

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM

MICHIGAN

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

Huber, Campbell Both Bypassed by Southfield B of E

SOUTHFIELD—The Southfield school board named Ernest Coverdill its seventh member Monday to settle—at least for the moment—a month-long dispute over who should get the job. The board bypassed Milton Huber and John Campbell, second and third place finishers in the June 9 election, in appointing Coverdill, who was fourth in the 10-way race for two seats. Huber finished second to Mrs. Elsie Lloyd in the election, but learned, along with the board, that he was ineligible under state law, which requires candidates to have their names on the city tax rolls before they can go on the ballot. In view of this precedent, was to recognize the vacancy and appoint a member until next year's election when a member would be chosen to serve the balance of the term.

166 Neighbors Gather for Annual Picnic

Friendly neighbors—166 of them in the South Berkshires—had perfect weather, lots of good food and a wonderful time June 29 at the third annual South Berkshires picnic. It was at the Lahser road home of Dr. and Mrs. Maurice Weiner and featured

swimming, a baseball game, a horseshoe pitching contest, badminton, shuffleboard and a tour of the grounds. For the children the swimming pool was the top attraction, but the grown-ups were impressed by Dr. Weiner's famous 500-bush rose garden.

Clean Rouge Depends On Signatures

LATHRUP—The public hearing on a petition for a simple clean out of the Evans Ditch cleanup Monday only went to prove that, "there's many a slip between cup and lip."

What started out with a petition for a simple clean out of old refrigerators, furniture, fallen trees, and trash from the little stream that runs along the western border of Lathrup, turned out to be a \$231,000 county drain project.

Petitions to start work on the drainage district are now in the hands of the city council. The project's fate will be decided by Lathrup residents. If the petitions lack the required number of signatures, then the project will die.

TWO YEARS AGO, after some heavy rains, Charles D. Kelley, Lathrup subdivision and other residents who live near the stream started the petition in the belief that stream could be cleaned out and straightened a little for the sum of \$5,000.

These same petitioners were started to learn that the small stream which flows into the Rouge river has been designated the center of a huge drainage district. Drain Commissioner Dan Barry told the 50 residents assembled at the hearing that 973 acres of Lathrup will be drained of storm

ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC

Woman Heads Birmingham B of E 1-A

The Eccentric Wins National Award 1-A

Eye Geiss-Yager Team in Rham Invitational 8-E

Crabrook Music Guild Garden Concerts to Start 1-C

Rev. Stout Hasn't Had A Minute To Spare 6-B

water into the stream at a cost of approximately \$77 per acre. The deepened and widened ditch must, for the present, and for perhaps 20 years, substitute for a covered sewer. Barry told the audience he said that the cost of the ditch would run about \$4 million.

LATHRUP CITY engineer Robert Norris of Ayres, Norris, Lewis and May told the council that he could find little fault with the planned drainage ditch except that it was premature and not yet necessary to the drainage district. Although Lathrup residents expressed doubts as to the advisability of a 7 foot deep ditch, and questioned the unloading of water draining from the north of Lathrup, Barry said that it was the duty of the drain commissioner to consider the good of all the people.

Officers Are Busy

WESTWOOD—Public safety director Robert Murphy reported Monday the his department had traveled a total of 6,000 miles in 92 hours during June. Officers checked offending drivers, assisted 16 in trouble, investigated 186 and scolded 57.

Speed Saves Life Of Westwood Baby

WESTWOOD—Speed saved the life of 9-month old Bruce Masters Saturday—fast driving, fast thinking and fast co-operation.

It was just 15 minutes from the time Mrs. Brookler L. Masters, 31400 Kennoway court, found her baby on the floor with an empty bottle of arsenic to the time the baby was on the road to recovery at St. Joseph's Mercy hospital in Pontiac.

Doctors there said a few more minutes would have been fatal—the child had drunk about a tablespoonful of ant poison, enough arsenic to kill a half dozen adults.

MRS. MASTERS had tucked her baby in bed in a downstairs room, then stepped out the back door for a few minutes. When she returned, Bruce was on the floor, the bottle of ant poison was empty, and some of the liquid showed on his nightgown.

Mrs. Masters phoned St. Joseph's hospital for help. The hospital called Birmingham police, who flashed Southfield police, who radioed Westwood's patrol car. Westwood officers Richard Voories and James Smith sped to the Master's home, while Southfield alerted St. Joseph's hospital that the baby was on the way.

THE OFFICERS took the baby without a word from the panic-stricken mother. As they sprinted out the door they grabbed a baby bottle full of milk. Smith cradled Bruce in his arms, feeding him the milk to dilute the poison in his stomach, while Voories whipped the patrol car over 100 miles an hour, siren screaming and red light flashing.

