

Big Bills Loom for Bloomfield Township's Home Owners

By SAVILLA SLOAN
Special Writer

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—Several years ago you bought a suburban home in Bloomfield township. In the cost of your home you paid for a well and septic tank system to provide water and plumbing.

Now the township is asking or will be asking you to disconnect your septic system and dispose of your sewage through the Evergreen interceptor. The underground interceptor will carry sewage from Bloomfield township and seven other communities to Detroit for disposal.

In several years, you will be asked to pay the cost of bringing outside water to the township, if planning by township officials is carried through.

This entire program is going to cost you a lot of money. Work begins this week to install a network of Evergreen interceptor trunk lines throughout the township.

Since the interceptor will be completed within a year, payment for tying into the sewage system is in immediate view for Bloomfield residents.

WHAT WILL it cost you?

If you are able to tie directly into a trunk line, you will pay \$600 in tap-in charges and bear the cost of lines running from your home to the trunk line. If a lateral sewer line has to be run from a trunk line to your neighborhood, (and this will be in the majority of cases) you and all property owners served by the lateral will share its cost. Your tap-in fee will be \$300. In most cases, excluding the cost of hooking your individual plumbing in, the total cost will approximate \$1,000 a home.

After tying into the interceptor, you will pay the township six dollars per quarter for maintenance of the sewage system. If you are in a community water system operated by the township, your sewerage bill will be 60 per cent of your quarterly water bill.

If you moved into the township after 1955, you settled where there was public knowledge that the township was going to have to establish an effective central sewage system. For in that year the state department of water resources found the township guilty of stream pollution. In 1956, a circuit court judgment in Pontiac held the township to be in contempt of court should it not proceed forthwith to remedy the pollution.

AS EARLY as 1952, township officials had begun to work on the sewage disposal problem. With Birmingham, the city of Bloomfield Hills and Troy, Bloomfield township formed the North Evergreen sewer authority. Its effort to build sewers was thwarted by its inability to get bonds financed. That was because the township was dependent on revenue from its share of the 15 mill property tax—never a set amount—so its bonds could not get proper "faith and credit" rating.

The township tried in 1956 to get a special half mill tax voted to finance the bonds. This was voted down by the electorate, with only slightly above 600 township residents bothering to vote. At that time, building costs of a sewage system would have been much lower than now, and the bonds could have been financed at a lower rate of interest.

In 1957 the Oakland county department of public works was formed. It has taken over the activities of the now disbanded North Evergreen authority. Under director Harold Schone, both the Farmington and Evergreen interceptors have been planned at a cost of \$12,000,000, of which the Evergreen interceptor is more than 50 per cent of the total cost.

In 1958 a friendly suit was instituted to determine whether the cost of the interceptor violated the 15 mill property tax limitation. The Michigan supreme court gave a split decision in the case and sale of bonds was again held up. Meanwhile, cost of the interceptor was soaring with the passage of time.

Finally an amendment was added by the state legislature to the 15 mill tax limitation law. It verified that the township will have to pay for special assessment, tap charges, or charges for sewer processing.

So your tap-in fee will go toward paying the \$120,000 a year the township will have to pay for 30 years to retire its share of the interceptor bonds. The money was borrowed at 4 1/2 per cent interest.

SHARING the cost of the \$6,199,000 Evergreen are Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham, Troy, Pontiac township, Southfield, Beverly Hills and Lathrup.

Lateral will be paid for by special assessment. Before lateral can be built by the township, owners of 51 per cent of the affected land area will have to vote in favor of it. However, if land owners should vote down a lateral in an area where pollution is a health hazard, the department of public works has authority to build and make assessments without owner permission.

As put by Homer Case, township treasurer, who has had much of the headache in bringing public sewage to Bloomfield township, "Maybe people moved out here to get away from the city, but they'll have to face the fact that city improvements followed them here, and we're going to have to pay for them."

Sprinkles Flood Bloomfield Twp. With Water Woes

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—It was peaceful and quiet Saturday night in Bloomfield and Westchester villages. The gentle swish of lawn sprinklers could be heard up and down the streets. Drops of water gleamed in the light of a full moon.

The quiet in Bloomfield village was suddenly shattered by a boom—a long dry spell in the weather, it seems that each homeowner had the same thought, last Saturday. Lawns and gardens must be watered.

It was obviously an emergency—the innocent sprinklers were causing it.

THE TWO VILLAGES make up Bloomfield water district number one—a \$250,000 well system providing water for 1,200 homes. After a long dry spell in the weather, it seems that each homeowner had the same thought, last Saturday. Lawns and gardens must be watered.

By Saturday night, the wells serving the area had pumped over three million gallons of water—a rate of 1.65 gallons per minute per home. Water in the 1,000,000-gallon reserve tank had dropped to a dangerous three-foot level. Another foot and a half and suction would be lost, and all 1,200 homes would be without water.

SO FIREMEN AND POLICE went to the rescue by warning residents to turn off sprinklers. By midnight, the water reserve had climbed back to a four-foot level. Only one resident had been disturbed by the request to quit sprinkling.

