

'round the town's news

The Birmingham Eccentric

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

Sidelights

By WILLIAM H. THOMAS

MARINUS VAN AMEYDE, Southfield high school principal, is thrice blessed in having a secretary in Mrs. W. J. Muir who is not only efficient but poetic and artistic as well.

Each month she rearranges the bulletin board in his office with a different colored background, then decorates it according to the season and cuts out a line of inspirational poetry to be placed across the top.

This month she selected the lines: "O, Wind, if winter comes, can spring be far behind?" Van Ameyde says he likes the lines if readers don't stop after reading them.

HOW MUCH in terms of effort and money is your vote worth? I guess it varies with the individual. Mary Ruth Ross, one of our faithful readers in the Beverlys, writes this week that the Hugh M. Hemphills, vacationing in Australia, had made arrangements to have their absentee ballots sent to Perth, Australia so they wouldn't miss a chance to vote in the coming April 1 election.

Learning their schedule would take them out of Australia before the ballot arrived, the Hemphills called township officials to detour the ballots to Singapore.

Absentee ballots will go out to the Myron Greenfields in Hawaii, we learned from Southfield Deputy Mayor Eugene Thomas, who will send ballots to the Frank Coates who are vacationing in Bolton, England.

AND LATHRUP clerk Myrtle Richer tells me that Edith McNeal of that city is going to vote in this year's April election even though she is in Germany, that is if absentee ballots arrive in time, says Mrs. Richer.

LATHRUPS MAJOR, John G. Campbell, who has long talked of backing up spraying programs with pruning and fertilizing trees to combat Dutch elm disease, is backing up his words with deeds even longer than he has talked about it.

I understand that Campbell, at one time, with a helper, pruned every tree in Lathrup, and that each year he has trimmed all the trees in his neighborhood without charge, and has even bought trees, and planted and cared for them for neighbors.

Civic minded, Campbell has also put several hundred dollars of his own money into a playground for neighborhood children on lots across the street from his home.

LATHRUP — The March meeting of the Lathrup Players will be held this evening at the home of Mrs. Vincent A. Zattel, 1855 San Diego.

A skit for the May meeting of the Lathrup PTA will be cast. All members and those interested in amateur productions are urged to attend.

My Neighbors

Spring's Here, Says B'nfild Fire Chief

BLOOMFIELD — Ralph Hemmerly, Bloomfield township fire chief, was sure spring already had arrived last weekend as his department answered 119 brush calls. He warned homeowners against carelessness in burning trash as strong winds blow the embers to ignite vacant fields.

His department also extinguished two small home fires, a truck fire and a householder fire between brush alarm.

Set Mahon Hearing

SOUTHFILD — Public hearing on special assessments on Mahon street water district will be held March 28. Mahon is in section 34.

S'field's New Junior High To Get Equipment Changes

By JEAN D'AY

Southfield board of education appropriated \$3,695.85 Monday night to change the type of pumping equipment to be used in the septic system of the new Lederie junior high school now under construction.

Need for changing the plans from one subsurface pump to two sewer ejector types to protect against possible high water conditions was outlined by D. J. Sachs, representative of O'Dell, Heylert and Lankenbach associates who is in charge of mechanical operations.

Sachs reminded the board that this original specification was approved in the interest of saving money and with the expectation that the Evergreen authority system would be completed in two years.

Appoint Parks, Recreation Bd.

SOUTHFILD — Township Trustee Luther Wagner's new park and recreation committee was created last week when township board appointed six men to the new committee.

Chosen to serve until April, 1939 were George O'Jibway, trustee; Ernest L. Dewart, 27700 Lexington parkway; Lester Symons, 23110 Oakland drive; Urban Hart, 24291 Hinchelburn; Will J. Oliver, 29775 Beach, a Southfield school board member; and Norman M. Wolfe, a Birmingham schools assistant superintendent, and member of the Birmingham Recreation committee.

An elective office, after the initial appointments, these people will be voted into office at two-year intervals. Two members will serve for two years, two for four years and two for six years.

Valley Woods Garden Club Elects Officers

MEMBERS of the Fellowship circle of Franklin Community church have been meeting weekly to make decorations for the "Texas hoodoo" square dance which they are sponsoring March 22 in the social hall of the church. From left to right (facing) are Mrs. Harry Rottiers, Mrs. Thomas Loring, Mrs. Donald Webster and Mrs. Harold Anderson. Mrs. Harry Rottiers is general chairman. Mrs. Len Madge is in charge of tickets and Mrs. Oliver Garwood of decorations. Dick Lewis will call.

Synagogue Bargaining For Part of Riverbank

SOUTHFILD — Riverbank golf course, on Northwestern highway at 11 Mile, may change from an 18-hole course to a nine-hole course, if a Detroit synagogue buys 10 acres of the present course for a tabernacle.

Harold Thompson, manager of the club, asked township board Tuesday night for transfer of his property (interior to a new location 500 yards to the northwest but was refused. Board members wanted to hold off until all plans for the land have been submitted.

Jack Roberts Wins Election, Loses Auto

FRANKLIN — What should be more embarrassing for a professional driver is to have his car stolen? That's what happened to Jack Robert, Franklin chief, Monday night.

After learning early in the evening that he had been elected as chief of the Franklin Blue Bird Club, he drove home to tell his family the good news, leaving his car in the driveway as he was about going to bed.

However, several friends dropped in to congratulate him. When they left at 1:30 a.m. the car was still in the driveway, and it was gone by the morning.

