

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Evans Ditch Clean-Out Halts Again

By DOROTHY ZATELL, Lathrup Correspondent

LATHRUP—Although Monday evening had been set by Lathrup's council for a decision on the future of the Evans ditch (Rouge No. 1 Project) action was again delayed until tonight at the House-in-the-Woods.

In the absence of George Steinfurth, who heads a committee endeavoring to private and improve clean-out of the stream, Charles D. Kelley asked for time to call in an engineer from Ayres, Davis, Norris and May.

Kelley said he thought the engineer could clarify questions on the plan that would widen, deepen and clean out the stagnant pockets in the smelly little creek.

However, some residents are dissatisfied with the plan for the smaller stream clean-out plan. Ernest J. Coverdill, Dr. Douglas J. Watson and Edwin Vanger, representing petitioners for the county clean out, asked council members to release their petition for immediate presentation to the county drain commissioner.

This action came after Dr. Watson had asked Kelley to answer a list of five questions covering cost, jurisdiction and maintenance of the Steinfurth committee plan. Watson said none of his questions were answered satisfactorily.

MAYOR RICHARD N. COGGER then suggested that the Steinfurth committee set up the meeting tonight, so residents concerned with conditions and summer stench could hear from the planning engineer working on the Steinfurth committee plan.

At the same time, the council approved a motion that City Administrator Jerald D. Stone make an appointment with Daniel Barry, the drain commissioner, to turn over the Rouge No. 1 project. The two men will meet if the petitioners are not satisfied with the smaller stream clean-out plan.

ALL RESIDENTS along the stream know that the present stench emanating from the stream is caused by sewage. The situation will be corrected by the Evergreen interceptor is put into operation next year.

A public hearing last summer Drain Commissioner Barry told Lathrup residents that the plan his office worked out for the stream probably seemed extremely large at this time but that future building construction would eventually make the large drain vitally necessary.

PROPERTY OWNERS seeking immediate relief from the stench and swarms of mosquitos felt that action on the drain commissioner's plan will take place on Monday evening five thick and fast. One side urging the immediate action and the other contended that quicker action will come from the drain commission office.

In the meantime, the aroma rising from the stream in the immediate neighborhood is in the air right homes with all windows open, and a creeping odor plagues in homes in two blocks of the Evans ditch.

Shed Burns Twice In Three Weeks, Arson Suspected

LATHRUP—A shed on Rock Creek near Webster, owned by the Lockwood Construction company, caught fire Sunday afternoon for the second time within three weeks. About 6:30 residents said they heard a loud bang and saw black smoke coming from the shed. Diesel oil for the bulldozers stored in large drums sent the fire raging out of control.

A man told firemen that he saw someone run from the building as the fire started. Southfield police are still investigating.

Clifford L. O'Dell of the Lockwood Construction company said that three bulldozers housed in the shed were probably a total loss. Estimated replacement value was \$40,000, he said. The building was completely destroyed.

June 15 the same shed suffered \$25 damages in a fire that was brought under control by Southfield firemen. The cause of this fire is unknown.



New Welcome Mat

BEVERLY HILLS—Councilman Chet Guilmet (left) and Council President Marvin Cline admire the final touch to the village's name change from Westwood to Beverly Hills. The bright new highway identifications will replace old signs some time this week. Councilman Guilmet initiated the change, which was given unanimous approval last spring by village voters.

Voters Will Decide Fate of Old Church

FRANKLIN—A referendum of the voters at the next March general election will determine the fate of the former Franklin Community church building.

Since both the planning commission and the village council turned down a petition to have the property on German Mill road rezoned, the issue must go to the electorate according to charter provisions.

A public hearing was held last Thursday by the planning commission in the village offices. About 80 villagers representing the church and the German Mill roads area crowded into the small quarters to hear Wendell Brown, trustee for the Franklin Community church and attorney Harry D. Wise, Jr., present opposing viewpoints.

BROWN SAID that rezoning was necessary if the church was to consummate its sale of the building to Dr. Harold Fairbanks for use as a medical-dental clinic. He maintained that this was the first bonafide offer the church had to dispose of the old building they ago.

