

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM

MICHIGAN

BEVERLY HILLS • BINGHAM FARMS • FRANKLIN • WOOD CREEK • LATHRUP • BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP • WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP • NORTH ADAMS • SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP • SOUTHFIELD CITY

Pupil Transfer Brings Protest From Parents

FRANKLIN — Dr. Otis Dickey, superintendent of the Birmingham school district, met with a group of aggrieved parents last week to hear their protests to the transfer of their children to Midvale school next fall.

Affecting approximately 36 elementary school children living in the south-east corner of the village, from Oakleaf Lane to Telegraph and from 13 Mile road to the 12 1/2 Mile border, the transfer plan was deplored as discriminatory and emotionally disturbing.

Recommended by the school board, the one-year trial plan was devised as a temporary measure to relieve congestion at Franklin school. However, the time could be extended, Dickey said, if voters fail to authorize bonding for building expansion next fall or possibly next spring.

THE GROUP ASKED for a review of other facilities in the community to accommodate the children. They said they felt such a small group of children of varied ages would be separated from their friends at Franklin School and would be considered unwelcome in a distant area.

Dickey promised to give their opinions every consideration though he was unalterably opposed to "portables or temporary arrangements." These impose hardships on the teaching staff, he said. Stating that he believes children belong in a well-equipped, well-managed school situation, Dr. Dickey declared his final decision would depend on "what is best for their education."

THE PARENTS suggested that students living in the Dorchester subdivision would probably pose a greater problem for Franklin school than their area. Dr. Dickey chided them for "passing the buck" and insisted that the problem had been studied from every standpoint. The school board's decision to select this corner of the village was carefully weighed from every standpoint, he said.

Following a full two-hour discussion in the Franklin school library, it was agreed that further study would be made of the situation with the help of principal Marjorie Tate.

Franklin Gal on Her Toes Her Sideline Is 'Tutu Divine'

By NITA HARD Franklin Correspondent

FRANKLIN — Jackie McGowan is simply "tutu" wonderful!

Spending most of her time in a crisp, billowy cloud of tulle, she certainly knows the "seamy-side of life" that keeps little people in stitches.

It is a pretty strange turn of events for the pretty, vivacious gal who used to fashion things out of steel.

MAKING BALLET costumes for the pupils of Miss Dolores Ruhl, who will be presenting the complete "Nutcracker Suite" at

the Bloomfield Junior High School on June 10, isn't too different from designing steel girder as the wife of Robert McGowan.

You've got to know a lot about stresses and strain if the costume is going to survive all the backstage wigging that goes on during the final rehearsals and the performances, she confides.

FORMERLY A mechanical draftsman for a steel firm in Pittsburgh, where she met her husband, Mrs. McGowan moved to Franklin six years ago. Despite the fact she has no children of her own, she became a Camp-

fire Girl leader. This exposure catapulted her into the world of theatrical sewing and design.

Now she has a whole room in her house heaped with miles of starched skirts, buckram mouse masks and fairy wands.

THOUGH SHE HAS always loved to sew, there's a special thrill in doing ballet costumes. "It's the look on the child's face when she sees herself for the first time in the mirror. It lights up like a pinball machine," says Mrs. McGowan.

From her own sketches, she is creating between 28 and 30 original costumes, costing an average of eight dollars each.

CAREFUL engineering is essential to avert a tragedy on stage, so all her designs are built for movement. Comfort has to be built in, too. Because the dancers' rubber caps under wigs were too hot for the little girls, Mrs. McGowan devised knitted caps out of baby underwear and sewed the wigs to these.

"But you can never relax about this. Even after three months of sewing and fitting, I'll have to be backstage with safety pins, scotch tape and Kleenex."

SHE IS in the ballet, too... playing the part of the mother. However, she failed to persuade her patient, understanding husband to participate as the father. He doesn't seem to mind a stream of little girls through the house; he doesn't mind the whirl of the sewing machine at all hours of the night (Mrs. M. is a type B—late-stayer-upper because she was born at 3 a.m., she says) but he draws the line at being in a ballet.

