

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Crow Hits State Of Westwood Road

WESTWOOD—Seventy people thronged to the meeting of Westwood village's council Monday night at Greenfield elementary school, most of them to protest the condition of Pierce street.

They asked for blacktop or some other form of paving, stop signs and stricter control of traffic by Westwood police, and a clarification on the width the street was intended to be.

They got a lengthy report from Councilman Robert Reed, who said that the village had no money to spend on paving. Reed said that the village had no money to spend on paving. Reed said that the village had no money to spend on paving.

THOUGH many of the residents voiced the need for paving, they objected that paving Pierce would only increase speeding and danger to children.

"I would want to see 60 per cent of the home owners request the paving before we went ahead with it," said Councilman Ted Shurtliff, "when many are opposed to it from a safety standpoint."

Reed said lack of funds necessitated the hold-up on the paving. He said the village's annual plan for the street was a 28-foot width with curbing. The street would have to be brought up to state highway department requirements, he said, which would be a major road, which is entitled to more revenue from gasoline and weight tax returns.

"Right now we are one of the few villages operating roads strictly on returns from gas and weight tax," Reed said, adding that surplus was expected in the tax return fund by spring, which could help finance the Pierce paving.

STUDIES ARE now being made to determine the best way to finance the street improvement, Reed said.

It could be managed by: 1) direct payment by the property owners; 2) a special assessment district petitioned by 60 per cent of the property owners (cost would be \$8 to \$10 per linear foot); 3) the village paying the bill for which it has no funds, or 4) paying the costs by all property owners within the square mile surrounding the street.

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Appearing with Egbert, former Birmingham city manager, was Fred L. Yockey, chairman of the water authority board.

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To criticism of police enforcement of the 25-mile per hour speed limit, Shurtliff said speed limits would be posted on the road, and that the village's police car was doing all it could to enforce the law.

Meanwhile traffic counts are being made at the intersection of the road and the highway.

LATHRUP—Councilman Dave Anderson said at council meeting Monday that he and Mrs. Anderson expected to bring young Dave home from the hospital this week.

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RECENT PHOTO

Westwood Water Use Going Up

WESTWOOD—Westwood can expect to have an ultimate population of about 18,000 persons, who will consume over five million gallons of water per day, a Southeastern Oakland county water authority spokesman told the village council Monday night.

D. C. Egbert, engineer-manager of the authority, said it could continue to supply water to the village of Westwood if it takes over existing water facilities from the township.

The issue is expected to be presented to Westwood voters in the village's spring election.

Egbert said the village's water table was falling, and some well users could find their supply running dry in the near future.

Per capita use of water in the village is estimated to run as high as 945 gallons per day, he said.

THE VILLAGE of Westwood is above average in the quantity of water used due to the village's use of water for lawns maintained here, Egbert said.

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Cite Tax Figures in Hills School Vote, Meetings Set

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—As the Bloomfield Hills school board announced this week a series of meetings to inform school district voters about the proposed millage increase, the chairman of a citizen's financial committee released figures on what the increase would mean dollar-wise to typical Bloomfield township home owners.

The school board seeks an increase of the present millage rate of 17.14 by four mills for the years 1959-61. The increase would drop to three mills for '62-'64, and then expire. The special election is set for Dec. 8.

In addition to increased millage to provide for additional teachers and other operational expense in the fast-growing area, the board seeks authorization to issue bonds totaling \$1,165,000 to finance new school buildings.

TAX INCREASES estimated by financial committee chairman William Donnelly, Chrysler corporation financial advisor and executive assistant to group vice president R. S. Brinkman, were for Bloomfield township owners. The township, Donnelly said, comprises the bulk of the school district's residents.

Based on the present state tax equalization factor used in the township, Donnelly said the owner of a home assessed at \$5000 valuation (about \$20,000 sale value) would pay \$48 more in 1959, the '59 school tax was \$154.36, Donnelly said.

When asked about one township resident's statement that a four mill increase would mean a 12 mill increase under the equalization factor, Johnson said, "Each year the equalization factor is subject to change. What the state hopes to do some day is get the assessed valuation up to where it belongs and drop the equalization factor."

As long as they think assessments are not equal to the balance of the state, they will continue the equalization factor," Johnson said.

In the same vein, Donnelly explained, "The four mills would be in the same ratio as other millages paid by the township owners under the equalization factor."

"What we are after is dollars," he continued. "We have worked back from what our dollar needs are to determine the millage rate necessary to produce those dollars."

Donnelly said anyone may attend any one of the meetings scheduled at district schools to explain the election proposal and answer voters' questions.

At the public meetings, 45 minutes of slides and charts will be presented by Donnelly and his committee.