"I WISH" someone thought all residents for their cooperation," said Homer Case, who has charge of Bloomfield water district. "It is not a water shortage, but just a question of too much water used at the same time."

Nevertheless, the board of trustees of Bloomfield township felt that the situation needs permanent remedying so it took two steps at its meeting Monday night to prevent a recurrence.

It passed a resolution limiting residents who use township water systems to sprinkling every other day.

It also authorized expenditure of \$2,000 in construction funds of water district number one to developing an additional well in the system. The well, with a 12-foot casing, is already in existence, but had never pumped enough water to be operated.

The New Rules

- Do you use Bloomfield township water?
- These are new rules for you, adopted by the township board Monday (see story above):
1. If your street number is even, you may operate sprinklers on even numbered days.
 2. If your street number is odd, sprinkle on odd numbered days.
 3. A \$10 fine for violation of the above rules.
 4. Failure to pay the fine brings a water shut-off.

Southfield Bandits Draw Prison Terms

Two Detroit brothers who robbed a Southfield sporting goods store April 16 received stiff prison terms this week in the Oakland county circuit court.

Carl Bailey, 30, was given a 7 1/2 year term to the State prison at Jackson; his brother, James, 28, received 6 1/2 years.

Originally charged with armed robbery, the Baileys pleaded guilty June 8 to assault with intent to rob, being armed, before Circuit Judge William J. Beer who sentenced them.

They were arrested by state police a week after the April 16 holdup of Epps Sporting Goods store, Northwestern and Telegraph. Four guns and \$721 were stolen and 12 customers and employees were left chained together.

The Southfield township board meets at 8 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday each month at the Southfield township fire hall on 13 Mile road, west of Southfield road.

B'field Eyes Restrictions, But No Twp. Master Plan

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—Township planning on a progressive basis rather than on a set over-all master plan... this was the major policy recommended by Bloomfield township planning committee at its meeting Monday with the township board.

As a first step in future planning, George Booth, chairman of the planning committee, recommended to the board that a detailed study of growth potential in the township be made. His suggestion that the firm of Geer associates be hired to make such a study at a cost of \$2,000 was acted on favorably by the board.

THE POPULATION GROWTH potential study is expected to point up the need for a decision by the township as to whether it will restrict future growth to maintain the present character of the area. Restriction of growth could be made by future subdivision restrictions.

THE PLANNING COMMITTEE advises future studies on zoning, subdivision restrictions, local policy, possible need for changing commercial and industrial restrictions.

"We prefer to play by our rather than have an inflexible master plan. This way we will pay for the planning committee, recommended of the initial high cost of a master plan," said Chairman George Booth.

IN ANSWER to board member Gordon Getzinger's question as to whether a master plan would be adopted after preliminary studies, Booth stressed the planning committee's belief that a flexible progressive plan was best.

Growth as it will be broken down in square mile sections, said Booth in answer to a question from board member Henry Hogan, Jr.

MEMBERS OF the planning committee are Booth, Burke Bartlett, John Oster, George Boule, Jr. and Edward Proctor. They have held six meetings since their formation March 4, studying master plans of other suburban areas and meeting with Oakland county planning officials.

If Someone's Generous—All He'll Need Is a Horse!

By DOROTHY ZATELL
Lathrup Correspondent

LATHRUP—Abdul Hamid of Mombasa, Kenya, wants a pair of American-made blue jeans, "hurry, please, send them air mail!"

Early this spring Southfield high school student Ted Garrish of 27835 Lathrup boulevard sent a letter to the postmaster in Lathrup, South Africa, requesting pen pals. The postmaster sent him a letter to the Cape Times who printed Ted's letter. Soon Ted received a number of replies from South Africa. Among them was a letter from Abdul.

"HELLO TED, I have got a pen friend in South Africa who is a pair of American-made blue jeans, 'hurry, please, send them air mail!'"

Early this spring Southfield high school student Ted Garrish of 27835 Lathrup boulevard sent a letter to the postmaster in Lathrup, South Africa, requesting pen pals. The postmaster sent him a letter to the Cape Times who printed Ted's letter. Soon Ted received a number of replies from South Africa. Among them was a letter from Abdul.

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W. B'field Okays New Front Door, Fourth Fire Siren

WEST BLOOMFIELD—Township hall will get a "door-lifting" in the near future. Plans on an all-glass modern front door were authorized at a meeting of the township board last week. Already installed are new trends on stairways in the township building.

It's all a part of renovating and repair expenses set aside in this year's township budget.

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Lathrup Residents Await New Plan For Ditch Cleanout

LATHRUP—Lathrup's council members caught a speedy glimpse of tentative plans for the Evans ditch cleanout Monday before the design was whittled back to the drawing boards.

George Steinfurth and Charles D. Kelley speaking for a group of residents endorsed a stream cleanout said to be smaller and quicker than the clean out planned by the Evans ditch commission. Kelley explained that the firm of Ayres, Lewis, Norris and May will have blue plans ready for the first council meeting in July.

