

Southfield Residents Seek Charter Changes

Franklin Teachers Report Summer Vacation Activities

By ANGELA DABSON

Franklin school reopens at 9:00 a.m. next Tuesday, September 6, for all but kindergarten pupils and will close at noon this first day. Full day sessions begin on Wednesday, with kindergarten children reporting that day, also. Buses will follow the same routes and schedules as last year.

School offices are open from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and from 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon for the registration of pupils new to the area.

Principal Edwin Crandell is available at these times to advise parents and it is recommended that they take advantage of this schedule prior to the opening of school to avoid waiting in line to complete registration.

TEACHERS on the school staff this year are Sylvia Morris, kindergarten; Mrs. Jacqueline Koch and Mary Kopus, 1st grade; Mrs. Miriam Levine, 2nd grade; Mrs. William Gavic and Beth Egbert, 3rd grade; Mrs. Daisyville Richards and Mrs. Carol McDaniel, 4th grade; Mrs. Louise Clark, 5th grade; and Edward Pokornowski, 6th grade.

Hire 13 Special Teachers

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR

Providing help to pupils needing it, or enriching the everyday curriculum of "reading," "riting" and "rithmetic" is the duty of 13 special teachers in Southfield's elementary schools.

New art teachers in the system are Sally R. Lenington of Monroe, who graduated from the University of Michigan and Douglas Estlund, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin with five years teaching experience at Clariceville high.

Dorothy Davis, a graduate of the University of Michigan with a Master's degree in music, and Donald J. Otto, BS degree from the university with three years experience teaching at Ika Rural Agricultural college, are two new teachers of vocal music in the Southfield schools.

TEACHING BOYS physical education in the elementary schools will be David C. Sobbing, also a U.S.M. graduate with one year's experience in the Grasse He townships, while Gloria A. Rudolf will teach the girls along with Dorothy Slato who has been transferred from the high school.

Mrs. Gavic reports that the VanEemans will live near Duke University where he will finish work on his doctor's degree in chemistry this year.

MRS. CLARK and her husband William spent six weeks of their

Has Flood Relief Plan Available

LATHRUP — Residents troubled by flooded basements may soon seek relief by petitioning for relief sewers which have been suggested by the Oakland county drain commissioner as the answer to water flooding and sewer backups, according to Leonard A. Watchowski, city manager.

Drain Commissioner Ralph A. Main this week told Watchowski that bonding attorney Claude Stevens would have petitions available within a few weeks.

RESIDENTS would then obtain them from the city clerk and obtain signatures of 66 2/3 per cent of those living in their district before turning them over to the council, who would then instruct Main to begin construction.

The system, if and when it is completed, will cost an estimated \$20,000, and has been divided into nine districts, each of which can be constructed independently of the others. The water would be carried to the Evans ditch.

THE districts, and cost, are as follows:

1. Bounded by 12 Mile, Southfield, Arlington, Somerset, Rossy, and a part of Sunset to the river, \$24,200.
2. Bounded by 12 Mile, the east city limits, Goldengate, Lathrup, down to San Quentin to Bloomfield, to Glenwood, to the river, to Sunset, Roseland, Somerset, Arlington, and Southfield to 12 Mile, \$204,200.
3. Bounded by Southfield, Glenwood, Lathrup, Goldengate, east city limits and 11 Mile, \$61,600.
4. Bounded by 11 Mile, Lathrup, Margate, and Southfield, \$27,500.
- 4B. Bounded by 11 Mile, east city limits, Blackpool and Lathrup, \$19,800.
5. BOUNDED BY Santa Barbara. (See PLAN, Page 2, Sec. 5)



FRANKLIN'S OLDEST MERCHANT, Bert Wood (second from left), is given a preview of the garb which will be worn at Franklin's Annual Western Roundup and Barbecue Sept. 10, as he accepts tickets for resale from Jack Roberts (left), president of the Franklin Community Association which is sponsoring the event. General co-chairmen of the event, Bob Kerr (right) and Ray Adams look on.

