

# The Northwest Courier & Vicinity Post

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Vol. 66 No. XIII

Serving the Charlotte, Dutchtown, Edgerton, Lyell-Otis, and Maplewood Neighborhoods

SEPTEMBER 20, 1996

## Change of Command at C.G. Station - Chief Kearns to Retire

by Francine Glassic

One of the Rochester area's more picturesque landmarks is the Coast Guard Station, on the east side of the Genesee River, in Irondequoit. Built in 1939, it's signature red roof and Georgian Revival architecture (what I call Coast Guard vernacular), present a lovely scene any time of the year. But I wonder how many people understand what a unique institution we have here at our front door, or the degree of talent and skill possessed by the men and women whose mission is to serve us?

Confusion exists in the minds of much of the public as to the Coast

Guard's official role. Are they military, or law enforcement? Both. So why are they under the Department of Transportation? Don't they build highways? Not the Coast Guard. It's one of the few things they don't do. Formed in 1915 by merging the Revenue Marine and the U.S. Life-Saving Service, for many years they were under the Treasury Department. Although a branch of the military, it is the only one operating under a continuing peacetime mission. In contrast, the mission of wartime readiness is singular to the other branches of the military. The

(continued on page 6, column 1)



Chief John A. Kearns makes first toast with Ceremonial Grog at his retirement party August 2, 1996

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**PRODUCTION  
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The Northwest Courier and Vicinity Post is your "community" newspaper. The purpose of this paper is to bring your news to the community.

If you have news to share, please allow the Northwest Courier and Vicinity Post to be your vehicle by which your news is heard. We accept articles, pictures (preferably black and white), dates for the Community Calendar, etc.

Articles may be brought to 700 W. Ridge Rd. or mailed to PO Box 60483, Rochester, NY 14606.

If you have any questions or need assistance with articles, etc., please contact office at 621-1622.

DEADLINE (Friday)	ISSUE DATE (Friday)
September 27	October 11
October 18	November 1
November 8	November 22

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

If you would like events published in the Community Calendar section of the Northwest Courier and Vicinity Post, please send copy to The Northwest Courier & Vicinity Post, PO Box 60483, Rochester, NY 14606. Deadline for submissions is TEN DAYS PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.

**Editorial**

With this and future editorials, this paper hopes to keep the neighborhood populace informed on some of the positive plans and activities going on in Maplewood and other Northwest neighborhoods. Very often, neighbors are aware of positive change in their neighborhood, only after seeing positive physical change. These changes, though very important, reflect the much more significant change in the attitude and effort that citizens have begun to take. The purpose of these editorials is to share this news with you as it develops, so that you may be informed before you see the results. Knowing the good news in a neighborhood is at least as important as knowing the bad news.

On a sunny spring day in 1995, some business leaders in Maplewood got together to talk about the future of the neighborhood and their role as businesses in its future.

Maplewood, like much of the city, was at a crossroads. Change was occurring quickly. Much of this change was not perceived as positive. Traditional values were being threatened. Institutions, such as schools, seemed no longer able to produce as in the past. Maplewood's citizens felt insecure where they lived - many wanted out of the neighborhood. It was the type of change that was occurring in other city neighborhoods, both in Rochester and in other long-established cities in the country; uncontrolled, undirected, and seemingly not contributing to the good of the community. Businesses in the neighborhood are long-established, in most cases, with financial interest in Maplewood. Far beyond the homeowner, these people felt a

real need to take action just to protect their own vested interest. As a result of these early meetings, a plan was formed to organize the Maplewood Business Association to instill positive direction to the changing neighborhood. This step was probably one of the most important positive changes in the neighborhood in this era.

The fledging "MBA" took a clear mission: to be in the action group, the group to foster change and make it happen. After all, business people have to make decisions and act quickly on a regular basis if they are going to survive.

Final steps were to define those values most crucial to the well-being of the neighborhood and its occupants (citizens, visitors, and businessmen). From day to day, dealing with people in the neighborhood for years, a consensus on the following values were obvious:

- Neighbors had to feel safe and secure in their neighborhood (safety).
- Residents need an educational system that is able to successfully educate their children, and be a positive asset in the neighborhood, not a problem or a defect (quality education).
- A person has to be able to work, do business, or operate a business in a successful way so as to be profitable, ongoing, and contributing goods and services to the neighborhood and greater community (free enterprise).

With these three values as their foundation, the group planned ways to get these messages out to other businesses and get their input and involvement.

In the next issue, we will report on how this is happening. Be sure to watch for the next issue!

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor:

On August 15, 1996, Judge Francis A. Affronti of the New York State Supreme Court issued a written decision in which he upheld the constitutionality of Megan's Law in two local cases. This law, which was passed to protect our children, permits notification to the community when a convicted sex offender is released from prison. Judge Affronti held that Megan's Law does not violate a convicted sex-offender's constitutional rights. I could not agree more completely!

As the proponents of criminal rights continue to push their agenda, I get increasingly concerned. Since when do we put the rights of convicted sex offenders over the safety of our children?

I always have been concerned about the problem of crime in our community, and I now hope to take my concern to the New York State Assembly. I am a little known, political newcomer running against Assemblymember Susan John. My reason is simple — Susan John is totally out of touch with the people she represents. A perfect example of this is the fact that she voted against Megan's Law.

Followed by the outrageous explanation for her vote that "Criminals have rights too!"

To add insult to injury, Ms. John recently voted against routinely notifying mothers concerning their newborns' HIV test results. Since 1987 New York has tested all newborns for HIV to track the spread of the disease. Full disclosure to a mother who is HIV positive is the only way to guarantee that a newborn will receive life-saving treatment.

Ms. John's record speaks for itself. She consistently has voted against protecting our children. If the residents of the 131st Assembly District choose me to represent them in Albany, I will seek to deny bail to accused child molesters and other violent criminals who pose a dangerous threat to our community. I will fight for legislation that protects rather than undermines our families. But most of all I promise never to put the rights of a convicted child molester above the rights of innocent children.

