

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM

MICHIGAN

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

Sponsor Poppy Poster Contest

SOUTHFIELD—A Poppy poster contest is being sponsored by the ladies auxiliary to VFW Durham-Ray post 5952 for school children in the area to promote poppy day May 30.

May 12 Set For Budget In Franklin

FRANKLIN—May 12 has been set for a public hearing on Franklin's proposed budget. The council set the date Monday after spending several meetings juggling the estimated income of \$18,000 from state sales and intangibles taxes, building permits, fees and other sources.

The village marshal's department asked \$1,000, but so far has not gained more than last year's \$1,200. However, a budget provides adequate insurance for the first time as part of a total insurance plan.

The budget sets \$1,000 for general insurance to cover liabilities. Franklin's compensation for the building department clerk, bonds for the village clerk and building clerk and automobile policies for policemen.

SALARIES will require \$1,000. Election costs, \$400. Office expenses, \$700; the village phone, \$250 and legal fees, \$800. The only fee service offered by the village, monthly rubbish collection, will cost Franklin \$2,000.

Other budget items are \$2,700 for the building department; a contribution of \$250 to the fire department; and \$300 for the Franklin cemetery. Reserved for contingencies is \$500.

The public hearing will begin at 7:30 at the Franklin community church. After it, the council will go into regular session.

20 Years With Bloomfield

BLOOMFIELD—Electric filing cabinets didn't exist—nor were they needed—when Ann Birrell went to work for Bloomfield township in 1938.

But Mrs. Birrell is delighted these days with the two just installed beside her desk to hold the township's 8,000 election registration cards. The revolving cabinets are almost as much a "present" to the woman who has served as deputy clerk for 20 years as the anniversary party co-workers are planning for tomorrow night at Forest Lake country club.

About 60 friends and co-workers are expected to attend the dinner and program. Among those congratulating Mrs. Birrell will be Supervisor Arno Huile, who has 25 years township service. His early years, however, were in the part-time capacity of justice of the peace. Nine years ago he became treasurer and then in July, 1956, was appointed supervisor.

MRS. BIRRELL began her service as secretary-treasurer for

the township in 1938. She was Perry Vaughan, then township supervisor. She left for two-and-a-half years, returning as deputy clerk in 1938.

Until eight years ago, Ann was the only woman employee in the township office. In addition to the deputy clerk's work of elections, ordinances and party co-workers are planning for tomorrow night at Forest Lake country club.

Then in 1950, Ann recalls, the township boom began. Today there are eight girls in the office, and Ann's main duties are to attend township board meetings. However, she also pitches in and helps with tax work and details of road improvement programs.

THAT'S one of the things the deputy clerk likes best about her job—the close cooperation of the township staff.

"Everybody always pitches in on

when Bloomfield became a city about 1953, she moved with the township to a rented garage building in Bloomfield Hills. But she was too busy to move, becoming a city. In January, 1958, the township finally moved into its new offices on Telegraph road.

Today with a staff of 30, including police and fire department township board meetings and many special meetings where she takes down the proceedings in shorthand.

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Westwood Budget, Tax Raise Nary a Protest

WESTWOOD—Is everybody in Westwood satisfied with the village's proposed budget and taxes?

The council can hardly believe it. But only two men were at the village's first public budget hearing Monday, and they were there on other business. This despite printed public notice of the hearing.

Forced to conclude that a tax of \$4.80 per thousand of assessed valuation was all right with the voters, the council still tabled final acceptance of the \$88,000 budget until its next meeting Monday.

THE BUDGET under discussion is for the first full year of village operation. Another budget, for the interim between incorporation and July 1, when the fiscal year starts, is already in operation.

F'klin Views Special Road Assessments

FRANKLIN Like the village, Franklin's village council decided Monday "the time has come." Special assessment districts must be created to cover the cost of the kind of roads residents apparently want. The council said, taking first steps to begin the program.

A special assessment study group will work with assessors, Fred Emmerting to study methods, laws and procedures worked out by Birmingham, Berkeley, Oak and other Oakland county communities.

The council expects a recommendation in May on whether assessments should be based on frontage or on "benefit," a system of judging roads by the number of people who must use them to get from their homes to paved roads.

EMMERLING was asked also to see (See FRANKLIN, Page 2-E)

HERE'S what the money will buy:

Public safety department, including purchases—\$71,745.

General and administrative expenses, including rubbish collection—\$41,200.

