

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

LATHRUP • FRANKLIN • WING LAKE • GILBERT LAKE • WALNUT LAKE • FOXCROFT • W. & E. BEVERLYS • THE BERKSHIRES • VALLEY WOODS • SOUTHFIELD, BLOOMFIELD & W. BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIPS.



12-Town Case Still Underway

The long-awaited 12-Town Drain case which was expected to end almost as quickly as it began has moved into its second week and no quick end is in sight.

The case opened before Oakland County Circuit Court Judge H. Russell Holland at Pontiac Dec. 4 after nearly a year's delay.

THOSE CLOSE to the scene predicted that since both parties involved planned to appeal Holland's decision to the State Supreme Court if he ruled against them the case would be over in three days or less.

They were proved wrong, however, when the entire first three days of the trial were taken up by Southfield township and the City of Troy.

These two communities have had suits pending against the Oakland county drain commission for more than a year. Both are basing their cases on whether the drain commission followed the law in setting up the \$44,000,000 project and whether such a law is constitutional.

AMONG THE witnesses questioned by Southfield Attorney Harry N. Dell was Ralph A. Main, former drain commissioner.

Main, under questioning by Dell, outlined the early history of the 12-Town project but was unable to remember many details.

Dell, in addition to trying to prove the project is not constitutional, also contends that Southfield never petitioned to be included in 12-Town.

When the case resumed this week, Drain Commissioner Daniel W. Barry took the stand testifying about the progress made on the project since he took office at the beginning of this year.

THE COMMISSION'S position on the case is expected to last throughout this week and perhaps run longer with Holland not expected to hand down his decision for some time.

The aim of the giant project is to relieve seasonal flooding in 13 Southeastern Oakland county communities. It has been stalled in Southfield and Troy filed suit against it in Oct. 1956. At that time they claimed their undivided shares of the cost were too large.

AT A SPECIAL meeting last Thursday the board accepted the bid of the Detroit Bank and Trust Co. to purchase \$300,000 tax anticipation notes of the district at par value plus premium of \$30 interest. The loan is to carry the district's operating expenses until the next month.

It also was voted to proceed with action to close a vacant boulevard between Addison Drive and George Washington Avenue adjacent to McKinley school.

LATHRUP—Jimmy Ciavarella, 3-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Ciavarella of Bloomfield town, Lathrup, will light the city Christmas tree in front of Lathrup school Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m.

A gift to the city of Lathrup by the Lathrup Lions club, the 45-foot tree is taller and more beautiful than any the city has had before.

Before the lighting of the tree, there will be music by the Southfield high school band, a flag ceremony by the senior Girl Scouts, a carol sing, and a special greeting from Mayor Lann Mackey.

THE LATHRUP police youth recreation department has contacted Santa Claus by police radio at the North Pole and the elf fellow is going to make a special trip to Lathrup by helicopter, weather permitting, just to reassure the children that everything is going well for Christmas. If he can't fly in, he will arrange to arrive by police car.

The program has been planned and arranged by the tree lighting committee appointed by the city council, Mrs. V. A. Zetzel, Mrs. Gene Peron, and Mrs. Everett Nelson.

Lutheran Church Marks Anniversary

WEST BLOOMFIELD—The five anniversary of the organization of the Lutheran Church of the Shepherd-King will be observed Dec. 15 with a special worship service at Eagle school, 14 Mile and Middlebelt roads. The church has been conducting its services at the school since it was first organized on Dec. 16, 1956.

Council Considers Improved Police Protection

WOODCREEK FARMS—A special meeting of the Woodcreek Farms village council will be held tonight to hear Farmington Township Police Chief Irving Yakes make recommendations on improving police protection in the area.

Members of the Woodcreek ladies association met at Orchard Lake country club recently to stage a zany fashion show in which the costumes expressed a play on words. Shown here (from left) are Mrs. Jo Schlatterbeck as a skater, Mrs. Marguerite Kreider in her version of a cocktail dress, and Mrs. June Bieker dressed in the latest gardening outfit.

Boys Pull Three Girls From Lake

BLOOMFIELD—Quick action by a high school youth and his companions is credited with avoiding a disaster last Thursday afternoon when three girl skaters fell through thin ice on Gilbert lake.

