FIRE CHIEF GIVES TIMELY WARNING

Advises Villagers Against Burning Rubbish, Grass; Asks Co-operation

Chief Vern Griffith of the Birmingham Fire Department, today issued the following advice to village residents in regard to minimizing fires common at this time of year:

"The Fire Department is asking the cooperation and help of all the people in the Village of Birmingham to eliminate a number of small bonfires which always hold the threat of growing into big ones at this time of the year, by complying as nearly as possible with the following suggestions:

1. Roof fires. If there should be rubbish and waste paper to burn in the furnace, keep the drafts and dampers closed as much as possible while burning so that partly burned papers do not go out the chimney to lodge on dry shingles.

2. Grass fires. Do not attempt to burn grass on a windy day. If you care to burn grass and the conditions are right call the Fire Department at 1725 and give your name and the location of the grass you intend to burn. Intending this, we know that you are assuming the responsibility of calling the Department if help is needed.

3. Never leave a bonfire that you have started until it is completely out.

4. Do not attempt to burn rubbish or paper outside your house on a windy day.

5. If you care to do any burning in your yard, we suggest you have a pail of water or garden hose handy before you start.

6. If you see a grass or rubbish fire that is burning without some one watching it, we would very much appreciate your calling the Department so that it can be investigated, or extinguished before it gets out of control or does damage.

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active work of the campaign will close on Monday evening, Apr. 27.

Commemorating the birthday of the Community House, a final dinner and rally will be held on Wednesday, Apr. 29. Actually, Apr. 28 is the birthday but the steering committee decided to postpone the event 24 hours so as not to conflict with the concert of the Thursday Musicale, which is scheduled for Tuesday, Apr. 28.

All of the dinners, with the exception of the one given by Mr. Gray, will be subscription affairs, each solicitor paying his own way. The steering committee has established a policy of "no added expenses" for the roll call so that every cent contributed to the Community House may be used for the actual support of its activities.

Personnel of the publicity committee, which is headed by Loren T. Robinson, also has been announced as follows: George R. Averill, Bert C. M. Edendale, Mrs. Allen E. Valpey, Ernest A. Baumgarth, Mrs. Fred D. Fassett, Mrs. Milton R. Schatz, F. H. McKinney, Mrs. Carl W. Neuman, Rolfe C. Spinning, Russell Gore, Mrs. Louis G. Stauch, Guy C. Smith, Mrs. Charles N. Zylman and Robert Clayton.

Prizes To Be Given

Not only will the workers in the Community House Roll Call save the satisfaction of seeing their efforts bring help to a worthy cause but they will also have a chance to win a beautiful combination radio and phonograph.

Because J. Fred Woodruff, general chairman of the campaign, believes that there's nothing like a prize to really make a contest and because he thinks conscientious effort should be rewarded, he has donated two General Motors period console radios valued at about $300 each, to be put up as prizes for the solicitors and teams to work for. The instruments are the gift of Mr. Woodruff alone and he has devised a novel plan to see that every man and woman who decides due to soliciting funds for the community house will have a chance to win one of them.

Briefly the plan of the competition calls for a point system of credit for the work the solicitors do, based on a quota for each person with extra points for going above quota and for doing it in record time. One radio will go to an individual, the other to a team with the team having the right to dispose of it as it sees fit.

The radios are now on display at the Community House and before the Roll Call starts one of them will be put on display downtown. The announcement of the winners will be a high point of the wind up dinner on Apr. 29.

Calendar of Coming Events

Today: Bloomfield Township Board meets at 9 a. m.; Home talent play to be given in the Franklin Hall at Franklin; Local Y. M. C. A. ping pong team meets the Highland Park team at the local "Y"; Bacon School Overtea. "The House That Jack Built"; Wayne County Association Chiefs of Police meet for lunch at Community House, as guests of local police; Tennis Club meets for dinner at 6:30 p. m.; Eastern Star bridge party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Perry A. Vaughn at 8 p. m.; meeting of the Missionary Department of the Presbyterian Church at 2:30 p. m. Bloomfield Hills and District Horticultural Society meets at Community House 7:30 p. m.

Friday, Apr. 10: Spring vacation for Birmingham school children and teachers begins; Delta Molay dance at Community House at 9 p. m.; Business and Professional Women's Club card party; Marvel Carson, Baldwin High School sophomore, goes to Mt. Clemens to represent her school in the Oakland and Macomb County sub-district declamation contest at 2 p. m. Stag dinner by Forth Club, men's group of Methodist Episcopal Church; Mrs. Osborne and Miss York give tea for Miss Porter.

