

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

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

Keep Roads Just Free, Beverly Assures

Beverly Will Alter Junction

BEVERLY HILLS—A plan for revamping the three-way intersection of Beverly, Southfield and Riverside was referred to the public safety department for study Monday night by the village council.

Until the plan is effected, the council voted to pay one-third of the cost for a crossing guard at the heavily-trafficked intersection where Beverly school children cross twice daily.

CLINE believed the cost should be split by the village, the PTA and the school board. Although the school board has already stated it cannot share in the cost, Cline said "we hope they will reconsider."

At the same time a PTA spokesman told the council that the organization's state and national policy opposed use of PTA funds for such purposes.

UNDER THE plan suggested by village engineering consultants Johnson and Anderson, part of the intersection would be closed to make Riverside empty onto Southfield. Cars crossing to and from Riverside have increased hazards at the corner.

The sidewalk paralleling Beverly road would be extended to Southfield road with a guard rail. An additional traffic light would halt cars on Southfield a safe distance back from the intersection.

The company estimates cost of the improvement will be about \$2300.

The village council asked for the engineer's recommendation after Beverly PTA president Richard K. Wind and safety chairman Donald W. Upward appealed for a halt to the situation which they said could cause a death or serious injury of a school child.

BEVERLY HILLS—The village council moves back to Southfield township hall for its regular meetings, beginning with the May 4 session. Inadequate heating of the fire hall apparatus room forced the council to rent Greenfield school space for meetings throughout the winter.

Tonight the council will discuss tonight the 1959-'60 budget at 8 p.m. at the township hall at 8.

Swem was a teacher at Redford (See SOUTHFIELD, Page 6-E)



Seeing that every Southfield "old-timer" gets an invitation to the city's first birthday anniversary party keeps Eugene Swem busy at the typewriter these days. Mrs. Swem helps out by bringing food and coffee. Former Southfield administrator Swem will be honored at the event.

Southfield Saying 'Happy Birthday!' To Itself Tuesday

SOUTHFIELD—The city that becomes a city after three election tries feels so happy about its first birthday that it's putting on a big celebration. The one-year-old city will honor its first city administrator at the event.

About 40 senior citizens, residents of the area for 40 years or more, will be special guests at the celebration at 6:30 p.m. next Tuesday at First Baptist church, Southfield at 8 Mile roads.

Councilwoman Jean McDonnell, chairman of the event, has lined up Box Maxwell to MC the dinner celebration. Entertainers will include Jean Loach of WXYZ, the Blaazak brothers, and the Southfield high school choir.

FORMER Southfield township supervisor and city administrator Eugene Swem will be honored.

From his home at 21309 Telegraph, Swem is currently looking up and sending special invitations to residents with 40 continuous years in the township.

Swem said a check of assessment rolls of 1919 has turned up about 60 of the "senior citizens" still living in the area. He said about 20 of them would probably be unable to attend because of illness.

Swem was a teacher at Redford (See SOUTHFIELD, Page 6-E)

Lathrup Fights Right-of-Way Abandonment

LATHRUP — Lathrup will oppose the abandonment of a part of the 11 Mile road right-of-way at a meeting scheduled at 3:30 p.m. today at the offices of the County Road Commission.

Armed with a resolution passed Monday by the council, City Atorney Everett Hayes will appear for Lathrup. Summing up a two-hour discussion Monday, Mayor Richard C. Cooper stated it would be unwise for Lathrup to approve the abandonment until all easements necessary for city sewers were reserved.

Cooper said the twenty foot lot along 11 Mile road, although zoned residential, were not good for development. He stated that in view of the City of Southfield's opposition to the abandonment, Lathrup would not go along with the abandonment until the strips on both sides of the road could be vacated at one time.

PROPERTY OWNERS on both sides of 11 Mile road from Southfield road to Evergreen have petitioned the County Road Commission to narrow the right-of-way from 240 feet to 120 feet. If the proposition is approved by the Commission, 42 to 84 feet of land will be added to the 100 ft. lots facing 11 Mile.

