

'round the towns news

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18% Cut Proposed for Beverly Hills Tax Bills



Residents Ask For Clean-Up Of Evans Ditch

By DOROTHY ZATELL, Lathrup Correspondent

LATHRUP — The Evans ditch, or Rouge No. 1 Project, came back into the Lathrup spotlight with a blast Monday evening when three residents presented a petition requesting action on the proposed stream clean-out. The project was tabled last October when most of the same residents petitioned to halt action. Ordered placed on the agenda, the council plans to act on the petition next Monday. City Clerk Frank Derby and City Attorney Everett Hayes will check the legality of the new petition this week.

THE STREAM clean-out has been in and out of action since Sept. 7, 1936 when a petition signed by property owners along the polluted stream was sent to the county drain commissioner. At that time the signers were under the impression that a petition was necessary before the stream could be cleaned out. However, because the petitioners asked for the establishment of a drain district, complete plans were drawn for the widening and deepening of the stream to near-river proportions.

At a public hearing last July attended by 50 residents, Drain Commissioner Dan Berry explained his plans. He said the cost of widening, deepening and straightening the stream would be \$231,000. This would amount to an assessment of \$7 per acre to every property owner in the drainage district. OWNERS OF COSTLY property edging the stream say they are tired of weeds that grow 10 feet high, swarms of mosquitos, and the overwhelming stench created by the stagnant waters. Last Thursday these property owners called Mayor Richard N. Evans, Page 6-E.

Day Camp Time Nears

FRANKLIN — Newly appointed Franklin Day Camp director, Harvey Sterns goes over program details with Mrs. Norman Naimark, camp chairman for the Franklin Community association youth project. Scheduled for June 29 through Aug. 7, the camp will be available for Franklin area children five days a week, for three hours each morning. Sterns lives at 29772 West Brook, Cranbrook Village, and is assistant principal of a school in Oak Park. A teacher and administrator, Sterns has also had camp counseling experience.

Assessor Is Happy: Bingham Tax Is Cut

BINGHAM FARMS—The new Bingham Farms council headed by Haskell Wright got off to a good start Monday by declaring a reduced tax rate for the coming year.

Just a fraction less than last year's 2.797 mills, the new rate is 2 1/2 mills. Agreeing that Bingham's recent reassessment would bring in more money than first expected, the council abided by assessor Walter Gerke's suggestion that computing taxes would be easier at the even figure of 2 1/2 mills. Second Polio Clinic Scheduled May 5 At St. Bede's Church

LATHRUP — A second supervised polio clinic, sponsored by various Southfield residents for the Oakland county group, is slated from 5 to 10 p.m. May 5 at St. Bede's social hall, Southfield and 12 Mile road. First, second and third shots will be administered at \$1.50 per shot. The clinic is open to the public. Another polio clinic is planned Nov. 3.

Talk of the Towns

By JULIE CANDLER Many a suburbanite has seen heavier traffic, a chain of stores, or a new gas station on the corner spoil the peace and solitude of the "home in the country" he thought he was buying a few years ago. It could happen to any home owner, says Beverly Hills consulting attorney Tom Dillon. He quotes an Oakland county Circuit Judge Frank L. Doty, who in his many years on the bench has concluded: "If you want seclusion, buy yourself 10,000 acres and build in the middle of it. And then pray that the government doesn't condemn it!" Talking about the problems of being a township supervisor under the Michigan state constitutional limits, Bloomfield Supervisor Arno F. Hulet describes his conversation with a Michigan legislator. "I was a supervisor once," the legislator told Hulet. "Any time I found the law didn't say I could do something, I just went ahead and did it!" Men and women and shopping don't mix. Men and shopping fine. Women and shopping fine. But let a husband and wife start down the department store aisles together, and it's murder. The husband's attitude is, "Let's get this over with fast and get

Cut Is Permanent, President Predicts

BEVERLY HILLS—There's joy in Beverly Hills this week with the proposal by the village government to cut taxes and there's no put money in taxpayers' purses. Village tax bills mailed July 1 should be about 18 per cent lower than last year. A neat slice in millage from 4.80 to 3.93 mills per \$1000 of assessed valuation is foreseen by the village government. The budget for the year beginning July 1 is slated for a public hearing May 11 at 8 p.m. "I think we can very well level off at this amount," Village President Marvin Cline said this week. He believes we have an adequate budget for future years, and projects that our financial situation will actually improve as village growth continues.

