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Traffic, Road System Topic In Beverly Hills Master Plan

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second in a series of four articles on the recently completed master plan for the Village of Beverly Hills. The first week it is the street system. The next two subjects will be sewers, drains and water facilities and the habits and history of Beverly Hills and its residents.

By DENY SCANLON
Township Editor

BEVERLY HILLS—Traffic and roads are an integral aspect to consider in the development of a master plan.

Village planners took a close look at Beverly Hills' street system and came up with some interesting observations and suggestions.

The board members in their recently completed master plan, pinpointed three major factors that influence traffic.

THE FIRST is "population concentration."

The population of an area increases, a relative increase in the number of motor vehicles will occur.

The second factor is "intensity of land use."

The type of development in an area also indicates the amount of traffic that will be present. Traffic generators—shopping centers, office buildings or industrial areas—lead to the amount of traffic.

The third factor that influences traffic is "ownership and use of motor vehicles."

Today, more people than ever before own automobiles. The number of miles that people travel per vehicle is also increasing.

According to statistics gathered by the Beverly Hills planners, it is estimated that the United States 450 billion passenger car miles were traveled in 1950, as compared to 302 billion passenger car miles traveled in 1940.

BRINGING THESE factors home to Beverly Hills, the planners state simply that "more people and more cars mean more traffic and the need for proper street and road development."

Traffic within the village is, today, handled easily by the existing street and road system.

Most of the village families, perhaps a majority, are two-car families. The relatively high ratio of cars per family, however, has not yet resulted in an internal traffic problem.

PLANNERS STATE, "it would appear that Southfield Road, with a daily volume in excess of 9,000 vehicles for a 24-hour period, represents the major traffic problem for the village."

The Oakland County Road Commission has estimated that the

volume of traffic on Southfield Road doubles by year 1970. This being the case, it would seem logical that sufficient right-of-way must be maintained along Southfield Road in anticipation of the widening of the road to approximately five lanes.

"With respect to safety problems generated in the village because of the traffic situation, it is important to review the problem existing at the three-way intersection of Southfield Road, Beverly Road and Riverside Drive.

"This situation, which will probably worsen as traffic increases, should be corrected by diverting Riverside Drive traffic directly onto Southfield Road, north of the present intersection, or onto Beverly Road, west of the present intersection."

IN BEVERLY HILLS, the streets are divided into three categories—major arterial thoroughfares, collector streets and residential streets.

The major arterial thoroughfares in the village are 13 Mile Road, Greenfield, Southfield and Lahser, designated as county roads and maintained by the Oakland County Road Commission.

THE VILLAGE COLLECTOR streets include Pierce Street, Beverly Road, Riverside Drive, Norchester Road, Evergreen and Greenfield. They handle through traffic as well as channeling traffic into and out of adjacent residential streets.

"With respect to other major roads in the village," planners say, "there are presently no plans for further widening of 13 Mile Road west of Greenfield, and there are no specific plans for widening 14 Mile Road from Greenfield to the United States Road. Greenfield Road has been widened to four lanes north to 11 Mile Road, and plans are currently being developed for the further widening of the road to four lanes north to 13 Mile Road."

Oakland County has suggested, "that the village consider the likelihood of the widening of Greenfield into a plane road north to 14 Mile Road."

THE PLANNERS call improvement of the village roads the pressing problem facing the village where the street system is congested.

"Although the major thoroughfares are constructed primarily of concrete surfaces, some of them are gravel."

Nearly half of the collector streets, residential streets, are also constructed of gravel, thus providing the Village Road Commission with a continuing problem of road maintenance and care.

"With nearly 40 per cent of the

village roads consisting of gravel surface the maintenance problem is of prime importance. This is particularly true following periods of severe weather when the type of road tends to deteriorate rapidly."

THE PLANNERS are not financial experts but discussing road improvement projects, they came up with two suggestions to pay for the road work.

The first is assessing abutting property owners on a "local street tax."

A second possibility is establishing special assessment districts where benefiting residents would be assessed for the difference between the total cost of such a program and that amount paid for by the abutting property owners.

BASED ON THE material gathered, the village planners made several recommendations.