The artistic and creative talents that keep Mrs. McGowan from the neighborhood as a formidable has other aspects, too. She is steeped in a design course for countries, being given by Mme. Nvart in Detroit.

IN BETWEEN snowflake clouds, Mrs. McGowan is considered Sugar Plum Fairy, she is seriously studying the dressmakers' art of draping, padding, maturing and French finishing. Her idea of a change of pace is to sew on good fabrics, make muslin patterns of originals and redesign her friends' wardrobes.

Revolting some of my personal fiascos, this thimble-shy reporter asked if Mrs. M. ever made a dress for a "bitch."

"Sure," she said, "that's how most 'originals' are born."



Framed by frilly skirts, Mrs. Robert McGowan seams away at the delicate costumes she is fashioning for the "Nutcracker Suite" children's ballet which will be performed June 10 at the Bloomfield Hills Junior High School. That's her "mouse mask" in front.

B'field Township Residents To Vote on Land Purchase; Eye Possible Dog Ordinance

By SAVILLA SLOAN Special Writer

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

One local proposal and a possible second will appear on Bloomfield Township ballots at the Con-Con election Sept. 12.

Township residents will be asked to approve purchase of approximately 10 acres by the township for future expansion of governmental facilities.

The second proposal, which has not yet received official sanction, is a dog ordinance for the township backed by a millage increase to take care of enforcement costs.

Action was taken by the township board at its meeting Monday night to place the land-purchase proposal before the people.

The board discussed the possibility of a dog ordinance, but postponed decision until its next meeting, May 22.

THE LAND which township officials would purchase is a portion of the Newcombe property south and west of town on its boundaries at 4200 Telegraph Road.

The land has been valued for estate purposes at \$4,000 an acre. The township board has ordered a survey to determine the exact area of the parcel it seeks to purchase. It is expected to contain close to 10 acres.

BEFORE TAKING official ac-

West Bloomfield Library Seeks To Borrow Funds

WEST BLOOMFIELD — Two resolutions were passed by West Bloomfield Township Board at its meeting last week.

One resolution seeks permission from the Municipal Finance Commission for the township library to borrow \$50,000 on its anticipated tax revenue due in December of this year.

The money, which is backed by a special one-mill tax for building the new library, is needed to pay off contract obligations on the building, which was completed this Spring.

THE SECOND resolution set up a special tax assessment district for paving of roads in Long Lake Shores subdivision. May 17 was set for a second hearing on the project.

Other business by the board included discussion of the Morris Lake Arm of the Farmington Interceptor.

SUPERVISOR John Richard will meet this week with local and county officials in an attempt to reactivate development of the project.

Payments due on special assessments in the Morris Lake Arm District were postponed by the board until Sept. 1.

Franklin Views Roads, Village Green, Budget

FRANKLIN—Steps to keep the village green and residents considered Monday night as Franklin's council moved through a full docket of budget hearing and adoption, road advisory committee recommendations and localized problems aired by constituents.

Planning Commission Chairman Walter Dreyer presented a revised version of his group's proposal to urge an amendment for the rezoning of the area generally known as the village green.

Presently zoned commercial, the area should be preserved as a "green" island against an open landscaped region where no building should be permitted. The existing school, bathhouse of bandstand, soon to become village offices would be classified as a non-conforming use, and could not be replaced, according to Dreyer's proposal.

EXPLAINING THAT the commission first suggested a "park and recreation area" type zoning, Dreyer went on to say this was reconsidered as inadequate protection.

"We feel there should be a specific zoning which would prevent plans to ever build a public swimming pool, bathhouse of bandstand, or ball-fields on the land that was purchased to preserve the tranquil rural beauty of the green," he said.

"There are lots available in the perimeter area for such purposes. And, if the village ever needs to build new offices or library there, too, should be constructed somewhere else, in the future," he added.

Upon accepting his report, the council indicated the matter would be given prompt attention.

PAUL ROBERTSON, member of the road advisory committee,

BEVERLY HILLS — A village resident has been named head of the newly formed Electro-Medical Research Laboratories, Warren.