The City of Southfield and the Southfield Planning Commission indicated Monday that they would oppose the abandonment until the 100 ft. lots in Northampton are replatted to assure residential use of the property.

LAND DEVELOPER Louise Lathrup Kelley told members Monday that residential restrictions on the 11 Mile, 12 Mile and Southfield roads were "ridiculous."

"Who would build a house in any of these locations," she asked the council. Mrs. Kelley pointed out that the city was losing valuable tax returns through present zoning.

According to Hayes, the 20 ft. lots on 11 Mile road are deed restricted to business. He pointed out that as long as the lots are platted in 20 ft. strips, there is always the possibility of a court approval of the deed restrictions over the residential zoning.

MRS. KELLEY said she had no intention of replating the lots, first because replating would require 100 per cent approval of Lathrup residents, and second because the frontage was not suitable for residences.

The County Road Commission will hear the petition of land owners in Northampton subdivision at 2:30 p.m. today with the Lathrup hearing scheduled an hour later.



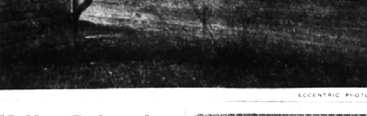
BEVERLY HILLS — Looking over the situation at Southfield township park (left) township trustee Richard O. Speir, Beverly Hills councilman Leo J. Linsenmeyer, and township Supervisor Hugh G. Allerton, Jr., arrived at some conclusions Saturday about repair work needed to develop the area for recreation. Joined later by Beverly Hills resident Clair DuVal, the group decided immediate needs at the weed-infested, unkempt park are: a street light at Beverly and Norchester near the entrance; repair of an open sewer man-hole, the entrance gate and fence; road grading, insect spraying, repair of the log shelter, mowing and general clean-up. The township's \$5,600 budget provides \$5,000 for improvement of the 40-acre park near Beverly school. Below, view inside the gateway to the park shows why the overgrown area now is seldom used by the public. Township residents may be asked to help with a general park clean-up soon.

Pondering a Park

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Hills Schools Budget Raise

Approval of a 1959-'60 tentative budget for Bloomfield Hills school district No. 2 was given by the school board this week. The budget was also endorsed by the citizen's financial advisory committee under chairmanship of William Donnelly.

Expenditures will total \$1,500,425 in comparison with \$1,384,950 for 1958-'59. Increased teacher and clerical salaries more than account for the increase. Other operating costs have been cut to keep the budget within anticipated income.

Actual revenue to the school system is not yet determinable, as county and state tax allocations have not been made.

A BREAKDOWN of the tentative budget for this year compared with last year's expenditures showed administrative costs up \$700 over last year's figure of \$20,250, and costs for instruction leaping from \$983,850 last year to \$1,115,455 for '59-'60.

S'feld Tables Plans For Expressway

SOUTHFIELD—Southfield councilman Monday tabled the State Highway department's plans for a Southfield expressway between Eight and Nine Mile road. Action is slated at a future meeting.

Village Residents Boil Over Road Oil Refusal

BEVERLY HILLS—Temper were short and the discussion was long when the largest crowd to date visited a Beverly Hills council meeting Monday night. They came carrying rocks, but the 75 furious citizens used the rocks for demonstration purposes instead of as projectiles. They went away with a promise that their roads would be kept dust-free—but with chloride instead of the oil they were demanding.

While they talked to their councilmen in the Greenfield school gymnasium, the residents blasted the village refusal to allow them to oil their dusty roads and criticized the village road grading program.

One Franklin Voter Hears New Budget

FRANKLIN—Although it was the first time a budget with village taxes has ever been adopted, and a nine-mile chunk at that, only one resident appeared at the public hearing. He merely listened.

Learning that Franklin's assessed valuation was somewhat greater than first estimated, the council took measures Monday night to adjust budget figures for a \$70,696.24 road program and \$188,970.63 general fund.

ASSESSOR ALFRED EMMERLING presented the final figures obtained from Southfield township rolls, establishing Franklin's real and personal property worth at \$6,586,000.

