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The Nation's Top Prize-Winning Suburban Weekly

Area Communities Explain Projects for New Year

What projects are being planned in 1963 by Birmingham and her sister communities?
Will there be any new municipal buildings, water systems, storm or sanitary sewers?
Will there be any major changes in zoning laws, road networks, plat planning?
Let's take a look:

Birmingham

With work getting underway on the 12 Town Drain, Birmingham expects to start construction of new relief sewers in several areas of the city.
The widening of E. Maple is expected to start in 1963 and the commission has authorized City Manager L. R. Gare to obtain options on land for the possible widening of Oakland between Ferndale and Woodward.
A public hearing will be held early in the year on the necessity of widening Chester St.
A joint meeting of the city commission, plan board, library board, chamber of commerce and other interested citizen groups will be held in early February to review and work on the CBD plan.
Improvement of the parking problem in the southwest

quadrant of the city is also expected to be undertaken in '63.
Bloomfield Hills
An important decision is expected to be made in the Hills this year concerning an adequate water supply for the city in years to come.
The city engineer will continue a study he is making to determine the practicality of the city constructing its own water system as opposed to purchasing water from Detroit.
Other major issues expected to be settled during 1963 are a master plan for the city and a new zoning ordinance.
A public hearing on the plan was held Wednesday of this week, and city commissioners are scheduled to further discuss the zoning ordinance next Tuesday night.
Should an agreement be reached, the commission is expected to set a date for a public hearing which is required by law before a new zoning ordinance can be passed.
Bloomfield Township
Officials are working toward a ballot proposal for the April 1 election which would provide millage to give

residents library service. A library building is an eventual goal.
Work is scheduled to begin on mains and an enlarged system which will bring Detroit water to the township.
Homer Case, township treasurer, said that work on the water system is scheduled to begin in July providing that the Michigan Municipal Finance commission approves a bond sale.
Case said the township hopes to see 14 Mile Road opened through to Woodward Avenue which would require the cooperation of Birmingham and Beverly Hills.
Expansion of storm and sanitary sewer facilities will continue as new subdivisions come into the area.
West Bloomfield
Township Supervisor John C. Rehard said another fire truck has been ordered and its delivery will complete a planning program, as far as equipment is concerned, that began three years ago.
Rehard said the township hopes to appropriate funds in 1963 to develop a master plan. This would be dependent, he said, on an application filed in Washington for funds under a federal program.
The 14 Mile-Maple arm of the Farmington Interceptor

is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. It will service four sections of the township in the southeast area.
REVERSING a downward trend in building, Rehard said, is the completion in the southeast part of the township of two more subdivisions. Two additional subdivisions in the same area are expected to be in existence by the end of 1963.
The zoning ordinance will probably be updated, the supervisor said, and as far as roads are concerned the blacktopping of Walnut Lake Road from Orchard Lake to Farmington roads will be finished by year's end. Also scheduled is the laying of the base for Willow Road to the northwest township line.
Beverly Hills
Council President Marvin Cline said that an extension of the water system work on which has just begun was scheduled for completion during the first half of 1963. It will bring water to the western part of the village, he said.
The road committee has developed a program for the (See PROJECTS, 5-A)

Testimony Given On Clothing, Lock In Thorson Case

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

Three articles of clothing and a door lock became important items as the examination of Robert M. Thorson on a murder charge continued in Detroit Wednesday morning.
As the hearing moved into its third day, Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Max Silverman called police officers and laboratory technicians to testify.
The prosecution must show reasonable cause in order to hold Thorson, 31, of 2352 Buckingham, Birmingham, for trial on a charge of murdering his mother-in-law.
Thorson has been charged with first degree murder in the death of Mrs. Dorothy M. Thomas, 62, of 9173 Apollone, Detroit. She was found strangled and slain in her home on Dec. 4.
DETECTIVE Henry LaHousse of the Detroit Homicide Bureau testified Wednesday morning that he went to the Thorson home late in the afternoon on Dec. 4 and was told which car belonged to Thorson, a 1957 Buick sedan.
LaHousse said that on the back seat of the car he found a pair of dark pants and a dark overcoat. In the trunk he found a dark felt hat.
He said he found what appeared to be blood on the pants.
No other testimony on the clothing or the blood had been given by noon Wednesday, as The Eclectic went to press.
LAHOUSSE also testified that he tried to see Thorson in Pontiac General Hospital after Thorson had been hurt in a car crash but that he was refused admission.
Mrs. Thomas' brother, William C. Neil of Detroit, testified that in the middle of the summer he had tried to repair a lock on Mrs. Thomas' front door.
He said he was unable to effect the repairs completely. Consequently, unless both the latch and the door lock were locked anyone could enter the house without a key, Neil testified.
He said further that on Nov. 25 he went to the home and when one answered, he walked in without a key.
EIGHT witnesses were called by the prosecution during the first two days of the examination.
Mrs. Lois Weaver, a neighbor of Mrs. Thomas, testified Friday that she saw a man fitting Thorson's general description enter the lead woman's home on the night of the murder.
Mrs. Weaver, who lives four hours from the Thomas home, was taking a walk before retiring for the night when she saw a man go up on the porch, look in a window and enter the house.
As she walked across the street and stood on the sidewalk in front of the house, she said.
I saw what I assumed was the same man standing silhouetted against the closed drapes.
She said she saw only a profile of the man and the lights were dim.
THORSON WAS one of two men Mrs. Weaver picked out of a police showup as fitting the general description of the man she saw enter the house.
Defense attorney Conrad D. Koll introduced photos taken by a Pontiac photographer that were shot from about the same distance as Mrs. Weaver was from the window. The photo showed what appeared to be an indistinguishable man behind the drapes.
The defense argues that Mrs. Weaver could not have made out a distinct figure behind the drapes. According to the photographs (Clyde Hassick, the photographs were taken under ideal conditions (See CASE, 6-A)