Saturday, Apr. 11: Baldwin High senators start trip to Washington; Village Players present three one-act plays; Miss Frances Shanley and Mr. John R. Macdonald are married at 8:30 a. m.; There will be no dance for the Birmingham high school group at the Community House.

Sunday, Apr. 12: Initiation ceremonies will be conducted by Schools of the World-Wide Guild at the First Baptist Church.

Monday, Apr. 13: Pythian Sisters hold initiation; Birmingham Branch National Farm and Garden Club meets to hear talk by Miss Sarah Hendrie at Community House; Prof. Edward Thorpe to talk at Baldwin Public Library under auspices of Michigan League.

Tuesday, Apr. 14: Mother and daughter banquet at Community House; Local officers Exchange Club attend aviation banquet in Detroit. Informal meeting De-Molay.

Wednesday, Apr. 15: Women's Union First Presbyterian Church meets at church at 2:30 p. m.; Women's Society Methodist Church meets; Awarding of prizes in American Legion Auxiliary poppy poster contest at Barnum School 8 p. m.; Harold S. Gray gives dinner for men workers in Community Fund Drive; Tea for women captains and teams at the home of Mrs. Frank W. Shuell, Lone Pine road.

Thursday, Apr. 16: Presentation of "The Dyspeptic Ogre" by children of Mrs. Raymond Reilly's class in play-acting; district spelling contest Barnum School, 2 p. m.; Meeting Birmingham Lodge No. 41 F. and A. M. at 7:30 p. m.

DRUNK DRIVER PAYS $100 FINE

Arrested Saturday on a charge of leaving the scene of an accident and driving while drunk, Monroe Gault, 25 years old, 5626 Sheridan avenue, Detroit, was fined $100 Monday when arraigned before Judge Floyd S. Buck. Gault was arrested by Patrolman Robert Appell on the Fourteen-Mile road between Woodward avenue and Cranbrook road. The complaint of Robert Philp, 915 East Sixth street, Royal Oak, who told the court Gault, while driving under the influence of liquor rammed into his machine at the Thirteen-Mile road and Woodward avenue and continued on his way until Philp forced him to the curb in Birmingham.

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ship Board) $350.00, per annum, and $5.00 per meeting fees.

Office Clerks—a minimum of $15.00 to a maximum of $30.00 per week except chief clerk at $40.00.

Engineer—$3,000.00 per annum. This recommendation covering the Engineer's salary is made with the proviso that if the Township Board should find upon investigation, that the work of the department can be done more economically on a part time basis, then it is the feeling of your Committee that the Township Board should act accordingly.

James V. Bayley, Bloomfield Township Clerk, yesterday afternoon offered the following statement, in which he states he is willing to accept a reduction in salaries. The recommendation for the reduction in Mr. Bayley's salary made by the committee is the same as Mr. Bayley proposed. "In view of the necessity for curtailment of expense in the various units of government, I have decided to ask our Township Board when it holds its annual meeting Apr. 9, that my salary be cut from $3,800.00 to $3,000.00. I believe that this cut, although not so much in one individual case, would be a considerable amount if similar economy were effected in general. A new day has come upon the public especially with regard to the expenditure of funds by their elected officials; this new day demands strict frugality wherever possible. I am requesting that my salary be cut merely as an evidence of my personal desire to aid in the return of prosperity in general."

During our investigation of the records, we find that, in quite a few instances, the Board has seen fit to vote bonuses and extras over and above salaries to various officers. While your Committee is not in a position to question the merits in each case, nevertheless, it is our feeling that this practice should be discontinued forthwith.

II. TOWNSHIP PARK:

In examining the records pertaining to the Township Park, your Committee feels that the Township Board should have exercised a larger degree of diligence in the expenditures of public money covering this project. In the first place, the people, at a recent election, authorized the Board to spend a total of $85,000.00. According to the records, the Board has spent on this project, to December 31, 1930, a total of $155,591.55. The capital expenditure seems excessive to us. Your Committee wonders if the Board obtained the consent of the taxpayers in expending over $70,000.00 in addition to the amount authorized by them. From the monthly reports covering the operations of this park over the last eight months of 1930, we find that a loss was entailed totaling $5,793.11. Furthermore, the records disclose that the Board, in order to meet the increased capital expenditure on this park, transferred from the General Fund a total of approximately $19,200.00. This appears irregular to your Committee, and the Township Board should be requested to explain this fully.

It is the consensus of opinion of this Committee that the Township Board should revamp the entire Township Park protedure, with the thought in mind of keeping expenses down and eliminating the deficit now on its books. Your Committee also recommends that the salaries and wages paid at the Park should be revised downward and that the rental charges, especially that applicable to the Club House, be increased.

