

# '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.

## Gas Lines Face Vote At Lathrup

LATHRUP—Gas lines for Lathrup residents will be on the ballot at a special election, probably this fall.

The franchise must be approved by the voters, but Consumers' Power would pay election costs. Hanson Hedgecock, district manager for Consumers, told the city council Monday. The election could be either in the fall or next spring, Hedgecock said.

Because the city charter limits special elections to two, city council members favored having it in fall. One special—the drain election—has been held this year. The council will study the gas proposal further before scheduling an election. Lathrup now has no gas lines.

**MAYOR Pro Tem** Frederick Johnson expressed concern over installing gas lines before storm sewers.

Since residents rejected a storm sewer bond issue, city council finds itself beset by problems of ditching and culverting. Now the council faces the problem of where to place gas lines so that they will not be disturbed by the installation of sewers if and when a sewer system is approved.

**HEGDECOCK** said it would not be necessary to do unsightly digging on the city streets because gas lines are now installed by tunneling. He estimated the cost to residents from property line to house, at about \$110 per foot for installation.

Lathrup homeowners who applied for gas service more than two years ago, when a survey was made, are to be given quick service, Hedgecock said, because their applications came before some 60,000 residents of Macomb, Wayne and Oakland counties.

## Paving Postponed

LATHRUP—The 1938 paving program has been set back another week. Residents have been notified that bids on paving would not be received and opened at the June 2 council meeting. A special meeting has been set for June 16 to open the bids, and the second public hearing will be held on June 16.

## My Neighbors

"I'm Harold's third-grade teacher—and I'm here to discuss his demands for a shorter work week."

On June 16 the City Council will meet again with Swanson and Swanson will present the 1938 budget for discussion. The public budget hearing is set for Southfield-Ten high school June 17 at 8 p.m.

## First Time All Around

It was the first wedding for all three principals—Patricia R. Hunt was married to Robert E. Brown Friday by Southfield township's new justice of the peace, Theodore Sura, who had to look up his lines before performing the ceremony. Because the townships' unofficial "fire" the fire volunteers their living room for the ceremony, and Mrs. Sura made a bouquet of yellow and purple iris. The bride's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Jack Prestien of Boca Raton, Fla., formerly of Birmingham, and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Brown of Pontiac. The couple will live in Pensacola, Fla.

## Southfield and Troy Half Pledge Appeal Of 12-Town Ruling

**SOUTHFIELD**—City council members Tuesday gave county drain commissioner Daniel Barry a half promise to appeal to the Michigan supreme court on the 12-town drain case.

When he appears before the attorney general and the governor Friday in Lansing, Barry will have a copy of Southfield's resolution to show that Mayor Don Swanson of Southfield and Mayor Frank Costello of Troy will work together to bring in their recommendations for a method of taking an appeal of the 12-town drain case to the higher court.

Southfield, when a township, and Troy challenged the constitutionality of the 12-Town drain in a suit before Circuit Judge H. Russell Holland. Arguments consumed more than three weeks, but in March Judge Holland ruled, in a 48-page decision, that the \$44 million drain was constitutional, that it was necessary for the public health, and that not all the communities involved needed to sign the petition for the drain order to be obligated as part of it.

Barry told Southfield officials at a special meeting Tuesday that the entire pollution project had been stalled by the reluctance of any community to appeal.

Not only is it expensive to appeal, but it is also a long process, many officials thought they could stall the project more successfully by failing to do so. This strategy is based on the fact that bonds to pay for the drain would probably be sold at a profit, but the court assurance that the bonds are valid and the drain constitutional, by the state health director, carries the threat of direct state intervention into the long-stalled project.

"But," state attorney general Paul L. Adams says, "we would much rather work this out on a cooperative basis."

Adams' action in calling the conference to find out what all the delay is about followed complaints by the state health director. He said that sewage-contaminated water flooding South Oakland county basements and raw sewage in the open Red Run ditch constituted a "serious public health hazard."

"If Southfield and Troy were to discuss settlement of township property on June 10."

## Special Meetings Set by Southfield

**SOUTHFIELD**—City administrator Eugene Swann and Mayor Don Swanson will meet with the Southfield City Council, the Southfield township board and their attorneys to discuss settlement of township property on June 10.

The former township's "personal" property claim against the township until a settlement is made. Until then Southfield City has a legal share only in real estate, although the city comprises the larger share of the former township.

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Barry, who is in charge of the 12-town drain case, is seen here.

## Determination And Distraction

**GILBERT LAKE**—Ever think you'd like to do some spare time writing—for money? Well, it's not easy, and there are many formulas for success. But if you've got eight kittens, two cats, one big dog, five children, a typewriter, tons of determination and the patience of the tortoise, you may make it. At least this has been a winning combination for Mrs. Frank Martin of Lahser road.