Less than 5 minutes later, in Pontiac, they were met by a nurse at the hospital entrance, and whisked to an emergency room where stomach pump was waiting. Five more minutes and Voories was phoning Mrs. Masters that her son would live.

Franklin, Bingham Talk Evergreen Pros, Cons

FRANKLIN—Franklin and Bingham Farms councilmen met Monday to hear Harold K. Schone, Oakland county DPW director, review the Evergreen interceptor drain project as it applies to their northwest corner of the old township.

Although some of the "do or die" urgency to act on the sewer program faded as Schone admitted village officials were told that pro-grammation would cost the villages money should they decide to join up later.

"WERE NOT in any position to force the issue," Schone admitted. "However, if the water resources commission can prove that Franklin and Bingham are contributing to the pollution of the Rouge river, the department of public works can declare a need."

"Right now these two villages are included in the original pollution citation against Southfield township. And the township board has the power to act for all the villages within its boundaries. But I haven't been given any reason to think that the board would do so if these communities are definitely opposed."

Southfield township now consists of Franklin, Bingham, Westwood and a few tiny parcels of unincorporated land.

COUNCILMEN from the small villages of Franklin and Bingham relaxed when Schone said that although he was anxious to get agreements soon, he was willing to study the projected population estimates and appointment of funds for the two villages more closely. Another meeting was set for July 16, when representatives of the two villages will meet at Schone's office to review a more detailed engineering study.

Franklin's share of the Evergreen project has been estimated at \$50,728. Bingham's at \$55,655. Westwood has tentatively agreed to its \$220,406 estimate, and the remaining acres in the township south of \$250. The total for the entire township area is \$307,040.

Although Schone used a map indicating main and lateral roads at the meeting Monday, his office said these were merely suggested plans and that no routes had been definitely set.

FRANKLIN president Grant Sivier told Schone he could see no reason for Franklin to pay for a share in the trunk in the eastern part of the township when Franklin's sewage would flow almost directly south to a waterway.

Alfred Emmerling, Franklin assessor, urged consideration of a combination trunk and lateral drains because storm water plagues some parts of the area. Schone agreed, but said that the author-

ity felt the sewage problem paramount. "You simply have to shove some things aside and take care of the most pressing items first," he sighed.

COUNCILMAN Edward Green of Franklin said zoning insured adequate lot sizes and ground studies showed Franklin was a gravel pit. "I don't think the council ought to obligate the residents for 30 years for something they may never use," he added.

SPECTATOR Paul Robertson of Franklin Hills drive disagreed vigorously. "I can see eight or nine families having septic tanks right now in the northeast section of the village," he said. "And even if our homes are not affected, the children play in areas where effluent is standing."

ROBERTSON appealed to the council to "get in now while the price is low."

Councilmen Green and Cal Thomson agreed to place the issue on the ballot in March, but were told that even this delay would cost money should the voters approve joining. If the vote was no and the village later wanted to join, the cost would be much higher.

Petzer Heads Civic Group In Bloomfield

BLOOMFIELD—George Petzer is the first president of Bloomfield township's new civic organization—Federated Civic Association of Bloomfield township. He was elected July 1 at the first meeting of the group's 15-member board of directors.

Petzer lives at 6349 Dakota circle. The directors also elected H. V. Beggs, 5 Highland drive, vice president; D. B. Bierman, Jr., 6006 Wing Lake road, treasurer, and Mrs. Margaret Petrovich, 1750 Ward road, secretary.

READING the association's mail the directors named nine standing committees to study problems referred by member associations. Mrs. Begovitch said the directors hoped for reports from the new committees by the next board meeting Aug. 5.

Named to the legislative committee were George O. Roule, Jr., chairman; S. Lewis Cram and Beggs; education committee, August Bank; fire and police, Arthur A. Poole; chairman, and Beggs; membership, Burke Bartlett, chairman, and D. B. Bierman; public works and utilities, C. C. Christensen, chairman; and Fred Warner, chairman; Dickerson, chairman and Jack Marshall; sewers and drains, Noel S. C. Barber; chairman and Albert E. Listman; and taxation, Thomas M. Rasmussen.

Members of the association will be for the forester's transportation and a man to accompany him for a few days. State law decrees that property owners destroy diseased trees.



LEONARD WATCHOWSKI

Zone Appeals Board Filled At Westwood

WESTWOOD—Four men were appointed Monday to the village's zoning board of appeals, bringing the board to its full strength of nine. Fred DuCharme, 31750 Birchwood, was elected chairman by the board members, each of whom represents a different area of the village. He is from Beverly Golfhurst civic association.