Yours truly,  
Dandrea Ruhlman

**NIMROD Notes**

by Virginia Sawdey, President of NIMROD

On August 24, NIMROD had their picnic at the Maplewood Rose Garden. Our Lake Section Police Department and Guardian Angels were invited. Many people came in spite of the rainy weather. We were able to meet new people due to our picnic. A great time was had by everyone. I want to say thank you to everyone that came.

Also on August 6, we had a "Night Out". When we were down at the Charlotte Warehouse; all associations and black captains were mentioned. However, PAC-TAC and NIMROD were never mentioned for the third straight year. Being with PAC TAC, I feel honored to be

apart of this program and feel we are important in this community to be recognized. Also I must say that we owe a great deal of effort to Jeff Parker; who has worked diligently as our coordinator. He has done a great job.

Next I must say that "NIMROD" Neighbors in Motion Rooting Out Drugs, deserves recognition. We, in NIMROD, along with Lake Section Police Dept. have helped to close down over 32 drug houses. We work hard at this.

On September 21 st, NIMROD will have a spaghetti dinner. Come join us meet your neighbors and get involved. Look for our fliers at A plus mini marts.

# BOB STEVENSON

Tis the season for signs! Political signs spring up overnight like toadstools in the front lawn. So long as they are on PRIVATE property you can have two per lot with the owner's permission. Signs on public property, the tree lawn, utility poles and road shoulders are not permitted. The tree lawn is the area between curb and sidewalk. The City Code Enforcement Unit can remove any signs in the right-of-way, political signs, real estate signs, sandwich boards in front of businesses, etc. All signs must be on private property!

Modern cars ride on radial tires. The large cars of the 50's, 60's and 70's rode on bias ply tires. These bias ply tires lasted 10,000 to 15,000 miles. At that point you had two choices, buy new tires or buy recapped tires. Recapping bias ply tires was a big business in Rochester.

A hard working immigrant couple owned a tire store and recapping facility. After many years of 60 hour weeks they retired and passed the business to their two sons.

Radial tires were barely on the horizon and were for small European cars only. "Real" cars, big American highway cruisers, glided majestically on bias ply tires. And each large care wore out twelve to twenty of these tires over its lifetime. Recapping old carcasses was at its height.

The two sons invested heavily in recapping equipment and purchased thousands of old bias ply tires. You may remember "Joe's Tire Mart". The sons relocated their massive inventory and recapping equipment to a large warehouse on Rutter Street.

About this time two events devastated the bias ply tire recapping business. Radial ply tires flooded America and petroleum didn't. The Arab embargo hit. Overnight Americans clamored for smaller, less thirsty cars. Radial ply tires increased gas mileage and lasted two to three times as long as bias plies.

Joe's Tire Mart folded. The warehouse was filled with 42,000 tires and no one wanted them, least of all the neighbors who foresaw a fire of monstrous size. Our fire department inspected the site religiously. The property after several years owed more taxes than it was worth. The City really didn't want to own a building full of tires with an unhealthy dose of asbestos thrown in for good measure.

Enter on the scene an eager newly

elected Councilman who was due for a lesson in foreclosure, demolition hearings, tire disposal and asbestos removal. After seven long years the tires, the asbestos and the building are gone. There is now a much older and wiser Councilman who looks with jaundiced eyes on building owners who walk away from their responsibilities and "stiff" you and me and the taxpayers of Rochester with piles of legal and demolition bills.

The site of Joe's Tire Mart is being readied for a new use, five to six single owner occupied homes. Congratulations to the neighbors and their leaders in LONA, Mike and Fran Visconte. Folks like you make my job fun.

Congratulations also to the folks on Ramona Street. The rear of their lots abuts the former B&O-railroad. The RG&E leases part of this right-of-way for large poles to support transmission lines from Russell Power Station. This right-of-way formed a green barrier of berry shrubs, sumac and first succession weed trees at the rear of their yards.

This spring the RG&E bulldozed the overgrown right-of-way. Suddenly Ramona residents were vulnerable to anyone walking the railroad tracks. Bicycles disappeared, garages were entered and reports of vandalism soared.

We made a few calls to the RG&E and set up a meeting with the Ramona Street neighbors and RG&E reps. The upshot of this get together was pleasant. The RG&E would pay for fencing the rear of the yards and would level and landscape the bulldozed roadbed.

Another persistent problem was laid to rest. Locust Street has 91 houses. Thirty were involved in crime over the course of one year, with one thousand calls for police service.

The CPOP team at Lake Section organized sixteen different governmental agencies to attack the problems on Locust Street. On Wednesday, September 11, Police, Fire, Social Services, Cable, Gas and Electric, Telephone, Animal Control, Environmental Services, Probation, Parole, warrants, neighbors with rakes, shovels, brooms, clippers and movers descended on the street. Similar efforts have been done on the east side of the City. This was the first full scale attack in the Northwest.

No one has a right to steal a neighborhood. It's your neighborhood — FIGHT BACK!

*"...No one has a right to steal a neighborhood. It's your neighborhood — FIGHT BACK!"*

## NEW YORK STATE ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY From the desk.... Legislator John J. Ferlicca

Despite the recent reports of New York State's anti-business climate, there are companies who have made a significant commitment to the Rochester work force and resisted the temptations to leave the Empire State.

Nu - Kote International, Inc., located in our neighborhood, at 1227 Ridgeway

the next three years, and in keeping with the overall transformation of Nu - Kote into the leading independent manufacturer, the Rochester facility has doubled the number of thermal non impact products manufactured since last year. These are the kinds of steps that forward thinking corporations must take to create fu-



Nu-Kote technician discusses production process with Assemblyman Joe Robach & Legislator John Ferlicca

Avenue, is one such company. Nu - Kote is a leading independent manufacturer and distributor of imaging supplies for office printing equipment such as computer printers, fax machines and copiers. Until recently, Nu - Kote operations focused on old technology that was withering in the rapidly changing imaging business. Rather than abandon its Rochester facilities, the company underwent a major modernization effort, confirming a commitment to the Rochester work force by retraining its employees and overhauling its manufacturing process, at cost of about \$4 million.