A BIRMINGHAM resident, Carol Young, Miss Young was one of more than 5,000 is greeted by Gov. and Mrs. George W. people to pass through the receiving line. Romney during the reception following the swearing-in ceremonies Tuesday afternoon. (Photo by Douglas G. Ashley)

Primary Slates Set As Candidates File

Contests in two townships and the City of Southfield have shaped up as candidates filed petitions for the Feb. 18 primary.
Lack of competition for primary will preclude necessity for an official election in a third township.
Southfield led the field with number of candidates for the same post as 12 filed for five city council posts.
West Bloomfield Township, which filed with Southfield in a total of 16 candidates filing, will see Republican party primary races for three posts.
Three candidates will pursue two trustee posts; two men will be candidates for one board of review post and three others will run for one justice of the peace post.
Although there are two openings for constables, only one man filed.
An innovation in this year's elections in West Bloomfield will be the introduction of a partisan factor.
THE FOUR CANDIDATES for the two trustee posts are incumbent Robert A. Reid and Frederick A. Chapman, Bruce G. Booth and Robert M. Sinclair. Because all four are running on the GOP ticket, the field must be narrowed to two candidates.
A post recently held by Chapman, that of highway commissioner, finds one candidate listed, John G. Rometty.
IN WEST BLOOMFIELD, John C. Rehard, incumbent supervisor will be opposed in the spring election by Arthur A. Rosner, Citizens Party. Incumbents Dorothy M. Chamberlain, clerk, and Lillian S. Warner, treasurer, will face no contest as they seek re-election.
As for trustees incumbents and Republicans Walter J. Whitmer and Charles B. Forbes will be matched in the primaries against

Principal Chosen For New School In Beverly Hills

A principal-elect has been determined for the new junior high school to be built at 14 Mile Road and Bellevue, in Beverly Hills, according to a spokesman for the Birmingham Public Schools.
John Dickey, currently principal of Hazel Park High School, will be recommended for the post at the regular January board of education meeting. Dickey emerged as top candidate from a field of 28 considered by a selected committee headed by Kenneth F. Nagley, director of schools.
He is not related to Otis M. Dickey, superintendent of schools.
Efforts to fill the new post are being made now so that necessary staffing, equipping and organizational work can be done prior to the scheduled September opening of the new building.
DICKEY, A native of Belgrade, Mo., received his B. S. degree from Wayne State University in 1948 and his M. A. from WSU in 1952. He began his teaching career at an elementary teacher in 1935.
From 1942-50 he was employed with the N. A. Woodworth Co., Ferndale, and the Detroit Public Department. He resumed his teaching career in the Detroit Public Schools in 1950. In 1956 he became Principal of the United Oaks Elementary School in Hazel Park. Since 1960 he has served as principal. (See PRINCIPAL, 2-A)

Booth to Lead County Drive for Constitution

A Birmingham Hills civic leader has been named to head up the newly-formed Oakland County Nonpartisan Citizens Association for the New Constitution.
Henry S. Booth, who was one of the founders and the first president of the Oakland Citizens League, was selected to spearhead the county wide drive for passage of the new constitution.
Booth, who lives at 700 Cranberry, Bloomfield Hills, was elected at a meeting last week attended by representatives of the following county organizations: League of Women Voters of Birmingham, Pontiac, Ferndale-Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak, Southfield and West Bloomfield Township; Birmingham PTA Council; American Association of University Women; Birmingham Jaycees and the Oakland Citizens League.
OTHERS NAMED to the committee were:
F. Ward Ouradnick, 1701 Maryland, Birmingham, vice chairman; Virgil E. LaMarre, 237 Tilbury, Birmingham, publicity chairman; Mrs. Keith D. King, 6966 Holiday, Birmingham, co-publicity chairman; Charles Mortensen, 214 Galley, Pontiac, treasurer; Richard H. McCann, 6100 W. 8 Mile, Southfield, chairman, Ways and Means committee; and Mrs. Edwin

