

Franklin May Vote On Church Purchase

FRANKLIN—A voluminous 21-page report from the committee to study the acquisition of the old church on German Mill road was summarized for the council by Chairman Richard Barnard Monday night.

It recommends a proposal to the electorate which would result in combining the village offices, an improved library and possibly an art center in the old church. Agreeing to give its full content careful consideration in preparation for council action in January, village fathers unanimously commended the efforts of the 13-member study committee appointed in October.

BASED ON the feeling of some that present village offices are inadequate, insecure and poorly located, the committee was charged with looking into the church property as an alternate issue for the March ballot.

Since voters will be asked to decide if the church property should be zoned to commercial, as the result of a petition rejection by the council and planning commission this summer, they may also debate if the village should own real estate not now allowable under the present charter.

IN TRYING to find some reasonable use for the old church which would meet with the approval of residents opposing commercial zoning on that street, the committee recommends the council submit the proposal to the electorate.

However, by combining space for an improved library with village offices and possibly an art center, the committee recommends the council submit the proposal to the electorate.

IN STUDYING the report, the council will have to determine whether the village can afford to spend more than the \$720 it pays annually for its present quarters and the \$250 it contributes to the village. Estimated costs of the old church proposal will amount to \$9200 a year for nine years assuming that the property could be purchased from the Franklin Community church at \$25,000.

Since the village is currently operating on a \$15,000 general fund budget, it is apparent voters will also have to agree to an additional millage to make such a purchase.

THE REPORT assumes there

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Concerned that the Sparrs suffered inequities due to the adoption of ordinance 11, since a major portion of the Sparr property was in Southfield and zoned commercial, councilman Calvert Thomas spoke for approval. However he

annually could be raised by eight-tenths of a mill increase in taxes.

SOME ASSUMPTIONS in the report are to be checked by the village attorney. One is that a reasonable fee for non-resident users of the library is allowable. This is an important point since the Franklin Community library offers its services to those living beyond the village limits, in Bingham Farms, Wood Creek Farms, Meadowlark and a portion of Bloomfield township.

Obviously impressed by the magnitude of the report, several councilmen expressed concern about presenting a plan which would require additional taxes at a time when residents are already paying eight mills for road improvement.

IN ITS present form the proposal indicates that the library would remain a private organization but would report to the council. The village would collect the funds but have no jurisdiction over its operation.

A supplementary report from the library group revealed that their goal is to provide about 5,000 books and a larger space for research and study.

The building might also be available for rental to groups sponsoring art work, music and dance recitals, the report said. It would be offered to the Franklin Community association for youth activities, membership and committee meetings, storage of property and equipment and play groups.

Beverly Hills Man Guilty in Careless Firearm Charge

BEVERLY HILLS—A 51-year-old Beverly Hills man was found guilty of careless use of firearms Dec. 9 at the Southfield township justice court. John Bogema, 19135 Saxon drive, was ordered to pay a \$75 fine and \$25 court costs. Bogema was charged with firing a shotgun at a truck driven by Jack William Suchmacher, a driver for Edward R. White of Berkeley. Bogema had protested when trucks drove on the street on the way to the country club.



GALLERY

Inside Look at Interior Design

University of Michigan interior design students got a good look at Franklin's interiors on a tour last week of metropolitan area interior decorating studios. Stopping in front of the gallery for a formal introduction were (from left) U of M student Sally Sanford of Kensington road, Bloomfield Hills; Mrs. Allene Densy, Birmingham interior decorator; Mrs. Belva Sanford, Birmingham national vice president of the

American Institute of Decorators; student Clerk Anderson Jr., Gleggarry circle, Birmingham; Mrs. Ellene Schonley and James Branstrom of Franklin Interiors and Nancy Maxwell of Mohegan road, Birmingham. The students also viewed the new Yamasaki-designed Reynolds Metal building in Southfield under the supervision of Professor Catherine Heller of the University of Michigan.

