT THE YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP HALL, 1284 N. BRIGGS RD., CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING:

1. ZBA 99-07-10, PARCEL ID. NO. 045-019-00; A REQUEST BY STEVE PITSCH, 911 BARLOW LAKE DR., FOR A VARIANCE FROM THE SIDE YARD AND ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY SETBACK REQUIREMENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE TO ALLOW HIM TO CONSTRUCT AN ADDITION TO HIS GARAGE LESS THAN TWENTY-FIVE FEET FROM THE ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY AND FIVE FEET FROM THE SIDE YARD LOT LINE.
2. ZBA 99-07-11, PARCEL ID. NO. 140-005-00; A REQUEST BY DAVID AND MARY ANN LE BOEUF, 12455 OAKWOOD SHORES DR., FOR A VARIANCE FROM THE SIDE YARD SETBACK REQUIREMENTS OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO ALLOW THEM TO RECONSTRUCT A PORTION OF THEIR HOUSE WITHIN SEVEN FEET OF THE PROPERTY SIDE YARD PROPERTY LINE.
3. SUCH OTHER MATTERS AS MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE TOWNSHIP, 284 N. BRIGGS RD., DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS AND WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF THE PUBLIC HEARING. WRITTEN LETTERS OF COMMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL THE START OF THE MEETING.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE TOWNSHIP WILL PROVIDE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, NECESSARY, REASONABLE, AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES AS MAY BE REQUESTED, UPON 5 DAYS NOTICE TO THE TOWNSHIP CLERK OF THE NEED FOR THE SAME.

ALL PERSONS ARE INVITED TO BE PRESENT AT THE AFORESAID TIME AND PLACE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSION OF THE ABOVE PROPOSAL(S).

CHARLES BIGGS
SECRETARY
YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (304)

Christopher J. Hier, D.D.S.

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Middleville youth joins Miss Jr. Teen competition

Rebecca Rose Warner of Middleville recently was selected to participate in Nationals' 1999 Miss Jr. Teen Grand Rapids pageant competition Sunday, Aug. 5.

She learned of her acceptance into this year's competition as Nationals Inc. announced their selections on Monday afternoon. Rebecca, daughter of Mary and Gary Warner of Middleville, submitted an application and took part in an interview session that was conducted by Thomas DiPaula, this year's Grand Rapids pageant coordinator, during a meeting on Sunday, July 18.

Rebecca, a sophomore at Thornapple Kellogg High School, will be competing for her share of over $20,000 in scholarships, prizes and specialty gifts that will be distributed to contestants. She will be competing in the Miss Jr. Teen division, one of five divisions that will have young ladies between the ages of 7 and 23 competing in modeling routines which include casual wear and formal wear. She will display her personality and interviewing skills while interviewing with this year's Grand Rapids judging panel. Personality is the number one asset at each contestant is judged on during all phases of competition.

If she were to win the title of Miss Jr. Teen Grand Rapids, she would represent Grand Rapids and the surrounding communities within a 200-mile radius of Grand Rapids at the national competition that will take place in Orlando, Fla. Over $60,000 in prizes and awards will be presented at Nationals while each winner enjoys this expense paid trip of five nights and six days in Orlando.

In her spare time, Rebecca enjoys acting, cheerleading and playing soccer. There is no cost for her to participate in the pageant competition. Community businesses, organizations, and private individuals will assist her in participating in this year's competition by becoming official sponsors. Through sponsorship, each contestant receives all the necessary

Rebecca Warner

training, rehearsals and financial support which will allow her to become a confident and prepared contestant.

Any business, organization or private individual interested in becoming a sponsor may call Rebecca at 795-4165.

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Synopsis of Regular Meeting
Middleville Village Council

Synopsis
Village of Middleville, Michigan
Council Meeting Minutes
13 July 1999

The regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Middleville, Michigan was called to order by its President, Lon Myers, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Village Hall. Members present: Michael Lytle, William Nesbitt, David Newman, Marilyn VandenBerg, Lon Myers, William Kenyon and Floyd Bray.

The regular meeting was recessed for a public hearing to answer questions and concerns regarding closing Spring Street for the construction of a lift station for the Utilities Project and was resumed at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with corrections. The agenda for the meeting was approved.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

1. Mr. Newman made a motion to accept the proposed first phase of the Misty Ridge development which includes the construction of 28 homes and a requirement for the developers to complete the installation of water, sewer, roads and sidewalks within one year. Mrs. VandenBerg supported the motion. The motion carried.

