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Troy Approves Water Projects Assessments

TROY—The assessments of two water expansion projects were approved by the city commission Monday night. They also opened bids on water pipes for the project.

City Manager David E. Firestone was expected to tabulate the bids and make a recommendation either Wednesday night at a special meeting or the next regular commission meeting, Dec. 12.

One line, along Premier, will be a city-owned line to service an area that has been cut off from a private line. Cost is estimated at about \$3,244.

The second line is an extension, along Butterfield, of an existing line for eight lots. Both lines are in the southwest corner of Troy.

Members of the East Central Troy improvement association asked why the city isn't laying a water line in their area, when Troy has more than a \$50,000 surplus in the water budget.

"They said past city commissions have promised them top priority because they have waited for some time. Some wells in their area have come up with salt water. They were told by the commissioners that there would be no funds to provide water improvements for the city if Troy takes Detroit water, should the surplus be spent in the east central area."

Hills Records Year's Second Fatal Accident

A 22-year-old Taylor township man was killed and his woman passenger, critically injured early Sunday morning when their car left Woodward avenue and struck a tree just north of Warrington in Bloomfield Hills.

Killed was Donald Martinko, in St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, Pontiac; his wife, Barbara Morris, 28, of Flint, whose condition is described as "poor." She has multiple fractures and internal injuries.

Bloomfield police said Martinko lost control of the car at 2:40 a.m. while traveling north on Woodward on the shoulder lane.

Police said Miss Morris told them the pair had been drinking earlier.

Martinko's death was the second fatal accident in the city this year, the other one occurring in August.

Area Men Will Attend Workshop At Wayne State

Three local and area men will be among the experts on advertising, newspaper management and newspaper research who will meet at a daylong newspaper workshop Jan. 6 on the Wayne State university campus.

They are Paul Averill, business manager of The Birmingham Eccentric; William Haight, managing editor of The Eccentric, and Robert E. Britton, vice president and executive director of marketing-media research-merchandising, McManus, John and Adams advertising company, Bloomfield Hills.

The workshop is sponsored by the Wayne State university press club and is the 12th in a series begun in 1950. All meetings will be held in the McTear Memorial conference center on the campus.

Newspaper personnel from all over Michigan are being invited.

Madison Heights Balks at Backing Incinerator Plan

"Why should we pay as much as the other communities when we alone have the burden of the soot, the smell and the truck traffic?"

With this statement, Madison Heights councilman Roman M. Nowicki summed up the feelings of his city, the only holdout in giving tentative approval to changes in South Oakland garbage and rubbish authority regulations.

MADISON HEIGHTS is the only one of 13 communities which has not given tentative approval to changes in the articles. If their position continues, plans for expansion of incinerator furnaces could be blocked.

The Madison Heights council and the authority board were scheduled to meet following a recent Heights council meeting in which councilmen said they want assurances on other matters first.

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EXACTLY HOW HIGH IS HIGH?

Because of the Washington hearings on the American pharmaceutical industry, the cost of prescription drugs is much in the air today.

Unlike food, clothing, and shelter—staples which are much more important in the average man's day-to-day life—prescription drugs normally take a small part of one's income. But because illness and its costs are so unpleasant, the cost of drugs is naturally a matter of concern. Are drug prices really high? Here are a number of pertinent facts:

It is true that the cost of prescription drugs has risen, like everything else, in the past 20 years. But drugs still take only a tiny fraction of the per capita income—much less than one per cent (0.57% to be exact).

In 1939, the average prescription cost \$11.11. On the average, each person in the U.S. took a little more than one prescription, making the yearly cost \$12.29. By 1958, the cost had risen to \$3.08 and the per capita expenditure was \$10.52. Now, though, the average person was taking well over three prescriptions per year.

If the rise in cost of the average prescription from \$11.11 to \$3.08 sounds high, remember that to work 106 minutes to buy a \$1.11 prescription. In 1958, a production worker had to work 106 minutes to buy a \$1.11 prescription. In 1958, a production worker needed to work only 86 minutes—a saving of 20 minutes—to buy a \$3.08 prescription.

Additionally, most of the "miracle" drugs—penicillin, streptomycin, the broad spectrum antibiotics, cortisone, tranquilizers, and more—were unknown in 1939.

The conclusions are clear: The small average yearly sum spent on prescription drugs—a little more than \$10.00 for every person in the U.S.—buys one of the most valuable bargains on the market today.

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