Not only Nu - Kote placed a tremendous amount of time and capital into our community, it has also demonstrated its belief that New York State is well on the way to recovery. In the last three years, employment in the New York facilities has increased nearly 60% and the number of skilled workers has grown 20%. Monroe County, a manufacturing leader in New York, enjoys the lowest unemployment rate in the entire state!

Nu - Kote's willingness to invest such a large amount of time, capital and energy into our community is indicative of the leadership of Governor Pataki, County Executive Jack Doyle, Mayor Bill Johnson and the Monroe County Legislature, wherein businesses feel confident that they can flourish in the Rochester area. Although the transformation from anti-business to business friendly will take time, the turn around of New York State has begun.

Nu - Kote is a shining example of the cooperative relationship between a skilled manufacturing work force and a technologically advancing and growing business. The company plans to add 40,000 square feet of manufacturing space over

ture growth opportunities, reduce layoffs and save jobs.

Several weeks ago, I joined Louise Slaughter, Joe Robach, Bob Stevenson and others to see first hand Nu - Kote's product well organized production facility and a plant management committed to its community and its work force.

For instance, Nu - Kote has in place a training program to progressively develop its employee's skills, all of whom receive full medical insurance as part of their benefits package.

Nu - Kote's commitment to employment diversity was exemplified by a bulletin board with postings written in five different languages! I would hope that Nu - Kote's commitment to its employees would be copied by other Rochester employers. Where management and employees work together, they work best.~

As your County Legislator, I have the privilege of encouraging government to foster a more business friendly, ( i.e. job creating ) environment. Various programs, including property tax abatements and low interest loans are ways in which Monroe County has continued to encourage job growth and economic development.

In my last report to you, I discussed the exciting grand opening of the Rite Aid pharmacy, located at the corner of Dewey Avenue and Driving Park. Early next year we will see the opening of a brand new Wilson Farms on Dewey Avenue, at Electric Avenue. Economic development, so vitally important to our neighborhood, is on the rise. As is evident by Nu - Kote's commitment to the Rochester area, we are well on the road to recovery!

As always, if you wish to discuss this, or any other matter of governmental concern, feel free to call one at 458-9065 or 428-5622.

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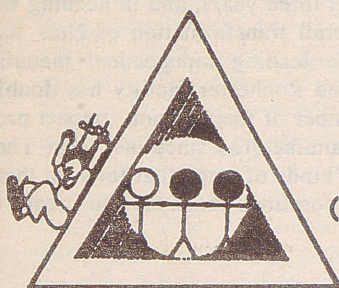
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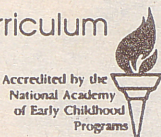
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## HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

by *Jim Best*

It hit me like a brick. The plaque read, "Patrick J. Tremblay Born 7/19/49 K.I.A. 3/17/68."

Last week I attended the dedication ceremony of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Highland Park. Although I hadn't planned on being there, some newspaper articles which I had read whetted my interest. As my wife and kids were involved in other activities, I left them a note and headed for the site.

After parking three blocks away I thought of Rochester's protests against the war while walking to the ceremony. During the spring of 1968, North Vietnam launched a series of attacks against South Vietnam and her American allies. It was this event which also started the anti-war movement in the US. One year after Tet saw the arrival of over 1,000 Rochesterians in Washington. At the same time protests were held in our city at Washington Square Park as both pro and con argued vehemently about the war. For the first time, the protesters included those not of draft age.

December 1969 saw 2,000 march in the city "carrying candles in memory of the war dead and chanting 'Give peace a chance.'"

The movement escalated. On September 6, 1970, eight were arrested after being caught in the Federal Building on Fitzhugh Street, having destroyed files and damaged draft records. Known as the "Flower City Conspiracy", the eight were sentenced to periods of one year to eighteen months.

October brought dynamite blasts which damaged the Federal Building and the County Office building along with four other structures.

The conviction in 1971 of Lt. Calley for his actions at My Lai added more fuel to the protest movement. However, for the first time Rochester protesters seemed to be against the military itself rather than the moral cause of the war.

A series of protests, starting in April, 1971, turned bloody. Some demonstrators were arrested as they blocked city streets, and others were hurt when they protested the arrest of the dissidents. These protests continued until the cease fire order was finally given in October, 1972.

January, 1973 brought about an amazing thing. The Rochester City Council passed a resolution stating: "the United States government is still spending billions of dollars annually to pursue the war in Vietnam while critical needs of our own citizens continue to be neglected ... therefore let it be resolved that ... our representatives ... support congressional termination of the funding of the Vietnam War ..."

Eighteen days later, January 27th, the war officially ended.

I arrived at the park and found the

marker for Pat. It was covered in blue velvet as were the other 279. While waiting for the unveiling, I tried to remember my former acquaintance.

We lived on Truesdale Street and, for a few years, the Tremblay's were our neighbors. Pat was three years younger than me, but we did play some sports together. I could see him clearly now. Slender, agile and swift, he had an infectious laugh and usually had a smile on his face.

During the mid sixties the Tremblay's moved to the Conesus area. Other than an occasional letter or rare visit to their trailer tucked into a hillside off of Livonia-Springwater road, we eventually lost touch with them.

My mind raced to spring, 1968. I sat in my barracks in Fort Hood, Texas, reading a letter from my mother. She stated, in her no-nonsense way, that she had received a call from Teresa Tremblay. Pat, who had recently arrived in Vietnam, was dead, the victim of either a mortar attack or a land mine.

I was jerked back to the present. The honor guard had started to walk the line. As each name was read, a relative would remove the slip from the bollard and reveal its inscription. Two hundred and eighty killed or missing from the five county Rochester area, Pat being number 137. Looking around, there was no one but me at his marker. Should I pull the slip?

A woman approached with a young man who appeared to be her son. I moved a few feet away and saw her gracefully uncover the inscription. When the honor guard had moved another thirty names past us, she started to leave. I went up and asked the young man if he were related to the Tremblay's.

"No, someone asked my step-mother to do the unveiling. We couldn't find any relatives."

I backed off and watched others arrive at the various markers, saw and felt their grief. I thought of how lucky I was. Married, two kids, friends. Pat never had a chance for any of this. He was struck down at the tender age of eighteen. I waited for thirty minutes, staring at his marker. His name became harder to read, due to the tears ...

