

'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 TWP.

No Quick Action on Tax Suit

BLOOMFIELD—Township board was advised at its Monday night meeting that no action was expected until after Dec. 1 on a request for an injunction to halt the levy of 1957 taxes in the township.

The board was told that statements in the dispute had been filed by both sides with Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Clark J. Adams but that Adams was not expected to decide on whether or not an injunction should be issued until after the first of December.

IN THEIR SUIT, the taxpayers contend township officials used two methods of assessing property for 1957 tax purposes.

The township has asked that the suit be dismissed on grounds the taxpayers failed to protect the township's interests at the township's March board of review hearing as prescribed by law.

The board contends that "notices were sent to everyone whose assessed valuation was raised. This is not required by law, but we did it and those people can't claim they were lulled into a sense of security by not knowing there was going to be an increase."

THE MONEY "must be raised" according to the township, and "if you don't raise it, the taxpayers are going to cause a lot of mischief."

By "mischief" the board explained that the 1957 tax bills are scheduled to go out early in December. If the bills are sent out before a court decision is reached, and if such a decision finds for the taxpayers, the township would have to re-examine some 12,000 property descriptions and, in some cases, grant rebates.

"If the court rules against us," the board said, "it will affect every township in Michigan."

See Action Soon On 12-Town Drain

SOUTHFIELD—Supervisor Eugene Swen told township board Tuesday night that the 12-Town drain case probably will not come up in court until around Dec. 5.

A total of 14 communities are in the 12-Town drain area, but the drain commission has been unable to make a final public hearing on the allocation of costs because of objections held by Southfield and Troy prevent any action from being taken.

The injunction enjoin the drain board from taking any action until the dispute is settled in court.

It is already has told the township board that, regardless of whom the courts decide for, the drain board will remain stymied since both sides plan to appeal to the state supreme court if the lower court rules against them.

Zoning Board Ok's New Buildings

SOUTHFIELD—The township zoning board has approved construction of a proposed \$700,000 motor lodge and restaurant at Northwestern and Evergreen.

Despite objections by the owners of two other motels in the area, the board gave its approval at a public hearing Nov. 7.

The proposed project will include a swimming pool, local, and Howard Johnson restaurant.

The board also approved a plan to donate a parcel of residential property on Northwestern and Evergreen and Nine Mile, to a commercial status.

The zoning change will allow Edward J. Haley, owner of Haley's funeral home in Detroit, to erect a funeral home on the site.

Board Approves Lot Division

BLOOMFIELD—A request by Wm. G. Morrison Co. to divide lot 18, Krammwood subdivision, at the southeast corner of Vane Lane and Square Lake road, into two parcels was granted Thursday night by the township board.

The request was approved, however, with the stipulation that the lot dividing meet with the approval of the subdivider and subdivision restrictions.

My Neighbors

"Before I decide to settle down here, what about your income tax structure?"



Newest Weapon in Fire Arsenal

The shiny, new pumper truck pictured above is the latest weapon in Bloomfield township's growing fire arsenal. The big truck cost about \$17,000, has a 750-gallon capacity and boasts 2,000 feet of hose.

Box-O-Alliance Means Better Fire Protection at Same Price

By JEAN DAY
BLOOMFIELD—A "Box-O-Alliance will meet Thursday, Dec. 12."

This notice probably means little to most people, except true fire buffs.

But for residents of Bloomfield township, Bloomfield Village, Cranbrook and the cities of Bloomfield Hills and Troy it has vital meaning: it stands for increased fire protection without a penny of additional cost.

Box-O-Alliance is a new cooperative association formed by the chiefs of the five departments. Since August the chiefs have been meeting monthly in the township to get better acquainted, to exchange ideas and, when needed, to share equipment and services.

THE GROUP first met in August when Bloomfield Hills Director of Public Safety, Robert Stadler, invited Troy Chief Edner Schroder, Bloomfield Village Chief Charles F. Duryea, Bloomfield Township Chief Ralph Hemmery and Cranbrook Public Safety Director Dominick Vetraino to dinner.

There he "threw the idea on the table" and the chiefs discussed the benefits of a cooperative association that might meet monthly. It was decided to meet regularly to keep the alliance active as a similar effort at cooperation in other years ago had not succeeded.

Indirect impetus was given by the Kirk-in-the-Hills fire when lack of a coordinated plan hampered other fire departments. Their efforts to help Bloomfield township fire department.

AT THAT TIME, Cranbrook's Vetraino recalls, Harry Booth mentioned the need for more awareness of other department's facilities. Therefore, when Stadler organized the group, Vetraino was one of its strongest supporters, saying, "We've been trying to promote something like this for years."

