

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM MICHIGAN

BEVERLY HILLS • BINGHAM FARMS • FRANKLIN • WOODCREEK FARMS • LATHRUP • BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP • WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP • SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP • SOUTHFIELD CITY

S'field Schools Seek Mills

SOUTHFIELD — Monday evening the Southfield public school board agreed on a budget of \$2,800,000 presented by Superintendent Glenn Schoenhals.

The millage increase is actually only two mills because the present millage will be reduced by debt retirement.

The tentative budget is being submitted to the Oakland county tax allocation board for approval.

A contract was awarded the K. G. Carlson construction company in the amount of \$14,055 for an addition to the Southfield school incinerator room and construction of a fire escape stair from basement classrooms.

THE BOARD granted an easement to the City of Southfield at Northbrook school. Exact location to be determined by architects Dolger, Rollason and Roki.

Real estate agent for the school board, A. W. Stevens, was authorized to purchase an additional acre of land to be added to a nine-acre parcel owned by the school board on Here road.

The present teaching staff of the Southfield public schools will be offered contracts based upon their present salaries, to be reconsidered in June when the budget is finally established.

Approval was granted for a six-week recreation program at Lathrup school to start as soon as possible. The program will be coordinated by the Lathrup PTA recreation committee.

Junior High Addition Cost Is Under Budget

BLOOMFIELD HILLS — With the awarding of contracts for construction of the addition to the Bloomfield Hills junior high school, total cost will be less than \$10 per square foot, according to Architect C. H. MacMahon.

MacMahon said contracts for the 12-classroom addition to the school at Quorton and Wing lake roads total \$188,654. He attributed the low cost per square foot to the incorporation of mechanical and electrical provisions.

Finds Catch Basins Are Hard to Find

BEVERLY HILLS — "Still hunkin'" was the word from Councilman Ted Shurtleff last week in reporting to the village council his attempt to acquire catch basin covers.

The Beverly Hills catch basins "aren't standard," according to Shurtleff, who said the covers to prevent basement flooding would have to be custom made.

Member of Rose Family Causes Thorny Problem

By NITA HARD Franklin Correspondent

FRANKLIN—Will the Mountain Ash become Franklin's official tree? The handsome ornamental member of the rose family and close relative of the apple tree grows to about 30 feet. It has white flowers in large clusters and bears a bright orange berry-like fruit.

Franklin Boy Scout Troop B-11 is planning to plant about 12 to 15 such trees near the center of the village May 9. The troop has asked the council to proclaim it the official tree. Proposing to get permission of private property owners for suitable sites, the troop also asked for council consent to plant some on public land. But therein lies the rub.

THE COUNCIL isn't sure it wants trees planted where they may interfere with roads or drainage work.

Lathrup Council Turns Down Subdividers

Chief Calls Maple-Tel 'Not Most Dangerous'

By SAVILLA SLOAN Special Writer

"Is 'bloody' Telegraph at its bloodiest as it intersects Maple road in Bloomfield township? Michigan state highway department charges that it is."

The department stated this week that, with 41 accidents and 27 injuries at the intersection last year, Telegraph at Maple is the most dangerous spot in the entire state's trunkline system.

The highway department has stated that it has corrective measures "under study." District Engineer John A. Willis said Tuesday that the department would probably have the funds to build an overpass at the intersection for some years.

THE CURRENT study Willis said, was to find the way to aid

a heart attack following an accident when a car coming south on Telegraph make a left turn onto E. Maple. Cars coming north on Telegraph travel up a hill as they approach the intersection. They can't see it until they are almost on it," Dehnke said.

"We do need better traffic control at the corner," Dehnke stated. "It would be amenable to any safe 15 precautions the state highway may have in mind."

Two safety factors which Dehnke himself would recommend for the state-controlled road are reduction of speed on Telegraph at least 1,000 feet before the intersection, and erection of large signs warning motorists of the approaching dangerous intersection.

"ONLY THREE out of ten accidents at this corner involve local residents," Dehnke said. "These precautions would aid drivers unfamiliar with the terrain."

"Most of the accidents occur

Cool On 11 Mile Request

LATHRUP — Subdividers Charles D. and Louise Lathrup Kelley will not know until next Monday's council meeting whether the Lathrup council will approve or reject the abandonment of part of the 11-Mile road right of way they are seeking.

From Southfield road west to Evergreen the 11 Mile right of way is now 126 feet wider than the right of way east of Southfield road. The Kelleys and a half dozen property owners along 11 Mile road have petitioned the county commission to abandon part of the right of way.

The action will add 81 feet to a number of 20 by 100 foot lots on 11 Mile road between Santa Barbara to Evergreen road.

BEFORE Lathrup can approve the abandonment, City Attorney Everett Hayes said he will require a survey, a consultation with city engineers Ayres, Lewis, Norris and May, assurance of easements, and proof of location of existing sewers and utility lines.

On April 2 at a council meeting Kelley agreed that he and Mrs. Kelley would reimburse the city for costs involved, but Monday the Kelleys refused to write a letter of confirmation requested by the council.

