

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

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MICHIGAN

WESTWOOD • BINGHAM FARMS • FRANKLIN • WOODCREEK FARMS • LATHRUP • BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP • WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP • SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP • SOUTHFIELD CITY

Hills School District Votes on Bond Issue



Pretty Slick Weather!

Nobody was paying any attention to the cold winds blowing across Meadow lake and other area lakes Sunday afternoon, because the joy of getting out on the ice once more warmed the atmosphere. Hockey players like Bill Holmes (left) and Dennis Campbell were too busy chasing that puck to feel winter's first icy cold. "Only my toes are

cold," said Jeff Campbell, who also played in one of the two hockey games going on the lake, along with Tom Holmes. At right, six-year-old Donna Holmes, 6744 Whysall road, Walnut lake, does a fancy step as she struggles to keep her balance the first time out.

An Editorial

Hills Schools' Growth Demands Extra Revenue

Bloomfield Hills school district taxpayers face the proposition, at the ballot box Monday, Dec. 8, of approving or disapproving the issuance of \$1,165,000 in new bonds, plus an increase of four mills in their school taxes.

If these propositions are approved, the Hills' district will be able to add additional classrooms to existing structures, and also build a new two-unit elementary school on Quanton road.

The Hills' Board of Education, and Supt. of Schools Eugene L. Johnson, have endorsed the two propositions, and are supported by a special citizens' advisory committee that researched the district's school needs.

Few men in Michigan's school system appear to be any more selfless and dedicated to a good school system than in the case of Supt. Johnson, in the opinion of many Hills taxpayers.

THE HILLS' DISTRICT, like nearly all districts in the Detroit metropolitan orbit of suburbia, finds its student enrollment increasing far beyond normal growth anticipations. Such a condition, naturally, calls for educational facilities required to cope with the over-all needs.

The Hills' Board of Education has declared that citizen approval of the proposed bond issue and millage increase will avoid the otherwise possibility of: 1) overcrowded classrooms, 2) half-day sessions, 3) long distances of travel to schools, 4) abolishing kindergarten, 5) handicapping fine teachers with poor teaching conditions.

One current economic fact looms large in the thoughts of U.S. taxpayers these days. It is the tremendous total amount of taxes extracted from a family's income by the various governmental units, from the federal, state, county, right down to cities, townships and schools.

THEREFORE, IT appears to most thoughtful and informed citizens that the local units, being closest to the voters and thus more easily controlled, are required to exercise every possible economy in the operation of their respective public services. This especially applies to school districts.

Citizen-taxpayers have every right to ask their board of education if, in the interests of economy, a proposed building project is devoid of all unnecessary architectural "frills" and of basic design; and are the materials to be used in construction acceptably good—neither too unnecessarily cheap, nor unnecessarily more expensive than required.

The Hills board of education and its administrative staff have given unequalled assurance that their proposed school construction program is as sound, as economical, as frill-less as they can make it and still adhere to adequate education standards as endorsed by Hills school district residents and as best interpreted by the Hills school officials.

THERE IS NO QUESTION about the intent, the honesty and sincerity of these school officials. They have worked long and arduously to isolate the problem, to research it (See HILLS SCHOOL GROWTH, Page 6-E)

Family Dog Dies In \$14,000 Blaze

SOUTHFIELD—A family dog died and fire damages neared the \$14,000 mark when a defective furnace caused a blaze Monday afternoon at the Josef Gyongyosi home, 17733 Addison, according to Southfield fire officials.

Approximately \$9,000 damage was done to the home and \$5,000 to furnishings and personal belongings. No one was home when the fire occurred.

Court Says Greenlee Can Build One House

WESTWOOD—A circuit court judge decreed last week that one more house could be built on the three lots owned by Clarence Greenlee on Auburn.

The decision upheld the Village of Westwood's zoning on one of the three lots between Fairfax and Greenlee as enforceable. However, the court turned down Greenlee's request that a house can be built, contrary to village zoning restrictions.

The structure is not to exceed 35 feet on the width of the lot. Attorney Tom Dillon reported to the village council Monday night. He said addition of the house would leave a 17-foot side yard.