With the village's first year behind it, Cline said, "The main thing is that we know for the first time what our average costs should be. The village also has the experience to gauge accurately what estimated village revenues from such items as building and electrical permits, traffic violation tickets, dog licenses and justice fees, Cline explained. FIRST YEAR'S revenues from other than property taxes were estimated on what Cline calls "the low side," accounting for part of the budget surplus of \$40,000 carrying over from last year. Next year Beverly Hills proposes to give pay raises to public safety officers and the clerk's assistant, and still maintain a \$25,000 reserve. With the cash reserve, Cline said, the village could avoid paying interest on bank loans to finance special assessment districts. Part of the reserve will be invested in 30-day interest-bearing notes. Property assessments in the village total \$38,875,200. The 3.33 mill property tax would raise \$74,113 for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

OTHER REVENUES anticipated next year should reach more than \$56,000. The property tax and other revenues, added to the \$40,000 cash surplus, totals \$170,153. Of that amount, the village proposes to spend \$72,511 for its public safety department, the highest single item in the budget. Other items are council, \$2500; finance, \$3,780; building department, \$5,200; general government (which includes legal fees, garbage and rubbish disposal, rent) \$48,360; clerk, \$10,402; reserve for contingencies, \$15,000, plus a budgeted surplus of \$2000. Included in the \$56,000 of "other revenues" the village receives \$32,000 in sales tax refunds from the state, plus a \$6,000 refund from state intangibles taxes. The village road department, handed over a separate budget, expects to receive \$66,000 from state gas, weight and vehicle tax returns, making a \$104,000 total received from the state.

Cline forecast that "within the next year" the village would have a big job supervisor to oversee running of its new water department. (See TAX BILLS, Page 6-E)

First Steps Are Big Ones For a Pair of 1-Year-Olds

By JULIE CANDLER, Township Editor

SOUTHFIELD—They were born the same day—April 28, 1938. Southfield LuAnn Laskowsky and the City of Southfield showed marked progress as they celebrated their first birthdays.

LuAnn, daughter of the Leonard Laskowsky, 30528 Everett, has acquired a pretty row of teeth and two sturdy legs on which she is taking her first steps. Unlike LuAnn, the City of Southfield was born with some big problems. But the new city has taken some first steps in its direction. And its efforts to feel they are getting somewhere. AS MAYOR Donald L. Swanson puts it, "We faced three major problems a year ago. Now, the problems are still there, but they are looking much smaller." The major problems — sewers, water and roads — faced the city when the voters in what was left of Southfield township approved the charter which made it a city. Earlier in February, 1938, the village of Beverly Hills (now Westwood) seceded from the Southfield union. Discussing what he terms the city's major problems, Mayor Swanson pointed out this week that Southfield is still 50 per cent undeveloped. "BUT," he adds, "as soon as the Evergreen interceptor sewer project is completed one of our major problems will be eradicated and we will have additional growth."

On the water problems, Swanson predicted an end to the unsatisfactory water conditions since the city's voters this month approved taking over their share of the old township water system. "Expansion of the water system can now move ahead rapidly," Swanson said. On road, Swanson estimated "we have increased our maintenance and care of all of the gravel roads. This is the first spring that many families have been able to get to their homes without having to park on the nearest highways and walk in."

BORN WITH a population estimated at 24,984, Southfield has already received 30,000 only a fraction of eventual population that estimates say will be 89,000 to 150,000. To run the area of about 25 square miles, the city this year proposes to spend about \$1 million. It proposes to obtain the revenue by assessing through its last three years of assessed valuation, an increase over last year's five mills, but still under the charter limit of 8%.

HERE'S WHAT residents got for their money last year: The organization and operation of a library board which has studied

swem was presented with a small replica of a large oil painting of himself. The original, fruit-wood-framed painting, with an engraved gold plate delineating Swem's services to both the township and the city, will hang permanently in the city offices. It was presented by Mayor Swanson, Robert Wehler, All-State insurance company representative and member of the Southfield business association, presented Swem with a watch.

CELEBRATING her first birthday on the same day was LuAnn, daughter of the Leonard Laskowsky, 30528 Everett. LuAnn was birthed with a silver dollar. Birthday celebration chairman Mrs. Joan McDunnell, Southfield councilwoman, said LuAnn will receive a birthday gift matching her age in dollars each year she remains a Southfield resident. "SHE'S the only Southfield resident born on the day the city char-

ter was adopted," said Mrs. McDunnell, "and we would like to grow up with her." The city's birthday cake was a gift from local grocer James Jardack. Members of the Southfield Optimist's club, who donated the banquet hall, later cut the cake for guests.

About 40 senior citizens, Southfield residents for 10 years or more, attended as special guests. Clarkston Suggests Land Value Tax For State Needs A tax on land values has been proposed by Rep. S. James Clarkston (14th district) as a possible solution to the state tax dilemma for needed revenue. Rep. Clarkston estimates that the measure would add approximately \$80 million annually to the state treasury based on current land values. The bill calls for Michigan to receive from local taxing units an amount equal to one per cent of the assessed valuation of land in each district. LOCAL districts would maintain all the excess of taxes received on land values and all their taxes received from improvements. In such districts as desired, they could increase or decrease their millage limitation by popular vote. "Basically," he said, "it leaves a tax on the unearned increment landowners realize as land values go up."

