

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM

MICHIGAN

WESTWOOD • BINGHAM FARMS • FRANKLIN • WOODCREEK FARMS • LATHRUP • BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP • WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP • SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP • SOUTHFIELD CITY

Voters of Four Villages to Cast Ballots Monday

S'field Twp. Reassesses Properties

SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP—Notices of assessed valuation increases were mailed recently to approximately 2,000 Southfield township residents, according to Supervisor Hugh G. Allerton, Jr.

The re-assessments have been made since last May, Allerton said, adding that they bring to completion a long-standing program to obtain uniformity of tax assessments in the township.

The supervisor said that he and a team of three part-time assessors found land values in Bingham Farms and Franklin were below those set in Westwood. Consequently, he said, many Bingham and Franklin assessments were made to bring the valuations up to a "more realistic figure, comparable with Westwood."

WESTWOOD TAXPAYERS have had a higher township equalization factor to pay, Allerton explained, because the lower Bingham-Franklin valuations brought the entire township's assessed valuations far below par. As a result, a higher equalization factor has been applied by the county equalization board.

Allerton said he was hopeful (See **PROPERTIES**, Page 5-E)

Clarkson Opposes State Income Tax

Rep. James S. Clarkson assured constituents of his district recently that he is opposed to any form of progressive graduated income tax, if and when such a tax plan is introduced in the legislature.

Clarkson said he welcomes correspondence regarding this or any other related matter.

An Editorial

Our Answer To Village, School Issues Is 'Yes'

Exercising their rights as citizens in a democracy, village and township voters will go to the polls this week to approve or disapprove of important proposals, some of which would result in higher amounts on their tax bills.

They are, in a sense, being asked whether they consider their publicly-controlled schools, roads or community services important enough to allocate some of their private funds to.

Bloomfield Hills School Tax Increase

In the case of the proposal for additional tax millage in the Bloomfield Hills school district (most of which is under township governments), The Birmingham Eccentric believes its taxpayers will be ahead in the long run if they approve the added taxes.

As this newspaper stated before the millage proposal was placed before voters last December, we recommend a "yes" vote. We are convinced that the Bloomfield Hills board of education and its administrative staff are providing economical, first-class buildings and sound instruction for their students, while still maintaining standards set by state and national educators.

Westwood Water Proposal

In Westwood, a proposal of importance will mean nothing out-of-pocket to the village's voters. The village asks them to approve taking over the part of the Southfield township water system within Westwood boundaries. This can be done at no cost, will not mean higher water rates and will give the village "wise and sound" supervision of its own water department operation and rates. The system is financially self-supporting. (See story on "Water Rates" elsewhere on this page.)

Franklin and Bingham Farms

Proposed number one on Franklin ballots asks for approval for the village to join the Evergreen interceptor sewer district. If the village waits, it may find it impossible to take part in the big county sewer project later. Because the need for additional sewer facilities will be felt more and more as the village grows, we recommend a "yes" vote on this important proposal.

For the first time in its history, Franklin's voters are being asked to approve a village tax. The proposal is for up to eight mills for five years, to finance road improvements. The proposal number 2 on both ballots reads, "Shall the council

Franklin Weighs Three Proposals

FRANKLIN—Franklin's village council is like a nervous suitor awaiting a decision from the father of his most cherished love.

Residents will determine Monday the course of taxation in the town time forgot. Like marriage proposals, either decision is important.

Question number one asks for permission to "buy" into the capacity rights from the Evergreen interceptor sewer project. Offered as a future solution to drainage difficulties in certain areas of the village, assessments resulting would be approximately 65 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

IN QUESTION number two, voters are offered a chance to vote the council authority to levy as much as eight mills, if necessary, for such road improvements as additional gravel, re-establishment of "long gone" road crowns, proper ditches and automatic dust control with calcium chloride treatment.

QUESTION number three is an amendment to the present charter which would specifically provide for establishment of special assessment districts, which are now generally authorized under the Michigan law adopted by local voters.

Streets Flood In Westwood

WESTWOOD—Westwood public safety officers pumped three village streets Sunday to alleviate flooding due to thawing ice and snow.

According to Westwood Public Safety Director Robert E. Murphy, more than a foot of water flooded areas of Marguerite, Elizabeth and Buckman. Blocked catch basins and quick thawing caused the flooding, he said.

Director Murphy requests village residents to aid them by clearing debris and ice from the curbs to allow drainage.

Wood Creek Residents Vie For Council

WOOD CREEK FARMS—Adding zest to a small village's election March 9 is the race of four candidates for two, two-year term council seats and the prospects of coffee and doughnuts at the polls. Ballots will be cast at the home of Mrs. Don Wells on Eastbrook.

While village President Alger Clark is opposed for his second term, council incumbents Harry Lang, Jr., and Norman Krieder are challenged by Marjorie Lang and William Scott.

