

At Syracuse —

Retail merchants plan Halloween party

By JULIE MOORE
Staff Writer

The Syracuse Retail Merchants hashed out plans for the upcoming PTO Halloween Carnival slated for Wednesday, Oct. 24, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Syracuse Elementary School at its meeting last Friday.

Working in conjunction with the PTO to coordinate efforts, the merchants will once again provide prizes and judges for four age groups competing in the costume contest. This year, however, merchants will beef up the prizes for the three child divisions giving out five top honors in each category, while adults will still be vying for first, second and third.

Volunteering to dress up and judge costumes at the carnival were merchant officers — Mark

Area resident booked at jail

The following person was booked in the Kosciusko County Jail recently:

Roger William Reed, 35, South Main Street, Syracuse, was booked on a charge of driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohol. He was held on \$350 bond.



TWO SUSTAIN MINOR INJURIES — Two teenagers sustained minor injuries in a two-vehicle accident Friday, Oct. 5, on SR 13 at Lynwood Drive, on the south edge of Syracuse. The accident was at 3:32 p.m. The two teens were treated at the scene by Syracuse Emergency Medical Technicians.

Heather Carty, 16, Syracuse, suffered a contusion/bruise to her hip/upper leg. A passenger in Carty's vehicle, Stacy Carlin, 17, Leesburg, suffered a contusion/bruise to the abdomen/pelvic area.

Hubbs, Sande Wappes and Brenda Miller. Judging will be at 7:30 p.m.

The merchants agreed to invite carnival coordinator Stephanie Szydal to attend their next meeting this Friday to finalize plans for the event. Meanwhile, retailers will be searching for a volunteer to dress up as a witch and pass out candy at the school.

Following the festivities at the school, the merchants and their employees will have a Halloween party of their own at a still undetermined location. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes.

In other business, the merchants moved ahead in organizing Santa's visit. Hubbs, president of the merchants, said he might be able to swing having the Jolly Old Fellow arrive via helicopter this year instead of by fire truck.

And next year's fall arts and crafts festival is still in the works. Wappes, vice president of the merchants, said she has made some preliminary contacts and with the go ahead she'll continue looking into it. She got the green flag.

"I think it would be nice to have the input early that way we can get some ideas for later on," noted Hubbs.

In a final note, Jeanne Gar-

diner suggested to the retailers that they invite representatives from the Kosciusko County Convention and Visitors Bureau to a meeting in order to learn more about the CVB's free hospitality seminar.

According to Gardiner, through the seminar merchants would learn about what the county has to offer visitors and how best to present that community image locally. "If we get going in the winter time, we might be able to

have it for our summer guests," she said.

The Syracuse Retail Merchants will meet again on Friday, Oct. 12, at noon at Gropp's Famous Fish of Stroh, Syracuse.

At CR 900N and Old State Road 15 —

Approve four-way stop

By SCOTT DAVIDSON
Staff Writer

The intersection of Old Road 15 and CR 900N, south of Milford, will be safer for area motorists if action taken by the county commissioners yesterday accomplishes its intended purpose.

During their regular meeting, the commissioners voted 3-0 to approve the recommendation of Ken Traylor, county highway superintendent, and make the intersection a four-way stop. Additionally, an overhead flashing beacon signal will also be installed at the corner for traffic travelling westbound on CR 900N.

"We feel that action was definitely needed with the number of accidents at the intersection and with Ken's survey and advice with regards to the problems, we feel this is the best way to go," said commissioner Maurice Beer, who represents the northern district, which includes the intersection.

The scene at the intersection of Old Road 15 and CR 900N over the past several years has been one of numerous serious accidents. The latest, on August 1, sent four persons to area hospitals with serious injuries after one of the vehicles failed to stop while westbound on CR 900N. That accident left area residents near the scene wondering what could be done to alleviate the problem.

Beer, who himself resides

within a mile of the intersection, said that he has heard the voices of area citizens concerned for the safety of the intersection. "We're taking this in hand now to try and solve the problem and I really do feel for the people near the intersection because of the safety factor involved with the accidents over the years," stated Beer.

The issue of safety at the intersection was first brought up by Beer at the August 14 meeting of the commissioners after he had heard from residents due to the serious accident there on August 1.

Traylor noted to the commissioners that the intersection does warrant a four-way stop due to the number of accidents that have occurred over the past several years at the scene. "It will take an adjustment for motorists traveling on Old Road 15 to become accustomed to having to stop, but after studying the intersection myself I feel this is the way to go to make the situation safer," said Traylor.