Members of a group petitioning Gordon Getzinger's question as to whether a master plan would be adopted after preliminary studies, Booth stressed the planning committee's belief that a flexible progressive plan was best.

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Southfield Township, City Act on Water Settlement

By DENI SCANLON
Staff Writer

SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP—Southfield city agrees. Southfield township agrees. The Village of Beverly Hills agrees. Now all three will work together on the final settlement of the township water department. By fall Beverly Hills and Southfield city residents should get bills from their separate water departments.

The trio of governments, who have been conferring during recent months on the disposition of the water department, emerged last week from heated discussions with a formula for the divvy.

All outstanding callable bonds will be retired. (Noncallable bonds will be retired through an escrow by the First National Bank). The city will pay for 85 per cent of the debt; the township will pay 15 per cent.

Monies left over will be split at 70 per cent share for the city and 30 per cent for the township.

Mains belong to the community in whose ground they lay.

According to Hugh G. Allerton, Jr., township supervisor and Beverly Hills councilman, meter readers will stop Saturday at each home to get a final reading now that the settlement basis has been decided.

BEVERLY HILLS, the only area in the township involved in the water situation, meets tonight to begin planning for a village water department.

Allerton said that the village could take over their own water department as early as July, but it would probably not be until September.

BEFORE THE SETTLEMENT between the city and township is complete, water department officials and auditors must appraise the equipment and prepare the final proposal. This action will give the village some time to smooth management problems and hire personnel.

SOUTHFIELD MAYOR Donald Dawson, at a price of \$570,400, Andrews called it the largest real estate deal in the Birmingham area in several years.

Andrews lives at 18500 Hillcrest, Beverly Hills. The other developer, Paul Briggs, lives at 31125 Fromm drive, Bingham Farms.

TWELVE INVESTORS are backing the development. They are Wally Burkemo, Nat Brown, Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. N. E. Brown, Jr., William Brewster, William Evans, Harry Shaffer, George Hendrickson, Harold Meloch, Jack McPherson and Bill Monahan.

Eight builders will construct two-story colonial, 1 1/2 story Cape Cod and tri-level houses in the subdivision. Andrews said cost of the homes, most of them four-bedroom, will run from \$35,000 to \$48,500.

THE BUILDERS are Norman McColl, Don Kitchen, Rene Fortier, Julian Wilson, Frank Audette, Lloyd Smith, Ralph Mehal and Carl Kohler.

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Beverly WNFGA Wins Award For Therapy Work

BEVERLY HILLS—Mrs. Edward Crow of Sheridan road and Mrs. Norman Bodine of Sheridan road represented the Beverly Hills WNFGA at the national convention held last week at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island. The Beverly Hills group was presented an award for horticultural therapy.

THE GROWING ANNUAL show was held recently at the home of Mrs. Arnold Young on Beechwood. Honors were awarded for the best arrangements to Mrs. Benek, Mrs. W. W. Templemeyer and Mrs. Edward Crow.

Robbery Suspects Jailed

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—The two brothers involved in the June 17 armed robbery in Bloomfield township are sitting in jail today awaiting legal action.

Richard Eastham, 19, of 474 Oakdale, Pontiac, was arraigned, waived examination and was bound over to circuit court for examination on June 29. He is being held at the Oakland county jail under \$10,000 bond.

HIS BROTHER, 24-year-old David Eastham, was picked up in Battle Creek Friday and brought back to area Saturday. He faces kidnapping charges in Pontiac, but will be turned over to Bloomfield township following his arraignment there.

The two men, according to Bloomfield township police chief Northrup, were involved in the early morning armed robbery of John McLevy, 23, of Pontiac.

Pan Huge Beverly Hills Subdivision

BEVERLY HILLS—Culminating a half-million dollar real estate transaction, Birmingham area's largest land development in several years has been announced by the local firm of Andrews and Briggs.

Work on the new Nottingham Forest development in the western portion of Beverly Hills is expected to start this summer. When completed, it will contain a minimum of 284 homes.

Jack Andrews, a partner in the firm which is handling the development, said the 114-acre area will contain the highest restrictions as to house size of any other subdivision in the Birmingham area.

THE LAND involved is just south of 14 Mile road between Lahser and the Bingham Farms road. It was recently purchased from former owner H. Dawson, at a price of \$570,400. Andrews called it the largest real estate deal in the Birmingham area in several years.

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THE BIG LOT

is not necessary with sewer and water facilities available," Andrews said, "nor is it popular with the public at this time. However, the lots are larger than those in the best section of Birmingham."

Andrews said the subdivision would be within two miles of four public schools, including a high school and junior high, plus two Catholic high schools, a Catholic grade school and one private school.

EACH OF THE eight builders involved will construct approximately five homes per year, and final completion is not expected for about three years. The lots are expected to be constructed this year. Andrews said the firm hopes they would be ready about December, with construction beginning about then. Following installation of roads, water and sewer facilities.