GREENLEE said in his suit, the lot zoning lawsuit against the village, that he bought two lots—each 50 feet wide—and built on one. Later, Greenlee said, he purchased another 50-foot lot on the other side of his house.

Greenlee told the village council last June that he wanted to sell the three lots to a builder, who planned to build on both outside lots.

THE VILLAGE council, acting as a zoning board, stamped with objections from residents in the area, turned down Greenlee's request for the "Residential 4" area's 30-foot side yard restrictions to be lifted.

ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC

Bad School Fire Unlikely Here

He Thought Choirs Were Slissy Stuff

Board Members View Future Girls' Ranch

Southfield High Cagers Are Clean-Cut

Birmingham Cagers On Short Side This Year

1-A
6-B
1-C
1-D
8-E

Village to Hire 2 Consultants

WESTWOOD—Hiring of a planning consultant and a firm to act as engineering consultants is the current concern of the Westwood village council. The two new appointees would work together on village problems such as road surveys, water system and sewage.

The council was expected to talk with the second of two applicants for the planning consultant position at a planning commission meeting last night.

Monday night councilmen asked firms interested in serving as the village's permanent engineering consultants to contact Village Clerk Alice Spencer at Westwood offices before Dec. 15.

MEANWHILE, the council asked the firm of Johnson and Anderson, which has handled village engineering on a temporary basis, to go ahead with a water system survey.

Johnson and Anderson will be considered with other applicants for the appointment. They are being told to go ahead with the engineering studies on the water system, on advice from Southeastern Oakland county water authority officials.

The officials told the council recently that the study should be ready in the event voters approve the village's taking over the water system now operated by Southfield township.

THE councilmen plan to go over (See VILLAGE, Page 6-E)

Wood Creek To Remain Residential

WOODCREEK FARMS—Facing in favor of a "yes" vote on the Wood Creek Farms council stood solidly behind its planning commission and adopted a zoning ordinance Tuesday night retaining a total residential character in the village.

It wasn't easy. DESPITE opposition from developer George Wellington Smith, the council omitted any commercially zoned areas, making the lowest minimum standards consistent with present high restrictions.

Upon invitation of the council, Smith was present Tuesday night to debate with planning commission chairman Watson Kinney and present his views, but he excused himself before the council made its decision.

HE repeatedly insisted upon approval of his plan to have four lots in any four action and penalties. (See RESIDENTIAL, Page 6-E)

Lathrup to Drop Deed Into Registered Mails

LATHRUP—That errant quit claim deed is going back to Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Kelley—via registered mail.

When Lathrup council members asked City Administrator Jerald Stone Monday if he had returned the deed to the city subdividers, Stone told them that he had tried to return it, but that it was not accepted.

Later City Clerk Frank Derby was instructed by the council to return the deed to Mr. and Mrs. Kelley, as part owners of the Lathrup sewer system, he partners in any four action and penalties.

MRS. KELLEY told Cogger that she had prepared a resolution to the proposed sewer system. It seems to me, we have explained the situation to you. Cogger told her, "but I am willing to do everything I can to clarify matters for you."

"I want to know where we are going," said Mrs. Kelley, "then I'll be glad to take over the quit claim deed to you."

EARLIER Mrs. Kelley had asked the council Monday if a meeting could be arranged between the council, the city attorney, the Kelleys and their attorney to go over their proposed quit claim deed step by step.

Mayor Richard N. Cogger told Mrs. Kelley that he is quite ready to talk. However, he added, the city would not deviate from steps already taken.

The mayor referred to the city action Nov. 24, when the latest closed in a leather case as an appreciation for his year as police chief and five years' service with the city.

Tolson, whose duties as chief of police Dec. 2, was presented with his gold chief badge at the ceremonies.

NEW OFFICER

WESTWOOD—Frederick J. Bielman began work last week as a public safety officer in Westwood village. Bielman, 26, lived at 21818 Southfield, Westwood. He is married and has a six-month-old daughter. Bielman replaces Richard Minnick, who resigned.

He's Fightin' Mad About Income Tax Eased in Michigan

WESTWOOD—"We're just a small community, but let's go on record, as perhaps the first in the state to do so, as opposed to any increase in state taxes," Westwood village Councilman Ted Shurtliff suggested to his fellow councilmen Monday night.

