

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

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BEVERLY HILLS • BINGHAM FARMS • FRANKLIN • WOODCREEK FARMS • LATHRUP • BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP • WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP • SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP • SOUTHFIELD CITY

Beverly Drops Apartment Zone

BEVERLY HILLS — A new zoning ordinance which excludes the originally-designated zoning was turned over to council last Thursday night by the planning commission.

Ritner, Lichty Get Answers From Franklin

FRANKLIN — Franklin's council disposed of two nagging problems at meetings last Wednesday and Monday. They rezoned Mrs. Ford Ritner's property on Franklin and issued a building permit to John C. Lichty who is planning to build on a lot in Rosemond Hills estates which was allegedly divided illegally.

THE ISSUE has been hanging fire for more than a year, since Mrs. Ritner threatened litigation over the balance in residential property has been the site of a nursery school.

PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS. The Franklin Interiors, have encouraged Mrs. Ritner to seek rezoning so that the remainder of the lot may also be used as an interior design studio and show room.

Although Councilman Edward Green contended that only 50 percent of Franklin's already commercially zoned property was being developed and protested the addition of more, his colleagues deemed the decision on the "inequity" suffered by Mrs. Ritner in depreciating values.

COUNCILMAN CAL THOMAS made an impassioned argument at Wednesday night meeting stating he felt the property had been "confiscated" without due process of law, although a hearing on the zoning had been held in 1956 and notice published.

ON WEDNESDAY last week, the council voted to issue a building permit to John Lichty although protests had been filed with the village clerk by officials of the Rosemond Hills estates subdivision group.

The problem was a sticky one, since the property Lichty purchased for his home in Lansing was being sold to be illegally divided according to sections of the plat act. The subdivision group (See ANSWERS, Page 3-E)

Southfield Schools Hit By Inflation

SOUTHFIELD — The cost per year for the education of Southfield school children has seen an inflationary rise from \$314.63 per child in the 1956-57 period to \$359.82 per child in the 1957-58 period, Assistant School Superintendent Norman Olmstead revealed this week.

At the same time Olmstead pointed out many of the additional expenses which the Southfield school system should meet next year.

The rapidly growing school system's needs were outlined in connection with the Southfield school board's request to voters for a 3-mill increase in operating funds on June 8.

APPROVAL of the requested 3 mills will not increase the total school tax by 3 mills over the present rate, because one mill less will be levied for building debt service. The increase will be an actual 2 mills. It would mean about \$8 per thousand of assessed value for residents of the City of Southfield and about \$4 per thousand for residents of Lathrup, because of their lower local assessed valuation.

A conservative estimate puts 675 students in Southfield public schools next fall. This is an increase of 224 students from the present enrollment of 6,468. With present classes running from a low of 27 students to as high as 35, the school board is asking for the millage increase above the 15-mill limit.

The increase, if approved, would bring the Southfield schools' total additional operating millage to 6.6 (See INFLATION, Page 6-E)

School Vote Registration

Last chance to register to vote in the important Southfield school election June 8 is tomorrow, June 7. The deadline affects Bloomfield Hills and Lathrup voters.

A Southfield City Clerk Patrick Flannery has promised to personally assist voters in person or more who want to register and can't get to the city hall.

Local Democratic, joined by the 1960 Democratic presidential nomination meeting, joined in an afternoon panel discussion, and thanked out an address in the evening at Detroit's Light Guard Armory.

THE 42-YEAR-OLD, Harvard-educated, senator was accompanied by his vivacious dark-haired wife. The handsome couple were gracious, never refusing to sign an autograph or stop to talk with friends.

Although attentive throughout the speech-making at the dinner, the senator poured over his notes while the state's party workers.

Talk of the Towns

It hurts me to do this. Because I'm on the defensive about women drivers, being one myself. If you've ever been a passenger in a car driven by a male, you know what I mean about ladies at the wheel having abuse heaped upon them.

Now I HAVE to make a confession. There comes a letter from H. A. Dobson, president pro tem of the village of Wood Creek Farms out beyond Franklin. He asks this newspaper to warn motorists in Wood Creek that the council there is not hesitating to issue speeding on the quiet village's roads.

THE ASSISTANT of a certain Birmingham area dentist I know keeps telling me that traffic below his second story window is drawing out these days.

My CONFESSION is this: Some of the worst offenders about whom Dobson has issued his warning, I

Franklin to Keep Village Status, Decides City Advantages Slight

City Costs Too High, Committee Reveals

FRANKLIN — Although Franklin has intermittently toyed with the idea of changing from village to a city form of government, the village council decided Monday night to drop further consideration of the matter.