KRIEDER, 46, 2895 Millbrook, a resident 8 years, is a sales manager for Sam T. Keller Co. Father of three children, he has been a school leader for several years and worked on the charter commission at the time of Wood Creek's incorporation.

MRS. LAM, 40, 28130 Westbrook, is the mother of four and earned her dietetics internship degree at Ford hospital after graduating from North Dakota state university. She has served three years as G.S. neighborhood chairman, president of Eagle school PTA and is secretary of the Farmington PTA council. She is also a Kappa Kappa Gamma and a member of Phi Upsilon Omicron.

HARRY O. LANG, JR., 37, 27966 Old Colony, former secretary of the charter commission and president of the Wood Creek Farms Civic association, is a member of the firm of Byrnes-McCaffery, Inc. A graduate of Colgate with additional studies at the U of M, he is the father of four children and an ex-Marine captain.

WILLIAM SCOTT, 28201 Wellington, has been a resident for three years. Married, with a son at D.T. Scott is co-owner of Arrow Mfg. Co. and a member of the Wood Creek Farms Civic group.

Vacating Petition Dismissal Asked By Lathrup Council

LATHRUP—The Lathrup council instructed City Attorney Everett Hayes Monday night to enter an appearance for Lathrup and move for a dismissal of the vacating petition for the 11 mile right-of-way in Northampton subdivision near Evergreen road.

Mason Cottingham, a property owner, and his attorney Harry Totke, told the Lathrup council two weeks ago that they had until March 16 to file any objections to the petition.

According to Totke, Southfield City zoning on 11 mile road is residential. The road itself has a somewhat undecided right-of-way because of existing variations. The 240 ft. right-of-way is effective for only one mile.

6 Seek Council Seats In Franklin Election

FRANKLIN—Incumbents will have plenty of competition from new candidates in the Franklin village election Monday, when voters will elect three councilmen, a village clerk, treasurer and assessor, and decide on three important questions.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and voters will cast their paper ballots at the village offices on the second floor above Goldfede market. Franklin now has 915 registered voters.

The questions voters will decide are: 1) whether the village should join and purchase capacity rights from the Evergreen interceptor sewer; 2) whether the village should levy as much as eight mills in village taxes for road improvements; and 3) whether the village should have authority to issue bonds to finance road construction and improvement under special assessment districts.

COUNCIL

Six candidates have filed for the three two-year council terms to be filled. Listed in alphabetical order, they are:

DR. DUANE B. LURKINS, 57, 25301 Franklin Park drive, is running for office after 19 years' residency in Franklin. A dentist practicing 33 years in Detroit, Dr. Lurkins attended Eastern Normal and received his D.D.S. from U of M. He has two sons, James E., 27, married and living in Florida and John F., 28, presently in California.

ARTHUR R. MARSHALL, 38, 21115 Wellington, also on the ballot for trustee, is vice president of Kaytar, Inc. of Birmingham. A graduate of MSU, Marshall has three children and is attending Franklin school and a daughter at Derby. A licensed pilot, Marshall has (See **COUNCIL**, Page 2-E)

WILLIAM LOUIS KAHN, 36, 28225 W. 14 Mile road, aspires to a trustee post after living 33 years in Franklin. A mechanical engineer for Albert Kahn Associates—Architectural Engineers, Inc., Kahn attended Baldwin and Cranbrook schools, graduating from Purdue. He received his M.A. from U of D.

Father of two daughters at Franklin school and a son attending City and Country school, Kahn is on the Franklin PTA board and a member of Bloomfield Open Hunt, the Engineering Society of Detroit.

Hills Schools' Tax Vote Today

Bloomfield Hills school district voters go to the polls today to decide on two proposals. One would increase school tax operating millage to 4.6 mills for three years, from 3.6 mills for three years. Another proposal would permit an \$800,000 bond issue for additional school construction.

Seven polling places in the district will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

COUNCILMAN Ted Shortliff emphasized that if Westwood and Southfield city voters approve the water proposal, there would be no township water system remaining. Shortliff said many village voters were concerned about duplication of systems.

If 60 per cent of the village's voters approve the proposal Monday, and 60 per cent of Southfield (See **WATER**, Page 2-E)

Treasurer Tells How to Win Friends And Influence Ice

Bloomfield township treasurer Homer Case walked into The Eccentric news office last week with a plea for help.

"We can't handle this drainage problem alone," he said. "Township residents can help us by locating catch basins, freeing them of ice and debris and by digging canals in the ice to the center of the street."

He cautioned residents not to remove the plates from the catch basin because they are engineered to control the proper flow.

He added a sideline advantage to this procedure: "It is also fun talking with your neighbors who are doing the same job."

B'field UHOA Elects 1959 Officers

The merger of two associations of subdivision home owners groups as the United Home Owners Association of Bloomfield Township was completed with the election of officers, Feb. 24.