In October the chiefs exchanged complete inventory lists of their other's equipment. Copies of these are to be posted in each department's fire trucks and cars. These then will be available at the scene of any fire and a piece of equipment can be borrowed quickly by radio.

For example, if a chief needed an extra long ladder for a fire on a tall structure, he could request a hand ladder from Cranbrook or

Police Dismiss Calls As Prankster's Work

SOUTHFIELD—Southfield police have dismissed a series of telephonic calls from an apparently deranged child as the work of a practical joker.

Officers say a number of area residents received calls from the alleged child last Thursday and Friday. The residents called police to report the calls.

Officers said the residents described the caller as having the voice of a little girl. They had told them "my mother is gone, my daddy is dead and I don't know what to feed the baby."

Efforts by those getting the calls to determine the child's identity were not successful.

Police said an intensive investigation failed to turn up any clues in the case. They said it was decided to dismiss the calls as the work of a practical joker after another resident told them of a similar series of calls made some time ago which later turned out to be a hoax.

Won't Buy Maps

BLOOMFIELD—Township board rejected at its regular Monday night meeting a plan to purchase aerial maps of every section of Bloomfield township at a cost of \$87.50.

Professional photographers have paid departments; the others all are volunteers.

The volunteers, known anyway for their fellowship and spirit, have been willing to donate additional time for Box-O feeling that it benefits their own communities.

Professionals such as Hemmery and Bloomfield Hills Captain Ray Walker think "It's a good idea" and are willing to follow through.

So far the chiefs, and usually another representative from each department, have been meeting at Bloomfield Hills fire hall, which is centrally located for all.

STADLER EXPECTS, however, that as the project grows meetings will be held in rotation at the various halls where the departments as well as the heads can contribute to the exchange of ideas.

Box-O-Alliance isn't waiting for a major fire to try out its cooperation, but you can be sure if there is one that Bloomfield township, Bloomfield Village, Cranbrook, Troy and Bloomfield Hills now are better protected.

THE DEPARTMENTS, Vetraino points out, always have had informal agreements by which one department would "stand-by" for another if its force was fighting a major fire. He expects these "fill-in" arrangements will be worked out more completely.

Asked why Cranbrook with its crew of 50 hydrants and an 800-gallon elevated water tower needed to join the Alliance, Vetraino replied cautiously that even with the best precautions, "something could happen."

In addition, the volunteer department of 11 men (Cranbrook engineers, gardeners and other maintenance men who live on Valley Row) likes to be a good neighbor. He pointed out that Bloomfield Village also has a hydrant system, but Chief Duryea also felt the alliance worth the time.

VETRAINO'S REMARK points up an unusual feature of Box-O: Peren, Charles Russell and Jimmy Ritter of both volunteer and paid fire departments. Bloomfield township and

Westwood Charter Commission Drawing Close to Finish Line

Residents Give Their Approval

WESTWOOD—The Westwood area's goal of becoming a village repidly is approaching reality.

The Westwood Village charter commission has drawn up the first draft of a charter and taken it to the people for approval at three public meetings.

The last of the three meetings was scheduled to be held tonight at the Beverly school, 18305 Beverly road. The commission said that judging from the large turnout at its previous two meetings, attendance at the final session was expected to be heavy.

MARVIN B. CLINE, commission chairman, said that another important step in Westwood's advance to village status would come Friday night when the Westwood commission is scheduled to meet in joint session with the City of Southfield charter commission.

Cline said that efforts would be made at the meeting to arrange a common charter election date for the two communities. The Southfield commission has not yet completed its charter.

A REGISTRATION clerk has been present at each of the Westwood public meetings to take registrations and issue registration cards for voting on the charter.

Cline said that the charter commission would meet Nov. 17 to discuss recommendations made at the public meetings and, if necessary, make changes in the charter. He said that he did not foresee any such changes. After the charter is approved it will be sent to the governor for final approval.

Overwhelming support of the charter was given at the commission's first two public meetings. Some 420 persons attended the first meeting Nov. 6 at Valley Woods school and more than 200 turned out for the second meeting at



Commission Takes Charter to People

The first draft of a charter was drawn up by the Westwood Village charter commission recently and taken to the people of the area for approval at three meetings, the last held tonight (Thursday). Bringing the charter to the people are: (from left) Robert B. Reed, commission vice chairman; Edward (Ted) Shurtliff; Marvin B. Cline, chairman; Hugh G. Allerton, Jr., secretary; and Chester Guilmet.

Nearing Agreement On Inspection Services

WOODCREEK FARMS—Only a few details stand in the way of finalizing the agreement between Woodcreek Farms and Farmington township for inspection services on building projects in the Village of Woodcreek Farms, the council agreed Nov. 5.

