

Evidence Suggests Too Large City of S'field Inadvisable

Southfield voters will do more than select nine charter commissioners in Monday's election. They will, in effect, decide whether or not Southfield will, or will not, become a home city of 30 square miles.

A slate of candidates which is backing incorporation of Southfield is pitted against a similar slate which has pledged, if elected, that no charter will go to the voters before the June 6 deadline.

(After that date, if no charter has been adopted, Southfield will revert temporarily to township status. It would be such only long enough for other elections to be held on whether the smaller northern half is to incorporate as the Village of Westwood, while the larger southern half of the township becomes the city of Southfield.)

THE FACT THAT a definite disagreement exists between two major concentrations of Southfield township's present citizenship argues, we believe, that a single large city will not satisfactorily solve the area's municipal needs.

It therefore seems wise, many believe, that the best solution is the creation of two governmental bodies: one for the

Voters Monday Hold Area's Probate Fate

area north of 12 1/2 Mile road from east of Bingham Farms Village to Evergreen and thence northerly along Evergreen to 13 Mile where the southern boundary would run to Greenfield; and another for the remainder of the township south of this line.

THIS WILL ALLOW each area to adjust its municipal needs to its own present and future identity, with the particular needs of each more easily obtainable from its own tax revenues, and with minimum tax levies.

In the case of the northern area, it already is evident that this is and will remain dominantly residential. Its demands upon local government will not be the same, in all cases, as for the southern area.

In this latter population center, business and industry will become a greater factor. Public services for its needs will be of a different nature than in an almost 100-per-cent residential section.

WHEN PUBLIC expenditures are required, why should one distinct community subject its future growth to the civic resistance and frictions of another segment of its voters which quite naturally may not be in sympathy with such expenditures?

With not enough money from taxes, where will the basic public improvements first be made? Where will police and fire services be operated from... which population area will be the closest to them, and thus best protected? Where will roads be improved first?

IT IS AXIOMATIC that that government serves best which is kept closest to the control of its taxpayers. Do you suppose a 30-square-mile, sparsely populated city will be maintained on the basis of compatible control... with every one reasonably happy?

One of the major arguments for incorporation of South-

field's entire area is that a breakup would be more costly because of duplication of service.

But it is generally agreed that greater size does NOT necessarily result in greater economy. Greater size sometimes leads to inefficiency and waste.

And in a larger community, the voice of the individual taxpayer is heard less as the size of the area increases.

WE URGE YOU to approach your April 1 ballot question not on the basis of factions, but instead on the basis of facts. Review your problems in the cool light of financial and physical requirements and possibilities.

Your action April 1 may determine the ultimate civic identity and destiny of yourself and your family.

You cannot obtain a "civic divorce" once you "marry" the single city plan. Better to consider those irrevocable incorporation vows now rather than at the election.

SEVEN CENTS THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1957 SECTION E

'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 TOWNS.

Hold Spring, Special Elections Monday



FAVORING Southfield incorporation, the above slate of charter candidates have promised an early charter election if elected in Monday's special vote. Left to right (front row) are: Lawrence A. Fiferlik, Mrs. Raymond C. (Ann) Sandusky and Thomas Lenahan. (Second row) Mark W. Rehbine, Philip A. Maloney, Hugh C. Dohany and Robert W. Wuerfel. Inserts (left) John J. Hollywood and (right) Sidney G. Abel.



ANTI-CITY forces will in Monday's election: First row (left to right) Dr. D. J. Wood, Donald Dittrich, and Marvin B. Cline. Second row: Chester Guilmet, Ted Shurtleff, Robert B. Reed and Theodore J. Sura. Inserts are (left) Arthur C. Prine, Jr., and (right) David M. Thompson.

See Spirited Voting In Southfield Contests

Elections are being held in all townships and cities in the area Monday, but few will have the interest that will be generated in Southfield where a special election is being held for selection of Southfield's third charter commission.

Southfield's election probably will be more lively, too, because township officials seeking reelection in this predominantly Republican area, have opposition while other townships have little or no choice of candidates.