(Background information from Rochester History, July/Oct., 1986.)

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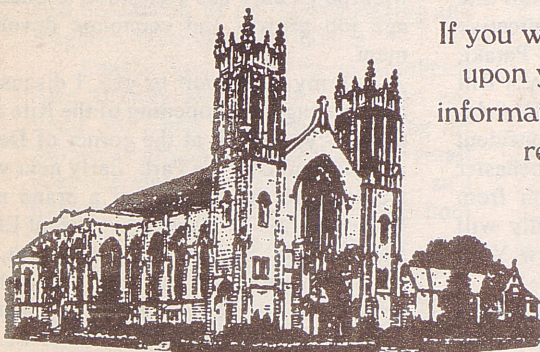
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## ~CHURCH NEWS~

### GRACE CHURCH AND GRACE URBAN MINISTRIES SPONSOR GOSPEL AND JAZZ CONCERT

On Friday, August 23, Grace Church and Grace Urban Ministries held their second annual Gospel and Jazz Concert in their parking lot on 121 Driving Park Avenue.

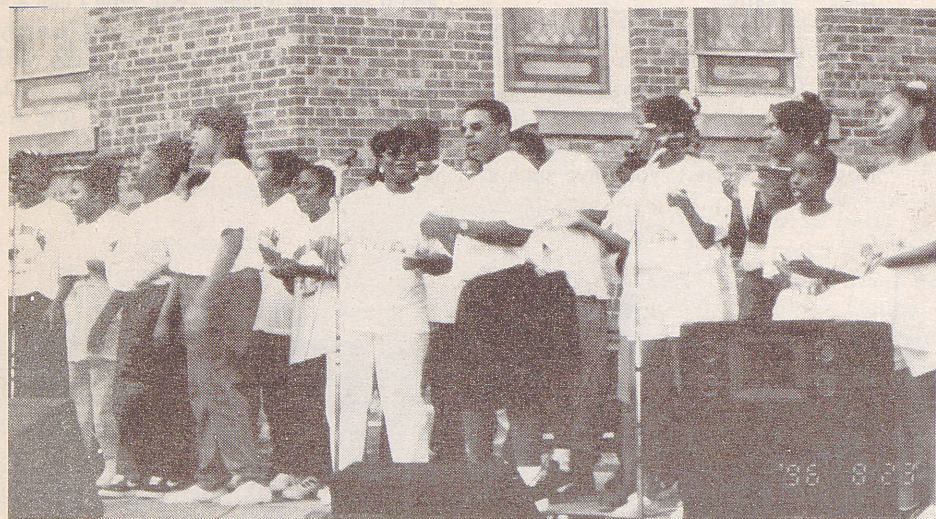
The concert enjoyed great success, seeing an even greater turnout than it had last year.

The bands who played included Kingdom Bound Kids, the Immaculate Conception Gospel Choir, the New City Band, Rob Rood, and "Cornerstone".

The concert was the climax of a very

busy summer at Grace Church/Grace Urban Ministries, as the team had just concluded some exciting Summer Kids Club and parenting programs through their new Shalom Family Life Center; a creative Vacation Bible School; and a Chicken Barbeque.

With these church and community events Grace Church/Grace Urban Ministries hope to continue to foster a spirit of peace and well-being in their neighborhood.



Immaculate Conception Gospel Choir and Kingdom Bound Kids perform together.

### COMING IN SEPTEMBER 96 AT THE SHALOM FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Women's Support Group — Mondays, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. This group is for women looking for friendship, support and encouragement. The group will give everyone an opportunity to share their joys and frustrations as well as be introduced to new resources and creative ways of looking at things. Childcare will be provided.

Evening Program for Parents — Tuesdays 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Social Activities will be provided along with programs on parenting education (discipline techniques, school readiness), life skills (budgeting, cooking, crafts, etc.) and relationship building (conflict management, problem solving techniques). Childcare will be provided and a light dinner will be served to everyone.

Daytime Program for Parents — Thursdays 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Parenting Education and Life Skills classes will be provided to parents with childcare pro-

vided. These classes will be smaller, giving each participant the opportunity to fully participate.

For more information regarding these and other programs please call Grace Urban Ministries, 121 Driving Park Avenue, 458-5927 or 254-7098. Matthew J Talbott is the mission intern there.

### GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pre-School Story Hour Begins at Grace United Methodist Church, 121 Driving Park Avenue, on October 1st and will be held Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Registration is at 9:30 a.m. on October 1st. There is also a program for mothers to attend during this hour.

The cost is \$1 per child or a maximum of \$2 per family per year. For those who have children in the Story Hour program there is a child care for Toddlers under 2 years old and crib babies. There is a charge of .25 per week to be paid to the sitter on arrival.

For more information call Edith Coburn at 544-0660; Grace VanLeer at 663-2345; or Grace Church office at 458-5927.

## "DARK & STORMY NIGHT" READINGS RETURN

by Francine Glassic

The popularity of this program continues, so it will return this Fall for the 3rd year. The program consists of readings from the Annual Reports of the U. S. Life-Saving Service, recounting rescues of life from the perils of the sea. Much more than reports, these are stories full of human drama, and told in the descriptive language of the 19th century. The popular press of the day called these men "Heroes of the Surf", and today the U.S. Coast Guard carries on the legacy of their predecessors.

The Sept. 24th theme, "TRIUMPH", will cover the same stories as in years past, as these particular stories concerning Charlotte Station are of such historical significance. The Gold Life-Saving Medal, at that time the highest civilian award bestowed by the government, was rarely given, but two Keepers and one entire crew from Charlotte received them for risking their own lives during heroic rescues. These were awarded to Captain Joseph O. Doyle (1879) and Captain George N. Gray and his entire crew (1903). In addition, Silver Medals were awarded to Surfman James Seymour Kintz (1889), and to a Rochester citizen, William Cope (1903). As far as I have ascertained, no men from any of the other Lake Ontario stations ever received the Gold Medal, although both Oswego and Big Sandy had some highly regarded crews. I'm sure their loved ones were happy that an occasion of risk worthy of a medal never presented itself.

