

Propose Steps to Improve Emergency Water System

Birmingham city commissioners were presented with a report Monday night on the city's emergency water system.

Discussion of the report, prepared by John F. Saeffe, city administrative aide in charge of civil defense, was postponed due to the absence of Commissioner Robert W. Page. Page is especially interested in Birmingham's civil defense program.

In his report, Saeffe recommended two proposals for improving the emergency water system.

The administration to accelerate its civil defense efforts during the Cuban crisis.

Birmingham gets its water supply from the city of Detroit through four valves along 14 Mile Road.

In case of an emergency, the supply could be shut off either electrically or by hand and Birmingham would switch over to the old well system.

Both the Wakefield and Southfield wells are maintained in a standby status and are tested weekly.

If the decision to shut off Detroit water under disaster conditions is made, the orders would be issued to the fire department.

Two men in two vehicles can shut the water off and return to the fire station in less than 20 minutes, according to Saeffe.

HE ADVISED THAT equipment be purchased to operate the Southfield well, the city's largest stand-by water source.

Saeffe also urged that additional firemen be trained in procedures involving the emergency water system.

The commissioners had directed

SAEFFE SAID that the wells could supply the city with "sufficient water to meet the city's emergency needs."

Known as the Wakefield, Southfield and Walker wells, they are located at the west end of Wakefield, the east end of Wakefield and at the Walker gravel pit, respectively.

At the present time, only the Walker well is producing under a

ALL OF THE wells are powered by electricity and controlled from the Adams fire station. If the city should want to pump water at a time when there was no electrical power, emergency power would be pressed into operation.

In 1951 the city purchased a 100-kilowatt gasoline-driven generator. The generator, which is truck mounted, has sufficient power

Tax Bills Sent To Residents; Due Dates Listed

Area taxpayers facing Christmas bills have one consolation as they settle down to write checks at year's end.

They can pay their latest county, to operate the motor at either the Wakefield well or the Walker well.

school and township tax bills without penalty through Jan. 10—if they live in Birmingham, Lathrup, Southfield Township or the City of Southfield.

In Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield and W. Bloomfield townships, the penalty does not take effect until Feb. 16.

The penalty after these dates; in all cases, is four per cent until the end of February. Beginning March 1, late taxpayers will pay one-half of one per cent per month at the Oakland County treasurer's office.

THE MOTOR at the Southfield well would require either a very large generator or direct drive—prime mover of 160 horsepower.

Saeffe and Fire Chief Park Smith are currently investigating the possibility of obtaining a generator to operate the well from federal surplus equipment but thus far have been unable to locate one.

A new generator would cost about \$16,000, Saeffe said, and the cost would be much less if a surplus one could be found.

TAX BILLS were mailed from Southfield Township on Nov. 29 and from Birmingham and Lathrup on Nov. 30. Bloomfield Hills sent their bills out on Dec. 1 and early December mailings were achieved by Bloomfield and W. Bloomfield townships.

School and county tax bills were sent by all cities in the area. Township taxes were added to these in Bloomfield, W. Bloomfield and Southfield townships.

The latter area includes the villages of Franklin, Beverly Hills and Bingham Farms.



BIRMINGHAM. DETECTIVE Richard Chambers shows the bricks three area teenagers used to destroy more than \$3,200 in windows in Birmingham Monday night. The youths stole the bricks from a home under construction and then spent the evening throwing them through store, car and home windows in the area.

Damage

(Continued from 1-A)

Hell Telephone and Ken Rase Boats and Motors.

Malicious destruction of property valued at more than \$100 is a felony under Michigan law, and the boys could receive prison terms ranging up to four years.

Although they admitted only to breaking windows on Monday night, Birmingham police are still investigating the possibility that

the boys might also have been involved in several Sunday night crimes. Birmingham police had 35 cases of malicious destruction reported Sunday and Monday.

The youths refused to talk to a Birmingham Eccentric reporter until after they had seen an attorney, but one of the boys commented: "We should have used the bricks to build the doghouse that we're in."

David is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Staudt while Walter's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Riber. Robert Ross lives with his stepfather, Carl Aldread, and his mother.

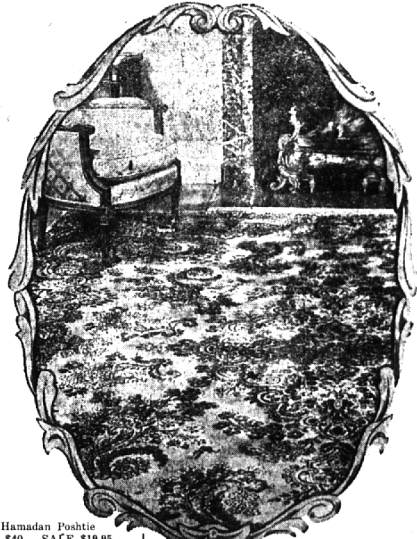
Hills Master Plan To Public Hearing

A public hearing for the purpose of airing Bloomfield Hills' new master plan has been scheduled for 8 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 2, at the Bloomfield Hills Elementary School, on Vaughan Road.

The meeting was set by the city planning commission to acquaint residents with the plan. After the hearing the planning commission will decide whether to adopt or not to adopt it.

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