Clerk's office—\$6,985.

Financial expenses, including the treasurer's salary—\$2,055.

Clerk's office—\$2,500.

THE TOTAL to be raised to run the village in the fiscal year July 1, 1959, is \$153,000, but not all need be raised by taxes.

The village expects about \$25,000 as its share of state sales and intangibles taxes.

The full year will cost \$125,385; the interim period, \$24,000; and \$4,125 set aside for contingencies.

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Clothes for 'Children Alone'

Cartons of clothing will soon be on the way to the Neglected-Dependent department, Juvenile Court of Oakland county. Sponsored by the Valley Woods Women's association, area residents may aid the clothing drive for "children alone" Saturday. Clothing that has been packaged, labeled as to age and placed in the driveway of each home, will be picked up from 1 to 2 p.m. Leaving the station wagon are (from left) Mrs. Kenneth Kittle, chairman, Mrs. Charles Denel, Mrs. Harry Klumshyn and Mrs. Leonard Hall.

Girl Scouts Are Prepared For Tornado in Lathrup

LATHRUP—Red ink ran like blood in Lathrup Saturday. Make-believe tornado victims staggered about carrying make-believe babies.

Broken limbs abound and children cramped and suffered by the dozens.

Most complain residents were unaware of the grave, if imaginary, calamity. But everything turned out well—the girl scouts of troop 200 were prepared.

IT ALL started when troop leader, Mrs. Wayne Dickerson, shouted at her sleeping daughter, Kate.

"Tornado!" Kate staggered for the telephone.

"The lines are down. Try the Paul Revere system."

Paul Revere had a horse, and the girls used bagpipes, but the principle was the same—stay calm.

ALL OVER Lathrup the girl scouts, first and emergency ration they had stashed under beds and in closets.

Within an hour all equipment had been assembled and set up in the backyard of Mrs. Al Little, the girls' office leader.

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Township Charter Passes Needs New Officials Is First Mayor

SOUTHFIELD—Southfield township—what's left of it—needs some new officials fast.

Monday's charter election, making most of the old township officials, makes five of the seven trustees ineligible to keep their offices.

Edward Swann, supervisor, Mrs. Clara Lane, treasurer, and trustees Philip Maloney, John Holroyd and Tom Costello, all live in Southfield city and must resign township offices.

This will leave Hugh Alerton, Jr., trustee, and Mrs. Fannie Adams, township clerk, the only board members. They live in Westwood, one of the three villages that now comprise the township.

The others are Birmingham Farms and Franklin.

And Mrs. Adams and Alerton don't make a quorum.

The solution to this problem is a meeting at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 4, Thursday, voters make the election official and before Southfield city's first meeting Monday makes the city official.

Ineligible trustees can resign one at a time Saturday, and remaining members appoint replacements.

The new board may be of five or seven members.

It took three tries, but Southfield made it Monday. Four to one the voters approved a city charter and elected city officials.

Donald L. Swanson will be mayor. He will work with a seven-man council—C. Hugh Dohany, Emanuel Christensen, John Holroyd, Mrs. Jean McDonnell, Robert F. Wuerfel, F. Neil McGregor and O. David Edwards. A council president will be elected by the councilmen at their first meeting, which will be Monday.

THE TOWNSHIP was budging Monday night as returns came in from the 11 precincts. Enthusiasm swayed higher and higher as the charter's margin held. Swanson and Tom Costello saw-sawed back and forth in the mayor's race, until Swanson finally cleared a margin of nearly 300 votes.

Council candidates, and there were 17 of them, scurried with tallies of votes, repeating encouragement, condolences and congratulations. Spectators elbowed their way through the hall, and peered over ranks of shoulders to get a peek at the table where Township Clerk Fannie Adams was keeping count with Treasurer Clara Lane.

YEARS of effort and disappointment went into Monday's victory. Two charters were written—by many of the same authors. The current one was failed to pass. A third charter commission based on a new constitution was scheduled for next year.

Meanwhile, sections of the township succeeded in their own incorporations. Franklin and Birmingham became villages, Lathrup a city. Finally, this year, Westwood peeled itself off to incorporate into a village.

This removed many of the opponents of city rule for Southfield and enabled the charter to pass. But it left Southfield with a Swiss cheese appearance... and lower valuation.

BECAUSE villages remain part of townships, whereas cities disincorporate themselves completely when they incorporate, there still is a Southfield township. Now it is composed of the villages—Franklin, Birmingham Farms and Westwood—plus a little piece of land that somehow didn't get into any of the legal descriptions.