The county road commission has set two hearings on the abandonment request for Thursday, April 23, at 2:30 and 8:30 p.m. What happens then will depend upon the stand taken by the City of Southfield and Lathrup Village.

SOUTHFIELD'S City Administrator Robert J. McNutt said Tuesday morning that the Southfield council had decided against the abandonment, although it is possible an agreement might be reached if he receives a letter from the Kelleys promising that the property would not be used commercially.

Members of the township board will act as the park commission. A "meet your neighbor and help put in the park in order" campaign is being planned. Volunteers will try to help the officials clear out underbrush should contact township Supervisor Hugh G. Allerton, Jr.

THE PROPOSED addition to the township hall was discussed with Beverly Hills Council President Marvin Cline and Councilman Dr. Douglas Wood. Beverly Hills will probably rent the additional space from the township to alleviate the present crowded office situation.

The two government officials discussed the design of the facilities and arrived at a tentative rent figure of \$100 per month for the village. Utilities would be paid separately. A final decision is expected at the village meeting Monday.

IF THE FIGURE is accepted by Beverly Hills, it would mean that the cost of the addition would be written off in approximately 15 years.

The township board voted to hire Dr. Carlton Bell of Franklin as the architect for the addition. Bell did the preliminary drawings.

Progress of construction will speed up mid-June when the township receives final notification from the county on its request for funds, based on the \$67,735 budget of which \$20,000 is slated for the addition.

IN OTHER ACTION, the township board voted to accept the Freese Insurance agency's bids on the clerk's and treasurer's bonds.

Mystery Surrounds Beverly Hills Home

Mystery surrounds a Beverly Hills home which was struck by tragedy this week. A search which extends across thousands of miles is underway to track down the killer of Parvin (Bill) Lassiter. Until last week, Lassiter was known to his Beverly road neighbors as a man who liked to talk "over the fence" while he worked in his yard.

Now the gray brick Lassiter home is the focal point of a puzzling crime which may never be solved. (See story, P. 1-A)

Trucker Observes Weighty Message On Signs of Times

WOOD CREEK FARMS — Richard Norwalk, street administrator, recently ordered ten large metal signs to be delivered to his home on Wellington road.

The signs prohibit vehicles from carrying excessive loads over Wood Creek Farms roads during the spring thaw.

Last week Norwalk received word the signs could be delivered. The shipper is observing load limit restrictions and not driving on Wellington. Norwalk had to pick up the signs in Detroit.

He's glad they're so conscientious, but grumbling about the \$3.53 shipping charge.

Wood Creek Drops Law On Swim Pools

WOOD CREEK FARMS — Village officials took the plunge last week and barely got their feet wet on the proposed swimming pool ordinance before throwing in the towel.

They accepted the recommendation of their planning commission and interested citizens to abandon the ordinance because swimming pools are not only part of the village's water hazards.

"This does not mean we overlook the inherent dangers of swimming pools," but we cannot ignore natural hazards like ponds and the creek which cannot be regulated. Restrictions on pools offer only partial and at questionable protection," said resident and pool owner William Dorman.

PLACING full responsibility for supervision and safety on individuals, the council will send a letter to all present and future pool owners, reminding them of their moral and financial liability, and that county and state health laws prevail.

The council has filed the opinion of the Wood Creek Civic association, the Women's Auxiliary and the planning commission, all of whom stated they felt fences and locket gates were undesirable and ineffective.

A public hearing for the proposed fiscal budget has been set for May 5, 8 p.m. at the St. Vincent-Sarah Fisher home.

THE council is submitting a \$3948 budget for general funds, which holds a \$181 margin for contingencies after providing rubbish collection, rent, and other basic operating items.

No tax will be levied in Wood Creek again this year.

BEVERLY HILLS — Approximately 15 acres of grass land on the Hi Dawson estate, 31875 Lathrup road burned Monday afternoon, according to Beverly Hills Public Safety Director Robert Murphy. Beverly Hills and Franklin fire departments brought the blaze under control.

Refuse To Accept New Deed

By DOROTHY ZATPELL Lathrup Correspondent

LATHRUP — Although it took a week promising at first glance, the latest form of the quit claim deed to the city's sewers tendered by subdividers Charles D. and Louise Lathrup Kelley, was turned down Monday by the city council as not acceptable.

Council members who received copies of the new deed form just before last Tuesday's meeting spent the week studying the seven-page document. Monday evening council members gave the wording a fine-toothed combing. They questioned and asked clarification of every detail.

Ever since Lathrup became a city in December, 1953, each succeeding council has made threats and forays in an endeavor to procure title to the city sewers.

TITLE TO the city's water system cannot promptly after incorporation. Although many quit claim deeds to the sewer system have been offered, council after council has refused them on the grounds that they were not legally acceptable.

