

8 Mayors Plan Huddles On Joint Area Problems

Mayors of eight South Oakland county cities have pooled their talents in an effort to help solve the common problems of their several communities.

To meet monthly to discuss mutual problems are the mayors of Birmingham, Lathrup Village, Clawson, Ferndale, Royal Oak, Berkley, Pleasant Ridge and Huntington Woods.

Initiated by Mayor David R. Calhoun, of Huntington Woods, the program of meetings offers a chance to establish another tie among the eight cities, some of which hold differing opinions on joint problems. Birmingham Mayor Charles Renfrew said this week.

First meeting of the group was held last month with Calhoun as host.

Activities of the group will be suspended during July and August, because of summer vacations, but in September the group plans to get going with the various mayors alternating as hosts.



L.C. GORDON W. CRAWFORD, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Crawford of Cranbrook road, has recently been assigned to Eglin air force base, Florida. Crawford served 30 months in Japan before his present assignment. Prior to his entry into the Air Force in March, 1951, he was graduated from Baldwin high school in June, 1950.

"We will not be able to take any official action in solving joint problems of our communities, but we feel our discussions can serve to pave the way for action by the managers and the legislative bodies of our cities," Renfrew explained.

"It is a chance for elected officials to exchange views and in some cases to present a unified voice in seeking from the Oakland county board of supervisors or from the Michigan state legislature action concerning our mutual problems."

"We feel our efforts will serve to strengthen the lines of communication among our communities in their efforts to work out problems affecting them all," said Renfrew.

MAYOR WILLIAM A. HARVIE, of Lathrup Village, believes the eight communities will benefit through discussions by their mayors.

"After our first meeting last month it was generally agreed among our most perplexing individual problems actually are joint problems and can best be solved by mutual effort. I definitely feel we should work together and that these mayor gatherings will help," Harvie said.

Subjects to be discussed at forthcoming meetings will include equalization procedures, civil defense, a water authority, storm and sanitary sewage, and garbage disposal, said Renfrew.

Meetings are to be open to representatives of the press so the public may learn of the thinking of its elected officials on these joint problems.

On Review Board

FRANKLIN—Philip Van Dyke, 31310 Franklin, and Jim Gillen, 28835 Franklin, were named to the village board of review Monday night by the board of trustees.

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First Fatality Recorded in June Accident Report

One of Birmingham's heaviest monthly accident tolls this year was recorded during June when 16 persons were injured, one fatally, out of a total of 29 accidents, according to a report by Police Chief Ralph Moxley.

In the city's first fatal accident of the year, Earl H. Chapman, 30 Gladwin, Detroit, died of injuries received when his car plunged off the road at Maple and Edebroough on June 20.

"June's statistics contribute to an alarming increase over the first six months of 1953," Moxley stressed.

Right of way violations headed a list of traffic violations responsible for accidents during June.

"NINE ACCIDENTS in June and 44 so far this year have been caused by this violation," Moxley disclosed.

Last month's accident toll was far above that of June 1953 when 17 accidents took place and nine persons were injured. May's accident report shows five persons injured, and a total of 19 accidents.

Property damage for last month was estimated at \$9,535, three times as much as in June 1953 and nearly double the estimated damage in May 1954, Moxley pointed out.

"OTHER VIOLATIONS high on the list were improper passing and following too closely."

"All officers will be extra alert for these violations that continue to add to the accident toll," Moxley warned.

City Studies Cost Of 2nd Pickup of Graefield Garbage

It will be a week before Birmingham city officials will be able to decide what can be done about the garbage situation at the Graefield area that once-a-week garbage collections are inadequate during summer months.

Residents have protested about garbage odors and flies and have demanded that garbage be collected twice a week as in previous years.

City Manager D. C. Egbert reported to the commission Monday night that it would take a week to determine costs of a second collection which would be financed solely by the residents desiring it.

AN INSPECTION of the garbage situation at the Graefield Terraces was conducted last week by DPW Manager Robert Kenning and City Sanitary Engineer Henry Johns.

They reported that the major cause of the problem was the inadequacy of garbage containers. "We found that containers generally were too small, ranging in size from five to 15 gallons. Covers were poorly fitted allowing insect entry."

"Some containers were set in places where rainwater would flood them. However, we found the cans were fairly clean and that garbage was well wrapped," Kenning related.

HE SAID it is the opinion of William Love, garbage collection contractor, that more numerous collections would not solve the problem and that better containers were needed.

Commissioners will consider the problem again Monday night.

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DON'T BE ALARMED next week if you see two men roaming around the city in a trailer with a 20-foot antenna atop the rig. They will be Chief Engineer J. J. Swantek and Dean Coston, studio engineer, both from University of Michigan radio station WUCM. The two will be stopping in the city to make random checks on the strength of the station's signal. The University seeks to measure the strength of WUCM and will make spot checks in 20 cities in South-eastern Michigan.