He stressed that the requested professional zoning would help to provide the community with needed medical and dental services. He also asserted that Franklin's zoning code had deprived the church of its rights and said "What the people have taken away, they can restore."

WISE, REPRESENTING the German Mill-Carol road association countered with the argument that this was spot zoning and detrimental to the interests of the residents who had invested sums of money and effort to remodel and restore old homes on the two streets.

Wise said there was adequate commercial frontage on Franklin road which should be considered for rezoning. He said that the village council had made commercial.

On Monday night, the village council held a special session on the petition. They heard the decision of the planning commission summarized by the statement, "We believe we have a good zoning plan. Any changes will have to be brought about by a vote of the people."

BOTH BROWN and Wise were present Monday and repeated remarks made at the hearing. Wise also indicated that the association did not advocate using the church as a nursery school as had been intimated earlier.

The council unanimously voted to deny the request on the same basis as the planning commission. A spokesman for German Mill road residents told the council efforts were being made to interest another church in purchasing the building. Henry Weed, a German Mill property owner, told the council that the association hoped that some day the controversial building could be used for a community library.

Beverly to Issue Drivers' Licenses

BEVERLY HILLS—A Beverly Hills drivers license bureau opened this week at the village office, 13 Mile road just west of Southfield road.

Office hours are from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Any person not able to get a license during these hours should contact the public safety officers at the village headquarters for special arrangements.

Beverly Hills Acts on Zoning

Office Building Proposed In Wood Creek

WOOD CREEK FARMS—Just two-years-old this week, the village of Wood Creek Farms wrestled with growing pains Tuesday night. The council considered a proposed \$100,000 administration office building, a controversial idea for keeping and improving the performance for horses and the problem of law-breaking residents.

Representatives for the Michigan Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons association requested permission to build colonial type state headquarters on the Gable property situated at 13 Mile and northwestern.

REFERRED to the planning commission for study and recommendations, the building is expected to serve as offices for the executive secretary and a staff of six. Non-commercial in respect to parking and function, the proposed building will house state records for the association, provide a monthly meeting place for board members, and house the writing of the association journal, which will be printed elsewhere.

Designed by Birmingham's Mayor, Harry Denyes, the building resembles a residence and would be prohibited by the stringent regulations of the all-residential community, if built.

WOOD CREEK'S current hot potato is the clamor to restrict or prohibit horses. Faced with a petition signed by nearly 75 (See BUILDING, Page 6-E)



A Hole in One!

BEVERLY HILLS—Cameraman will do just about anything to get an unusual angle on a picture assignment. So, The Eccentric's photographer stationed himself on the "other side" of the bean bag target that Hal Heintz was hurling at this week. Although the nine-year-old miss, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard F. Heintz, hasn't been pitching too long, she's accurate. The camera repair bill is slight.

Gas Fumes Kill Lathrup Woman, 38

LATHRUP—Services were held Wednesday for a 38-year-old Lathrup woman who was found dead in her garage Sunday afternoon, the apparent victim of carbon monoxide fumes.

Betty Griswold, 2864 Lathrup was found wedged between the garage door and the car by her brother-in-law, John A. Berner, 1578 Glenwood, Lathrup. He was looking for her because he had not seen her for two days.

MISS GRISWOLD was an attractive blond who was unmarried and had recently graduated from law school. She had just passed her law examinations, relatives said.

In an autopsy showed that Miss Griswold had taken sedatives shortly before her death, but that death was due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

Although the car motor was not running and the ignition closed, (See FUMES, Page 6-E)

Hills B of E Authorizes Hickory Grove Addition

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—Bloomfield Hills board of education has authorized a three classroom addition to Hickory Grove elementary school. Construction will begin this summer and is expected to be complete by mid-winter.

The estimated cost of \$75,000 to \$80,000 will require no additional money from taxpayers in Bloomfield Hills school district.

The greater part will be received from the sale, over a year ago, of the old Hickory Grove school to St. Paul's Methodist church for \$60,000. The remainder will be paid from a balance in 1956 building and site bond funds.