ONLY PROPOSAL on any local ballot will be found on Southfield's oversized selection of various office holders. It is a tax limitation proposition which, if approved, would provide money for the Evergreen Interceptor sewer and other township sewers, and reads: "Shall the tax limitation increase of \$2.00 per \$1,000 assessed valuation as compared to the rate in effect on April 1, 1955 and amended as to purpose on Feb. 20, 1956, be terminated, and in lieu thereof shall the tax limitation in Southfield township be increased for the purpose of paying the township's obligation on contracts, special assessments or bond issues pertaining to drains or trunk sewers, for the years 1957 through 1976 by \$2.00 per \$1,000 assessed valuation is equalized, provided that no more than 50 per cent of such increase shall be pledged to obligations relating to any one project?"

Sidelights

BY WILLIAM H. THOMAS SOMEONE HAS to be first to go swimming each Spring, but usually the adults leave that up to the eager kids. But this year John Offenstein, chairman of the Walnut Lake Joint Lake Safety committee, and Sub 2 president, took the first plunge.

Offenstein insists, however, that last Sunday he was just proving that aluminum canoes are easy to tip over (aren't all canoes?) and that one should always know how to swim before going boating. Of course it is best not to be fully clothed when giving such demonstrations.

It all happened when a call was received that Sub 2 bridge was afloat and floating in front of the Courville Morrow home. Dick Gardner, Jack Bell and Offenstein equipped with ropes and boards started out to bring the bridge back to its mooring place.

In transferring into his canoe, Offenstein tumbled into the icy waters. With help of Andre Callens he was rescued, and after a change of dry clothing, he retrieved the bridge.

Offenstein tells our Walnut Lake correspondent, Elizabeth Bunnell that his new tri-focal glasses were responsible for the embarrassing and chilly experience.

My Neighbors



"No, George, you may NOT stay home and sit with the baby-sitter!"

Berkley Resident Commits Suicide

SOUTHFIELD — A Berkley resident committed suicide in a bathtub Monday morning after parking his car on Evergreen road near the intersection of the road and the railroad tracks.

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Elsarelli, Twp. Bd. Meet On Illegal Spending Charge

SOUTHFIELD — Township charges that the township has spent illegally \$46,000 over the past two years.

Present were Edward A. Elsarelli, who made the charges, and Township Attorney Harry N. Dell. Elsarelli had charged that: 1) expense payments to township personnel should be on a mileage basis rather than in an annual lump sum; 2) that township officials wrote raises for themselves into the budget after they became elected; and 3) that three appraisers who were hired to assist the township's two assessors, were hired while State law does not provide for such officers.

OF THE FIRST Dell said, "Probably no one should be paid a flat rate for a car which they may or may not use." Township board last week ordered some payments from a lump sum to a mileage basis which upheld payment of raises to officials after they were elected to office in the same manner that raises were granted to present elected personnel. Dell quoted a Michigan Supreme Court case which upheld payment of raises to officials after they were elected to office in the same manner that raises were granted to present elected personnel.

OF THE THIRD charge, Dell said that an opinion received from the State attorney general by Donald L. Swanson, which said that no more than two assessors could be hired by the township and necessarily mean these assessors could not have assistance under another name.

Plan S'field High School Addition

Southfield board of education voted to retain the architectural firm of Dolger and Rollison to draw up proposed plans for an addition to the high school at a special meeting Tuesday night.

Superintendent Glen Schoenhaus said the board is planning the future addition to help accommodate projected enrollment increases and to add extra facilities to the present high school. The school is located on a 53-acre site, he pointed out, leaving ample room for expansion.

The board also discussed other future school needs and costs related to a possible bond issue later. No action was taken on teachers' salaries as the amount of state aid funds is not known yet.

City Registrations In S'field Up 574

SOUTHFIELD — City registrations, which qualify Southfield residents to vote for city charter commissioners in Monday's election have increased by 574 since last year.

Registration totals by precinct are listed below. The first figure is the total city registration at the last election. Last December 14,007 were qualified.

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Garden Club

FRANKLIN — Mrs. C. A. Thurston will be guests of the Garden Club at the April 4 meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Seaver, 27027 Wellington road. Mr. Thurston will show slides on a running commentary on "Flowers in Bloom."

Three Questions Hold Up Township Planning Law

SOUTHFIELD — Township board members want the answers to three questions in connection with the proposed planning commission ordinance before they make any decisions on its passage at a special meeting to be held Thursday.