Under the name of Jane Martin she has written everything from fairy tales to true confession, including a good deal of poetry, much of which has been published. Of course she gets the usual number of rejections along the way, but she keeps the chair pulled out so she can sort of sit there in and out between emergencies and catastrophes.

Kind of makes you wonder how anyone could write a word in the midst of all this, doesn't it? Yet Mrs. Martin just plunks her typewriter on the kitchen table, rolls in a sheet of paper, pushes up her sleeves and goes to work. But she keeps the chair pulled out so she can sort of sit there in and out between emergencies and catastrophes.

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## School Candidates Tell Their Views

**SOUTHFIELD**—More than usual interest is evidenced in Southfield's school district election Monday as 10 candidates are running for two four-year terms on the board of education.

The candidates, the largest number ever to seek two Southfield board posts, give their reasons for running, which range from a general desire to "increase parental-administrative co-operation," and "need for economies in the district's expansion program" to "curriculum improvement" and criticism of the present program.

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## Westwood Denies Zone Exceptions On Auburn Lots

**WESTWOOD**—The village council Monday denied 5 to a 2 vote a petition for zone exceptions on two lots on Auburn.

The lots in question are on either side of Mrs. M. Greenlee's home between Greenfield and Fairfax. Greenlee bought the lots in 1924 and sold them to Ernest and Richard Swanson in 1941. His home was built on the center lot and the other two lots were sold to Ernest and Richard Swanson in 1941.

The builders proposed colonial homes, 28 and 30 feet wide, which would mean sideyards of 11 feet on one lot and 8 feet on the other. They therefore asked an exception to the area's zoning, residential-4, which requires minimum sideyards of 12 1/2 feet and lots of 30 feet.

Cliff Chamberlain, real estate developer, and Ernest Swanson, who had been doing the planning since Hickey left, because he isn't a regular planner. Hunter will be asked to remain with the city.

## A & P Hearing Set

LATHRUP—The proposed A & P store for the southeast corner of Southfield and 12 Mile road will come up for a public hearing at the city council meeting June 16. At that time if no objections are raised, the ordinance for rezoning will have its first reading. Before a building permit can be issued, the rezoning ordinance must have a second and final reading. If all goes smoothly, it is possible that the store would be started in July.

## Elsewhere in the Eccentric

- Area Library Practical, Study Indicates 1-A
- Horse Show To Benefit Children's Hospital 1-C
- Patty Berg Early Favorite In Women's Open 7-B
- Areas Amateurs Have Their Day in Western Open 7-E
- 3 Area Men To Celebrate First Mass 4-F

## Zoning Problems: Westwood Acts; Southfield Fusses

## Proposal Alters No Boundaries Swanson Balks at Candidate

**WESTWOOD**—Councilmen hastened Monday to give the village zoning ordinance, although they conceded that study would be needed and changes made later.

"We have an obligation to the electorate," Hugh Allerton, Jr., said, "to make sure we have a zoning ordinance. Then we can make changes after adequate hearings have been held."

The council agreed that a planning commission should be named to study the village and make long-term recommendations.

**SOUTHFIELD**—A member of the old township zoning board was criticized Monday at the Southfield city council meeting.

Mayor Don Swanson said he would veto appointment of Samuel Garzia to the Southfield zoning board of appeals because he had "blackjacked" citizens in the Melody Lane bowling alley controversy.

Garzia, Clarence Durbin and Howard Coleman were proposed as board appeal members by councilman Robert Wuerfel.

Swanson said he felt that Garzia pressured citizens of Washington Heights subdivision to see things his way "or else" when he sent them a letter answering their protests of the bowling alley.

In this letter, Garzia told residents that a bowling alley was inevitable and that if they required moving it, the apartment house might be built as well.

Swanson emphasized that he was objecting to Garzia not as an individual but as a zoning board member. Wuerfel pointed out that the zoning board and the zoning board of appeals deal with different problems.

Swanson's criticism of Garzia was the second time a member of the old zoning board had been publicly questioned.

Last month an investigation was started of Wuerfel, chairman of the old township zoning board, Philip Maloney, chairman of the new township zoning board, and action in accepting money in two deals concerning the zoning board.

The council also appointed, and Swanson confirmed, six of the seven members to the zoning board for one year terms. They are Ray Crunwell, William Shaw, Tom Costello, Lawrence Stankovic, H. O. Davidson and Alex C. Perinoff.

They will elect a chairman, who will serve also on the board of appeals.

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