WITH THE ADDITION, Hickory Grove becomes a two unit school. At present it has ten classrooms plus all the special rooms such as library, multi-purpose, kindergarten and kitchen.

According to superintendent of schools, Eugene Johnson, a two unit school is the most economically feasible set-up.

"With three new classrooms, Hickory Grove school will be prepared to take care of future pupil growth for years to come," said Johnson.

Blueprints for the addition are being drafted by the firm of Tarapata & MacMahon, architects for the present school building. They will be presented to the school board for approval at its meeting July 21.

ADDITION to the school will be made with a minimum of disturbance to the school building. It was originally designed for a future addition, and plumbing and heating facilities were installed to meet future demands. Also facilitating construction is a sewage lateral now being installed from the school to the Evergreen interceptor.

Tables Subdivision At Heated Meeting

By DENI SCANLON Staff Writer

BEVERLY HILLS—When the Beverly Hills council and planning board met at a joint session Tuesday night, the council tabled the proposed half-million dollar Nottingham Forest subdivision and turned to a consideration of its zoning ordinance.

The council voted to include in the proposed ordinance a schedule of regulations drawn at the July 1 meeting. Official action will follow a public hearing on the ordinance.

As a result of the acceptance of the council's recommendation, zone districts R-1 would have a minimum lot width requirement of 100 feet; the minimum lot area would be 16,000 square feet. One side setback would be at least 15 feet with the other side setback at least 20 feet.

R-2 ZONE districts would have a 60-foot minimum lot width requirement and a minimum lot area of 75 feet and a minimum lot area of 12,000 square feet. One side setback would be at least 12.5 feet with the other side setback at 17.5 feet.

R-3 ZONE districts would have a 60-foot minimum lot width requirement and a minimum lot area of 10 and 15 feet. This is the second time the zone requirements have been altered.

THE COUNCIL approved the recommendations (not including R-4 districts) following a heated public discussion on the Nottingham Forest subdivision.

A flood of residents from the area adjacent to proposed subdivision site just south of 14 Mile road between Lahser and the Bingham Farms school bus route, took exception against *100-foot lots that would end up looking like Westchester village.

THE RESIDENTS, who all own substantial lots, expressed their desire for a 150 to 150-foot lot frontage and one-half acre sites, or 41,750 square feet of lot area. Many of them objected to any subdividing in the wooded area.

Each owner has the right to do with his property as he sees fit, but the subdivision complies with a reasonable zoning ordinance. We feel the 90 foot lot is reasonable.

One woman told Denison to "get out" after he told the residents he had the council to argue but to hear the council's decision and answer any questions.

THE DUAL subdivision of the Nottingham Forest subdivision and the proposed ordinance were presented by Council President Marvin Cline, who suggested they table the subdivision and concentrate on the proposed zoning ordinance.

HERBERT HERZBERG, head of the plan board, said, "We are trying to make a reasonable plan for the village." He has found it necessary to amend the present zoning ordinance and means to enforce reasonable regulations to govern the uses of village property.

Herzberg went on to explain that the character of the village would be changed due to present sewer plans.

He said that the reason for wide lots was to fulfill septic tank requirements. The requirements would no longer exist when the sewer connections are complete.

As a result, he reasoned, it would be doubtful that the courts would uphold any excessively wide lot restrictions.

Herzberg thinks 60-foot lot frontage and 12,000 square foot area is reasonable based on adjoining area.

He has been Birmingham City Planner for nearly five years. Herzberg spoke of unplatted land and not existing subdivisions could claim preservation of the surrounding character as a reason for higher restrictions.

WHEN THE WRAY councilmen and plan board Monday night tabled their zoning ordinance, they expressed a need for time to consider the subdivision study the zoning.

As Council President Cline put it, "This will be active as anything we have ever had!"

BEVERLY HILLS Begins Weed Cutting Plan

BEVERLY HILLS—Beverly Hills councilmen Monday night okayed a plan to cut weeds on vacant village lots, right-of-ways and alleys.



Director Robert Murphy and Captain Johnny Reed when they asked the "road rules" governing his little automobile.



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