The theme on Oct. 23 is "TRAGEDY", and will focus on accounts involving loss of life, some of which you may have missed before, so come anyway. Some are extremely poignant and sobering in their finality, while others contain

an element of triumph within the tragedy itself. New information has recently come to light as a postscript to a story involving racism, which led to the appointment of the first, and only, all negro life-saving crew, and ultimately...well, you'll have to come to hear the rest!

Nov. 13 will bring MORE NEW STORIES! and continue where I ran out of time last year. For those who have attended in the past and want to hear more, this is the program for you. Featured, will be the unique floating station at the Falls of the Ohio, in Louisville, and the exploits of it's Gold Medal crew. This station was part of our own district, the 9th, later 10th. And many other stories of an unusual nature.

Next year, in honor of the Lighthouse's 175th birthday, these programs will focus on lighthouses, with the following story themes: Life in a Lighthouse - - Sept.; Women Who Kept the Lights - - Oct.; and Heroism in the Lighthouse Service - - Nov.

I would welcome contributions of first-person accounts and interviews from primary sources, such as old news and magazine articles, out-of-print books, and government reports.

"Triumph" — Tues., September 24; "Tragedy" — Wed., October 23; and "More New Stories!" — Wed., November 13.

Readings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Dining Room of the Keeper's House, with a mid-point refreshment break. Because of space limitations, we can accommodate 25 people on a first come basis. A \$2 donation per person is requested. As always, we are looking for Readers. For more information, call Francine Glassic at 482-8288.

## Pharmacy & Your Health

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### Postpartum Depression Treatment Guidelines

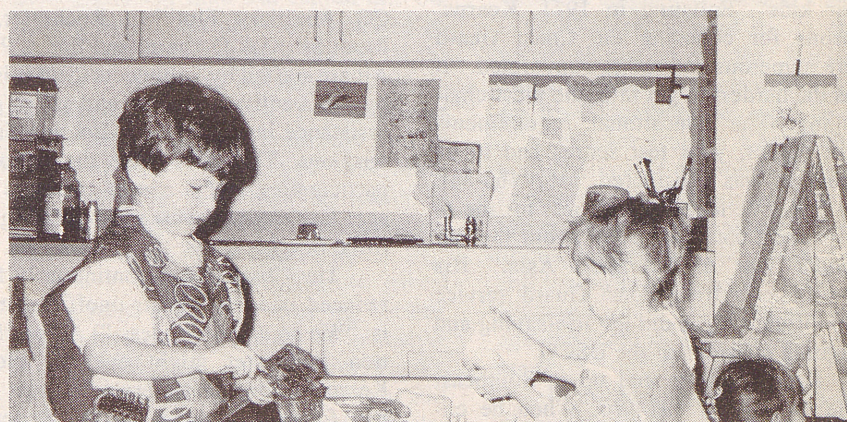
Mental depression following delivery is not uncommon. Up to 80 percent of women report having depression following the birth of a child. The after-delivery (postpartum) period usually lasts up to 6 months. It is during this period that depression may be reported in association with anxiety, fatigue, and irritability. Women with postpartum depression may have trouble falling asleep and feel worse at night than at other times.

Nondrug therapy is the first choice for treatment of postpartum depression. Psychotherapy along with getting plenty of sleep is therapeutic for many women. If these measures are ineffective, drugs may be considered. While few guidelines have been published as to the treatment for postpartum depression, several drugs seem to be effective. Some physicians consider the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) to be the best antidepressants for this condition. SSRIs include fluoxetine, paroxetine, and sertraline.

One advantage of the SSRIs is that they often can be used effectively with once-a-day dosing. Therapy may be required for 6 to 12 months. A recent report indicates that the SSRIs should not be stopped suddenly. Tapering the dose over a week or two may be necessary for some persons.

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## Change of Command at C.G. Station - Chief Kearns to Retire

(continued from page 1)

Coast Guard and it's predecessors have been saving lives for 159 years, and it remains the primary mission today, even though immigration and drug interdiction attracts all the media. However, during war, they come under the authority of the Navy, by order of the President, and all of their skills are put to use where needed.

With a reduced role in the collection of revenue, it was no longer useful to keep them under the Treasury Dept. Likewise, there was a need for them to remain separate from the Defense Department, in order to carry out their peacetime missions: the direct protection of our shores, and our citizens who use them for recreation and commerce, and defense against any unlawful incursion. So, in 1967 they were placed under the Department of Transportation. Before that, they survived several takeover attempts by the Navy. This intriguing chapter is well told in the recent book by Robert Erwin Johnson, *Guardians of the Sea*.

### GUARDIAN OF THE GREAT LAKES SEARCH AND RESCUE CONTROLLER FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

That's what it states on the 'business card' of Chief John A. Kearns, Officer in Charge of the Rochester Station since 1992. How well he has carried these titles, reflects in the high regard in which he is held by both his crew and the community. On the occasion of this command's conclusion, and his coming retirement, he graciously consented to a recent interview. He discussed his background, training and experience, requirements of an O.I.C., some highlights of his command in Rochester, and his future plans.

Born in White Haven, PA, he, like most who make a military career, has a family history of military service. His grandparents emigrated from Ireland, where his grand father served in the Irish Coast Guard. His father, a Navy 'frogman', passed on his knowledge of diving, small boat and weapons handling, "and all those good things that fathers teach their kids". Enlisting in 1971, Kearns' reasons for choosing the Coast Guard were numerous and rather convoluted. "It was the hardest to get into, the most challenging. The educational requirements were higher, your test scores had to be higher. It was considered 'safe' (ha-ha). My father believed it was best for me to go in the Coast Guard, to avoid the unpopular war in Southeast Asia." His grandfather's Irish Coast Guard service also influenced, as did the life-saving and seagoing missions of the USCG.

Kearns was to end up in Southeast Asia anyway in 1974-76. When he enlisted, the Coast Guard was "looking for people experienced in diving and small boat operations, and I fit that key, ...so I had the chance to go to Navy Dive School and Navy Special Warfare School, so I volunteered." He was then assigned to the Navy as part of a Special Warfare Team working off the helicopter support ship USS Iwo Jima, assisting in the evacuation of refugees from Cambodia. While not under direct fire, the threat existed because of periodic incursions by the Khmer Rouge.