Bloomfield Hills Teachers to Get Pay Increase

BLOOMFIELD HILLS — Teachers in Bloomfield Hills school systems will receive an acreage raise in pay of \$40,000, according to salary schedules set up last week by the Bloomfield Hills board of education. In addition seven teachers will be added to the junior high school staff. Starting salaries will remain the same, but the ceiling has been raised by \$100. Range in pay based on length of tenure, for a teacher holding a BA degree is now \$4000 to \$7100. Teachers with MA degrees from \$4800 to \$7300.

HARE TO SPEAK At Dem Meeting Secretary of State James M. Hare, a possible gubernatorial candidate, will be the guest speaker at 8:30 p.m. May 5 at the Bloomfield Democratic club meeting at the Rotunda Inn, 3230 Pine Lake drive, West Bloomfield township. Michigan's financial problems will be the subject of his address. The meeting is open to the public.

Contest Winner

LATHRUP — Louise Hobbs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lann Hobbs, 25665 E. California, Lathrup village, was named a final winner in the 1939 National Merit Scholarship contest held recently. She was awarded the Wirtmire Fred scholarship and will attend Michigan State university where she will study research veterinary medicine. For details on national school scholarship winner, Martin Weirich, Birmingham high school student, see P. 1-A.

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Beverly Okays Oiling Some Village Roads

BEVERLY HILLS — Close to 100 truckloads of chlorinated gravel are being deposited on dust-plagued village streets this week, Beverly Hills Councilman Robert Reed told The Birmingham Evening Post Tuesday. At the same time he announced that the village will allow optional dust control — oil or chloride on some roads not slated for improvement this year.

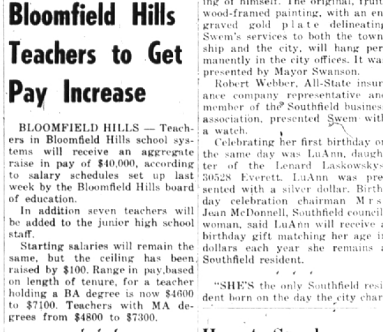
Level chairman of the village committee on roads, said the trucks will move from a two-day operation on Pierce street to Beverly road. Deposit of the chlorinated gravel was made possible by removal Monday of log restrictions against the heavy trucks.

REED SAID the Beverly and Pierce graveling will be followed about a week later with calcium chloring in line with village officials' promise to keep dust under control this summer. Residents are paying the village 12 cents a front

WOOD CREEK FARMS—There'll be a burning on the village green at Wellington and Village lane next Saturday afternoon, when brush and rubbish collected in Wood Creek's two-week Clean-up, Spruce-up campaign is ignited. Crews of volunteers have been scouring vacant lots and piles of debris in the concerted effort to rid the little

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of a major land area for recreation, and is evolving a method for making the purchase through other financing. A board of health which had worked on community health problems. A planning board which not only has spent a great deal of time on future planning, but also has handled a large volume of rezoning requests. (See FIRST STEPS, Page 6-E)



Judging by her expression, things went smoothly this year for Southfield birthday girl LuAnn Laskowsky.

300 Southfield Residents Eat First Birthday Cake

SOUTHFIELD—More than 300 residents watched the City of Southfield blow out the candle on its first birthday cake Tuesday night at a dinner celebration. The event was part of this week's special Southfield Birthday Celebration week proclaimed by Mayor Donald L. Swanson. Gov. G. Meenen Williams and Congressman William S. Bloomfield were among the well-wishers who wished congratulations, while State Representative James S. Clarkston, (Dem. 4th district), attended the event at First Baptist church.

Special honors went to Eugene Swen, 73-year old resident who shepherded the former township of Southfield through its last three years and served as the new city's first administrator. About 40 senior citizens, Southfield residents for 10 years or more, attended as special guests.

Clarkston Suggests Land Value Tax For State Needs

A tax on land values has been proposed by Rep. S. James Clarkston (14th district) as a possible solution to the state tax dilemma for needed revenue. Rep. Clarkston estimates that the measure would add approximately \$80 million annually to the state treasury based on current land values. The bill calls for Michigan to receive from local taxing units an amount equal to one per cent of the assessed valuation of land in each district. LOCAL districts would maintain all the excess of taxes received on land values and all their taxes received from improvements. In such districts as desired, they could increase or decrease their millage limitation by popular vote. "Basically," he said, "it leaves a tax on the unearned increment landowners realize as land values go up."