Other new members are Allan Tidale, 31055 Rutland, of Beverly Artesian; Daniel Adams, 31750 Eastlady, of Valley Woods, and John McManahan, 31555 Kenno-way circle, of the Kenno-way subdivision. Tidale will serve three years, DuCharme two, and Adams and McManahan one.

NAMED by the village council two weeks ago were Arthur Lafon, George Dettlinger, Hugh G. Allerton, Sr., Paul McGarity and David M. Thompson. The zoning board of appeals will decide whether to allow specific deviations from the village's zoning law. Several requests have been made for such exceptions.

Westwood Roads Called Inadequate

WESTWOOD—Sixty per cent of Westwood's major roads and 45 per cent of its local roads have been declared inadequate by the state. Councilman Robert Reed told the village council Monday.

Reed explained that unless the village showed progress in bringing the roads up to state minimum standard the state might fail to return gas tax revenues. This money is earmarked for road work, and is expected to come to about \$30,000 in 1958.

Reed said the village contract for road work with Oakland county expires Oct. 1 and cannot be renewed.

Village president Marvin Cline set the council's next regular meeting July 21 for a study of roads. Resolutions will be set to maintain them, buying equipment as needed, or contracting to have the work done.

Watchowski Resigns As Lathrup Manager Council Praises Work In Establishing New City

By DOROTHY ZATELL, Eccentric Correspondent

LATHRUP—Leonard Watchowski resigned as Lathrup's city administrator Monday. He will take up new duties as village manager of Roseville about July 21. Watchowski came to the newly formed city of Lathrup Village in February, 1954, from Hazel Park where he had served three and a half years as city treasurer, assessor and acting city manager. In Lathrup he has served under four mayors—W. H. Harris, John Campbell, Lantz Mackie and the present mayor, Richard Cogger.

Watchowski has shepherded Lathrup through the grunt of annually growing pains. He started the city records from scratch and set up city offices in the house-in-the-woods. He spread the tax rolls and worked with the council on ordinances and fire and police ordinances.

THERE have been screaming sessions, personal attacks, acrimony and a few angry letters and aroused and ashamed populace. There have been serious differences of opinion, as in the recent storm sewer controversy. And there have been placid periods like the past few months.

Each council member complimented Watchowski for his work when his letter of resignation was read. They cited his ability, noting the city's sound financial picture and crediting his good management.

Councilman Frederick Johnson resigned directly to Lathrup's storm sewer period, when two council members wanted to fire Watchowski. Johnson said he admired Watchowski's "guts" in standing his ground and defending his position despite the threat to his reputation and professional future.

Johnson himself walked out of a council meeting in those passionate days. "But time has shown," he told Watchowski, "that you were the bigger man in sticking to your guns."

AS VILLAGE manager of Roseville Watchowski will earn a salary of \$9,750 plus a transportation and car allowance. In Lathrup his salary has been \$8,102. Roseville's population is 42,000; Lathrup's about 4,000.

Roseville has its problems too. Village manager Orlaf Pearson resigned April 15 after more than three years with the village because he disagreed with the new president and an economy conscious council. An acting manager there resigned after two months.

Watchowski recommended Jerald Stone, Lathrup's city clerk and building inspector for the past year, for the manager's post. But no action was taken Monday.

Bloomfield Man Named to Zollner Board of Directors

Election of Robert B. Hawkins, Bloomfield township, to the board of directors of Zollner Corp. was announced today by President Fred Zollner in Port Wayne, Ind.

Hawkins, 234 Tuckahoe, who was named vice-president in charge of sales. He has been with the corporation since July 1, 1957, as general sales manager in the general sales office at 1100 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

A 1935 Graduate of Brown university, HAWKINS, 46, has been associated with the automotive industry since 1939, specializing in development and sale of pistons and allied engine parts.



ECCENTRIC PHOTOS

My Neighbors



"Hello, dear. How are you coming along with the driving lessons?"

Elm Tree Survey Set in Westwood

WESTWOOD—A survey of elms in the village to discover which are infected with Dutch elm disease was slated Monday by the village council.

A forester of the Michigan department of agriculture will inspect the trees at no cost to the village. Only Westwood expense will be for the forester's transportation and a man to accompany him for a few days. State law decrees that property owners destroy diseased trees.

Back to School, But Kids Love It

FRANKLIN—Glad as they were to get out of school, about 120 Franklin youngsters seemed to be just as glad to get back Monday when the summer recreation program, sponsored jointly by the Franklin Community association and the Birmingham board of education, began on the school grounds.

Under the direction of teachers, Edward Pokornowski and Mary Kopus, the youths took full advantage of the new sandbox, shuffle board courts, tether ball and other new equipment and activities provided.