Two injured in MVA involving school bus

by Ray Pauley
Public Info Officer

Grand Island Fire Company rescue personnel were dispatched to a motor vehicle accident involving a school bus and three cars which occurred at 2024 Grand Island Blvd. during early morning rush hour traffic at 6:56 a.m. on Nov. 12.

Eighteen firefighters and paramedics, under the direction of Assistant Chief Dave Tolejko, treated several vehicle occupants for various non-critical injuries. A convertible top was removed from one vehicle by an extrication crew so that 19-year-old Alfan Pomeranski of Buffalo could be treated for shoulder and head injuries. He was then transported by ambulance to Kenmore Mercy Hospital for medical follow-up.

Another driver, 33-year-old Linwood Hoffman, also of Buffalo, was treated for upper body and head injuries and transported to Kenmore Mercy Hospital. Fifty-nine-year-old Joseph Maiarano of Amherst denied injuries. Bus driver Janel Sztok of Grand Island also declined treatment at the scene and was advised to consult her family physician if necessary.

Grand Island Fire Company officers noted that the fact that the school bus was empty was "extremely fortunate."

All Grand Island Fire Company units were returned to service at 8 a.m. after fire police completed traffic control duties.

Bible Presbyterian Dedicates Life Center

by Carla Daucek

This past weekend was one of celebration for the congregation at Bible Presbyterian Church on Love Road. The Church conducted a series of Dedication events and services for their new Family Life Center, a $1.4 million project which has been completely paid for.

The weekend of festivities began Friday evening with a dinner banquet featuring the Renaissance Brass Quintet. Out of town visitors for the occasion were recognized along with several Town and County officials.

The evening also provided an opportunity to honor individuals who played a significant role in building the new Center. Honorees included Hugh Pickard, Chairman of the Building Committee, Bill Wilson, Clerk of the Works, Kent Randolph, Bob Supervisor and Frank Williams, Director of Food Services. Dr. Kevin Backus, Associate Pastor, was also recognized for his 15 years of service at the church.

In attendance was Pastor Bob Vandermyer's 87-year-old father from Los Angeles, Dr. Robert B. Vandermyer. While a pastor in the Buffalo area in 1957; he looked for a good location to start a new church and selected Grand Island. He made hundreds of calls and started a small group meeting in a hall on Ferry Road. It was to this group that Dr. Robert W. Vandermyer and his wife came in 1958 where they have served ever since.

The evening also included a presentation made by Terry Kelly Myers, President of LBM Construction. Myers turned over the key to the building to Howard Herdle, President of the Trustees.

Snow blankets Island

by Christopher Caile

Early Wednesday morning thick, wet snow began to blanket Grand Island.

Ray Dlugokinski, Deputy Highway Superintendent, had heard the forecasts. He was up at 1:30 a.m. It was still clear.

"But by 2:45 when I left home you could hardly see because of the falling snow," said Dlugokinski.

Grand Island snow plows and trucks were out by 3:30 a.m. and continued to plow, lay down sand and salt until 8:30 or 9 a.m. when the snow finished. But slick, icy areas remained.

As with every first snow fall the Island also saw its share of early morning accidents.

There were numerous fender benders on the bridges. A school bus was involved in an accident on Grand Island Boulevard where another vehicle in a separate accident had also overturned.

Also out early was an army of private and other snow plows clearing the parking lots at Tops Market, the Grand Island Plaza, and at schools and businesses.

Most residents just brushed off their windshield. The main roads were pretty much clear before they set off to work.

Dlugokinski estimates the snow fall at three to five inches.