The girls, Linda McCombs, 12, Quentin road, Jane Durham, 15, Snowshoe circle, and Susan Gougeon, 13, Carrington road, were skating toward the middle of the lake when the ice gave away about 5:20 p.m.

DALE MONCRIEFF, 16, Cottondale lane, was skating on the shoreline, police said, when he heard the girls.

In his rush to aid them, he fell on the way, cutting his face severely. He continued, however, pulling Linda to safety. He was assisted by Morgan Richards, Jr., Jane told police that Dale also managed to help her out of the icy water. Another youth, Steve Jaselet, tried the middle of the lake to rescue the girls.

Township police and fire department were called but it was necessary to use their life-saving equipment. The girls suffered only shock.

DALE WAS taken to William Beaumont hospital, Royal Oak. His lip and chin are still stitching. He also suffered cuts and bruises on the forehead and nose. His mother, Mrs. J. Oliver Moncrieff, reported that Dale didn't miss classes Friday at Bloomfield Hills high school.

Youngsters who had been skating at Gilbert lake told Acting Police Chief Norman Dehnke that they considered it safe as they had watched a man in this wife skating earlier in the day.

'Keep Off Ice' Police Caution

"Don't skate on any ice until the weather is at least 20-degree weather," is the firm warning issued this week by Acting Police Chief Norman Dehnke.

He points out that even though the ice may seem solid it can be thin, especially toward the center of a lake or pond.

The three girls skating last Thursday on Gilbert lake were just fortunate that Dale Moncrieff was nearby, Dehnke said.

Lathrup Council Will Meet Public

LATHRUP—Three dates, Jan. 28, Feb. 6 and Feb. 11 have been set by city council for public-community meetings regarding the \$300,000 bond issue to be asked at the city's next election.

Under court orders to show progress in their street parking problem, the council has made an 18th month study of drainage and sewage disposal and has drawn up a plan which it will present at the meeting.

Lathrup is scheduled to spend a full day in court on Feb. 4. State and county representatives will be present to hear the report.

Holiday Concert Planned by School

SOUTHFIELD—The Southfield high school music department will present its fourth annual Christmas concert Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. Admission is free.

Vocal music will be directed by Vincent Kochenderfer. James Burrows will direct the instrumental music.

Participating in the program will be the high school band, the mixed choir, the girls' glee club, the girls' choir, band and vocal ensemble.

Among the vocal selections will be "Beside Thy Cradle Here I Stand," "A Joyous Christmas Song," "Carols of the Bells" and "Jingle Bells."

The band has chosen "A Christmas Festival," "The Christmas Suite," and "Was the Night Before Christmas" narrated by Bruce McLaren.

The chorus and band will join in the "Hallelujah Chorus" from the Messiah, followed by a medley of carols for audience participation.

No Leniency for Late Taxpayers

BLOOMFIELD—Reversing a long-standing policy of leniency toward late taxpayers, the Bloomfield township board decided at its regular Monday night meeting to collect taxes on time.

The board, already unpopular with some of the taxpayers over the size of the 1957 taxes, decided that the 1957 taxes must be paid by the Jan. 20, 1958, deadline and that taxes paid after that date will be subject to a four per cent penalty.

FOR A NUMBER of years past, the township has allowed taxpayers up to March 1 to pay without penalty, although the tax bills always noted that the final date of payment without penalty was Jan. 20.

The township, which expects to collect up to \$2,600,000 in 1957 taxes, said that it planned to announce in area newspapers soon that this year it would not waive the tax deadline.

"To our knowledge," the board said, "we are the only municipality we know of which has waived the deadline in the past. We feel that because of the rapidity with which our area is growing and because of the fact that so many taxpayers are being built here that it is now time to enforce the tax deadline. Extending this deadline, in our opinion, not fair to those taxpayers who pay their taxes on time."

SOME BOARD members were at first unsure whether "this is the year" to enforce the deadline in view of the current controversy over "some public anger at the size of the tax bills."

The township currently is involved in a suit brought by a citizens' group which wants an injunction issued to halt the levy of the 1957 taxes.

OAKLAND COUNTY Circuit Judge Clark J. Adams, who will hear the case, has set no date for the trial as yet.

The citizens contend the township used two methods of assessing property for tax purposes and claim that "such conduct amounts to constructive fraud."