The subsequent years brought more opportunities for special training, and a variety of on board and shoreside assignments. Training schools attended include C.G. Maritime Law Enforcement School in Yorktown, VA, learning weapons tactics and hand-to-hand combat; Ohio Peace Officers Training Center; Amphibious Operations in Little Creek, VA; Leadership and Management and Officer in Charge School; and National Motor Lifeboat School at Cape Disappointment, WA. This latter is considered most prestigious. One may attend only on the recommendation of the commanding officer of one's home station, based on time spent as a coxswain in the 44' Motor Lifeboat,

and must pass tests before training even begins. Despite all the advances in modern search and rescue, such as helicopters, the 44' MLB is still considered the workhorse of stations the size of Rochester's. A direct descendant of the surfboats and lifeboats that were once powered by oars, the 44 is designed to operate in heavy weather and high surf, and is self-bailing and self-righting. She can be rolled over, but you wouldn't want to, as the engine and electronics would sustain too much damage. Chief Kearns completed 3 weeks of training in 1982/83, and returned in 1988 for Supervisor Training, which authorized him to train and qualify others under his command, in MLB operation. (Our incoming OIC, Chief Michael Tumulty, has also graduated from MLB School.)

On board assignments included cutters, buoy tenders, and ice breakers. Shore assignments at various CG Stations included two commands previous to Rochester: Station Cleveland, 1988-1992 and Station Portage, Mich., 1980-1984. His awards and medals number over 30. The above career synopsis gives an idea of the experience requirements looked at in the selection process for Officer in Charge, as well as a 2 1/2 hour oral exam. When Chief Oliver's replacement was announced in 1992, Kearns was described by some as "a real Semper Paratus kind of guy". (The Coast Guard motto means Always Ready.) Asked if that's how he would describe himself and the way he has tried to run the station he modestly replied, "Well, I acquired three commands in a row and had a good reputation."

The duties of the OIC are numerous and varied. He is responsible for the physical maintenance of the property, its buildings, and equipment. Besides himself, there are 19 crew members, an Executive Officer, and an Engineer assigned here whom he must supervise. He is responsible for certifying the training of each individual and directs annual training exercises in helicopter rescue, ice rescue, pollution response, and law enforcement. Area Reservists are required to participate.

The Chief also supervises three area CG Auxiliary Flotillas: Rochester, on River St.; Oak Orchard; and Sodus Point. All are staffed by volunteers (Sodus is run by a CG enlisted person) and are of great assistance in carrying out Boating Safety missions. They also have the option of participating in the annual trainings (except law enforcement) and becoming certified in other areas; which many do.

The Coast Guard continuously faces reduced budgets. (Their unofficial motto is: "We do more with less.") Asked if station Rochester might ever be closed, Kearns replied that there is a great need here for these services, and that Rochester is one of the highest rated stations in the district. (Probably due to Kearns' leadership.) He would like the public to know that the Coast Guard is "self-sufficient. It is one of the few Federal agencies that actually makes money. It pays for itself by the services it renders: through commercial boat inspections, licensing, fines for safety and maritime law violations, and search and seizures. It cuts down on the cost of commerce in the U.S. We are here for the community, the community is not here for us."

Of all the Coast Guard's missions, the most important ones here are Search and Rescue, and Boating Safety. And it is in these areas that Kearns has accomplished the goals he's most pleased with. During his tenure, the Watch Room was moved from a small room on the north side of the building with very little visibility of the river, to a larger room on the west side, with windows on three sides and an unobstructed view of the port entrance. This was accomplished by sacrificing a portion of a 'common room' used off hours by personnel living at the station.

(continued next issue)

## LET'S CHAT - M. Cathy Helmes

### Corporate Downsizing or Crone Replacement Therapy

Well, I have read the headlines, again; "Early Retirement Package Offered to Those Over Fifty." I can almost hear a conversation going on, now: Gert: "So, after thirty years with the company, you are asking me to leave?"

Boss: "Nothing like that, Gert. It's just that we are downsizing."

Gert: "I see. What you are offering is a golden-age opportunity, right?"

Boss: "Just think, Gert. You'll have plenty of time to spend with your grandchildren."

Gert: "But, sir, I am still raising my own children."

Boss: "Really?"

Gert: "I have a great idea. Why don't you set me adrift on a piece of styrofoam, leave a blanket so I can cover myself, and a basket of food in case I live to see fifty-two?"

Boss: "Now, Gert, you have such a

good record. You wouldn't want me to cite you for insubordination, would you?"

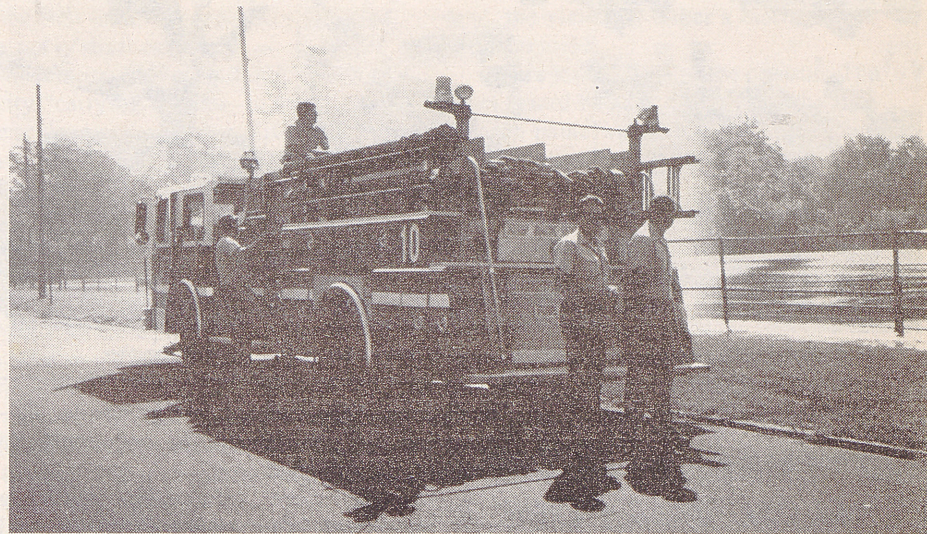
Gert: "No, master."