Franklin Council Votes Against Rezoning Case

FRANKLIN—A 4 to 1 vote of the village council Monday terminated, for the time being, a year-long battle to rezone a portion of lot 36 in Rosemond Estates, owned by Mr. and Mrs. H. Sparr.

Despite a recommendation of the planning commission to rezone commercial zoning to the northern portion of the lot, a council majority decreed that the 1956 zoning ordinance should not be amended and the residential status of that area within the village limits shall prevail.

Concerned that the Sparrs suffered inequities due to the adoption of ordinance 11, since a major portion of the Sparr property was in Southfield and zoned commercial, councilman Calvert Thomas spoke for approval. However he

reversed his stand when he learned that at least one piece of property had been purchased in the subdivision since the residential zoning became effective. Richard Westbrook declared he was presently building a home on lot 22A, bought in 1955 under residential status.

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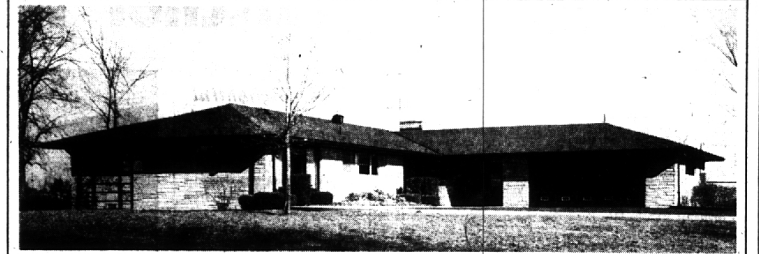
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Carolers to Convene For Franklin 'Fa-la-la'

FRANKLIN—Hark! the herald angels sing? Not quite, but a very substantial chorus of cheery carolers will oblige with several fa-la-las while you deck the halls next Sunday night.

Gathering at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Hodeeman on Greenbriar round 7:30 p.m., about ten couples will dispel visions of sugar plums wherever they go under the hill and date.

There was a particularly cheery assembly Friday at the home of Mrs. Frank Wilson, scenic. Seventeen of her piano pupils tickled the ivories to the delight of their parents, presenting a musicale with solos, duets and even a one-piano quartet. Crowding the piano bench in a rollicking rendition of "Four in A Boat" were Nancy Coburn, Maryann Cole, Diane Chamberlain and Fred Van Varrat.

Mrs. Robert Squires, president of the Thursday afternoon bowling league reports that a buffet luncheon, in good Christmas tradition will be held today at the home of Mrs. L. Craine in Birmingham before getting down to the serious business of averages at Birmingham Bowling lanes.

Nine months of planning were fulfilled for Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ziegelbauer of Franklin road. They returned Monday from a three-week holiday cruise in the Caribbean. Aboard the freighter Alcoa-Chavelier they stopped at ports in the West Indies, discharging American products and taking on goodies for consumption here.

BINGHAM FARMS—Still carrying on their traditional Christmas party dating back to when the children were little and just before Christmas when the house was to be cleaned. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lepine of 13 Mile road are entertaining 14 couples Friday night.

Dancing in the family room is planned to compensate for calorie intake at a smorgasbord repast.

Speaking of calories, the James Washburne family, also of 13 Mile in Bingham Farms, is braced for more of the same with the homecoming of college son Pete.

A student of higher gastronomy at the Culinary Institute in New Haven, Pete is due to arrive this Friday, accompanied by Mrs. Washburne's mother, Mrs. Louise Ziegler. Learning to be a chef, Pete will no doubt dazzle his family with more than one epicurean delight over the holidays.

WOOD CREEK FARMS—About forty couples found enough energy to get gussied up for the annual Christmas party held by the W.C. civic association last Friday night at the Birmingham country club.

Christmas at the William Wischman home on 14 Mile hinges around the expected homecoming Dec. 22 of son Jim. He has been in the Navy for three months and the past seven weeks were spent

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