THE COUNCIL agreed with the recommendation of Richard Kern, chairman of a special study committee that city government at this time would offer Franklin little more than it already has as a home rule village.

AS A CITY, Franklin would have one or two representatives on the county board of supervisors. Kern and his colleagues, Peter Finn and Samuel Gagne, concurred that the compatible relationship between Southfield township and the villages, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin made the present set-up comfortable. Franklin has Harold Rossberry as its township representative.

THE STUDY WAS motivated by the thought that Franklin might receive one mill tax for township services if it became a city. However, the committee positively stated that this money (now only a half mill) would revert to school funds if Franklin bowed out of the township.

THERE WAS A TIME when voters had to register in Southfield and in the village, but on the village clerk is deputized to do both. Aside from the nuisance of having to vote in two places, voters suffer no inconveniences, as in the past.

FRANKLIN'S VILLAGE charter permits reasonable flexibility in government and since the village already has a volunteer fire department and police force and relies very little on township protection, there seemed little incentive to change this status.

A CITY WOULD require a judicial system which acts as a court workers. The present J.P. system is supported by fees and fines.

IN A nutshell, Franklin officials seemed to feel that for the \$4700 being paid to Southfield, the township was performing enough valuable services to warrant maintaining the present status.

THE storage of records, voting equipment, the possibility of requiring the services of a salaried treasurer and full time help all seemed to color official thinking at this time.

THE COMMITTEE WAS instructed to present a written summary including recommended steps to be taken in the event things changed and Franklin again considered changing to city government at a later date.

BEVERLY HILLS — Beverly Hills officials released a statement through subdivisions this week warning residents to be sure that all building, plumbing and heating or electrical contractors are registered with Southfield township.

THE ordinance governing this was instituted for the protection of village residents. Registration assures the homeowner that he is dealing with a company which has passed the necessary tests to qualify for competent building or alteration work.

ALYEA FOUND GUILTY Of Manslaughter

SOUTHFIELD — A jury of eight women and four men deliberated 10 hours Friday, finding Raymond A. Alyea guilty of manslaughter.

It was the second trial for Alyea, a 36-year-old ex-convict, who fatally stabbed 51-year-old Anthony Jasinski Aug. 1 at a Southfield nursery.

THE first trial ended in a hung jury.

District Judge William John Beer will sentence Alyea June 8, last week by Southfield's council.



Mrs. William Clemmons, president of the Bloomfield Democratic club, confers with the senator, a leading candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Senator John Kennedy Does 'Elephant Stomp' in Michigan

Brays of the Democratic donor were head loudly last week when the Honorable John F. Kennedy, U. S. senator from Massachusetts, came to town to celebrate Michigan's Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner.

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Tables Are Turned Out

FOX-CROFT — The picnic tables are ready for action, and so are the kids, who greeted Frank Gracey with enthusiasm and a request for a ride when he hauled the tables to the outdoor barbecue recently. When Gracey, of 6245 Crabtree road, turns out annually with the tables he gets a big reception. Here he watches while some of the children jump from the newly-placed tables into the tractor trailer. Others watch from a favorite spot, the top of the barbecue chimney.

Westwood Village Area Drainage

WEST BLOOMFIELD — More than half the 16 residents of Westwood village subdivision attended the monthly meeting of the township board last Wednesday.

They were present to complain about a drainage problem which has washed away roads, ruined blacktop and washed away the sidewalks.

Supervisor Hiland Thatcher agreed that the road commission, in a survey of the problem, now advised that 30-inch drains are needed.

"The township cannot install these drains at this time, before we complete work on the sewage drains for the area. Otherwise, the \$30 project will have to be done twice," said Thatcher.

The residents agreed reluctantly to the delay and left in a pouring rain which did not help brighten their outlook.

Mrs. Irma Wright 'Teacher of Year' At Southfield High

SOUTHFIELD — Mrs. Irma Wright of Southfield high school was named the "Teacher of the Year" at the honors assembly last Thursday.

This award for superior teaching was made by the Executive Board of the PTA of the high school and its second yearly presentation based also on scholastic qualifications, professional training and service to the teaching profession.

Mrs. Wright is a graduate of Murray State Teacher's college in Kentucky with her master's degree from Wayne State university. She has been with the high school since its opening in 1951 as a teacher of English and Latin. She was recently appointed department chairman for languages, homemaking, music and art.

SEWER CONNECTION Charge Set at \$200

SOUTHFIELD — A recommendation made by City Administrator Robert M. Gorman that approved be made for each residence connected to the Evergreen or Farmington sewer system was approved last week by Southfield's council.

Residents Asked To Check Builders' Village Registration

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