The board of directors of the merged groups, the Suburban Home Owners and the Federated Civic Associations, elected the following officers:

Dorman B. Dickerson Jr., president; Louis J. Pedemite, vice president; Albert E. Listman, secretary; Stewart M. Gram, treasurer.

THE FIRST ORDER of business for the new association, which represents 41 of the 65 known subdivision groups in the township, will be to establish committees and a program for the year.

Zoning problems, including a suit now underway concerning Maple and Telegraph, head the docket.

The board of directors, in addition to the association's officers, includes Burke Bartlett, Carl Christensen, Raymond O. Darling, Otis Fecker, Noel F. C. Haber, Fred D. Hendrick Jr., Edward M. Hill, John McBride, George J. Kiefer, August Shaak and Fred Warner.

Application blanks for non-member groups who wish to join the association will be available in the near future, according to Dickerson.

ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC

Birmingham Debates How to Finance Library Addition 1-A

Episcopal Church of the Advent Construction Complete 6-B

Cooking School Is Success For The Eccentric 1-C

BHS 'Ah, Wilderness' In 3rd Performance 1-D

Hills, S'field, B'ham Start Cage Contests 8-E

Water, Name Changes Face Westwood Voters

WESTWOOD—Will Westwood take over control of the water system within its boundaries? Will Westwood change its name to Beverly Hills? Who will be named to fill four council seats?

Westwood's registered voters, numbering 3,003, will decide these issues Monday between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. at their respective precincts.

A 60 PER CENT affirmative vote is required to give village officials the go-ahead sign on water department negotiations with the township.

A simple majority would change Westwood village to Beverly Hills. Voters will also name three men to two-year council terms and one man to a one-year term, according to highest vote totals.

Seven candidates, including three incumbents, are vying for the village posts. Robert Larsen, whose term of office is up, has declined to run again.

The seven persons seeking council posts are:

FLOYD G. ABATT, 38, of 32406 Sheridan drive, Agent, New England Mutual Life Insurance Co., Detroit College degree, New School for Social Research, New York. Married, two children. Block captain, Beverly Greenfield association, member of Southfield Rotary, Detroit Life Underwriters association, Resident of Westwood since September, 1956.

LEO J. LINSSEMEYER, 29, of 18428 Beverly road, Sales engineer, Victor Mfg. and Gasket Co., Detroit. Graduate of University of Detroit high school, B.S. and M.A. from U of D. Married, one son. Member, Westwood road commission, treasurer, Beverly Hills association. Adult advisor, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs youth club, assistant in Westwood planning commission survey.

Member of Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce, Society of Automotive Engineers, Engineering Society of Detroit. Resident of Westwood for five years.

JOHN A. MCCLANATHAN, 42, of 31355 Kennaway, Assistant automotive manager, Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Co., Detroit. Graduate of Scott High School, Toledo, A.B. from State university. Married, one

HERMAN J. DRAZICK, 29, of 30435 Pershing, Plant manager of Northeastern Tool and Die, Warren. Graduate of Valley Forge Military academy, Wayne State university. Married, one

Wright **Morse** **Kegar** **Hyland**

Bingham Farms to Vote On Charter Amendment

BINGHAM FARMS—Though there'll be no contest in Bingham Farms March 9 election at Outland's Stables, voters will affirm a slate and decide whether to amend their charter to provide for a public accountancy for special assessment districts and the issuance of bonds for financing road improvement and construction.

Former treasurer **HASKELL E. WRIGHT**, 37, 7000 Telegraph road, a certified public accountant and long-time resident of the area will formally assume the duties of village president. Appointed by the council in 1956, Wright was re-elected last year.

MRS. PAULINE S. MARSON (Mrs. Ralph), 2401 W. 13 Mile road, a resident since 1927 will be the new village clerk. A registered nurse, trained in Chicago, Mrs. Marson has two grown daughters and belongs to the Birmingham Muscular, Fraternity Club, Friendly Circle and she is treasurer for the Franklin WNPFA. She has often contributed her professional services to the Red Cross Blood Bank.

DONALD G. MORSE, 49, 32859 Bingham Lane will be the only new trustee. Director of GMC's employee suggestion plan and on the personnel staff, Morse attended Wayne State university and has been a resident for two and one-half years. He has served the United Foundation and a hospital building fund. He has a daughter attending Radcliffe.

INCUMBENTS Donald Kigar, 54, 32786 Bingham Lane, and William A. Hyland, 58, 30829 Telegraph, have been on the council the past two years.

A resident 17 years, Hyland is a plant engineer for U.S. Rubber and was educated in Ohio with a degree from Case Engineering college. Father of four grown children, Hyland is a Mason and a member of Birmingham Hi-Twelve.

Kigar is a vice-president of Detroit Edison in union relations and received his engineering degree from Ohio Northern. Member of the D.A.C., Detroit Engineering Society and the Economic club, he has a married daughter and has lived in Bingham for four years.

ALSO NEW To the official family is **JAMES M. WASH**. (See **CHARTER**, Page 2-E)