

'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

Rezone 2nd 14-S' field Corner ERO

BEVERLY HILLS—Office zoning now exists on both sides of the Beverly Hills portion of the 14 Mile and Southfield intersection.

At a public hearing Monday, the village council unanimously approved the request of owners of property on the southeast corner of a change from residential to the educational, research and office classification.

Owners Archie Addison of Birmingham and Miller Homes, Inc. have said they plan to erect an office building on the site, across Southfield from a future bank. The council action came despite protests from several nearby residents, one of whom asked, "If they get started here, where are you going to stop?"

H. C. Heuser, 1796 Kirkshire, asked the council to postpone the action until he could check subdivision deed restrictions which he thought could prevent the rezoning. Heuser was advised by Attorney Tom Dillon that any action against the property owners would have to be an action in which other subdivision property owners charged that Addison and the real estate firm were trying to build something contrary to private restrictions on the property.

HOWEVER, a neighbor of Heuser's, Ted DeChavon, told Monday night that investigation had disclosed the subdivision restrictions did not apply to the two lots owned by Addison.

The rezoning involves only six lots, with the request to rezone ERO for nine adjoining lots, some facing 14 Mile road, refused by the council.

The lots rezoned are directly across Southfield from property declared ERO recently to permit building of a branch of the Wayne-Oakland bank at the corner.

The Addison-Miller Homes request was refused by the village council several months ago because they did not feel the rezoning for the proposed office building contained "sufficient" information to act upon," according to Village President Marvin Clin.

CLIN said Monday that the request was a zoning case, and that approval of the plans was a building department function. He told the abutting residents present that the ERO zoning is considered to be a good buffer for residential property.

Storage Shed Burns

SOUTHFIELD—A fire of unknown origin caused minor damage Monday night to a 20 x 50 foot storage shed on Rock Creek drive and Hickoryleaf Lane, Southfield.

The shed is owned by the Lockwood Construction Co., Inc., 29900 Rock Creek drive, Southfield.

Three Local Men In Marine Operation

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.—Marines Sgt. Frank J. Pernicano, son of Mrs. Mary Pernicano of 31007 Auburn, Beverly Hills; Second Lt. Allan C. Hannelman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon H. Hannelman of 2748 Highland, North Adams; and Cpl. Gregory P. Rudy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rudy of 31270 Stafford, Beverly Hills, took part recently in Operation "Twin Peaks" on California's southern coast with Marines from the First Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Court to Test Lathrup Lot Line Restrictions

LATHRUP—Lot line restrictions set up in Lathrup's zoning ordinance will face a test before Oakland County Circuit Judge Frank L. Doty on June 30.

Denied authorization to proceed with building on a basement already constructed because the 10-foot limit between houses, and both the zoning board and the council that he had warned Mehals in writing that he observed the lot line restrictions.



Mrs. Wickham with her work.

Ceramic Epidemic Hits Mrs. Wickham

By DENI SCANLON Staff Writer

BERKSHIRES—Dennis Wickham has a flawless method for getting the family car. With his dad at work, the 17-year-old BHS student subtly says to his mom, "Gee, I like that ceramic piece you're working on now. When is it gonna be done?"

It's a snap! Mrs. T. A. Wickham, spurred by a mere mention of the ceramic work she is devoted to, descends the stairs to her basement workshop headquarters. Dennis has the car!

EVERYWHERE, but everywhere in the basement of the Berkshires, are the hundreds of ceramic pieces, ceramic plates, ceramic bowls, ceramic figurines, and ceramic everything. There are more than a hundred of them, and cabinets of glass, closets of porcelain ware, drawers of lamps, and bowls and cups and figurines.

Mrs. Wickham, whose home is upstairs despite the hundreds of items to dust, works with precision, a knowledge of what she's doing, and an obvious delight in her hobby.

"I WAS THINKING just the other day," Mrs. Wickham jokingly commented, "that it's just a grown-up form of mud pie fun."

