

# 'round the towns news

# The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM

MICHIGAN

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

## Only 2 Bits Refunded S'field Twp

A quarter, a quarter, a fourth part of a dollar in Southfield township's share of the state tax return. This trifling amount puts the township in the position of raising all its own money with taxes, and the rate was set at \$1.58 per thousand of assessed valuation.

Township clerk Francis Adams jokingly commented, when board members were discussing township taxes that the state later wrote a frantic letter saying they should have only received 20 cents.

Board members chuckled at their routing amount of state funds at their meeting Tuesday night, but settled down to decide what the township folks would pay for taxes for the next fiscal year.

Assessed figures were like birds of a feather that couldn't get together, but members finally decided that \$1.58 per thousand would build them a sufficient nest egg.

The figure was based on the township's \$25,315,980 assessed valuation. Last year's rate was \$1.81.

Township supervisor Hugh Alarion Jr. pointed out that the township picture has changed considerably since last year. Southfield's incorporation as a city makes it independent of the township, now composed of the villages of Westwood, Bingham Farms and Franklin, plus a few acres of land that got overlooked in all the incorporations. The village shares of the state returns, leaving Southfield township due only the share of the unincorporated areas.

## S'field May Annex Part of B'ham Area To School District

**SOUTHFIELD**—Possibility of the City of Southfield having a unified school district was explored tentatively this week by the Board of Education.

He informally asked the Southfield board of education Monday night if it would be agreeable annexing the small section in the northeast part of Southfield now in the Birmingham school district.

The board's feeling was that it would be most willing to accept the area, but it expressed some doubt that the area would favor such annexation.

While Southfield board of education could vote to accept the area, residents of the district involved would have to vote to accept the annexation. The board also would need the approval of Birmingham board of education also would be needed. Most students in the Birmingham district in question attend Greenfield school.

At present, the Southfield board commented, it might be of benefit to residents to change as Southfield district's \$28,884 per thousand assessed valuation in comparison with Birmingham district's rate of \$44.50.

**SOUTHFIELD**—The Munn Contracting company operators of the dump at 12 and 13 mile roads agreed in the case of Southfield v. Agattas to do everything possible to stop the odors arising from the dump.

Attorney James Allen told the Southfield council Monday that the odor arises from the compacting of rubbish in ground water, and that the operators of the dump are treating the water with a chlorine chemical.

City and county health departments will make regular checks of the dump.

## Pranks Aren't Funny, Shocked Council Finds

**LATHRUP**—Mischievous, high spirits, pranks or malicious destruction—call it what you will, Lathrup has had it.

At its special meeting last Thursday the city council heard of a rash of pre-Halloween mischief. The council was not amused.

Youngsters have been pock-marking windows with BB guns, and some of the dimpled glass has been the expensive double-paned sheets in picture windows.

Mayor Richard Cogger quoted a city ordinance outlawing air guns and BB guns. Youngsters caught with guns will be brought into juvenile court with their parents, Cogger said, and the parents may be held responsible.

The council also heard a report on grass fires set by youths intent on keeping fire departments busy. Other tales were told of mischief at Lathrup school.

Postmaster Dave Redwood was plagued too. He warned that stamp-happy youngsters were "going a step too far" in raiding mail boxes. The postmaster said that Uncle Sam takes "a dim view" of anyone—even a child—who removes mail from delivery boxes and drops it carelessly in the ditch.

## Can't Shift Ditch, Lathrup is Told

**LATHRUP**—There'll be no change in the controversial Rouge No. 1 project planned to alleviate the condition of the Evans ditch. So says Oakland County Drain Commissioner Daniel Barry.

At a meeting held recently in his office, Barry told Lathrup Mayor Pro Tem Frederick Johnson that the proposed relocation of the Rouge No. 1 or Evans ditch would be impossible because of two hills in the area.

Johnson's report on the session with Barry was given last Thursday night at a continuation of the city council's recessed Monday night meeting. Johnson said Barry had advised that the project could only be relocated a few feet one way or the other for convenience's sake.

AT AN earlier Lathrup council meeting, Lathrup supervisor Charles D. Kelley had proposed that the project be relocated to a direction along 12 mile road and down the west side of Evergreen road.

Barry's negative reply to the proposal was given to Johnson and Mayor Lathrup officials at the Aug. 25 meeting in the drain commissioner's office. With Johnson were council members Melvin Yedlin, Mitchell H. Earl Hanson and Frederick Johnson, plus acting city administrator Gordon Klingensbury and city attorney Everett Hayes.

In their session with Barry, the Lathrup delegation also learned that enclosure of the ditch would cost the city's residents \$400,000 or \$112 per acre.

**BARRY** further explained that the project had been planned to take care of the flow of water from the north of Lathrup and prevent flooding. He told the committee that the line of the ditch would probably follow the rear lot line of Red River street.

The committee found that the stream, when finished, can be bridged, but that it will be necessary for the subdivision or city to build the bridge. The county drain commissioner is interested only in the flow of water.

Johnson, in his report, mentioned that the city at some future time enclose the drain but until that time the county will maintain the ditch, keeping it free flowing and clear of brush and trees.

**ALTHOUGH** A route has not been set for the project, and the city have a say in the location within the realm of good engineering, the county will require an 80 foot right-of-way from the center of the ditch on each side.

Petitions for the project are now ready. A percentage of property owners abutting the ditch will have to request the work. However, any one living in the drainage district may sign the petitions. Before the project can be started, one-third of the residents in the district must petition for it. Petitions, however, would not circulate if the Lathrup city council should vote to reject the project.

Property owners abutting the ditch in Lathrup will be represented.

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## Hello and Farewell! 'Round the Towns Has a New Editor

With this edition, The Eccentric introduces the new editor of the "Round the Towns" section, Julie Candlish. She replaces Mary Schmidt, editor for the last year. Miss Schmidt is being married Sept. 20 and moving to Midland, Mich.

Major Richard Cogger will wait the council to take a stand on the project.

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