AS A CITY Southfield will have more money and be able to provide more services for its residents. It will be able to levy taxes up to a 7-mill limit, and will get state funds for roads as well as a share of the state sales, liquor and intangibles taxes. Townships residents' taxes are limited to a total of 15 mills, almost all of which is swallowed by school districts and the county before it can get to the township.

The new city will have problems too. It must get itself operating; develop long-range and immediate plans for its development; satisfy the many complaints about the roads and provide more services, which charter proponents have been promising. And it must do this for an area of about 26 square miles and a population of 24,750 as cheaply as possible. By 1970 the population is expected to reach 80,000, with an ultimate 150,000.

HERE IS the structure of the new city, and its officers:

The executive division includes Mayor Swanson, City Clerk Patrick G. Flannery, Treasurer Clara Lane and directors, department heads and board and commission members who will be appointed.

The mayor will earn \$7,500 each. Chief administrative officer will be a city administrator to be appointed to the council. Township Supervisor Eugene Swann, who did not seek any elective office, will surely be considered for this post. The charter also provides for an attorney and various departments from police and fire to parks and recreation.

A MUNICIPAL court is established by the charter. Clarence A. Reid, Jr., will be the judge, and John H. O'Brien associate judge. Clerks, court officers, constables and violations bureau may be hired or set up by the council.

The legislative division of the city government will be the council, which will meet at least twice a month. Councilmen will get \$20 for each meeting, up to \$800 a year.

Authors of the charter were Leo Walton, chairman; Tom Costello, secretary; C. Hugh Dohany, Gregory Flannery, John Holroyd, Philip A. Maloney, Donald Swanson, Robert Wuerfel and Eugene Swann.

THE BUDGET has included an additional full-time maintenance man in the Public Works department in place of part-time temporary help provided in the \$75,500 budget. The third "outside" man would assist in the spraying and removal of trees, cleaning of ditches, hauling tree cuttings, street patching and sewer maintenance.

A third full-time policeman is provided for in the police budget to work the afternoon shift and the place of volunteer police when they cannot work. This new officer would be substitute for day and night officers on vacation or sick leave.

The estimated surplus to be carried over from the 1957-58 budget is \$2,000.

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Southfield Election Results

CHARTER
Yes, 1541
No, 1131

MAYOR
Elected
Donald L. Swanson, 2995
Defeated
Thomas M. Costello, 2374
Philip A. Maloney, 412
Allan M. Bullock, 248

CITY COUNCILMEN
Elected
C. Hugh Dohany, 3335
Emanuel Christensen, 3178
John Holroyd, 3043
Mrs. Jean McDonnell, 2987
Robert F. Wuerfel, 2643
F. Neil McGregor, 2473
O. David Edwards, 2340
Defeated
Thomas J. Grady, 1809
Dr. Philip J. Maloney, 1767
William F. Mueller, 1719
Joseph J. Hartigan, Jr., 1418
Neil C. Jenkins, 1387
George W. O'Halloran, 1292
Leonard J. Blazsak, 1159
Dr. L. S. Zivarnan, 990
Charles F. Marano, 866
T. Richard Touchette, 666

TREASURER
Elected
Miss Clara Lane, 4533
Defeated
Patrick G. Flannery, 2385
Arthur C. Becker, 920

MUNICIPAL JUDGE
Elected
Clarence A. Reid, Jr., 4015
Defeated
Claude A. Patalidis, 676

ASSOCIATE JUDGE
Elected
John H. O'Brien, 2983
Defeated
S. James Clarkson, 1717
Dale C. Campbell, 1169

Set Hearing On Budget In Lathrup

LATHRUP—Public hearing on the budget proposed for Lathrup was set Monday for May 12. The council must adopt the budget by May 19.

In his letter to the council Leonard Watchowski, city administrator, pointed out that the annual budget amounts to \$127,804. This is based on a tax rate of 7.5 mills, the same rate as last year. The water department budget totals \$51,750.58.

Watchowski recommended a water fee of \$1.25 per thousand cubic feet (81.80 water consumption charge plus 15¢ for sewer maintenance). The new rate would become effective on July 1, 1958. This is a reduction of 10¢ from the present water rate of \$2.05 per thousand cubic feet and is the lowest rate of any city in the water authority, Watchowski says.

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