The result, however, is incomparable. Most of her work begins in that muddy state but after various operations it is transformed into exquisite ceramic work.

THE WICKHAMS, who live at 7200 Old Mill road in the Berkshires, were both born in a small town near Buffalo and moved to Detroit in 1941.

Mrs. Wickham studied at the School of Fine Arts, Buffalo, in the 1920's but didn't really get into ceramics until 1950.

"The doctor told me that my 'chiric tendencies might someday confine me to our home,'" Mrs. Wickham said, "and that I should develop a hobby so I would have something interesting to occupy my time."

She did it and now the whole home illustrates the enthusiasm for her pastime.

"I don't have an ache or pain while I'm working on ceramics," she said, "I recommend this hobby to anyone with physical or emotional troubles."

SINCE SHE began the hobby, Mrs. Wickham has studied with three instructors in oils and at several ceramic studios.

Nancy and John Hayden, her daughter and son-in-law, have taken to the field, too. Nancy, an art instructor in Terre Haute, Ind., where the young couple lives, is home of Robert D. Martin, 18781 Alhambra.

Chief Calls Youths' Behavior Shocking

By DENI SCANLON Staff Writer

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—"Some parents would be shocked if they knew what their teenagers are doing."

Although most Bloomfield area youngsters are not problems for law enforcement officials, Bloomfield township Police Chief Norman Dehnke said last week there was an alarming increase in reported teenage trouble.

He and his department, totaling seven men, have encountered approximately 70 youngsters in a variety of illegal and immoral activities from June 3 to 12. Most all involve alcoholic beverages.

It is illegal in Michigan for anyone under 21 to have in his possession any alcoholic beverage, open or not. "This is a law Michigan people want and we are hired to enforce it," Dehnke said.

"WE HAVE SITUATIONS like this every spring just before school lets out," Chief Dehnke said, "but this is, by far, the most wild series of incidents."

"Teenagers from Ferndale, Royal Oak, Berkley, and the nearby areas, in addition to Birmingham and Bloomfield youths, have made this a steadily increasing problem," he said.

EARLY LAST WEEK a group from Royal Oak and Berkley held a drinking party at Ward road and Square Lake. Two of the boys were arrested for possession of alcoholic beverages, after threatening the policeman. The other teenagers were turned over to parents.

The next day policemen picked up four Berkley boys swimming nude at Square Lake in the middle of the afternoon.

LATER, FOUR CARLOADS of local boys, all under 17 years of age, were found at a drinking party at Upper Long Lake.

Thursday, two more youths were jailed for possession of alcoholic beverages. The rest of their party was sent home to parents.

Friday, five carloads of Ferndale teenagers, caused residents on Square Lake to phone for police and Bloomfield youths, have made



Seniors March Ahead

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—With the flag leading, Bloomfield Hills high school seniors marched into Christ Church Cranbrook in a solemn procession Sunday afternoon as baccalaureate services opened. The largest class in the school's history will be graduated at commencement exercises tonight at 8:30 p.m. in the school gym. Speaker will be James A. Lewis, Ph. D., University of Michigan vice president for student affairs. (For list of graduates, see "162 to be graduated," page 6-D).

Franklin Frets Over Township Hall Church Zone, Horses

FRANKLIN—Once again Franklin's council finds itself on the horns of a dilemma. The Franklin Community church requesting "professional" zoning for its old building on German Mill, on one side—disturbed residents of that area opposing the move on the other.

Monday night, the council chambers were crowded as a proposed amendment to the zoning ordinance was submitted by the church with signatures of 292 voters.

A tense, watchful audience of German Mill-Carroll road residents heard their spokesman, Henry Wood, counter with a protest petition signed by 95 per cent of those living in the vicinity.

Wood said, "We have all spent a great deal to preserve the character of the old part of the village. It is our hope the old church can be sold for a library or another church or some cultural center which would not offer entertainment, parties, dances or large public gatherings."

"We are definitely opposed to a 'professional' classification," said Wood.