That no capital investment in the park be made this year.

III. PUBLIC LIGHTING:

Your Committee understands that the Township Board has entered into contracts with the Detroit Edison Company covering street lights on various roads. The expenditure of money for these lights runs into a very large sum. While your Committee realizes that we are bound by these contracts, nevertheless, we feel that the Detroit Edison Company should be approached with a request that the monthly expenditures for these lights be reduced, even though, in order to obtain this concession, it may be necessary to prolong the life of the contracts.

IV. BUDGET SYSTEM:

It was apparent to your Committee, immediately after the start of our investigation at the Township offices, that the Township is not being, or never has been operated on a systematized budget basis. We discussed this matter at some length with the Township officials, questioning them as to whether or not it was feasible to install a budget system. The answer was more or less evasive. Your Committee feels that before any operating economies can be definitely arrived at, it will be necessary to place the annual expenditures of the Township on an accurate system of budgets. It appears to your Committee that the Supervisor should insist that each and every department covering the various activities of the Township should present a budget covering all expenses to be incurred by that department over the coming year. This budget should be tabulated and scrutinized by the officers as a whole before being adopted, and it seems wise to this Committee that the budget be printed in some publication for perusal by the public at large. Upon adoption of the budget, it should be incumbent upon the Supervisor to see to it that each department head maintain the expenses of his department within the budget.

Your Committee desires to know whether or not the Township Board is limited by law in the expenditures of money for contingent or ordinary expenses. We give you the following references: Section 2048—C. L. 1915, amended P. A. 1919—Act 89.

V. GRAVEL PIT:

Your Committee finds that the Township officers have obligated this Township for a gravel pit, to the extent of approximately $105,000.00. This was done without being submitted to the people for approval. It is not within the province of this Committee to state whether or not this expenditure of the public monies was made wisely or legally. It appears, on the face of it, to be excessive. We find that there will be a payment due on this purchase under date of April 15, 1931, in amount $12,000.00 on principal, plus $4,796.49 covering interest. Your Committee recommends that the Township officers refrain from making any further payments on the land contract covering the purchase of this gravel pit, until it has been ascertained by proper legal authority whether or not the purchase of this property was made legally.

VI. POOR FUND:

From the records obtainable at the Township offices, it appears that the Township is expending a substantial amount for relief work. While your Committee realizes that under existing conditions, the expenditure of money for this purpose is necessary, nevertheless, we feel, in justice to the taxpayers that due care should be exercised and all cases coming in for relief should be thoroughly investigated to the satisfaction of the Supervisor before any funds are paid out.

We find that Bloomfield Township has been assessed by the County 97 per cent of the entire County welfare appropriations, amounting to approximately $1,300,000.00 for the year 1930. This means that Bloomfield Township should expend for relief work, or its share approximately $126,000.00. Our information from the Township offices indicates that we will expend, during this year, approximately under twenty-five per cent of this amount. It therefore appears to your Committee that it would be wise to recommend to the Supervisor, that he propose at the next meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Oakland County, that each township take care and provide for its own welfare needs. In that manner, there will be a large savings accruing to this township. Under the present system of welfare work, it appears that all investigations for relief are made in a very haphazard manner and that there apparently is no centralized investigating bureau where these investigations can be conducted systematically and thoroughly. We recommend that the Township Board institute or hire its own investigators to cover every applicant for relief and in this manner acquaint themselves fully with the condition and merit of each application. We further more find that a large part of the relief being paid out for Bloomfield Township is located in that part of Troy Township which lies within the limits of the Village of Birmingham. We recommend that the Township Board determine the amount of relief paid out for the families in this section and bring this to the attention of the County Board of Supervisors, with the request that they allocate this to the proper township.

FINAL:

We find that, in some instances, the Township Board is renting office space. We feel that it is incumbent upon them to obtain a proper rental for this space commensurate to the amount they pay to the Village of Birmingham.

We find that the Township Board, in the past, has not kept an accurate record of the minutes covering their various meetings, in fact, none of the officers, up to the present time, can locate the minutes of its meetings prior to 1922. We feel that it is a matter of great importance that the Township Board maintain and keep safe a complete record of the minutes covering every meeting of the Board, and that these minutes be published after each meeting.

We reconsiderd that the Township officers do not enter into any expenditures covering capital improvements, such as new roads, or any other expenditure of public money, which might lead to an increase in taxes, at least for 1931 or until such time as general conditions show some improvement.