1. An enlarged Village Road Commission, consisting of qualified village residents, should be established.
2. The commission, with engineering, construction and financing representatives, would be able to more completely assess the road requirements.
3. The village government should study the need for road improvement, drainage requirements, elimination of traffic and other factors to determine the most accurate estimates of the funds required to implement the recommended program.
4. Discussions should be entered into with county and state highway and road authorities for the purpose of mutually planning the development of such major roads as Southfield, Greenfield and 13 Mile Road.
5. Such discussions should also be entered into with representatives of communities adjoining Beverly Hills.
6. All new streets in the village should be constructed of concrete as specified in the village subdivision ordinance.
7. As major or collector roads are improved, they should have built-in speed controls where possible.
8. For instance, to prevent Pierce Street from becoming a "race track," islands should be built at the intersections so as to insure against automobiles traveling at high rates of speed.
9. In order to beautify the village streets and roads, the village government should encourage the planting of trees along roads and streets.

This encouragement could be in the form of trees being donated by the village or in the form of village maintenance of trees donated by residents.

8. Further efforts must be made to obtain a full-time traffic engineer to direct the operations of Southfield and Beverly Roads.

The recent construction of the Beverly Hills Athletic Club and the future construction of Medical Village further aggravate an already potentially dangerous situation.

9. A comprehensive study should be made of the advisability of installing additional sidewalks in the village, particularly in and about school areas.

An example of the need for such sidewalks is a situation which exists along Beverly Road from Southfield Road to the Beverly School.

10. All village park areas—usually created at triangular intersections—should be regularly mowed and maintained.



Case for the Books

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—Case for the books? You bet he is! Bloomfield Township Treasurer Homer Case, who suffered injuries in a recent automobile accident, can't bear to be parted from his ledgers. Each day, since he's been confined at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, he has taken time

to give work orders to Township Clerk Mrs. Deloris Little center. He's taking directions, however, from Nurse Celia Goodwin (right) who, with other members of the medical profession, make sure the balance of his day is spent mending from his mishap.

'Nature Bee' Not So Grand—Everybody Loves

FRANKLIN—Fifth and sixth-grade students of Mrs. Gretchen Brundage's class at Franklin school feel they really got stung last week by a nature lesson.

Happy as larks on a beautiful September morning they started out on a short field trip to the field across from the school—the sixth grade to collect fungus, especially mushrooms, and the fifth grade, insects.

WELL, THE sixth graders got their fungus and nearly everybody got in touch with insects—namely, yellow jackets, the sticky little verminants who build their carefully concealed nests close to ground.

To say the class made a bee line for the school, is an understatement. Stabbed repeatedly after someone accidentally kicked over the nest, some thirty wounded naturalists fled for cover and first aid.

FOR THE BALANCE of the day, principal Marjorie Tate's office looked like an evacuation center. The walls and floor were littered with silent sufferers, each bravely sporting one or more sores and water paste patches on their bodies—each feeling dreadfully betrayed.

Who said nature is grand?

'Little' Bit of Charm Presides at Meeting

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—The president officer at Monday night's meeting of Bloomfield Township's Board of Trustees was a bit more ornamental than usual.

By apologies to its regular chairman, Township Supervisor Arno Hulst, the difference was because Deloris Little sat in the center seat on the rostrum.

The petite township clerk was appointed chairman pro-tem for

the night in the absence of Hulst, in Lansing for an assessor's convention, and Township Treasurer Homer Case, abed with a fractured hip.

CLERK LITTLE presided over the meeting with poise and dispatch.

MATTERS HANDLED included appointment of a temporary city defense chairman for the township, Charles Wiggins, 734 Yarnmouth, was appointed to the job. Wiggins has agreed to begin organizing township city defense committees while the township continues to hunt for a qualified citizen willing to take the job on a more permanent basis.

CONSTRUCTION contracts for two township sanitary sewers were awarded. Detlor Inc. won both contracts.

A bid of \$4,500 for construction of Pontiac County sewer and one for \$5,394 for Forman Drive sewer was accepted.

ACTION ON rezoning property on the southeast corner of Walnut Lake and Inletter Roads from commercial to residential was deferred by the board until it consulted with the township planning commission, which has approved the rezoning.

ZONING OF property on Wood (See MEETING, 2-E)

Bingham Trims Funds For Drainage of Road

By NITA HARD
Bingham Farms Correspondent

BINGHAM FARMS—With the recent rains ravaging roads in Bingham Farms, the township decided it could not spare the \$2,100 estimate to correct all the drainage problems on the road.