William F. King, 3178 E. Warren Trail, is a graduate of the University of Michigan and joined GM in 1950 as a coop student at the General Motors Institute.

Maple, Cranbrook 1st Federal Savings Branch Planned

First Federal Savings of Detroit has received approval from the Federal Reserve Bank of Washington, D. C. to open a new branch office at Maple and Cranbrook Roads in Bloomfield Township, according to Hans Gehlke Jr., president.

Plans for the new branch office are now being prepared and construction will begin this summer.

The new office will provide service and a large parking area around the building.

The building is owned by Mrs. Federal's 15th office. The Association has two other offices in Oakridge, Michigan and Royal Oak and Ferndale.

next meeting, in order to determine

tion on the dog ordinance, members of the board will investigate both costs and enforcement difficulties found in Waterford Township, which adopted a dog ordinance several years ago.

The board will also invite representatives from the United Home Owners Association to attend its

Board members agreed in discussion that the township would need a dog wagon, a dog pound and two enforcement officials.

Any additional funds from the half-mill would be used for the operation of the police department.

A PETITION FOR a sewer lateral serving eight lots on Forman Drive was accepted by the township board Monday night.

Cost of the project is an estimated \$7,900. The petition was signed by owners representing 63.70 per cent of the frontage involved.

The board also accepted the sewer system in Concord Green subdivision for operation and maintenance by the township.

THE COLLECTION of historical documents, mounted on wood and coated in plastic, will be given to the school with an American flag.

The presentation is an exclusive project of the Exchange Clubs of the United States in an effort to further interest and knowledge in important events of the past.

THE AWARD was given last year to Southon High School and Exchange Club officials plan to give one next year to Groves High.

Harry Aten, of Aten and Mason Builders, and Malcolm Ferguson, principal of Beverly School, have been instrumental in arranging for the presentation on behalf of the 48 members of the organization.

Police Dispel Teen-Agers In Near Riot

BEVERLY HILLS — "Invitations" promising "free beer and free bands" at an "open house" almost caused a small riot at 18262 Buckingham Friday evening.

About 200 teen-agers, who received cards printed by unknown pranksters, descended in 75 cars on surprised homeowner Gregory Gingsel.

Four policemen from Beverly Hills, four from Southfield, another four from Birmingham and two sheriff's officers dodged bottles thrown by the disgruntled "partygoers" for two hours before quelling the disturbance at 1 a.m.

TWO POLICEMEN suffered minor injuries from bottles that were thrown, according to Beverly Hills police, who said the boys and girls present ranged from teen-age to 21 years.

SOUTHFIELD — A fire started by a small boy playing with matches in a bedroom closet caused about \$200 damage, according to Southfield firemen. The blaze was reported at 9:10 a.m. Saturday by the owner, Ernest Dietz, 29777 E. Crest.

Matches Start Fire

BEVERLY HILLS — A fire started by a small boy playing with matches in a bedroom closet caused about \$200 damage, according to Southfield firemen. The blaze was reported at 9:10 a.m. Saturday by the owner, Ernest Dietz, 29777 E. Crest.

'August Moon' in May

FRANKLIN — "Hah, so" — Franklin Village Players Earl Ramsey, Richard Caskey and Mrs. Phil Van Dyke, principals in the May 19, 20, 26 and 27 production of the "Teahouse of the August Moon" put on Oriental costumes for a take-off on American

WNFGA Helps Landscape School

BLOOMFIELD VILLAGE—After raising funds from a telephone bridge, four members of the Bloomfield Village WNFGA dug in last week to plant the fruits of the group's effort. Hoping to give a spark to the landscaping of the Village School are (from left) Mrs. Philip Copeland, chairman

of the civic improvement committee; Mrs. Arthur Morrow, vice president; Mrs. Lee Biske, civic improvement committee; and Mrs. Robert Kilpatrick, president. Mrs. Ivan Ludington and Mrs. Derwin Walker are also officers of the branch.



ECCENTRIC PHOTO

ECCENTRIC PHOTO