2. Mr. Newman presented a motion to accept the final PUD Development Plan for the Town Square proposed by Mr. Getty with two contingencies proposed by the Planning Commission: A. sidewalks be constructed on both sides of the street and B. storm drainage moved from the site. Mrs. VandenBerg supported the motion. The motion carried.

3. Mr. Nesbitt made a motion to approve the Village's and Thornapple Township's proposal to engage in the joint hiring and sharing of a planner. Mrs. VandenBerg supported the motion. The motion carried.

4. Mr. Nesbitt made a motion to pay the gypsy moth invoice for $4,732.00 even though the cost had been much higher than originally anticipated. Mr. Newman supported the motion. The motion carried.

5. Mr. Bray made a motion to conduct a public hearing about appointing both the Village Clerk and Treasurer on Tuesday, July 27, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall. Mr. Newman supported the motion. The motion carried.

6. Mr. Lytle made a motion to pay the invoices dated July 13, 1999 which included the invoice for the gypsy moth spraying for a total of $49,950.89. Mrs. VandenBerg supported the motion. The motion carried.

7. Mr. Newman made a motion to approve the Thornapple Kellogg School District's proposed Water Facilities agreement with changes as suggested by the Village Engineer, Mr. Steve Williams. Mr. Kenyon supported the motion. The motion carried. The revised agreement will be submitted to the TK School Board for its approval.

8. Agreed to accept an invitation from Kevin McKee to discuss recreation plans with the schools as well as several townships on Thursday, July 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

9. Mr. Newman made a motion to approve the installation of six groundwater wells to monitor underground water from Bradford White as per the State's request. Mr. Nesbitt supported the motion. The motion carried.

10. Mr. Newman made a motion to approve the submission of Utilities Project bills to the Barry County Commission for payment from the Utilities Project Funds in the amount of $148,374.01. Mr. Lytle supported the motion. The motion carried.

11. Mr. Newman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Nesbitt supported the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Roselle Havens, Clerk

The complete text of the Council Minutes may be read at the Village Hall Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(303)

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YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO THE RESIDENTS OF YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Yankee Springs Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, August 19, 1999, commencing at 7:30 pm at the Township Hall, located at 284 N. Briggs Rd., to conduct the following business:

1. ZOC 99-06-06, Parcel ID. NO. 033-025-00; A request by Edward TenHaff, 3510 Elmwood Beach Rd., to rezone a parcel of land located on the Northwest corner of Elmwood Beach Rd. and Hastings Point Rd., from the "Agriculture" to the "Rural Residential" Zoning District.

2. ZOC 99-07-07; A request by the Yankee Springs Township Planning Commission to replace Article III Section 15.3.7, "Mobile Home Park" Zoning District, in its entirety with the following language:

15.3.7 "MHP, Manufactured Home Park District"

Section 1 - Purpose of the District: To allow Manufactured Home Parks within the Township.
Section 2 - Definitions pertaining to the Manufactured Home Park District.
Section 3 - Permitted uses within the District.
Section 4 - Location of Manufactured Home Parks within the Township. Also required minimum size of Parcel A Manufactured Home Park may be placed on.
Section 5 - Development Standards required of each proposed Manufactured Home Park including.
A. Site Plan Review for each proposed Manufactured Home Park.
B. Minimum standards.
C. General authority and codes.
D. Lot sizes and setback requirements.
E. Building height.
F. Roads and streets, parking and storage areas.
G. Landscaping and screening of the interior and exterior of the Manufactured Home Park.
H. Sidewalks and open space.
I. Park drainage and public utilities.
J. Accessory buildings and household pets.

A copy of the complete text of the proposed amendment may be obtained from the Township Hall during regular business hours.

3. Such other business as may properly come before the Township Planning Commission.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Zoning Ordinance will be available for inspection at the Office of the Township Clerk, 284 N. Briggs Rd., during regular business hours and will also be available at the time of the public hearing. Written letters of comment will be accepted until the start of the public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Planning Commission reserves the right, at or after the public hearing, to make changes in the proposed amendments to the ordinance.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township will provide to individuals with disabilities, necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services as may be required, upon five days notice to the Township Clerk of the need for the same.

All persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place to participate in the discussion of the above proposal(s).

Al Schwennesen, Secretary
Yankee Springs Township
Planning Commission

302

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Master plan, continued from front page

Another method to communicate with the public is to hold a town meeting or meetings, where citizens could tell commissioners about how they are doing with the planning process to that point. Commissioners also could gather information that might point out a need for a response.

Communication is a two-way process, and getting information to the public also is important. Langworthy said there are two ways to do that. One is through the general media and the other is through newsletters. He said news articles informing the public about what is happening are appreciated.

He said public input must be made through township and planning officials, and not himself.

"You are ambassadors of this project," Langworthy said to officials present at the meeting. "That is also true for CAG members. Be informed and tell people what's going on. Keep yourself familiar with important meetings and dates, so you can tell people who talk to you."

Identifying the issues began during the July 19 meeting. Public participation was included in creation of a beginning list of issues. This process is to take place through three public participation methods. If there are issues not included, citizens might want to mention them to people directly involved in the master planning process.

Issues identified were: sewer and water, traffic, fire and police protection, commercial zoning, schools capacity and quality, coordination of zoning with other governmental units, residential density, preservation of natural resources, corridor development, parks and recreation, agricultural land, water quality and quality of both surface and ground water, the tax base vs. revenues, external/regional development pressures, non-motorized vehicles and pedestrian uses, airport impact, private roads and paved roads, infrastructure, sand and gravel mining, public and private utilities, open space network, preservation of resource areas, wildlife habitat, town center and a township library.

Another way issues would be raised would be through interviews with individuals, he said. Issues will continue to come up, Langworthy said, and those that come up a lot are probably important.

A community telephone survey also would help identify what the issues are, Langworthy said.

Issue papers might be developed for educational purposes on some of the top issues, which would determine the focus for a survey. He said they would use research opinion firm to develop the questionnaire to get the most accurate and effective responses. Getting the number of responses needed also would be a factor.

Collection of data also needs to be tailored to the issues in Caledonia. Issues for this area set the direction for information gathering.

He gave as a possible example, "If farm land preservation is an important issue, the data collection relates to the kind of agricultural production you actually have and what the value of those areas are, and so on."

When making a community analysis, they would need to evaluate what is happening now, and what would happen if past trends continue. Findings would be presented to the Citizens Advisory Group for their feedback.

The most important and most difficult part will be deciding the direction for the future, Langworthy said.

An aerial photographic view of the area was a very illuminating piece of the information showing land use, he said.

"You can't reverse development trends, but you can plan for them." He said, "and you could choose to follow existing trends."

One first step in the planning process will be to define the township vision in one or several statements and to include goals and objectives. These goals must be measurable to know if they have been achieved at a later date. Defining a process to make them work is important.

Langworthy said this is one part of the process in which every word must be chosen with utmost care.

"Everything goes back to these statements," he said.

The final step in the planning process is the implementation of the vision. This is accomplished by developing the future land use and implementation elements of the plan.

He said deciding on future land use based on identification of the natural features in order to protect resources which could be lost must be addressed. Land use is influenced by existing natural features, infrastructure capacity, land use characteristics and a development character map could be created from this information to determine future land use.

A development character map describes where development is wanted and where it would be better to have more or less development, or none. It indicates the likely levels of intense development without defining precise land uses. Commissioners could look at different development scenarios, while still considering what is already established.

Implementation includes creating a future land use map. After all the background steps are completed, this stage can take very little time, Langworthy said.

"Developing the draft plan is done in pieces, built upon as we go," he said.

This would include a capitol improvement plan, in which a list of basic projects would be identified in the plan, such as a new fire station, including funding and how to implement it. This would hopefully take about nine or ten months.

Langworthy asked all people involved to be flexible while drafting the plan. If information indicated a need to make shifts in direction, to find better approaches along the way, and better solutions appeared, he hoped officials could accommodate changes in direction and process.

The draft plan would be presented to the public in a town meeting or meetings along the way, and then a public hearing would also be required by law. Adoption of a plan after these steps is easy, he said.

Mizuno Golf Tournament a swinging success

A number of area linksters have prospered and carded top scores this summer during the course of the Mizuno Junior Golf Tournament season.

