

# They turned green dream into reality

By SUZIE ROLLINS

It's been eight years since Larry Pliska and Steve George joined forces in the interior landscape business. Now the men claim they operate the largest unique tropical plant greenhouse in the state.

In-between phone calls, delivery setups and special orders, Pliska, 33, and George 31, owners of PlanTerra, talked about their growth from a small house in Bloomfield Hills to a greenhouse on a three-quarters of an acre on Square Lake Road in Troy.

"I started my business as a hobby in my house. I was bringing plants in from Florida when a mutual friend introduced us," says Pliska of his partner. "Steve was bringing in cactus from Arizona, so we got together."

PLISKA KISSED his draftman's job goodbye while George broke away from his family dairy business to turn their hobbies into full time jobs.

plant business was becoming so we rented a greenhouse on the Sanders estate in Bloomfield Hills," George recalled. "We did residential jobs then. The women thought it was a cute out-of-the-way place so then we started doing their husband's commercial business."

"We were getting so much traffic down the residential road that the neighbors were complaining that we were operating a commercial business in a residential area. So the city asked us to move and we moved here," George added.

Today, the partners say 80 percent of their business is commercial. Their biggest accomplishment and proudest achievement is their interspace at Renaissance Center.

"The RenCen job really got us off our feet. That was in March 1977. It was the turning point in our career," George explained. "It was a big job and some architects we knew recommended us to participate in the bidding."

## THE JOB COST the RenCen

\$250,000 for 250 15-foot trees and 10,000 ivy plants, he added. PlanTerra still has an annual maintenance contract with RenCen.

"At the time that was the largest job for interior landscaping in the U.S.," Pliska said. "We received an Environmental Improvement Grant Award and got national recognition from a Newsweek story."

"The most challenging part of the RenCen job was getting the plants on the 40-foot-high pods in the building's lobby, George said.

"We were comparatively inexperienced with large installations at the time. We had to put the trees in the pods and had to find a crane to get 40 feet up there. We had to be careful about the weight of the crane on the floor and getting the trees suspended up there," he added.

PlanTerra's other big commercial accounts include Rockwell International Headquarters on Maple Road, Bendix Corporation, Gulf & Western, FTD World Headquarters, Twelve Oaks

Mail, Eastland, Northland and the Troy Community Center.

Whenever contracted, they service their accounts for an annual maintenance fee. In addition to interiorscaping commercial buildings, PlanTerra also rents plants for weddings and parties.

"We did the plant rentals for some convention parties," George said. "We did it for the Taste of Detroit but we had to do it for a minimal fee."

## ONCE EVERY SIX WEEKS the

# Sandy is tops in primary parade

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ton. Her total vote count was 375.

In the 25th District, G. William Caddell received 398 votes in Farmington Hills. The Republican who ran unopposed received a total of 1,687 votes.

IN COUNTY QUESTIONS, the Anderson Coalition Party received 18,338

men travel to Florida to buy plants. The foliage is priced anywhere from a couple of dollars to \$650 for European palm trees.

Pliska claims plants are not just a passing fad, and contends that most people prefer large "artistic" type plants rather than cluttering their homes with small ones.

"Plants are a necessity. They're real. Everyone wants the natural. Our generation are earth people so plants are always going to be in," he said. "We can get into an interior and bring in

live plants to convert a room that was once sterile."

The men appear pleased with their success and are certain there is more growth and wealth to be had in the green plant business. They have opened a retail store in RenCen, and also sell plants from their greenhouse. They're banking on more retail outlets in the near future, they say.

"Our business hasn't even peaked yet," Pliska concluded.

with 124 voting against it. In Farmington, 792 voted for renewal with 263 voting against it.

The total vote cast in the question on the county level, 85,201 was used by county officials to estimate the numbers of votes cast in the primary. That number equals 13.9 per cent of the county's registered voters. In Farmington, 13.7 per cent or 1,486 voters cast their ballot.

## Hills posts agenda

Following is the preliminary agenda for the Aug. 11 Farmington Hills council meeting to be at 7:30 p.m.

- Report on Lincolnshire paving.
- Report on sidewalk construction on mile roads.
- Consideration of setting a date for necessary hearing for sewer improvement for Farmington Hills Subdivision 1 and Glen Orchard and Glen Orchard 1 Subdivision. Resolution 2.
- Consideration of request from R-2, Inc., for transfer of ownership of 1978 Class C license with dance permit, from FD Stella Products Company and transfer of location from escrow at 38359 10 Mile, Farmington Hills to 38859 10 Mile, Farmington Hills.
- Consideration of introduction of proposed zoning map amendment C62-221, section 16 NW ¼ part of 23-16-104-005, located at 27404 Drake, request change from RA-1 to OS-1. Proponent is Joseph Clancy.
- Consideration of Willowbrook Commons request for two year extension for park development. Section 4.
- Consideration of resolution for Eight Mile water main payback.
- Consideration of resolution requesting appointment of two additional directors to the Economic Development Corporation for White Motor Project.

Official notice to members of the annual business meeting of the Michigan Municipal League.

- Consideration of awarding bid for the Nine Mile paving project SAD C-138.
- Recommendation to adopt traffic control order 2.E.21.80 for prohibition of right and left turns during various stages of the reconstruction of the intersection of Orchard Lake Road and 13 Mile to all north and south bound vehicular traffic in accordance with Oakland County traffic control order TP 54-6-80.
- Recommendation to adopt traffic control order ID-17-80 for installation of a traffic control signal at Grand River and 10 Mile in accordance with Oakland County traffic control order TS 349-6-80.
- Recommendation to adopt traffic control order 2.E.20-80 for prohibition of left turns to all eastbound 10 Mile vehicular traffic at the intersection of Ten Mile and Grand River in accordance with Oakland County traffic control order TP 52-6-80.
- Recommendation to adopt traffic control order 2.E.22.80 for prohibition of right and left turns during various stages of reconstruction for the intersection of Orchard Lake Road and 14 Mile to all north and southbound vehicular traffic in accordance with Oakland County traffic control order TP 53-6-24-80.

## Developer buys Bond

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Kabak could bow out of the deal after four months if rezoning hadn't been granted or if architectural studies proved the school unfit for his plans.

"THE ADDITIONAL FUNDS could easily be consumed by the costs of rezoning and boarding the building," Kelly said. "This is the crucial and frequently very expensive part of this type of transaction."

Administrators liked Hughes' offer because it will bring funds into the district sooner. It was also the only offer for the entire 6.54-acre parcel of land. The other two offers would have left the district with nearly two acres of land to unload at a later date. Hughes will use the additional acreage for a parking lot.

"Bond has been vacant since June 1973. It was the first school closed by the district because of declining enrollment.

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48 mos.	\$4000	\$1294.76	\$15	\$1309.76	\$110.62	\$5309.76	14.65%
36 mos.	\$5000	\$1064.68	\$15	\$1079.68	\$168.88	\$6079.68	13.17%
48 mos.	\$5000	\$1618.60	\$15	\$1633.60	\$138.20	\$6633.60	14.62%
36 mos.	\$6000	\$1277.88	\$15	\$1292.88	\$202.58	\$7292.88	13.14%
48 mos.	\$6000	\$1942.44	\$15	\$1957.44	\$165.78	\$7957.44	14.60%



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