Instead, Monday night they agreed to authorize street commissioner Donald Morse and commissioner John Gress to spend up to \$600 for the best possible drainage on the east side of the road in accordance with recommendations of the village engineer.

A grading of all the village roads is scheduled for October.

Morse also produced an 11-page ordinance on the creation of special assessment districts. Circulating four copies among his colleagues for study, Morse indicated that it would be impossible to procure a complete cost estimate for residents of Bristol Lane and Bristol and Sager Courts, in time for a fall work program.

THE COUNCIL plans to hold a special meeting Sunday to review the ordinance for early approval. However, more time will be needed to ascertain financing costs, although a front footage charge could be estimated, Morse said.

The council has been charged with providing a complete cost breakdown of the Blacktopping project which is to be presented in a letter to residents, required to sign petitions to establish the special assessment district.

Ray Forsyth, Lahser Road, will receive a written expression of thanks from the council for his cordiale co-operation in removing an abandoned shack from his property. Residents had voiced fears that the shack, which was an "attractive nuisance" and urged the council to have it removed. The council responded to an unofficial request.

THE COUNCIL also agreed to

visit the home of Robert VanderPyl on Bristol Lane to inspect the shack. VanderPyl has been installed to assure privacy of his property and to shield his view from his neighbor's unfinished home.

VanderPyl is objecting to the violations charge he received from the village and contends that his screen does not constitute a fence and need not comply with ordinance regulations. He urged the council to make a first-hand inspection before he files an appeal on the basis of hardship.

The council also passed ordinance nine to clarify swimming pool ordinance eight, as amended. The new law stipulates that pool fences must be exactly four feet in height; pools are classified as accessory buildings and must comply with such code regulations.

S'field Township, City Must Pay for Elections

SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP City. The incorporation came after several unsuccessful votes that date back to 1952. The incorporation bill includes for the cost of the Village (now surrounded by Southfield City) or the northern villages of Beverly Hills, Blue Ridge and Franklin—which now constitute the majority of Southfield Township.

SOUTHFIELD CITY has paid the cost of the successful election by the county to recover funds it spent for the earlier elections.

The township is now "locality" must pay for the election. The point was whether "locality" was city, township or county, or a combination of all or part of the three.

New Home's a 'Sweet' Place

FRANKLIN—Cider sippin' "sisters" get the taste of a Franklin Fall. Foreign exchange students, Sonia Salazar of Quito, Ecuador and Barbara Pohler of Peine, Germany (center), are flanked by their American "sisters" Angel Dudson (left) of 14 Mile Road, Franklin, and Judy Porter (right) of Wood Creek Farms. Here for the

6 Persons Injured In S'field Collision

SOUTHFIELD—An expectant mother and five other persons were injured last Thursday afternoon in a four-car collision on Nine Mile Road, about one-half mile east of Southfield Road, 21, of Farmington.

THE OTHER victims were: Mrs. Fay Ziaboh, 88, Detroit a fractured right elbow and multiple bruises. Shirley Leweson, 58, of Los Angeles, Calif., fractured left rib possible ruptured spleen. Ida Kusner, 62, Detroit, fractured right arm and concussion. Eudora Moise, 37, Utricht, lacerated chest.

James Miller, 61, Detroit, broken right hip, fractured ribs.

Police said the accident occurred at 1:45 P.M. when a car driven by John B. Politt, 62, of Detroit struck the rear end of the car driven by Mrs. Joyce Ziaboh. Both cars were heading west on Nine Mile Road.

MOISE TOLD POLICE he was going east on Nine Mile, and was unable to avoid a head-on collision with the car driven by Mrs. Joyce Ziaboh. He was ejected from control into the eastbound lane.

The fourth car, driven by Irving Furr, 41, Detroit, was on the side by Politt's car. Furr told police he was driving east on Nine Mile Road when he was struck by Politt's car spun out of control and veered into his lane.

Furr's car was close to the intersection of the stage Liquor Control Commission.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN Gordon Getzinger told the board that the committee has investigated 14 applications in all. Study meetings will be held on 10 and Sept. 18. Final issuance of the license to the successful applicant is the state of the stage Liquor Control Commission.

GETZINGER REPORTED that although approval of the township is necessary before the license is issued, it does not mean that it will be forthcoming from the state commission. He said there had been a virtual stoppage in the state of issuance of any type of liquor license at present.