Want Street Light

SOUTHFIELD — A street light will be installed at East Rutland and 13 Mile road as soon as the township board receives a letter from the Beverly Artesian Association stating the association will pay for the light.

Growth Brings Varying Problems in Township

Someone living in Southfield best government at the lowest cost.

HOWEVER, these areas are different in total needs. For the most part, major roads in the north are in good usable condition, and secondary roads can be paved economically because the area is built up, making the cost will be spread over more people.

In the south major roads are ready to build a large field area and scattered home owners make it costly in many areas to pave.

Northern areas, being newer than some of the southern subdivisions, have sewers that are adequate if the Southeastern Oakland County Drain were large enough to carry the runoff.

IN SOME of these southern communities drains are needed while in others, as in the north, the area is not adaptable to drainage

When petitions were taken out, these homerule city backers brought an independent government way of incorporation would be to include the entire township, extending to the two villages of Franklin and Bingham Farms.

IN THE NORTH where some residents had been mulling possibilities of annexing to Birmingham or Royal Oak, or perhaps creating an independent government, this deal of cold water in the form of a vote to incorporate into Detroit (June 7, 1935) awoke these people and crystallized thinking in the northern area.

Both north and south have common problems; among others, both need an interceptor to run on sand and sewage and both have flooded basement problems. And residents



Charges Southfield Officials With Illegal Expenditures

SOUTHFIELD — Charges that township officials have illegally spent \$46,000 over the past two years, were filed by Township Justice Edward A. Elsarrell in a letter to the board this week.

Elsarrell charges that three appraisers, each receiving \$5,500 yearly, are illegally employed; that gas allowances made in lump sum payments to township officials are illegal because traveling expenses are supposed to be paid by voucher after the expense is incurred; and that township officials were given raises after they were elected to office, contrary to State law.

Franklin Voters Make Selection

ACCORDING to Township Supervisor Eugene Swann, the law should have required that nothing about the appraisers who are responsible to the assessors.

Elsarrell, citing a 1935 attorney general's opinion said, "No such township officers as administrative and township appraisers are provided for by law after the appointment of persons to function as such and compensation for them, as such officers, are neither authorized nor legal."

OF the statement that expenses should have been paid in lump sums, Swann said, "If there is any violation of the law, the township made it, we officials didn't."

SWM REFERRED to the annual meeting where township residents voted approval of budget items as presented by the township board.

Elsarrell, again quoting the 1935 attorney general's opinion, said, "The attorney general finds no statutory authority for the payment of money to be determined in advance and allowed township officers in lieu of their presentment individually as proper claims, expenses incurred in performing their duties. The general annual meeting of Southfield township as set forth in the ordinance is improper and illegal."

Request Rezoning On Northwestern

SOUTHFIELD — Request by the Roads for rezoning of property on Northwestern highway at 13 Mile from commercial to light industrial was tabled until March 26.

Land planner James Hickey is looking into the request and will make recommendations. Mrs. E. L. Hickey, who is now on the property, to construct boat landing docks.

Water For Phillips

SOUTHFIELD — Petitions requesting special assessments for a water district on Phillips drive have been accepted by township board but no public hearing has been set. Northwestern property owners were excluded because not enough had signed petitions requesting the water.

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Want Street Light

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Compare Two with Dearborn

compare these two with Dearborn, which, as we said before has 25 square miles and 115,000 people.

IT COSTS Dearborn \$42,250 per square mile for government, and \$2,000 per square mile for township government.

These figures seem to indicate that government's efficiency is reduced in the Franklin and Bingham Farms which are in the township (but also have their own budgets).

IT WOULD SEEM that, while government grows bigger, cost of government drops even larger.

Compare Wyandotte and Detroit. Wyandotte cost per person for government is about \$54 while Detroit cost per person is \$169.

In a little different way, perhaps, you could look at cost of government cost Detroit \$2,346.67 per square mile while it costs \$424.68 per square mile in Wyandotte.

IN SUMMARY

It appears beyond question that Southfield township residents can gain all they desire in the line of community improvement, and get more for their tax dollar if they were to let the north end incorporate as its own village or city.

It also would eliminate a serious potential civic conflict between north and south end needs for the tax dollars that would be available.

Southfield, the most desirible of Urban Living, has no more needs

Because of terrain, these people must use cistern tanks with up-keep costs falling on the individual homeowner.

Keeping in mind that the northern area which wants to form a village government has only 1,800 acres with a population of about 7,500, and the southern area has about 26 square miles with an estimated population of 20,000, let us look at some other Michigan cities being compared in population, size and population.

Area police, who are all on the lookout for Mr. Robert's car, feel sure that the thieves made a quick exchange—a Buick for a Ford.

and 42,000 people had a budget of \$2,274,281.15.

Last year, Southfield, with 14,304 population and 26 square miles and a population of 32,000 people, had an operating budget of \$475,293.104. (Population and square miles included Franklin and Bingham Farms which are in the township but also have their own budgets.)

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Detroit with 1,910,000 people and 198 square miles, had an operating budget of \$52,840,122, which with 26 square miles would be similar to be fair. Let us, then

nearby metropolitan areas, that Southfield's municipal needs would remain at such low costs?

This also would seem to indicate that even proposed annexation of Southfield city needs have been greatly underestimated.

It appears that the original basis for incorporating 30 square miles may have been a bit premature, and that incorporating only 26 square miles—on second guess, which still is obtainable—would be more advantageous.

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