THE CHURCH'S PROPOSED amendment confines the area to lot sizes of 10,000 sq. ft. by the Christian Science church. It states that minimum "commercial" regulations should apply and uses be restricted to professional offices for dentists, physicians, surgeons and orthodontists.

SENT to the planning commission for public hearing at 8 p.m., July 2, in the village gym, the amendment must be acted upon by the council the same night, according to charter timing.

ANOTHER CONTROVERSIAL matter, the problem of horses, has the council somewhat stymied. Councilman Fred Ziegler reported that an inspection of pastures where horses are kept in the vicinity of Greenwood and Woodside substantiated complaints made last week by E. C. Lewis. He said health hazards will be a letdown to property owners requesting a cleanup within five days.

HOWEVER, THERE is a difference of opinion as to whether horses constitute a nuisance. Councilman Calvert Thomas admitted being prejudiced since he owns horses and finds nothing objectionable in their presence.

SAID THOMAS, "I think people who have allergies related to horses should not complain in an area where horses are permitted. If we try to please those who object to horses, we will lose other families who have them. Each side feels strongly about the matter."

Authority Asks Multiple Zoning In Beverly Hills

BEVERLY HILLS—A request for multiple family zoning to allow the erection of multiple family dwellings has been handed to the village of Beverly Hills by the Southfield Planning Commission. The authority seeks the multiple zoning for property it owns in a block surrounded by 14 Mile road, Edgewood, Kirkshire and the uncompleted extension of Madison.

The authority asks multiple on 14 Mile frontage, single family on Kirkshire.

THE AUTHORITY'S Engineer-Manager Donald C. Egbert made the request in a letter last week to village planning commission chairman Herbert Harberg, who reported it to the commission's June 3 meeting. Egbert advised that he and the water authority's land appraisers considered the property best suited for multiple family zoning because it is surrounded by multiple (across 14 Mile in Birmingham) and single family zoning.

Monday night Egbert formally submitted his request for the rezoning to the village council at their regular meeting. The council referred the matter to the planning commission for study and recommendation, after a comment from Councilman Harberg, who reported it, that "I don't think we want to break the line on this multiple zoning."

Egbert told The Birmingham Eccentric Tuesday that the property had been held by the water authority as a site for a second water tank. However, it does not appear at present that if the proposed second tank will be needed. In that case the authority will attempt to sell the property in a saleable condition first, he said. (See ZONING, Page 2)

Stamp Price Goes Sky-high Via Missile

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—Via missile mail the Herman F. Luhrs, 3798 N. Darlington, Gilbert Lake, received a philatelic souvenir recently that may some day be a priceless collector's item. It is already valued at \$1,000.

They received a letter that was "placed in the Regulus I Target Guided Missile on the guided missile submarine USS Barbero in this First Official Missile Mail experiment of the United States Post Office Department."

"The missile was then flown at near the speed of sound from international waters of the Atlantic Ocean by the USS Barbero while on a regular training mission. After the Regulus I reached its destination, the letter was forwarded to the Luhrs."

It was sent by their friend, Arthur E. Summerfield, postmaster general of the United States.

ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC

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- Episcopal Churches Plan Outdoor Service 6-B
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- Hills to Graduate 162 Seniors 6-D



John Meserve and James Branstrom in new office.

Interior Design Studio Draws Admiring Glances in Franklin

By NITA HARD Franklin Correspondent

FRANKLIN—The old timers who used to shoot pool in the tavern on Franklin road would really flip their cues if they could see the place now.

Strictly for the carriage trade, a smart new interior design studio has taken over the ancient frame building. The brain child of an antique young man called James Branstrom, the studio promises to become the showplace of the village.

Of course, it has been a few years since the sheep men and the shepherds strolled in to bend an elbow and pass the time of day. The building has served as a grocery for the past 30 years, changing hands many times and subtly undergoing a gradual modernization in varying degrees.

TODAY, under the supervision of the University of Michigan graduate designer who served his

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