

'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.

Broomfield Hits Mackie Delay of N'western Plan

Says County Will Suffer Because of Latest Change

Congressman William S. Broomfield (R-Oakland county) says "Oakland county will suffer because of a decision to shelve the extension of Northwestern highway for at least another five years."

Police Grab Nine At S'field Home

SOUTHFIELD — Eight of the nine young men arrested early Sunday for allegedly shooting off pistols in front of a Southfield township home have been turned over to Detroit police.

The eight, all Detroiters, were handed over by state police to face investigation on burglary charges. The ninth youth, Ernest Fenner, 17, of 2806 Northwestern, Southfield township, is being held by Southfield authorities for investigation of breaking and entering.

The youths were arrested by state and Southfield police outside of a home at 2723 Northwestern, Southfield township. They were accused of firing pistols in front of the home in an effort to break up a party inside.

Police say some 60 persons attending the party in the house fled when they arrived.

My Neighbors



"It's about time someone began a 'grants-in-aid' plan for consumers!"

Lathrup Buys New Wagon for Police

LATHRUP — Taking advantage of an exceptionally low bid, council Monday evening approved the purchase of a new station wagon for police work.

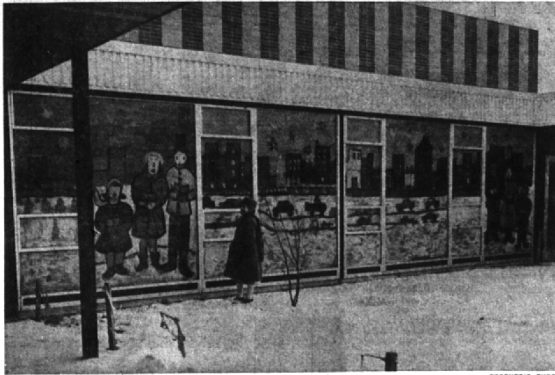
With the trade-in of the city's oldest police car, the purchase price of the station wagon was \$1,350, but still below the amount set aside for the purchase of a new car in the budget.

The new car fully equipped will carry a stretcher, a fire extinguisher and full emergency equipment strapped within easy reach.

Commission Studies Many Park Ideas

SOUTHFIELD — The Southfield township parks and recreation commission is considering a number of ideas submitted to it by commission member Robert M. Ewart on "Why We Need Parks."

Ewart told the commission Southfield needed parks to make sure Southfield always will be partly rural; "to enrich our adult and youth club programs; "to build a living community; "to improve and protect our residential property; and "to save travel time and cost of car usage."



School Has Christmas Picture Window

Youngsters in Miss Helen Alcorn's fifth grade class at Greenfield school, 31244 Farmington in the West, posing before the colorful window is Sammi Glime, a second grade student.

Mrs. Adams Not Running for Clerk

SOUTHFIELD — Mrs. Fran Adams, Southfield township clerk, has reversed her earlier position and says she has "definitely" made up her mind not to run for Westwood Village clerk.

Mrs. Adams has been township clerk for more than 25 years. Westwood is a part of the township which plans to vote Feb. 3 on whether to become a village. Southfield itself is working on a charter which will make it a city if approved by the voters.

MRS. ADAMS said she had first planned to run for the Westwood clerkship because she lives in the future village area. She said she dropped these plans when it became evident that the proposed city and village would not vote on their respective charters at the same time.

"If Westwood votes itself into a village," Mrs. Adams said, "the first month of organization will be a very heavy one. Since Southfield still would be a township at that time, I still would be on full duty here and any attempt to combine these two jobs would be much too heavy a work-load for me."

Thieves Burglarize Beauchamp Home

LATHRUP — The home of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Beauchamp, 28521 Sunset, was entered between 2:30 p.m. Dec. 14 and 8:30 a.m. Dec. 16. Entry was made by breaking a small glass in the front door and reaching in to release the night latch. Although the house shows evidence of a minute and thorough search, police will not be able to determine what was taken until the Beauchamps return from Florida this week.

Council Discusses Protection Problem

By NITA HARD

WOODCREEK FARMS—After discussing the current police protection picture with Farmington township's Police Chief Irving Yakes last Thursday night, the Woodcreek Farms village council agreed to present its problem at the township board's next meeting and also seek advice from the Oakland county sheriff's office.

Spurred to action by a rash of burglaries recently and the charter provision that the council must provide adequate police protection for residents, the council held a special meeting to attempt to find a solution.

CHIEF YAKES revealed that a Farmington township police force consists of seven men and two patrol cars. However, only one car is used for night patrolling at present.

He recommended that some means be found to cover the operational costs of activating the second car, which would double the mileage police could cover nightly. Yakes estimated that a minimum of \$5.00 a night would be needed to operate the second car on a six-hour period, from 5 p.m. to 11 a.m.

OPINIONS WERE varied regarding the suggestion to deputize residents to create a volunteer police force similar to Franklin village.

No Tax Deadline Extension

BLOOMFIELD — Bloomfield township began collecting real and personal property taxes for 1957 on Dec. 10 and for the first time in many years the township has refused to extend its tax payment deadline.

Homer Case, township treasurer, said the taxes will be payable without penalty until Jan. 20, 1958. After that they will be subject to a four per cent penalty. The taxes and penalty may be paid at the township offices until March 1, 1958. Those paying after that date must make their payments at the Oakland county treasurer's office.

IN THE PAST, the township had allowed taxes to be paid without penalty until March 1, but decided to drop its policy of leniency this year on grounds it was not fair to those taxpayers who paid on time.