The township, whose move to dismiss the injunction petition was denied by Adams, says it plans to continue collecting the taxes "as though nothing had happened."

Woman Frightens Prowler With Gun

SOUTHFIELD—Mrs. Stuart J. Simon, Jr., 60, frightened a would-be burglar Monday afternoon at 2510 Southfield road Thursday by waving a revolver in his face.

Mrs. Simon told Southfield police the man walked around her home several times, trying the door handle, and peering through the doorbell. She said that when she failed to answer he smashed in a window with a piece of tile and started to climb in.

MRS. SIMON told officers she first noticed the prowler when he man circled the house and pointed it at his face as he tried to enter through the window.

She said that when the prowler saw the weapon he yelled, "I give up, lady, I give up," but said "I'm not going away when she went to the telephone to summon help.

Mrs. Simon called a relative who in turn notified police.

Urges Westwood Residents Register for Charter Vote

WESTWOOD—Hugh G. Allerton, Jr., secretary of the Westwood Village charter commission, urges all area residents who wish to vote in the Feb. 3, 1958 charter election to register immediately.

Allerton says that registration cards are not valid for the charter election and points out that those who wish to vote must register.

HE SAYS registration currently is going on at the Southfield township hall. To help speed registration, special facilities are set up at the 13 Mile road fire station.

REGISTRATION hours at the fire station are 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 12, 9 a.m. to noon on Dec. 14, Jan. 4, and Jan. 11 and from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the final day of registration is Jan. 15, 1958.

Allerton points out that prospective election candidates may secure nomination petitions from him or Mrs. Fannie Adams, township clerk, starting Dec. 16. Mrs. Adams will issue the petitions at the township hall and Allerton will issue them from his home at 18585 Hillcrest.

ALLERTON SAYS the petitions must be filed with him by 4 p.m. of Jan. 6.

He emphasizes that prospective candidates must secure the signatures of those persons who have re-registered for the charter election. The petitions must have at least 25 such signatures and not more than 50. Allerton will certify the petitions Jan. 8.

TO THE planning commission, Village President Alger Clark revealed. He indicated that their recommendation probably will appear at the council's January meeting.

Unanimous approval was given to the road budget presented by the road administrator Don Wells. Of an estimated \$4,254,933 expected for the state for road maintenance, Wells said that \$2,679,400 would be used on the two major roads, leaving a small balance which will be earmarked for the erection of village and speed limit signs and possibly work on ditches in the spring.

THE BUDGET covers the period from Oct. 1, 1957, to the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 1958. The Dec. 3 meeting also included a talk by Raymond Peters, field consultant of the Michigan Municipal League, which was followed by an unanimous vote by the council to make Woodcreek Farms a member of the league.

A Serious Talk With Santa

A serious Santa discusses serious things with his serious friends as Christmas draws near. The kids are preparing to place their Christmas orders with Santa and their faces show the effect of stiff concentration. The group consists of (from left) Diane Gust-



Christmas Gifts for Hospital Patients

Members of the Walnut Lake women's club held their annual Christmas party at Bloomfield township hall recently. They spent a large part of the evening wrapping gifts for patients in the therapy ward at Pontiac State hospital. Shown here putting

the finishing touches on Christmas packages are (from left) Mrs. Keith Sprizgel, corresponding secretary, Mrs. Kenneth Bieby, chairman of the Christmas party, Mrs. John A. Smith, president, and Mrs. Edwin Simonson, secretary.



Ladies Stage Gag Fashion Show

Members of the Woodcreek ladies association met at Orchard Lake country club recently to stage a zany fashion show in which the costumes expressed a play on words. Shown here (from left) are Mrs. Jo Schlatterbeck as a skater, Mrs. Marguerite Kreider in her version of a cocktail dress, and Mrs. June Bieker dressed in the latest gardening outfit.

He Kreider in her version of a cocktail dress, and Mrs. June Bieker dressed in the latest gardening outfit. Mrs. Bieker was chairman of the program and wrote the show's original skit.



My Neighbors

"What do I want with one-of-these neighbors like him having trouble keeping him quiet so it is!"

- ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC
- Mackie Discusses Expressways 1-A
- Birmingham-Southfield Basketball 6-E
- Shining Hours of Christmas 1-B
- Tea Has Continental Atmosphere 1-F
- Help Make Christmas Brighter—Safer 1-D