Parade, Barbecue and Dancing Highlight Franklin's Roundup

By ANGELA DABSON

Franklin's annual round-up and barbecue opens at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 10 with a parade featuring floats, clowns, Scotch bagpipers, fire companies and equipment from Franklin and the adjacent township departments, the Oakland county sheriff's posse, cowboys, cowgirls and the village officials.

The barbecue dinner will be served from 4:30 until 7:00 p.m. with children under five years of age free. The event includes an afternoon of entertainment and

classes with square dancing on the green will be higher in price than those offered in advance from Claude Cook, Leonard Layton, Bob Yingling, Bob Mitchell, Phil VanDyke or others.

General chairman Ray Adams will be assisted by Jack Lackner; Harry Rottiers, western horse show; Jack Soels, food; Preston Dozier, concessions; Bill Albee, parade marshal; Leonard Lawton and Dick Frost, pony rides; and Oliver Garwood, staging.

Administrative chairman Bob Kerr will be assisted by Don Harker and Nick Quint, program; Tom Madge, publicity; and Jim Gullen and Ken Norko, business and accounting.

THE ENTIRE affair is open to the public. Dinner tickets bought

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We Heard It Said By:

WARDLEY D. McMASTER of 17351 Cornell, secretary of Southfield Planning Commission: "We're zoned 75 to 100 per cent commercial over any needs we might have in the township, and yet people buy residential property and try to have it rezoned commercial because the cost is cheaper than if they bought property already zoned commercial."

Oakland Village Assn. Wants Other Areas to Press for Revisions

By WILLIAM H. THOMAS

SOUTHFIELD—Spirited discussion of the proposed city charter by some 50 residents marked the Oakland Village subdivision-sponsored open meeting Monday at the Southfield-10 Mile school, to review the charter which is due for a vote early in November.

Henry DeMeyer, president of the subdivision association and a member of the Southfield board of trustees, was chairman of the group which closely examined several points relating to the charter.

A hand vote indicated the group overwhelmingly favored a two-year term for councilmen as opposed to the proposed four-year terms now written into the charter.

THEY ALSO were heavily in favor of a strong manager-type government. The present system, if adopted with the charter, would leave four administrative heads responsible only to the council. These four are the city attorney, the clerk, treasurer, and the assessor.

The Oakland Village association would like to see these offices become responsible to the city manager.

"What we want more than anything else is efficiency and control by the people over that government," said Howard Coleman of 21200 Telegraph road. "Efficiency might be divided by several heads without tip control."

"I THINK the others here feel the same way I do, but speaking for myself, I would not vote for any split authority," said T. Neil McGregor of 25082 Barkins.

Final action of the group was a resolution which instructed DeMeyer to contact the other 23 subdivision associations in the township and ask them to hold group meetings.

If the plan holds up, each subdivision would formulate a policy toward the charter, then select a delegation to attend a township-wide association meeting.

IN THIS way more pressure could be brought to bear on the charter commissioners to affect changes desired, and bring about more than the one scheduled public hearing which the commissioners have held.

Eugene Swain, chairman of the commission and township supervisor, said Tuesday that undoubtedly more meetings would be held, but it was doubtful that they could be scheduled before the charter was sent to Gov. G. Mennen Williams for his approval.

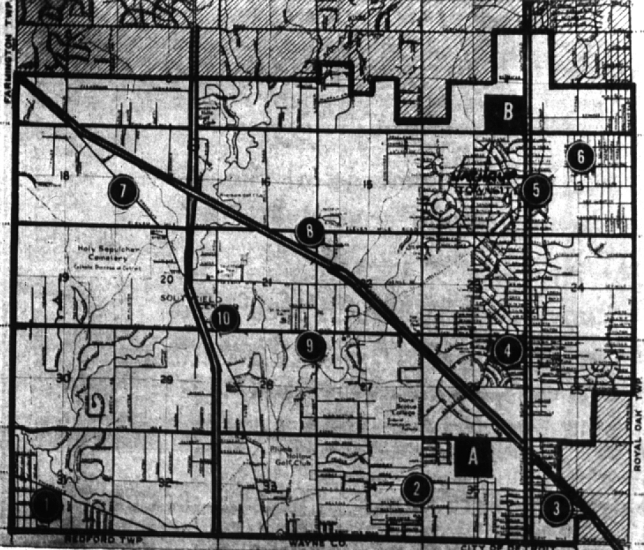
"We have to have the charter on the way to the governor within 90 days," said Swain. "That doesn't give us much time to hold meetings."