To illustrate this point, Case said that 86 per cent of the 1956 taxes were paid before the Jan. 30 deadline, 10 per cent were paid between Jan. 20 and March 1 and only four per cent were not paid until after that date.

CASE SAID the taxes may be paid at the township offices from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The township currently is involved in a suit brought by a citizen's group which wants an injunction issued to halt the levy of the 1957 taxes. No date for the trial has been set as yet.

Case added that county dog licenses will be sold at the township offices until March 1. He said dog owners seeking licenses must bring certificates with them which show their dog had been vaccinated within the last year.

Vote on Downspouts, Bonds on Feb. 18

Joins Sewer Project

LATHRUP — A contract committing Lathrup to the Evergreen Interceptor sewer project was approved Monday night by the city council at its regular meeting.

By signing the contract before Jan. 1, 1958, the council made Lathrup eligible for federal aid in helping pay its portion of the cost of the project.

A TOTAL of seven communities, including Lathrup, are involved in the project.

Lathrup's share of the total cost is 4.2 per cent, of which some \$37,000 will be paid by the federal government. The other communities and the percentage of their costs are: Southfield township, 46.8 per cent; Bloomfield township, 22.04 per cent; Pontiac township, 2.02 per cent; Birmingham, 9.6 per cent; Bloomfield Hills, 4.07 per cent, and Troy, 11.1 per cent.

UNDER TERMS of the contract the system will be acquired, financed and operated by Oakland county which plans to issue bonds to pay for it.

Lathrup's present population is about 3,800. The sewer system will allow for expansion to 8,350 population and the city's cost of the project is based on this larger figure.

Copies of the signed contract are to be sent to the water resources commission and the Michigan health department.

IN OTHER action dealing with the sewage problem, the council said it planned to issue bonds to pay for improving the present sewer system so that the city could comply with a court order to stop polluting a tributary of the Rouge river.

The water resources commission ordered Lathrup to stop the pollution some three years ago and the case has been in the courts since that time.

The city is scheduled to appear in court again Feb. 4, 1958, to give another progress report on what has been done to meet the anti-pollution order.

Because of the CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR'S

Holidays, All News and Advertising Deadlines

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We Will Greatly Appreciate Your Assistance in Getting News and Advertising Copy in Early

LATHRUP—A \$695,000 bond issue and the controversial downspout disconnection ordinance will be the major items on the ballot when area residents go to the polls in a special election Feb. 18, 1958.

The date for the election was set Monday night by the city council at its regular meeting.

IF THE LARGE bond issue is approved by the voters, the city will borrow the necessary money and issue bonds to pay for a storm water disposal system.

A number of residents already have been ticketed for failing to disconnect their downspouts. Their cases are scheduled to be heard in court Jan. 27, 1958.

PUBLIC REACTION against the ordinance has been strong while council has been heavily in favor of it. The election is expected to decide once and for all whether or not the downspouts will be connected or disconnected.

Plans and estimated costs of the storm water disposal system were drawn up by Fite and Hirt engineering company.

MAYOR Lantz L. Mackey said council "has studied this proposed system for more than a year and a half, and we plan to give the people of Lathrup the finest sewer program we know how to."

MACKEY SAID a series of public meetings would be held in January and February to explain the purpose and goals of the system to the citizens.

In connection with the special election, the council named Councilman David Anderson to sit on the special election commission which will handle election procedures.

THE CASES of the controversial 12-Town Drain case is nearing the finish line after three weeks in the courts.

The drain commission finished presenting its side of the case Tuesday, almost a week after those communities fighting the drain plan wrapped up their arguments.

Oakland County Circuit Court Judge H. Russell Holland at Pontiac, before whom the case opened Dec. 4 after more than a year's delay, ordered the case recessed until Dec. 18.

ON THAT day both sides will appear before Holland to present their final arguments. Holland may hand down his decision on the same day but those close to the scene do not expect him to arrive at a verdict until after the Christmas holidays.

Holland has ordered the attorneys to be in court at 9 a.m. and says the case will run non-stop to 1 p.m. if necessary.

THE CASE was taken into court by Southfield township and the City of Troy. They filed suit against the drain in October, 1956. The two communities based 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.

Both sides have indicated that regardless of Holland's decision they will appeal to the State Supreme court if the decision goes against them.

The aim of the 12-Town Drain is to relieve seasonal flooding in 13 Southeastern Oakland county communities.

Thieves Break Into Empty Lathrup Home

LATHRUP — A home at 27754 Rackham drive, Lathrup, was broken into Tuesday night or Wednesday morning by a thief or thieves.

Police say Richard M. Weir, owner of the home, is vacationing in Florida and there is no one at the house. They say they have not been able to determine what, if anything, was taken.



Cast of "The Bird's Christmas Carol"

The Lathrup players staged the play "The Bird's Christmas Carol" at Lathrup school recently for the PTA. The cast consisted of (front, from left) Robert Tracey, Tommy Christenson, Linda Martin and Larry Eller. In the back row are (from left) Liz Dickerson, Ann Gough, Debbie Christenson, Brud Ackles, Cheryl Commons, and Penny Buhler.

Rain Accompanies Santa to Lathrup

In spite of pouring rain, 350 children and adults turned out recently to see Santa Claus land on the Lathrup school playground in a helicopter. Shown above, after dashing inside for shelter, are (from left) Lathrup City Manager Leonard Watchowski, Santa,

Anthony Ciavarella, holding his son, Jimmy, in his arms, and a few of the kids who went to see Santa. Little Jimmy was given the honor of throwing the switch which lit Lathrup's 42 foot Christmas tree.

Photo by Gerald Fitzgerald