The city must secure title to the sewers before it can go ahead with construction of new storm sewers needed and legally participate in the Evergreen interceptor project. In January the city declared its intention to go into court to obtain clear title to the sewers. City Attorney Everett Hayes said the new deed form did not give the city the right to build sewers in all easements. Hayes also issued a paragraph to leaving the city of the responsibility of constructing any sewers or frains the subdividers will contract to install under the terms of any deed or contract for the sale of any land.

Kelley, who needs council support to secure the abandonment of part of the 11 Mile road right-of-way should at the council Monday evening. "This is not a case of give and take, this is all give and give,"

MAYOR Pro Tem Frederick O. Johnson said, "This deed is so full of words, I'm glad I'm not a lawyer. The same thing could probably be said in one page."

Mayor Richard N. Cogger, speaking for the council, said, "It appears we are not ready to pass on the quit claim deed tonight. It will have to be next Monday for sure."



They're a Publisher's Dream!

BEVERLY HILLS—When members of the contemporary club met recently at the home of Mrs. John C. Calhoun on Bellvine trail, her colic seemed disappointed that "Lassie" had not yet made the discussion list. Looking over the current reading, "Anatomy of a Murder" by Robert Traver,

are members (left to right Mrs. William Kreis, Mrs. Buck Sullivan, Mrs. Calhoun and Mrs. Robert Groves. The group, organized in 1956, reads a book a month and meets to talk about it. Books are selected for social significance.

White Cane Sale Slated by Lions In Bloomfield

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — Tiny lapel emblems which proclaim that next week is white cane week will be sold by Bloomfield Lions club members Wednesday throughout the area. The white cane sale to finance assistance to the blind will be held at Long Lake and Telegraph; Maple and Cranbrook; Maple and Telegraph, in Franklin village, and Walnut Lake.

Blacktopping Gets Priority From Bloomfield

Harbinger of spring in the suburbs—petitions to blacktop subdivision roads—took up half the agenda at Bloomfield township's board meeting Monday night.

Passed by the board for a first hearing were blacktopping plans for Hickory Heights, Cedarholm Lane, Hammond Lake Estates, Sherwood road Jackson Park drive and Barrington, from Marlborough to Rutherford.

Rejected was a petition from Bloomfield Heights subdivision because only one of the four roads to be blacktopped received the necessary 65 per cent owner signatures.

THE BOARD also rejected a Birmingham request to share the cost of installation and maintenance of lights on West Maple street lights from Westhester to Cranbrook. Birmingham will be asked to cut the proposed number of lights by half.

The board agreed to share with West Bloomfield the cost of erecting traffic signs on Inkster road at its intersections with Lone Pine, Quorton, Walnut Lake and Maple.

A HEATING code uniform with the city of Detroit and surrounding areas was approved. Tabled was the rezoning from residential to commercial the northeast corner of Telegraph and Square Lake roads. The land lies immediately behind a 200-foot deep zoned commercially zoned area.

S'field to Start Improvement on Park Site

SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP — Cooperation was the byword at the Southfield township board meeting Tuesday when officials planned the Southfield township park improvement program and met with Beverly Hills council representatives about the building addition.

Trustee Richard O. Speer was named to lead the township board of park commissioners. He will meet Saturday with representatives of the three township villages to plan the three-unit park on Beverly road, just west of Beverly school.

Members of the township board will act as the park commission. A "meet your neighbor and help put in the park in order" campaign is being planned. Volunteers will try to help the officials clear out underbrush should contact township Supervisor Hugh G. Allerton, Jr.

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Beverly-S'field School Crossing Up For Review

BEVERLY HILLS — The problem of children who daily must cross at a dangerous three-way intersection to get to school will be discussed Monday night by the Beverly Hills village council.

Village engineering consultant Johnson and Anderson are expected to have ready by Monday a recommendation for alleviating the intersection.

No tax will be levied in Wood Creek again this year.

Grass Fire Rages

BEVERLY HILLS — Approximately 15 acres of grass land on the Hi Dawson estate, 31875 Lathrup road burned Monday afternoon, according to Beverly Hills Public Safety Director Robert Murphy. Beverly Hills and Franklin fire departments brought the blaze under control.

Beverly PTA Slates Talk on Reformatory

"Can't Stay Out of Prison" is the topic of a talk at a meeting of the Beverly School PTA, April 20. Following a short business meeting, Ray Hensel, executive vice-president of Rees Industries, Inc., will give his talk based on experiences working with boys and men at the Ionia Reformatory of the Michigan State Prison.

Congratulations, Mayor!

LATHRUP—Congratulations are offered to Richard N. Cogger, who was appointed mayor for a second year by his fellow councilmen Monday night at their first regular meeting after election. Offering their hearty congratulations to Cogger (second from left) are Councilmen David Anderson, Mrs. Elizabeth Mitchell, re-appointed Mayor Pro Tem Frederick O. Johnson, and H. Earl Hanson. In a brief acceptance speech, Cogger said a great deal of constructive work had been done in the past year, and that benefits of it should appear in the coming year. He praised council members who work without compensation for the community. The council meets the first and third Monday at the House-in-the-Woods.