Two meetings were held this week. Another is set for tonight at 8 p.m. at the set on the high school. Another is set for Vaughan school at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24; Eastover school, Monday, Dec. 8 at 8:30 p.m.; the high school at 8 p.m. Dec. 2 and Hickory Grove school Thursday, Dec. 4.

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Irving Menucci, assistant superintendent of education, presented the problem to the board at its meeting Tuesday night.

One bus carries a total of 80 children to the junior high school, which is not only dangerous but leads to discipline problems on the bus, he reported.

He recommended the addition of at least one bus to alleviate the overcrowding. It would cost over \$4,000 to do so... and that presents the dilemma.

THE BOARD agreed that the condition must be alleviated. However, it considered the fact that the school budget is already operating in the red.

Until the outcome of the vote, Dec. 8, on an increase in the millage rate in the school district, it decided not to take any action.

It recommended that the problem be studied immediately by the citizen's transportation committee.

The board agreed to hold the dedication ceremonies for the new junior high school Dec. 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. Appearing before the board to lay tentative plans for the school was a group from the school's PTO headed by its president, Mrs. Gordon Nyquist.

IN FURTHER action, the board voted to meet several equipment needs of present schools.

These include shop machinery and supplies, a dark room for photography and library tables and chairs at Bloomfield high school; and curtains to eliminate glare in classrooms at Hickory Grove.

The cost of \$11,000 will be paid from a surplus in the school's equipment fund, which can only be used for building or equipment purposes.

ANYONE for Paving? LATHRUP—Residents who want their roads paved next summer will have to work fast to get petitions to the Lathrup Village council by Monday night.

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Parents in Squeeze Play

It was a struggle for big James F. Sterling when he sat in his first grade son's desk last week at open house at Pine Lake elementary school. With a little maneuvering he got seated by jamming his knees under the desk and protruding his feet out toward the teacher.

Sterling was one of thousands of Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham and Southfield school district parents who visited their children's classrooms at open houses held during American Education week.

"With each son's desk I visit," said Sterling, of 3460 Middlebelt, West Bloomfield township, "the fit gets a little easier."

Sterling went from his son Kenneth's first grade room to the third grade room of son Phillip, then on to sit in Richard Sterling's desk in the fourth grade. Pine Lake is the Bloomfield Hills system's newest school.

Lights, Guards Aren't In Westwood's Budget

WESTWOOD—Money was the primary consideration in two items that came before the Westwood village council Monday night at its regular meeting. The two requests were for street lights and a school crossing guard.

The requests brought the statement from Village President Marvin Cline that, "There are a lot of services that a municipality would normally pay for, but haven't provided for them in our budget."

Cline told the people we were going to pay substantially as we have in the past, only with increased police and fire protection, and assuming responsibility for roads.

"These other things will have to come some other way," Cline said.

FIRST "other thing" was the request that the village pay monthly bills for four street lights on the corner of the township. They are the only street lights in the village. The council moved that associations involved must reimburse the village for the \$15.60 per light per month charged by Detroit Edison.

Second request was that the village pay for a crossing guard at the corner where Southfield road, Beverly and Riverside intersect. The guard would watch 150 school children crossing daily to and from homes east of Southfield road. Beverly PTA President Richard Wind and safety committee Chairman Donald Upward told the council that the Birmingham school board didn't "consider safety one of its top priorities" and refused to provide the guard.

WIND said the responsibility for the children's safety at the heavily trafficked intersection was too much for a 12-year-old patrol car. The PTA would not provide the guard, he said.

President Cline remarked that the village, also did not have the funds, and that "our charter is set up so that the village would not provide this kind of service."

He suggested that associations or parents of the children involved assume the cost, about \$184 annually.

Councilman Robert Larson, a Detroit elementary school teacher, said that Detroit public schools pay custodians an additional \$41 per day to guard bus corners near their schools before and after classes.

As the matter was adjourned for further discussion later, Wind said, "I think safety is a concern of the Birmingham board of education."

Appointed to Board WESTWOOD—John H. Corey, of 19075 Beverly, Westwood, was appointed to the village's board of education by council members Monday night.

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Swem Won't Talk About Retirement

SOUTHFIELD—Interviewed in his office Monday, city administrator Eugene V. Swem said, "No comment, as far as my resignation at the end of the year is concerned. My principal interest as administrator is in the future of Southfield."

Swem said he had suggested that the city look for a qualified administrator to take over when his contract expires in April. The city has received some 20 applications for the position.

A RESIDENT of Southfield for 18 years, Swem was elected to the township board in 1953. He was in his 44th year when he was elected.

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