MILLER WAS a passenger in Mrs. Joyce Ziaboh's car when she was struck by Mrs. Leweson and Mrs. Kusner. Mrs. Ziaboh was ejected from control when she was struck by Mrs. Leweson's car. She was close to about an hour.

No tickets were issued.

Pine Lake Loses Fight to Tighten Lake Restrictions

By SAVILLA SLOAN
Special Writer

WEST BLOOMFIELD—Owners of property fronting on Pine Lake have lost their fight to have restrictions raised in use of the lake by offshore residents.

Pine Lake Association had sought to have West Bloomfield Township Planning Board amend the zoning ordinance to require ownership of 25 feet of lake frontage for family in recreation areas on the lake developed for the use of residents of neighboring subdivisions.

Present zoning requires ownership of two feet of lake frontage per family.

Members of the planning commission have decided to make no change in the present zoning.

Their decision was made in August, but no notification of it was given to either West Bloomfield Township Board or Pine Lake Association.

NEGLECT ON THE part of the zoning commission to notify the Pine Lake Association of its decision, as well as the decision itself, was protested by association president Paul John at the township board meeting last week.

John reminded the board that it had been a year since the township residents on Pine Lake had sought action from the planning commission to protect the overcrowding of the lake.

"We attended meeting after meeting, but the township board was trying to get some action taken," John said, "but because we felt we were antagonizing you by our attendance we stopped coming."

"I would like to be made, we were not informed that it was on the agenda so we could be present. Then we were not informed of the decision," John protested.

Township board member John Warren, who is also a member of the planning commission answered, "It wouldn't have done any good for you to be there," he said. "Your petition asking a 25-foot restriction was incredible."

THE PETITION upon which the commission acted was signed by 145 owners of Pine Lake frontage representing almost 100 per cent of lake front owners. It asked the 25 foot restriction for some four only on Pine Lake, the north part of Walnut Lake and Hammond Lake are the only township lake properties in zone four.

The move by Pine Lake residents to have the zoning restrictions changed was occasioned by the development of Pine Lake Estates Subdivision. Developers of the subdivision have 600 feet on the north side of Pine Lake. (See LAKE, 3-B)

Reduce Charge, Suspend Sentence Of Pontiac Youth

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—Charges of felonious assault against an 18-year-old Pontiac youth were reduced and he was found guilty of a misdemeanor by the Peace Area Gilbert Tuesday.

Fredric Hansen was sentenced to two days in county jail. Sentence was suspended.

HANSEN AND Ronald Kushion, 19, of Pontiac were arrested Aug. 14 after Kushion allegedly threatened a truck driver employed by the Pontiac branch of Poole Hardware.

The incident reportedly occurred when the two boys were being held at the Miracle Mile branch of the defense chairman for the township, Charles Wiggins, 734 Yarnmouth, was appointed to the job. Wiggins has agreed to begin organizing township city defense committees while the township continues to hunt for a qualified citizen willing to take the job on a more permanent basis.

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ZONING OF property on Wood (See MEETING, 2-E)

Council Sponsors S'field Blood Bank

SOUTHFIELD—The Southfield PTA Council, for the fourth consecutive year, will sponsor a blood bank. It will be held Tuesday from 1:45 to 3 p.m. at the church building at Northwest Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church.

This is an area bank which will enable the donor to designate where or to what group his donation will be given. It is needed rarely, the donor or a member of his family may receive blood from this bank.

Appointments and information may be obtained from Mrs. Becky Boschna, 28418 Everett, Southfield.

Elsewhere in the Eccentric

Road Widening Program Planned By Oakland County

1-A

'Vertical Look' In Area Home

5-B

Village Women's Club Fall Meeting At Pine Lake

1-C

Youth Section Begins Again

1-D

Noted Race Car Driver Visits Waterford Course

8-E

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Liquor License Okayed for Bar At Bowling Alley

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—Upon recommendation of the liquor board, issuance of a Class C license to John L. Brown for the sale of mixed drinks was approved at a meeting of Bloomfield Township Board Monday night.

Brown represents Great Lakes Bowling Corp. The license is for installation of a bar at Strike and Bowler Alley, located on Maple Road near Telegraph.

This is the first Class C license issued by the liquor subcommittee since it was established a year ago to review applications for additional liquor licenses in the township.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN Gordon Getzinger told the board that the committee has investigated 14 applications in all. Study meetings will be held on 10 and Sept. 18. Final issuance of the license to the successful applicant is the state of the stage Liquor Control Commission.

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