SEVENTY-FIFTH MEMBER of the Birmingham Rotary Club was inducted Monday noon—he is William C. Restrick, Jr., 1150 Washington, vice president in charge of sales of Restrick Lumber Co. He is the first new member under present Art Blake's term and was inducted with Rotary statistics by charter member and former club president Clarence Yliet.

"TAINT SO! Nothing has appeared in The Eccentric that would intimate that Birmingham is to get a new city hall. But that's what the first six people demanded to know "How Come" from Commissioner V. B. Watkins at a recent party Watkins said. Watkins reassured them there was "nothing to it." So this week The Eccentric hastens to echo: "Nothing to it." We can only surmise that someone may have meant the proposed new COUNTY BUILDING in Pontiac.

DON'T BE ALARMED if you stumble into one of the eight holes in the pavement downtown on Woodward at the intersection of Brown. The city isn't looking for oil. It only indicates a leak in the water main. And this is a more economical means of locating the break before digging up the street to make repairs. City DPW Superintendent Bob Kenning, who solved the mystery of the eight holes, explained that the holes would be filled temporarily with sand.

REPRINTS of a Christian Science Monitor story were passed out last week to members of the Birmingham Lions club to let members know that their organization rates high with this international publication. Originating from Chicago, the article lauds the Lions clubs for the job they are doing in the world to fight Communism and further those activities which will tend to prevent Communism from gaining a foothold in new areas.

THE NEW VILLAGE of Franklin was given an official address Monday night and the postal box will be donated for village use. Dan Brown, Franklin postal employee, agreed to pay the rent for the box as long as the village wishes. The new address? Box 591, Franklin, Michigan.

BACK IN BIRMINGHAM for about a 10-week visit with their children are Mr. and Mrs. Perry A. Vaughan, now of St. Petersburg, Fla. They arrived Friday, are staying with their daughter, Mrs. John B. Hammond, of Kensington road, Bloomfield Hills. Vaughan retired four years ago after 19 years as supervisor of Bloomfield township. He was a member of the Bloomfield Hills school district for 42 years. The Vaughan family is one of this area's early settlers. "We were here last year in August, and even in the intervening months, Birmingham has changed considerably and noticeably," declared Mrs. Vaughan. "Too, she had a kind word about The Eccentric: "Mr. Vaughan and myself don't know what to do without The Eccentric—it's just about the only thing that keeps us posted on the news from here."

THE PERILS of attending national conventions were brought home to Southfield Optimists at their last meeting by President Al Bradbury, who reported that they completely forgot to feed him dinner in Houston. He forgave them, though, since he was presented the 1953 district award to bring back to his club. The award is based on club membership, attendance, civic work, new club work and activities among the young people in the club area. There are 41 clubs in the 17th district, Southfield's area.

ONE OF THE SHORTEST Birmingham city commission meetings since the first of the year occurred Monday night. It was a 50-minute session requiring little discussion of most agenda subjects. On the summer's hottest day so far, no commissioner even dared bring up any "general business" items at the tail end of the meeting.

MAPLE AVENUE, when the paving contractor gets around to repaving and widening it, will be closed for five to six weeks, Birmingham City Engineer Richard Gare estimates. The contractor hopes to have the new center strip in before school opens, then follow with the two new outside lanes. Operations are expected to begin the first part of August.

AMONG ADMIRERS of the Birmingham fire department is Mrs. George Bauer, 2466 Dorchester road. Mrs. Bauer called the department last Thursday morning when smoke began pouring up from her basement. Later she phoned the Birmingham Eccentric editorial office and said, "I think everyone ought to know what a fine organization our city's fire department is. Those men were at my door in less than three minutes of the time I called. They went to work immediately, and their efficiency was amazing. In just a few minutes they cleared my home of smoke with their special fans, and due to their consideration and promptness, my home suffered absolutely no damage." The smoke was the result of an overflowed oil burner which had gone out before firemen arrived, according to Assistant Chief Park Smith.

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Plan Change Leaves Openings at Y Camp

Due to a change with other YMCA branches of the Detroit Young Men's Christian Association sending boys to camp Ohlysea, the Birmingham YMCA branch has been given additional dates at camp and has some openings for the third, fourth and fifth periods.

These dates are July 26 through Aug. 3; Aug. 9 through Aug. 15; and Aug. 16 through Aug. 27.

The price for each period, including transportation, insurance and camp fees.

The program includes swimming, instruction in boating, canoeing, craftswork, basketball, camp cook-outs, instruction in riflery, sports, camp fires, etc. All counselors are college men.

For full information, registration blanks and camp literature, contact the Birmingham YMCA at 400 E. Lincoln.

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