Those locals who have taken part include Steve Obreiter (Hastings), Katie Welton (Hastings), Kyle Kwasny (Delton), Brian Burt (Maple Valley), Pat Chaffee (Maple Valley), Andy Elliott (Lakewood), Mike Willette (Middleville) and Josh Doe (Hastings).

Obreiter has competed in all seven tournament events, placing first at Grand Ledge June 18 (one under par, 71), first at the Hastings Country Club July 9 (one over par, 73), second at Mullenhurst July 19 (three over par, 75) and third at Saranac's Morrison Lake July 16 (one over par, 71).

This summer, the tournament schedule consists of eight competitions, up from six stops in the inaugural campaign.

Welton also captured a second place at Mullenhurst with a score of 95.

Kwasny won a Mullenhurst with a one over par, 73.

Burt carded a first at the Mullenhurst tournament with an 84 and tied for second at Morrison Lake with another 84.

Chaffee also won a tournament title with an 83 in the C division at Morrison Lake. At Hastings Country Club, the Lion swinger had a third place, 88.

Elliott scored an 85 at Willow Wood in Portland June 26, an 87 at Ionia and an 89 at Sunfield's Centennial Acres Golf Course.

Willette's best scores included an 87 at Morrison Lake and a 94 at Mullenhurst.

Doe managed an 83 at Willow Wood, an 83 at Mullenhurst and an 84 at Morrison Lake.

The number of participants has nearly doubled from last year's field, as 150 golfers have taken part in the traveling competitions that test a golfer's skills.

There are three boys' divisions (A, B and C) and one girls' division (G). With each round of golf, the area athletes also receive a lunch. Winners of the tournaments receive trophies, while runner-ups take home medals.

Mike Booher, the golf coach at Maple Valley High School started the tournament tour so "the kids in this area could play" competitively over the summer months. The numbers and enthusiasm during the program's second year show that his idea was a solid one. This year, the Mizuno Junior Tour will award three $500 scholarships through a random drawing.

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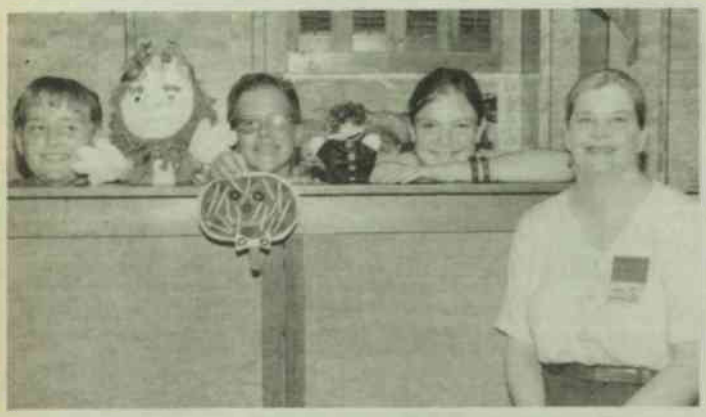
Movie monsters to visit Caledonia Library Aug. 5



Two short plays, were presented by Andrew Rushmore, Keagan Rushmore and Ali Krumrie of Caledonia. Tish Wells, (right) read stories, led songs and activities with the children's participation. The "Little Pizza Man," center, was a character based on the gingerbread man story.

Small visitors gather at the library to see a puppet show.

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

The Kent District Library program will offer a special presentation by Jeff Ferreri at the Caledonia Village/Township Hall at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 5, when he will demonstrate movie secrets of monster making.

Special effects make-up artist Ferreri teaches how to simulate the appearance of monsters, aliens, injuries, disguises and old age, including to make fake blood and skin. Participants can come wearing old clothes, and need to bring a small hand mirror, and be ready to freak everyone out!

This presentation will be for kids ages 11 and up. A full house is expected and pre-registration is required. Previously scheduled in June, Ferreri had vehicle problems and was not able to present the program then as scheduled.

A program for tiny people July 29 was held at the Caledonia Library, also sponsored by KDL.

A "Teen Theater" puppet show was presented by the KDL puppeteers, who entertained their guests with techniques and skills learned at the Readers Theater, in which teen volunteers of the Kent District Library learn to entertain younger kids.

Andrew Rushmore, Keagan Rushmore and Ali Krumrie, all from Caledonia, presented their puppet versions of two stories, "Emperor's Cat," and "Little Pizza Man," a variation of the gingerbread man theme.