Beer noted that the project will cost about \$5,700 after original estimates placed the cost at around \$3,500. "The extra cost is due to the fact that NIPSCO would not move the poles that needed to be moved but it's worth the money to make the intersection safer," commented Beer.

The action by the commissioners yesterday to place a flashing beacon light for westbound traffic on CR 900N is a first for the county. When operational, the light will be the first of its kind in the entire county.

Traylor noted that the installation of the signs and flashing beacon light at the intersection will probably take between 10 days and two weeks to complete. "The flashing signal won't be activated until we have the signs in place and I anticipate it taking about two weeks," said Traylor.

No injuries sustained

A two-vehicle collision occurred at 4:51 p.m. Monday, Oct. 8, at the intersection of Syracuse Street and Old SR 15, Milford.

Darrell Doss, 17, r 1 box 255C, Milford, was westbound on Syracuse Street when his 1984 Buick was struck by a 1973 Chevrolet driven by Randal Shankster, 29, r 1 box 7, Milford. Shankster was traveling south on Old SR 15 and had stopped for the stop sign at the intersection.



SYRACUSE OKTOBERFEST — Everyone is invited to join the fun Saturday, Oct. 13, at Lakeside Park, Syracuse, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. for an Oktoberfest. Bratwurst, sauerkraut, hot dogs, and hot cider will be served by the Syracuse-Wawasee Park Foundation. The Primary Mothers Club will be selling carmel corn and carmel apples. The Lake Area Community Band members will be serving baked goods.

Shown are members of Das Bratwurst Brats, comprised of members of the LACB. Left to right are Jim Broni, Margaret Stoll, Sue Showalter, Scott Crothers and Hillis Stoll. They will be playing German-type music, including polkas.

All are invited to join the fun on Saturday and help the Lake Area Community Band and the Syracuse-Wawasee Park Foundation raise money to support their groups. (Photo by Kip Schuum)

Homecoming game Friday — Eight vying for king, queen honors

(Continued from page 1)

Club for four years. Sara has participated in swimming, cross country and tennis at Wawasee and enjoys snow skiing and reading in her spare time. She plans to attend Purdue University to major in nursing.

Jenna deSomer is the daughter of James and Ann Cavender of Syracuse and another candidate for queen honors. deSomer has been involved in the Ski Club and the Wawasee Band for four years while also participating as a cheerleader. Her hobbies include aerobics and water and snow skiing while her future plans include attending a four-year college and becoming a flight attendant after graduation.

Nikki Marsh, the daughter of Richard and Cathy Lemberg of Syracuse, is the last of the four queen hopefuls for 1990. Marsh, who enjoys water skiing and golf, is a member of DECA, FCA and Varsity Club at Wawasee. Nikki has participated in volleyball, gymnastics, golf and track and plans to attend a private college to major in business or accounting after graduation.

The homecoming king candidates for 1990 include Dan Smith, the son of Tim and Vickie Smith of North Webster. Dan, who has participated for three

seasons in football, enjoys water and snow skiing along with playing volleyball. Smith plans to attend Butler University to major in finance after graduation.

Brian Schwab is the son of Dan and Diann Schwab of Milford. Involved in Ski Club and Varsity Club, Brian has also participated in football and baseball. Schwab, who enjoys snow skiing, plans to attend college after graduation.

John Hickey, the son of John and Linda Hickey of Syracuse, is another of the king candidates this year. Hickey, a member of Ski Club, National Honor Society and Student Council, has also participated in football, soccer and basketball at Wawasee. He enjoys water and snow skiing along with windsurfing. Hickey plans to attend Purdue University to major in mechanical engineering.

Matt Stump, the son of Robert and Annette Stump of Warsaw, is the final king candidate. He is a member of the National Honor Society and has also been a four-year member of the wrestling team. Stump, who enjoys water sports and snow skiing, plans to tour Europe after graduation and then attend Purdue University to major in aeronautical engineering.

Homecoming Court

The 1990 Homecoming Class Court includes Wawasee freshman Mia Rinehold and Chris Huffer, sophomores Debbie Black and Scott Jones and juniors Angie Aldrich and Mike Prescott.

Rinehold, the daughter of Jeff and Janet Rinehold, is a member of the volleyball and softball teams at Wawasee. She enjoys athletics, shopping and spending time with friends.

Huffer, the son of Scott and Vaunda Huffer, is a member of the football team at Wawasee. He enjoys water and snow skiing.