Shurtliff said he was "very concerned" over the ideas suggested for a state income tax by a study committee.

"Especially," said the councilman, "when nobody talks about how to cut down expenses—all they talk about is how to raise more money."

"If we let this be added on to all the other taxes we've got, we're going to be hurting," said Shurtliff.

He asked other councilmen to study the tax proposal and be ready to draw up a resolution at the Dec. 15 council meeting.

1) For additional operating millage of 4.0 mills for three years starting 1960-61, and decreasing to 3.0 mills for three years starting 1962-63.

2) For a bond issue of \$1,165,000, to be paid for by a tax levy of not more than one mill.

Meetings sponsored by the board of education and the citizens' advisory committee, explaining the board's proposals, and tonight with a final session at Hickory Grove school at 8 p.m.

MEANWHILE, a citizens' committee has called a meeting for 8 p.m. Friday at the Bloomfield township hall, Telegraph just south of Long Lake road, to discuss the "other side of the story." The committee has taken the position that the additional taxes would be "unnecessary extravaganzas" and that voters' refusal to approve the millage would "force new thinking."

Taking a stand in favor of the "yes" vote on the school district residents currently circulating a letter urging a "yes" vote.

"Those of you who had children in the high school last year before the junior high was completed," their letter states, "know how important it is to provide rooms for the students before, not after, classrooms are bulging at the seams."

"AFTER THIS" increase, the group said, "your taxes will be no higher than those of neighboring school districts."

The letter cited the school district's growth from 786 students in 1953 to 2850 this fall. School Board President Merrill O. Bates said the signers of the letter were underwriting cost of mailing it to all voters in the district.

Signing themselves as "parents and interested citizens," the Bloomfield Hills school district. They are: Mr. and Mrs. J. M. McElroy, the W. H. McElroy, E. M. Rogers, the A. H. Smith, the E. M. Townbridge, and the H. L. Winkler.

Speaking for the citizens' committee chairmen, A. J. Picotte expressed the hope that his group's action was taken when representatives of a number of Bloomfield Hills school district associations protested against the tax increase to him and Mrs. Margaret Begovich.

PICOTTE explained that Mrs. Begovich had called for the use of a school to hold a meeting, on his request, and that Mrs. Begovich did not talk to School Superintendent Eugene Johnson, as erroneously stated by the Birmingham Eccentric Tuesday.

Mrs. Begovich was told by the secretary that the appointment book was not available. Picotte said that she should call back (See BOND ISSUE, Page 6-E)

(See OFFICIAL, Page 6-E)

Talk of the Towns

By JULIE CANDLER

This one really happened, in a Birmingham area French class being taught by a lovely young miss. The teacher asked the students to answer in French her question, "Do you sing when you are in the bathtub?"

Poor guy garbled the answer, though, and the entire class understood the wrong answer very clearly.

When the answer to his pretty teacher came out in French, the boy had said, "Yes, I sing when you are in my bathtub."

Though the Westminster choir has been singing a Bach fugue since I walked in a local supermarket today. Turned out to be a French song, sung by a man with five of them chanting away. Expected somebody to yell, "Sold, American!"

I had to get noisy and ask the head inventory taker about it. He said that five machines going up and down the aisles, each with some tenor and bass to chant out the figures and another man to tally it up on the machine.

They hum along the aisles and add up every item. One of the shelves—right down to the last sack of beans—has just three to three-and-a-half hours.

Would you believe it, the inven-

tory in one of those big supermarkets totals about \$80,000? That's a lot of beans!

Two Lathrup officials have been traveling. One didn't go far, but the trip was profitable.

Councilwoman Elizabeth Mitchell was back at her council table Monday after a quick trip to Florida.

And City Administrator Jerald Stone stopped in for cigars and candy with his wife at his trip. It was to New Grace hospital Sunday, to accompany Mrs. S. to the clinic department.

P.S. Is a boy.

Speaking of Ernest Hemingway (we did last week), my friend Lawton C. Tabor, of 18280 Devonshire, Westwood, says he went to school with Tabor at the University of Illinois high school. He's a swell guy, according to Tabor, who claims Hemingway is a stout, big size. And that ain't little.