In addition, Tish Wells read stories and led action songs to round out the presentation.

A wide variety of summer programs available through the Caledonia Library have been presented virtually every week this summer. These program are part of Kent District Library's "G'-Day for Reading" summer reading club running until Aug. 7.

Readers who have reached their goal and complete the summer reading club are eligible for prize drawings, including a trip to Walt Disney World for four.

Librarian Jane Heiss reports that there has a banner turnout of kids signing up for the summer reading program, and for attendence at the library sponsored programs. She said the attendence had tripled over previous years. A presentation featuring live bats July 22 drew 171 visitors, for the largest turnout ever at any of the library sponsored programs.

Many of the summer programs have been held at the Village/Township Hall because the present building is inadequate to accommodate so many guests.

Caledonia Library is located at 240 Emmons St. For more information, call the library at 891-1502.

The "Emperor's Cat" was a play in which the audience was able to take the part of the cat. The emperor here talks about finding the best name for his cat.

Wilson helps Hoops to AAU championship

Rebecca Wilson played a key role in the Lakeside Hoops 11-and-under AAU girls basketball championship recently in Wisconsin.

Wilson, of Caledonia, tallied 41 points as the Hoops went 6-1 and triumphed at the Great Lakes Shootout. The Hoops won six games in a row en route to the title.

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Metro Council, continued from front page——

He said there was an effort throughout the Metro area to get away from commercial sfrip centers and a reinforcement of the concept of village centers.

Communities concerned about retaining their identity can take advantage of the research, networking and expertise of the council, to help do this, Wallace said.

The regional purchasing program allows members to negotiate with vendors based on combined buying power to make purchases at a lower cost for members, such as on office equipment. Bidding information is shared, to help get the lowest bid based on numbers and volume buying, Wallace said.

E-mail and Internet services could be available at no cost to both member municipalities and employees.

Various groups within the council have networked to set up special functions, such as farmland preservation strategies, Wallace explained. This may or may not be an issue for the Caledonia master planning process, he added.

Wallace said affiliation offers smaller communities the capability to deal more quickly for dealing with accidents involving hazardous waste, by access through agreements with larger cities that have better developed hazardous substance response strategies.

Wallace said he had talked with the director of the Metro Council and had been sent materials on council rules for membership, fees, voting procedures, and an analysis of the activities in which they are involved.

Wallace said there was a common misconception that the council has taxation powers, but it cannot tax within the jurisdiction of the membership, and is funded through membership dues.

The vote on the Metro Council is proportional by population, he explained. Units of 50,000 or less get one vote, 50,000 to 100,000 get two votes, and over 100,000 get three votes. A balancing mechanism is employed so that per every $1,000 spent in membership fees, an area gets one vote. Grand Rapids has the largest vote. There are also two at-large members.

No new members are approved without total consensus of all previous members, he explained.

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Recreational facility needs assessed at first meeting

Additional recreational facilities are needed in the ever-growing Middleville area, so the village, townships and sports programs have come together to look into making sure those needs are met.

The Middleville Area Recreation Planning meeting took place in the Thornapple Kellogg High School auditorium last Thursday (July 29). About 25 people attended.

Thornapple Kellogg teacher and former athletic director Kevin McGee along with current athletic director Tom Lehman led the meeting, which included representation from Irving Township, Thornapple Township, Yankee Springs Township, the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), the YMCA and the village of Middleville.

The hope of the committee is to seek state grants that may be available, helping to fund such recreational development. In Lehman's words, the committee wants to make sure that they receive "some funding by going through the right steps."

"We need to start this process... we need to get it started," Lehman said of the needs for additional ball fields and tennis courts in the Middleville area. Needs for a swimming pool also were voiced. The pool at TK High has been under repair since the summer of 1998 and should be ready by fall, according to a statement by superintendent Jay Cason in a June 1 *Sun & News* story.

McGee said the early goals were to find out what the needs for recreational facilities are, to determine what facilities they already have and to form a committee. Two representatives from the village, the townships and the other organizations involved (such as the YMCA) each would have two representatives.

"It is important when we put this group together, that we put it together right," Thornapple Township Supervisor Don Boysen said.

Or as Yankee Springs Supervisor George London put it, "We have to have all of our ducks in a row."