Boss: "I am sure you will find another job since you are so well-qualified."

Gert: "Sure, I, along with the other out-of-work fossils who are feeding the pigeons and untangling fishing lines."

Boss: "Listen, Gert, I have another appointment, but I wish you the best of luck."

It's a good thing I developed a sense of humor along my life's journey. Years ago, I felt a compassion for older people, and it was not wasted. For, now I can accept getting older with a smile; mainly because I know the aging process will catch up with all of us, someday. And, like it or not, with or without a job, we will all become venerable souls.



Article and photo by M. Cathy Helmes  
Firemen from the Dewey/Ridgeway fire station were not taking any chances this past Labor Day. As you can see, they were giving the fire hoses a thorough inspection to make sure the hoses labor properly.

## St. Bernard's Park Bridges Buildings With a Garden of Beauty

by Charlene Halbrook

St. Bernard's Park, affordable living apartments for seniors, opened for partial occupancy on September 1. St. Bernard's commissioned two local artists to adorn

the walls of the walk bridge between the Center and North buildings with a painted murals set. The mural, in a European garden motif, was completed August 22. The mural was created from mixed acrylic and latex painted scenes of garden brick walls, sunflowers, ferns, birdhouses, ect.

Artists Nancy Ellwanger and Cindy Hughes were commissioned by Conifer Realty and rental manager Sherry Schleede. The mural was expected to bring a feeling of warmth, Ellwanger said, to the recently renovated North building. Central and South building are yet to be renovated. Ellwanger and Hughes may be commissioned to paint this area also.

The two artists have been together for 16 years, both as partners and as friends. The detailed decorative painting of the murals, on both sides of the bridge, took five weeks. Hughes commented that the mural is peaceful for both artists and residents moving in. Many of the flowers, and trees of the mural were suggestions from residents. Soda shop style tables, chairs, and settees will be placed along the wall for residents to enjoy the sunlight

from the monastery-like windows along the courtyard.

Nancy Ellwanger took night classes in art at the Community College of the Finger Lakes and passed that knowledge

to Hughes. Ellwanger and Hughes have made hand carved Santa's in the past for arts and crafts shows. They exclusively paint designs and murals for rooms, offices, and homes. Most referrals for work come by word of mouth.

Manager Schleede says that the garden is open to anyone who would like to see it. To inquire about the mural or apartments available call 458-9000. To talk to the artists about future work call Nancy Ellwanger at 225-1298 or Cindy Hughes at 872-0342.

St. Bernard's Park, was built in September 1893 on the 22 acre site at 2260 Lake Avenue. Because of declining enrollment of students to study for the priesthood, the catholic Diocese of Rochester closed the Seminary in 1981. In 1982, Kodak purchased the property for temporary office space. In 1993, Conifer Realty purchased the property and along with the City of Rochester began renovations on the three historic buildings in a \$12 million project. Many residents have already moved into the North building which opened officially to residents on September 1.



Nancy Ellwanger, one of the murals artists.

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# Community Calendar

**THE FLOWER CITY PERENNIAL SWAP AND PLANTING DAY** takes place 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Saturday, September 28 at the Flower City Kids Garden in Charlotte, south of Lake and Beach Avenues. "Divide & Conquer" by trading gardening information and swapping perennials. Bring three to four labeled divisions, (one to plant, others to trade). Take home free perennials, meet fellow gardeners and add to your garden. Held rain or shine. For more information, call 428-6770.

**JOIN THE AWARD-WINNING ADAMS STREET RECREATION CENTER DOUBLE DUTCH TEAM**, 85 Adams Street. Cost of the program is \$6 Girl Scout registration fee, which entitles each girl participant to the full benefits of Girl Scout membership. Youth may register throughout the season which runs, October-May. Competition is Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning in January. The program is co-sponsored by the City of Rochester and the Girl Scouts. Call 428-7266 for further information.

**THE DANFORTH DANCE SERIES** is held Fridays, 1:45 - 3:45 p.m. at the Danforth Community Center, 200 West Avenue. Admission is \$2 per person or \$1 with a Good Times Pass. For more information call 428-6746. Upcoming schedule: September dances include: Tony Gravino — September 13; Tom Sotile — September 20; Gene Tantalo — September 27. October dances scheduled: John Carbone — October 4; Ray DeSio — October 11; Tony Gravino — October 18 and Joe Cady at the annual Halloween Party on October 25.

## GOOD TIMES PASS SENIOR DISCOUNT PROGRAM

The City of Rochester offers a Good Times discount pass for City residents aged 60 years and over. Provided as an added incentive for senior adults to participate in City recreation programs, the "Good Times Pass" allows a 50% discount to many activities sponsored by the City's Bureau of Parks & Recreation.

The wallet-sized Good Times Pass, is valid for one year (Sept. 1 1996 - Aug. 31, 1997) and will be available for \$5 after August 31. This non-transferable card entitles the bearer to a 50% discount on regularly priced general admissions and certain fees charged by City of Rochester recreation facilities. The card may be purchased at any City recreation center during regular operating hours and 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Mon. - Fri., at the Bureau of Parks and Recreation Administration Offices, 400 Dewey Avenue or City Hall, Room 222B.

The pass will apply to such activities as skate rental, lessons and skating admissions; tennis lessons; water classes and pool admissions; dances and dance lessons; model train room tours and meets at Edgerton Community Center; canoe rental, the use of weight rooms, educational classes such as first-aid and CPR, and ceramics or other arts and crafts programs. Other discounts and special privileges may be announced during the year. The pass does not apply to permits, league fee, fees charged by outside organizations, dinners and buffets. A complete list of applicable activities and locations is available at each facility.