The three questions are: 1) Does adopting the planning ordinance bring an end to the zoning board? 2) Will the planning commission have powers to enact a master plan which would be beyond the control of the township board to stop? 3) And 3) is the ordinance the same or similar in its delegation of powers as the one which voters rejected at the polls in referendum four years ago?

TRUSTEE Hugh G. Alton Jr. said that many people who feared the ordinance would be an "all-powerful thing," had called him about it during the past few days. Township Clerk Fannie Adams told the board that the ordinance would be prepared by Township Attorney Harry N. Dell for the Thursday night meeting. Supervisor Eugene Swann wanted to know, also, if the proposed ordinance ought to go to the people on referendum.

Okay Construction Of Baptist Church

SOUTHFIELD — Highland Park Baptist church of Highland Park was granted permission to build a church on property south of 12 Mile road on Lahser, subject to several restrictions.

Zoning board of appeals said minimum sideyards must be 100 feet; there must be a greenbelt parking area must be drained and paved; front setback will 100 feet; parking lot flood lights must be shaded from neighbors; and the building permit must be applied for within four years if sewers and water are available.

Twelve of twenty acres will be for church use and the other eight acres will remain on the tax rolls.

N. Carolina Hearing

SOUTHFIELD — A public hearing to review the rolls to create a special assessment district in North Carolina will be held April 11. Residents there want to have a sewer line installed and a new gravel road constructed.

Charter Election

Depending on who gets into office Monday, hopes for incorporation of all of Southfield township will either die, or will get one more chance at the polls in June.

If a northern slate is elected, they have pledged themselves to postponing completion of a charter until the June 6 deadline when, if no charter is adopted, Southfield reverts to the complete township status it had when residents voted to incorporate in June, 1955. Two charters have already been rejected at the polls.

Cut \$573,000 S'field Budget

SOUTHFIELD — The 1957-58 budget of \$573,000 was slashed by \$102,000 Tuesday night by township board who wanted to present a balanced budget at the annual meeting to be held Saturday.

Township board, however, hopes that residents will back their request for a 7 millage voted increase which would bring enough revenue to balance the \$573,000 budget.

On a study of the entire budget we find that in order to bring expenses down to expected revenue, it will be necessary to eliminate from the proposed budget of \$573,000 as approved by the township board, supervisor Eugene Swann said Wednesday.

ITEMS CUT from the budget included: \$33,300 for capital improvement; \$10,000 for parks and recreation; \$1,000 for Dutch sim disease control; \$3,000 for slug for ward; \$4,000 for an extra dog ward; \$1,000 for increased trustee fees; \$7,500 for civil defense; a five per cent increase in employees' salaries; and no allowance for hiring extra firemen.

"The township board has recommended the full budget to be balanced by a 7 mill voted increase. Such increase would require an election in the near future," Swann said.

Southfield Township

Competition for several of the township offices developed during the February primary when three persons were nominated to the Democratic ballot on write-in vote.

Those three are: John Lampi, who seeks the office of supervisor; and John A. Sirling and incumbent Trustee Donald L. Swanson who would like to win two of the four trustee posts available.

Lampi is opposed by Republican incumbent, Supervisor Swann while Sirling and Suring hope to share the four trustee seats with two of Swann's Republican GOP candidates for trustee are incumbent Hugh G. Alton Jr., incumbent Thomas M. Molnar, and J. Hollywood and Philip A. Maloney.

REPUBLICAN incumbents, Clerk Fannie Adams, and Treasurer Clara Lane, are unopposed. Clarence A. Reid Jr., who unseated Edward A. Elsarelli for the justice of the peace post is unopposed on the Republican ticket for a four year term.

Democrat S. James Clarkston faces Republican Allan M. Bullock for a two-year justice of the peace vacancy.

T. Neil McGregor, incumbent Republican board of review member, will have opposition from Sidney Adler, 21600 Beech, who (See ELECTIONS, Page 7-E)

ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC

- D'ham School Bond Vote 1-A
Lathrupite's Accomplishments 4-D
Rev. Harold DeVindt 7-D
Society 1-B
Southfield High Notes 4-B
North Adams News 2-B