The Birmingham Eccentric will accept any written questions from our readers, quiz those on the charter commission and print answers to your questions the week following receipt of the question.

Some of the questions raised at the Oakland Village Association meeting, in which we feel our readers may be interested, and the answers to these questions, are (See CHARTER, Page 2, Sec. 5)

Coming Your Way—Sept. 15
The Eccentric's Big Football Special

Sept. 12 Vote is Vital to Southfield School District's Future



Area's Rapid Development Ahead of Schools' Growth

(EDITORS' NOTE: This is the first of two articles concerned with the Southfield School District as it relates to the coming \$3.5 million bond issue.)

By BRUNO L. KEARNS

This is a critical period of development for the Southfield Public School District.

The rapid growth of the township has been proportionately far ahead of the school district's expansion program, leaving the relatively young-established school board of Southfield with the serious problem of keeping pace with the overall development.

When the people in the Southfield School District go to the polls September 12 to vote on the proposed \$3,500,000 bond issue, their decision will be one to progress or to remain static.

ACTUALLY, even if the bond issue passes it is doubtful that the school needs will reach par with the facilities needed to handle the growth.

Registration deadline for the bond issue vote is Friday, Sept. 2. Those not registered may do so at the Township offices, 26000 Berg road, and the Lathrup City offices, 19600 Forest.

However, if the bond issue should fail, it would leave the school district at a standstill while the population growth continues its rapid trend.

THE historical background of the growth of schools in the township shows educational expansion to be slow and spotty.

Since 1947, however, when 11 separate school districts incorporated into a single unit the growth has accelerated but yet not reached a point of equilibrium with the rise in enrollment.

The first schools ever built in the township still stand and are being used despite their antiquity.

BROOKS school at Lahser and Eleven Mile was erected as a single room frame structure in 1849 and it was not until 1936 that another room was added to the building.

Brace school at Midway and Evergreen went up in 1872, with single room additions made in 1938 and in 1940 as community projects.

Both structures have long outlived their adequate usefulness, and eventually they will be replaced by modern and more desirable classrooms.

PART OF the 1955 bond issue calls for eight or 10-room additions to these and other schools, leaving these old portions ready for retirement when the overcrowded stage of the district is passed.

In seven years since incorporation, three bond issues in the total amount of \$3,650,000 have been accepted by the people in the school district.

The first issue of \$1,200,000 in 1949 provided for additions to seven elementary buildings and brought about the construction of Southfield High school with 26 original classrooms.

IN 1952 the \$950,000 bond issue made possible the addition of 11 rooms and the gymnasium to the high school, plus numerous improvements in other schools in the district.

The millage level on the \$1,600,000 bond issue of 1953 brought about the first big expansion move for the district.

It provided for:

1. Two room addition to John Grace School.
2. Seven room addition plus a boiler room at East Southfield.
3. Nine room addition plus kitchen and other facilities at Lathrup School.
4. Fifteen room new elementary school.
5. Twenty acre site on Nine Mile Road between Evergreen and Southfield Road.
6. Twelve acre site on Nine Mile Road east of Telegraph.
7. Black topping on high school drives.
8. Parking lots constructed at the high school.
9. Bleachers for high school gymnasium.
10. Ten room addition and cafeteria at Southfield No. 10.

WITHIN two weeks the fourth and most important bond issue will be presented to the voters.

Rising census figures, multiplying enrollments, coupled with overcrowded conditions which have necessitated half-day sessions and which have over-taxed facilities, point to the urgency of bond approval.

(Next week we will show these conditions, the enrollment problems, what the bond issue will provide and how it will affect the millage and tax rates.)

1. Grace School
2. Brae School
3. Magnolia School
4. McKinley School
5. Lathrup School
6. E. Southfield
7. Angling School
8. Brooks School
9. Southfield High
10. Southfield No. 10

- A. Elementary School now being constructed. Bond issue will provide Junior High School addition on the Nine Mile site.
- B. Proposed Elementary Site.