Ceremony Over, Romney Starts on State Business

The weather was freezing but the climate was warm as George W. Romney of Bloomfield Hills was sworn into office Tuesday on a platform at the state capitol's east steps.
Speakers interrupted his inaugural address repeatedly with applause as Michigan's first Republican governor in 14 years called for an end to partisan feuding in government.
In a refurbished executive office, Gov. Romney turned his attention Wednesday to the business of the state. A new desk and chairs were there—a gift from a dozen men who served with him as directors of American Motors Corp.
His desk had already been stocked with supplies by Mrs. Margaret Little, his secretary when he was president of AMC.
MRS. LITTLE and Arthur G. Elliott, Jr., temporary executive assistant in charge of appointments and office management, share a small office off the reception room, close to Romney's office.
Phil Pittenger, who is expected to be named to an office aide, and Robert J. Danhof, legislative liaison aide, will be located nearby.
Others working out of the office are Richard G. Van Dusen, legal adviser; and Walter D. DeVries, in charge of program development and agency liaison as well as assistants to the three men.
Con-Con veterans will also be in the executive office.
ONE OF THE MAJOR tasks facing Romney is the adoption of the new constitution which was approved in his inaugural address, can dramatically prove that Michigan is not a problem state, but a problem-solving state.
It is called for each citizen to "become familiar with the differences between the new constitution and the old" in order to cast an informed vote on April 10.
THE STATE TAX structure will get his attention, Romney indicated in his address. He said he intends "to make it a passion" and that it must be reshaped to strengthen responsible local government and to aid in creating jobs.
He interpreted the voice of the voters in his election as a directive to both parties to solve state problems and then suggested that individual citizens begin in their own lives, families, jobs, neighborhoods, community associations and churches "to make a modern application of public and personal activities to the principles of freedom."
THE EXCITEMENT OF the campaign and the election culminated in a busy inaugural day that began at 7:30 in the morning. Romney and his family and relatives attended church, and the swearing-in ceremonies were followed by a luncheon and a reception in the executive offices.
The inaugural ball in the evening was led by the new governor and his wife, Lenora.
The mid-day oaths of office were administered not only to Romney but also to Democrats who will sit on the state administrative board.
They will share the functions of state government for the next two years in an atmosphere that the new governor hopes will "give the people reasons to have pride in their state government" in Michigan's economy and all its segments.

Survey Shows Need For Library District

A library authority has been recommended to meet the needs and solve the problems of Baldwin Public Library and a Birmingham area communities. Following is the first of five articles based on the report in which the recommendation was made.
By IRMA N. DAVIS
Staff Writer
Does the Birmingham-Bloomfield area have a library problem?
Does it have enough facilities, materials, buildings? Does it have sufficient staff, adequately paid?
Is the cost per capita of library service equitable or do Birmingham residents pay for services for outlying communities?
An expert's answers to these and many other questions that have plagued the board of trustees of the Baldwin Public Library as well as Birmingham officials and area residents have been received in an 87-page report.
COMMISSIONED by the board of the Baldwin Library and the Bloomfield Township Board, a social science professor of library science at the University of Minnesota, Frederick Weseman, has been working on the report since last April.
Other contributors who helped in the financing of the survey were the villages of Beverly Hills and Franklin in the City of Bloomfield Hills and the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library.
WESEMAN BASED his report upon personal observations and evaluation of the work of the Baldwin Library, visits to all secondary school libraries and various public libraries in the area.
He drew upon information gleaned from numerous interviews with library board members, public and state library officials, citizens, businessmen and the planning firm of Villan-Leaman and Associates.
Weseman studied surveys of the Birmingham School District, the central business district of both Birmingham and Bloomfield Township. (See SURVEY, 2-A)
'Suburbia Today' To Offer Advice On Winter Travel
Tired of long winter nights and stormy winter days? You'll find out how to get away from it all—and come back refreshed—when the Jan. 10 edition of your Birmingham Eclectic brings you the January issue of Suburbia Today.
Author and traveler Philip Wyllie offers a wonderful idea for a vacation in "Ten Winter Days and Where to Go," and "Have Clothes, Will Travel" covers high spots in this year's resort wear.
In this issue, too, you'll see why we should "Take Another Look at Those Teenage Drivers!", read about "Heavy Fare with a Countertop" and hear how to "Take Some Standard Iron Grillwork," and make a decorative stand and/or room divider.
BOOTH INDICATED that the committee expects to initiate a (See BOOTH, 2-A)
All names of inner spring markets included. One year service. Send \$1.00. TRESS COMPANY, LI 2-4400.

UCS Chooses Lamb, Averill

Two Birmingham area residents were elected this week to the board of directors of United Community Services.
John H. Lamb, a General Motors executive and a Bloomfield Hills resident, was named secretary.
Paul N. Averill, The Eclectic's publisher, was one of 10 new members from the tri-county area elected to serve on the 44-member UCS board.
During the coming year, Lamb and Averill will share in directing the activities of the organization, which is responsible for conducting community-wide health and welfare planning and which budgets and allocates Torch Drive funds for 128 social services in the metropolitan area.
DAMAGE TO the house itself was placed at \$13,000 and the value of destroyed furniture was estimated at \$4,000.
Three bedrooms upstairs and three in a basement were trashed but relatively undamaged by the fire.
A pet cat was found dead in the basement. Firemen said the animal apparently suffocated during the fire.

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