Thus the general fund gained \$587 over what was expected from one mill to be levied in July, or a total of \$1,000. The additional money was budgeted to miscellaneous funds and replacement of the trunk and chassis for emergency repairs in March, making the general budget \$18,897.

Road money also reflects the increased amount so instead of \$48,000 as first proposed from the 8 mill tax for road work, there will be \$52,696, bringing the total road budget to \$70,696.

REED explained that the big rocks were used to fill sections of roads which had failed entirely and would not otherwise have been passable.

The size of the stones was regrettable, Reed said, explaining that the village's road contractor, Berkeley asphalt paving company, does not have facilities for the "proper kind of fill" and "we had to take what we could get."

ON THE VILLAGE government's preference for chloride over oil for roads, Reed said, "We recognize that most of you may have tried chloride and I don't know of too many instances where it has been successful. But our engineers assure us chloride properly applied in the right concentration will do a very excellent job."

"Once you are on a road, Reed explained, you can't scrape it. Then you get chuckholes," he said.

Reed said the village would charge residents 12 cents a foot (six cents per side) for the summer chloriding program. The 12-cent charge would not pay the cost, Reed said, but the balance would be paid for out of village road funds from the state.

"I THINK THIS IS a pretty fair deal, and we would like to (See ROADS, Page 2-E)

Shopping Center Zone Hearing Set

SOUTHFIELD—A hearing on a request for commercial zoning on Southfield road at 12 Mile is scheduled at 8 p.m. April 30 at Southfield No. 10 school at 10 Mile and Berg roads.

A 36-store shopping center costing more than \$4 million has been proposed at that spot, according to City Manager Robert J. McNutt said recently that most of the property owners between 12 and 12 Mile roads have indicated that they want the property rezoned from residential to commercial.

Yodelohooooo.....

LATHRUP—Crowned with glorious feathers, two of Lathrup village's dapper gentlemen are seen around town these days sporting the latest in masculine millinery, the Alpine hat. Arthur Mitchell, (left), of 4839 Sun Quentin, prefers the whisk-broom type of feather in his hat, while Mayor Pro Tem Frederick O. Johnson, 27333 Golden-gate, likes feathers which take a 180 degree turn.

Talk of the Towns

By JULIE CANDLER
You say you have a sixth grader and he's not doing well in school? Cheer up and listen to a sixth grade teacher. She reported on the academic progress and curriculum of sixth graders recently at a Bloomfield Hills school board meeting. This is the age of greatest conformity," she said. If Johnny wears striped socks to school, looks around to discover if all the rest of the boys have on argyle socks—and then he sees somebody staring at his striped socks—watch out! Johnny may become so upset he won't be able to do his arithmetic. And that could explain some poor scholars. Guess we all know some adult conformists who are still behaving on the sixth grade level. Then again, if we didn't conform in many ways, wouldn't it be chaos?

Million Dollar Blow Slaps 2 Subdivisions

BEVERLY HILLS—A million dollar estimate cooled the Beverly Hills council's enthusiasm Monday night for a proposed improvement project in the Valley Woods and South Berkshires subdivisions. "We are talking about a million dollar job," said a spokesman for village engineering consultants, Johnson and Anderson. It would cost more than that, Anderson estimated, to correct the area's drainage through ditching and storm sewers, provide lateral sanitary sewers to the proposed Evergreen sewer, improve roads and provide the area with a water system. THE MOST expensive part of the plan is the storm sewers, Anderson said. The subdivisions are considering financing the improvements through a special assessment district. Preferring to consider the project in easy stages, the village council asked Anderson Monday to estimate the cost for plans for open ditching to alleviate the area's serious drainage problems. One subdivision spokesman said residents would not be asked to pay for it, but could not do so with present drainage flooring surfaces.

W. B'field Township Homes Ransacked

WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — Three West Bloomfield township homes just south of Pontiac were ransacked Sunday night. Thieves entered the homes of John Babcock, 2103 St. Joseph; Wayne Pelkath, 2117 St. Joseph and William Hill, 2170 St. Joseph. They yanked out drawers and scattered contents about the rooms.