In conclusion, and with all due respect for the well-meaning and honesty of our Township officers, we make the suggestion that they should become familiar with all the laws relating to their duties as such officials, when elected to public office, and that they should never forget that they are servants of the public.

Respectfully submitted by

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substantial majorities, the following being elected: Justices of the Supreme Court—Henry M. Butzel and Howard Wiest; Regents of the University—James O. Bird and Ralph Stone; Superintendent of Public Instruction—Webster H. Pearce; Member of State Board of Education—Frank Cody; Members of the Board of Agriculture, Matilda Wilson and Gilbert Daane.

E. J. Lederle was unopposed for Oakland County school commissioner.

Bloomfield Township Republicans were unopposed and received the following votes: Supervisor Perry A. Vaughan, 1,376; Clerk James V. Bayley 1,320; Treasurer R. Margaret Thomas 1,344; Highway Commissioner John E. Wilson 1,218; Justice of the Peace (full term) Arthur J. Tuggey 1,272; Justice of the Peace (to fill vacancy) R. J. Coryell 1,280; Member of the Board of Review Luther D. Heacock 1,289; Constables, Harry Johnson, Leslie Trueblood, Joseph MacGregor, and Earl Moody.

Bloomfield Township's vote on the capital punishment bill was yes—866; no—525; for the airplane field, yes—736; no—572; for the refunding bond proposal, yes—736; no—572; for delegates to county conventions proposal, yes—707; no—322.

Because the election board officials sealed the poll books before making a memorandum tabulation of the votes in Troy Township's third precinct, it has not been determined whether the death bill carried or was lost there. The results of the first two precincts, however, gave the bill a majority of eight votes, the count being yes—262; no—254. In the adjoining neighborhood, in precinct No. 5 of Bloomfield Township, however, the proposed Foster bill was defeated 52 to 44.

"Sticker" Candidate Wins

Republican candidates in Troy Township also were unopposed and the following were elected: Supervisor Garnet M. Miller; Clerk Glenn W. Ladd; Treasurer, Henry B. Eseman; Highway Commissioner Harry Grant; Justice of the Peace Raymond Ferguson, and Constable Anthony Lodato.

In Southfield Township, Mrs. Fannie Adams running on a "sticker" ticket swept the field to be elected treasurer over G. L. Collins and Norwood Tibbits, Republican and Democratic candidates respectively. Mrs. Adams was defeated by one vote at a recount held after the primary election. Mrs. Ona M. Utley was the only Democrat to win. She was elected clerk with 465 votes to 350 cast for Albert Jacobs, Republican.

George Bingham was re-elected supervisor, receiving 491 votes to the 395 cast for Charles Bilkovsky, Democrat. Collins received 320 votes and Tibbits 128 for treasurer, and Mrs. Adams polled 449. James Kizeboff (R) defeated Irving Johnson (D) for highway commissioner, 474 to 376. Frank Cote polled 564 votes to be elected road overseer. Arthur B. Baynes (R) received 538 votes for justice of the peace, full term, to defeat William Davis (D), who received 250 votes. James B. Wood (R) was unopposed for justice of the peace to fill vacancy. He received 533 votes. Joseph H. McClelland, unopposed Republican, for board of review received 624 votes. The following constables, all Republicans, were unopposed: William Dreisner, Walter C. Kent, William Nimmoth and Ben F. Pickard.

Following is the vote cast for the other issues on the ballot: Capital Punishment—yes 313, no 291; landing field aid bill—yes 296, no 373; bond amendment—yes 314, no 371; delegates to county conventions— yes 265, no 212.

Purse Snatcher Sought By Police

Miss Ruth Groves, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Groves, 336 Greenwood avenue, escaped from a thief who grabbed her and robbed her of her purse Tuesday night on Bloomfield Court. Miss Groves the police report, slipped from her coat which the thief had grabbed, and ran between houses, pursued by the thief, who finally gave up the chase.

Miss Groves' coat and purse later were found and a small amount of money was reported stolen. Miss Groves was returning from the Barnum Junior High School where she had attended a swimming class when the thief grabbed her. The police search for the thief failed of results.

MISS PORTER JOINS THE ECCENTRIC STAFF

Miss Marjorie Elaine Porter, an experienced Detroit newspaperwoman and former club editor of The Detroit News, has been engaged by The Eccentric to succeed Miss Marge Hall, who has left to accept other work.

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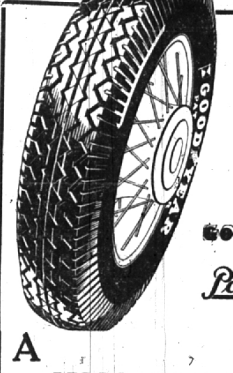

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