To purchase a pass, the following forms of identification must be presented: 1) two printed items with your full name and address (such as a utility bill), 2) any form of identification with your signature, 3) proof of age. For further information, interested seniors may call their nearest recreation center (listed in the blue pages under City of Rochester; Parks, Recreation and Human Services; Recreation Centers) or the Bureau offices at 428-6755 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**ROAST BEEF DINNER AT GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, 121 Driving Park Avenue, October 4th at 6:30 p.m. A warm invitation goes out to all who enjoy a delicious Roast Beef Dinner, plus some very unique entertainment. The menu will consist of: Roast Beef, Gravy, Potatoes, Vegetables, Relish Trays, Rolls, Dessert and Beverage. Following the dinner will be a delightful performance by Mary Clar's Musical Marionettes. All that for a donation of \$8 for adults, children 12 and under \$4. Please make your reservations by Sept. 30, by calling the Church office at 458-5927.

## VISIT THE LIGHTHOUSE ON THE WEB

The 1822 Genesee Lighthouse in Charlotte now has a web site, making it easy to visit the lighthouse without even leaving your desk. The internet home page has pictures and information about the light and the exhibits presently on display. A calendar of events and virtual gift shop will also be added later this year. To visit, the address is [www.frontiernet.net/~mikemay](http://www.frontiernet.net/~mikemay).

## READINGS OF RESCUES TO TAKE PLACE AT LIGHTHOUSE

The Genesee Lighthouse in Charlotte will host its third annual "Dark and Stormy Nights" readings. Material is from 19th century Life Saving Annual Reports of Operations submitted to the federal government. These readings will take place at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 24, and Wednesdays, October 23 and November 13 in the parlor of the Genesee Lighthouse, 70 Lighthouse Street, right near Holy Cross Church on Lake Avenue.

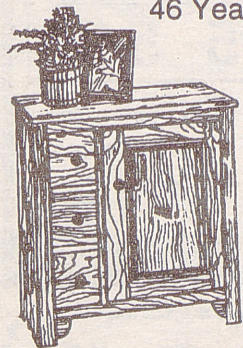
The September program will focus on heroic rescues including some made by Charlotte's own Life Saving Station, while the October program will center on the loss of lives. November will bring new stories, including the floating Life Saving Station at the Falls of the Ohio in Louisville, Kentucky.

Seating is limited, so come early. Refreshments will be provided and a donation of \$2 is requested per person. For more information, call the lighthouse at 621-6179.

If you or your organization is planning an event, we want to know about it! Check page 2 for production schedule.

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# AREA SCHOOL NEWS

## Board of Education Seeks Public Input Through "Community Conversations"

The Rochester Board of Education has scheduled four "Community Conversations" for 1996-97 to obtain public input into important issues regarding the City School District.

The first Community Conversation will take place on Thursday, September 26 at 7:00pm at the new School No. 45, 1445 Clifford Avenue. The topic will be the opening of schools. Anyone interested in speaking should call 262-8363 for more information.

Additional Community Conversations are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, January 23. Topic: Budget; Tuesday, March 25. Topic: Arts in Education; Tuesday, June 3. Topic: Closing of Schools.

Information on times and locations will be announced prior to each event.

## AQUINAS TO HOLD SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

The Aquinas Institute of Rochester is bringing back the Crystal Ball Gala. This elegant dinner dance will be held on Friday, November 1, 1996, at the Riverside Convention Center. A cocktail hour will begin at 6:30 p.m., with dinner to be served at 7:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Master Brass.

The cost for the evening is \$50 per person. All proceeds from the Crystal Ball Gala will benefit the Aquinas Scholarship fund. Deadline for reservations is Monday, October 24.

For more information on this charitable event, please contact Katie Fairchild at 647-2990 ext. 27. This will be the Aquinas' first Crystal Ball Gala since 1984.

## Rochester School at Work Program Gets National Attention; Edison Grad Featured In PBS Special

A partnership between Edison Tech and Eastman Kodak Company that's providing students a pathway to employment will be featured in a nationally broadcast PBS special later this month.

"Jobs: The class of 2000" will explore how school to work programs across the country - including Rochester's Youth Apprenticeship Program are preparing young people for highly skilled, highly competitive jobs of the 21st cen-

tury. The show will profile Nikia Speed, 19, an Edison Graduate and Kodak employee who completed the Skilled Trades Youth Apprenticeship Program.

In Rochester, the show premieres Saturday, September 21 at 4:00 pm on WXXI-TV.

Nikia was one of the first students recruited for the Youth Apprenticeship Program when it began in 1993. She and three other youth Apprentices have since graduated and are now full time employees of Kodak in the company's Process Mechanic Apprenticeship Program. Completion of the four year program will qualify them as Electrical/Instrumentation Mechanics or Automatic Equipment Mechanics.

Nine Edison students are currently in the Skilled Trades Youth Apprenticeship Program.

Youth apprentices spend about half of each school day in classroom studies and the rest in hands on learning in electrical instrumentation, automatic equipment mechanics, pipe fitting, machine tooling, and sheet metal work. During summer school breaks they work full time at Kodak.

"The Youth Apprenticeship Program enables students to gain technical training they need for jobs in the skilled trades while completing their high school education" said Donna Phillips, Director of Workforce Preparation for the Rochester City School District. "they're taking part in real work experience while in school and being prepared for full time jobs upon graduation."

For Nikia, the program was a positive step at a time when many students face uncertainty.

"Back in 10th grade, I approached my counselor to try to find a program like this that would help me become employed as soon as I graduated, instead of going to college," she said. "A lot of kids at that age don't know what they want to do. I was coming straight out of high school into a job. I was set."

Hosted by ABC News correspondent Cokie Roberts, "Jobs: The Class of 2000" takes viewers into the lives of students who will join the workforce in the year 2000. The documentary features educators, business leaders, labor representatives, parents, and community leaders from across the country who are collaborating to better prepare students for college and careers in the 21st century.

Rochester's Edison Technical and Occupational Education Center, 655 Colfax Street, provides academic, technical, and vocational instruction. In addition to meeting all traditional diploma requirements, students also take a three year occupational course sequence in one of the following areas: auto/aero, business, computers, construction, electricity/electronics, machine, welding, drafting, service, or graphic/visual arts.

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