Because of a lack of fields in the area, the high school shares its facilities with the other sports organizations in the area. The number of AYSO participants has increased in recent years (500 in 1999), as have the number of players taking part in 78ers football.

Gary Warner, who also serves on the Planning Commission in Middleville, said finding room for his 78er gridders to play on can sometimes be difficult. What once was just one team, the 78ers now have three teams with over 100 players on those squads.

"Every year it is a real struggle for us to have practice fields (and) not get in the way of the soccer fields," Warner explained.

Home games for the 78ers are staged on the high school field, Bob White Stadium. Last year, the local boys had four home games, but if they had their own field they could have more home games and generate more revenue because of the money acquired at the gate. Warner said he believes that a space of 150 yards by 150 yards (three football fields) is what his program actually needs.

Lyndy Bolthouse, of the YMCA, said they could use a minimum of two fields, one for the larger players and one for the smaller athletes. A maximum goal, she said, would be to have five fields, three basic fields and one each for baseball and softball.

Dan Parker, president of the Thornapple Kellogg School Board, said that there are plenty enough tennis courts at the schools, but perhaps lights might be a necessity. He mentioned that in Caledonia, the courts there have or have had lights with timers and mentioned that as something Middleville could look into.

With the area growing by leaps and bounds, the assistant village manager, Bryan Gruesbeck, said that recreational facilities are definitely a concern.

"The township now has 5,000 residents," Gruesbeck said. "We need to concern ourselves with the facilities that we do have." The facilities already in place include Crane Field (two to three fields), Spring Park (one field and some playground equipment) and Hill Park.

Upcoming times to apply for grants are September of this year, April 2000 and September 2000. McGee and Lehman both feel that September is not very realistic and are looking at the other two times as possibilities for a recreational facility grant.

"We think that it's more than just a school problem," McGee said. "We want to bring it together and make it a community effort."

Nathan LaVoie awarded foundation scholarship

The Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation has awarded Nathan LaVoie, a recent graduate of Thornapple-Kellogg High School, a $2,000 scholarship.

Each year the foundation awards one or two scholarships to Thornapple area students. A $500 check is given to the recipient for their first year of college or trade school. Then available to that student is an additional $500 per year for the next three years of his/her education.

LaVoie has been a class leader, entertainer, trumpeter and athlete in the games of football and tennis. This fall he will attend Aquinas College, where he will further his music education and play tennis for the Aquinas Saints tennis team.

The foundation also awarded two other scholarships. Liz Runals received $500 from the Millicent Grace Knox Scholarship Fund. This scholarship was created by the Knox family in 1992 to honor Millicent, whose dream was to become an elementary teacher. Runals will be attending Spring Arbor College this fall, majoring in education.

The Rodney M. Schad Scholarship was created by the Schad family in their father's memory to award Thornapple Kellogg senior whose interest it is to further his/her education pertaining to industrial arts. This one-time $500 award went to Ryan Hesselink, who will attend the University of Michigan this fall to study engineering.

The Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation's mission is to "enrich and enhance the quality of life in the Thornapple area by acting as a leader and catalyst in the evolving needs of the community." The foundation can be contacted by writing TAEF, Box 164, Middleville, Mich. 49333.

Nate LaVoie is pictured with Marilyn Finkbeiner, chairperson of the TAEF grants and scholarship committee.

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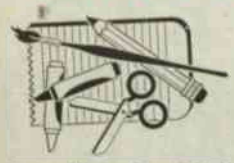

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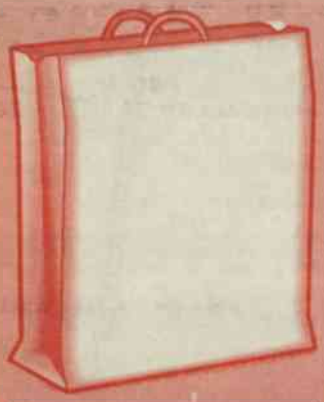

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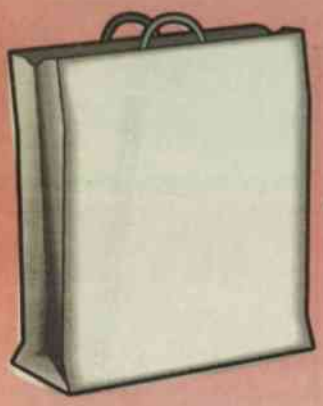

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