The proposed agreement will cover all inspection services necessary, with applicants obtaining permits from Woodcreek Clerk Arthur Busch, who will in turn contract for the services of Farmington township building inspection department.

DETROIT permit and license fees will prevail with a small additional fee for bookkeeping in the Woodcreek Farms office. This will be a minimum fee of \$100 for valuations up to \$500,000 with an additional 25 cent fee for each \$1,000 valuation over \$500.

Councilmen Harry Lang and Norman Kriesler were instructed to work with Village Attorney Wendell Brown to straighten out the question of village liability and township control as stated in the proposed agreement and to report their conclusions at the next regular meeting.

There was further emphasis on the installation of culvert before building permits would be issued. Prospective builders should request a copy of Ordinance 2 covering this aspect from Clerk Busch.

ROAD Administrator Don Wells reported that an agreement for road maintenance of local and major roads had been negotiated with William Cinder of Clawson and a 15 to 20 per cent increase in payment of \$125,493 on November 10 from state gas and weight taxes over the estimated amount from last year's figures. It was approximated that \$39,322 would be allocated to local roads and the balance on the two major roads, Wellington and Millbrook.

Wells reported that 12 gradings have been scheduled to June 30, which begins the fiscal year, with three applications of chloride and

Westwood Name To Remain Same

WESTWOOD—The name of Westwood Village is going to remain the same. The charter commission says they are the only way the name can be changed by amending the charter since the commissioners must proceed, under law, with the name which was on the original petition for a charter. In this case, Westwood Village.

ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC

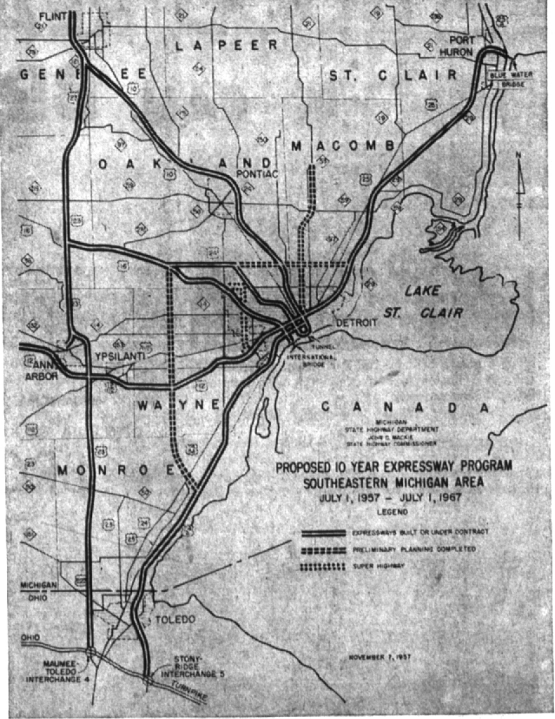
Return From Year in Turkey 1-B

Proposed Expressways 1-A

Dunstan Players Appear 1-C

A Night at the Opera 2-D

Big Game Hunting Trip 1-D



Proposed 10 Year Expressway Program Southeastern Michigan Area July 1, 1957 to July 1, 1967

Mackie Reveals Expressway Plan

(See story on Page 1-A)

State Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie has revealed that a 10-year expressway program he has on the boards for the Detroit metropolitan area will definitely affect Oakland county. The map above shows Mackie's plan.

Police Lieutenant Resigns

LATHRUP—This city has lost its second high police official within five months.

Lt. Edmund L. Flannery, Bloomfield township, a former Detroit police officer and Lathrup's only full-time policeman, resigned his post Saturday.

Flannery's resignation came only a few months after Kenneth M. Farnham resigned July 15 as chief of Lathrup's volunteer police force.

City Administrator Leonard A. Watchowski said Flannery's letter of resignation said that he was leaving his post because "my wife wishes me to give up police work."

NUMEROUS EFFORTS to reach Flannery, who joined the Lathrup force a year ago, for further comment on his resignation were not successful.

Farnham said he was resigning because "the demands of the position upon my time have grown beyond what I can afford to give."

Farnham was succeeded as head of the volunteers by Arley Van Meer. Van Meer declined to comment on Flannery's resignation.

WATCHOWSKI said Flannery's successor is Robert Murphy, 51, retired Detroit police inspector. Flannery served as a Detroit patrolman for 25 years before retiring in 1956.

Murphy, of 18285 Sorrento, Detroit, assumed his new post Monday.

Watchowski said that the city also is considering hiring a second full-time officer.

Murphy's title has not been decided on yet.

Murphy served as a Detroit patrolman for 15 years before becoming a sergeant, then a lieutenant and finally an inspector in charge of the 12th precinct.