Black, who enjoys sports, water skiing and shopping, is the daughter of Ben and Sally Black. She has participated in basketball and volleyball at Wawasee while also serving as manager for the baseball team.

Jones is the son of Denver and Kay Jones and lists baseball, music and recording productions as his spare time interests.

Aldrich, a member of the choir and Art Club, is the daughter of George and Vickie Aldrich. She enjoys drawing and water skiing.

Prescott is the son of Richard and Mary Prescott and lists snow skiing, hunting, flying and playing basketball among his hobbies.

Future of old Syracuse school still in question

(Continued from page 1)

the presentation. The three questions and one statement that received a response were:

"Why was the school in the plans to be destroyed five years ago and who was on the committee?"

"Would the use of the gym full time, for children take away free funding from the Youth Center?"

"Are these people on the committee afraid of the power of the higher ups? . . . 300 more would have signed the petition if not for the fact that their children or grandchildren could be intimidated by teachers and administrators."

"Our school board should be more concerned about the quality of education our children are getting rather than having the most elaborate building in the state."

Dennis Mikel, board member, asked for clarification of "use of the gym full time." Mrs. Stoelting noted the intent is to have the old gym opened full time to get the kids off the street, for basketball, soccer, a ramp for skateboard and tennis. She added that one of the study committee members is on the youth center board. Mikel also asked how the kids would be supervised and how it would be funded?

Mrs. Stoelting commented these were just recommendations of what the gym could be used for, pointing out she believed the means of funding had not been asked yet. "This has not come up, it was just recommendations." Mikel noted those were all things the board must consider.

Vera Hall, study committee member, voiced that many suggestions for use of the old gym were offered at the Lakeland Youth Center and would be duplicated.

Phil Payne, board member, reflected back to a prior term on the board when a similar situa-

tion with the old Milford High School. "The Milford Community wanted very much to keep that building and open it up to the kids. They researched it and could not finance it and we had to tear that building down. It can't be an eye sore, it can't be a hazard, it can't be a liability to the school corporation. We are the ones who would be sued in case of an injury. The Milford Community went through the same kind of studies that you're suggesting here and it wasn't financially feasible."

Mrs. Hall pointed out while there have been schools used for community affairs, museums and so on, the only difference was it was a building off by itself, where this building is attached to a school. "This did have some effect on many of our thoughts and discussions."

Superintendent Responds
Dr. Roger Thornton, superintendent, responded to the question regarding persons on the committee being afraid of the higher ups. "There wasn't one person that I asked this board to appoint that I thought would ever worry about what I thought about their recommendation. If you know the people on that committee, Charlie Beck, Vera Hall, Jim Evans, Roy Stiffler, Ray Darr, John Naab, these seven people touch an awful lot of people."

Thornton pointed out Darr, township trustee, would have to provide funding for any community type project, and this was why he was appointed. He also noted he doesn't agree with those seven people very often on everything, nor them with him. "It was that diversity that was the basis of my recommendation. While I don't agree with them at times, I have been impressed since I've been here with their integrity because they've always had the guts to say to my face what they've said behind my back. That's not the way it is with

everybody. I believe those seven people would recommend what they believe."

Curtis Jordan, board president, added one of the reasons the board members took that recommendation was they felt the committee would tell "us exactly what they found, no biases, no prejudices, no emotionalism, but exactly what they found." He also re-iterated the board was not going to make a decision that evening. "We want to look at everything."

A summation of why the school was in the plans to be destroyed was given. It was pointed out, a committee was looking into the overcrowding at Syracuse School and redistricting took place. The committee also saw the growth continuing, looked at the facility and found renovation costs were so high it would be advantageous to build a new building. The committee was comprised of many strong business and industry leaders in the community, including current board member Carolyn Anderson.

Jack Stoelting asked how many of the study committee are employed by the corporation and if it might have some sort of concern about losing their jobs. "We heard some rumors of that kind."

Only three members, Darr, Stiffler and Naab, are employed by the corporation. Board members pointed out reasons why some were put on the committee as they were familiar with the building and logical to be on the committee. "I purposely made certain that there were several people on there that signed the petition, in fact three of those members are members of your organization," stated Dr. Thornton.

A Challenge
Dr. Thornton asked members of the WTPA to talk to parents about how they feel about the school their child is in now compared to last year, talk to parents of kids who were in Syracuse Middle School and North Webster, and parents of elementary kids and North Webster about the fact "their kids have the room now." Talk to some teachers about the facilities and ask them how it's going this year.

Mikel also added "If you are truly concerned about kids, get involved."

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