

## Zoning Problems Still There

In the next few days the Bloomfield Hills City Commission plans to sit down with its planning commission to try to iron out the city's zoning problems.

The planning commission many months ago recommended several changes to the present zoning law which would "liberalize," in the words of planners, the city's commercial and multiple-resident property.

The biggest change was the extension of commercial property in four directions from the corner of Woodward and Long Lake. To make this area more accessible, a peripheral route was planned to circle the commercial property.

**THE RESULT** would be to create a downtown section for Bloomfield Hills to service its residents.

The planning commission also recommended that multiple-resident property be allowed to house approximately 4.7 families per acre instead of the present 3 families per acre. It would further allow multiple dwellings to be 3 stories instead of the present 2.

These are the changes that led to such a shake-up in the April 1st election. Some Commissioners were for the new plan, some were not.

The amazing part of the results of the election showed that the citizenry turned out of office one commissioner who favored the new plan and one who opposed it. The results do not show how the people really feel.

**THE PURPOSE** of the coming meeting between the Commission and its planners is to determine how to compromise the plan so that it represents what the people want.

In determining what is proper for the Hills it is important to know the purpose of zoning. Originally zoning came into being so that communities could zone off heavy traffic areas so that the remaining areas for safety reasons would be free for living.

After zoning became recognized, courts began to let property values become an influence as well as safety. They said we

will allow communities to maintain property values by letting only quality buildings exist in certain areas.

**CARRYING THESE** ideas to Bloomfield Hills, the expansion of commercial in the center area would still keep all business in one location. This is good planning if a need for expanded service is necessary for the residents.

We feel, however, that the need for expanded services does not necessarily exist there. It would be better if they maximized the already existing commercial by improving it, rather than just making more.

We feel for safety reasons that Bloomfield Center is not the place to start a new shopping area of the magnitude suggested. At the intersection of two of the busiest thoroughfares in the area, anything that developed would always be split into four sections. Pedestrians would not be able to freely walk from one part to another because of having to cross either Woodward or Long Lake.

**AS TO THE** expansion of multiple to 4.7 families we see no objection. It is still almost twice as restrictive as neighboring Bloomfield Township. We doubt that this change would lower the city's image.

The addition of another story is another story. In rolling countryside height is not that important, but there are areas of the city that are zoned multiple that are not rolling.

The addition of height in these areas would affect the beauty of the area, and you can't allow 3 stories in some places and only 2 in others.

In facing these problems, we sincerely hope that the Commission and the planning commission can get together and come up with a plan that both maximizes the use of land in the city, yet at the same time preserves its traditional values.

We further hope they look long and hard before they expand the Center into a bigger shopping area.

## Give Them Opportunity

Once again the High School Employment Service has opened its office in The Community House.

The purpose is to assist the young people in our community in finding jobs after school hours and, more especially, for summer vacation.

Located in the basement of The Community House, the office is open from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

Students and employers may make use of the service. Students pay an annual \$1 registration fee to list their job qualifications and preferences. Employers may find the help they require, from waitresses to babysitters to yard workers.

The requested pay varies from 50 to 75 cents per hour for babysitters to \$1 and \$1.25 for other kinds of work.

**THREE HIGH** schools participate in the youth employment service: Bloomfield Hills, Groves and Scammon. There is a board of directors comprised of two students from each school; one counselor from each school; the executive director and one board member from The Community House; and one member from each of the boards of education.

An adult supervises the program, but high school youngsters actually run the office.

**WE VIEW** this service as a constructive step to offer guidance, encouragement and assistance to our young people. Here is the chance to give them an opportunity to accept responsibility and to gain work experience.

It is in this light that this project should be viewed—not in terms of economics. We must think of it in terms of youth having the right to enjoy the opportunity of gaining experiences that involve responsibility.

This is what they need to help them mature, to help them chart their course for future endeavors.

**WE BELIEVE** that the leaders in business and industry should recognize their own responsibility in providing such opportunity for young people.

We believe that they should make an effort, even if at an expense to themselves, to create job possibilities within their own concerns, realizing full well that the youths may not be as productive as the workers in the regular labor market.

It would be our hope that the increasing awareness of giving opportunity to young people will cause the citizens in our society to re-examine the present labor laws, which are too restrictive in respect to our youth.

**WE SUGGEST** that the unions recognize their responsibility in cooperating in this matter. Present union protective measures for their own members have the effect of preventing youth employment opportunities.

The child labor laws were designed when children were being exploited by business and industry. Such is not the case today. Stringent labor regulations are proving too much of a deterrent to our young people, depriving them of the right to develop their skills.

We hope, too, that parents will see the employment of a child not in terms of economic necessity but more in terms of the child becoming related to the disciplines and realities of living and working with other people.

**BY AVAILING** themselves of the youth employment service at The Community House, the leaders in business and industry can assure our youth the opportunity to gain the experience and the sense of responsibility that will help them to be productive, stable citizens.

We encourage our young people to register with the employment office, and we urge our local employers to make use of the service. It will be to the advantage of both to do so.

## PEOPLE'S COLUMN

### Didn't Research Facts Says Letter Writer

To the Editor:

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kuzma's letter (April 11 Eccentric) on school bus transportation and public education versus nonpublic education makes interesting reading but they have neglected to research the facts on which they are attempting to base much of their argument.

In paragraph four of their letter, they state that contributions to the church are deductible so that these people, (parochial school parents), get some tax relief in the chosen education of their children. Apparently, they are unaware that in the Bloomfield area parochial school parents pay tuition to parochial schools for their children and also pay for school bus transportation, neither of which are tax deductible. I fail to see where there is any so-called "tax relief" that they mention.

The latter portion of their letter which treats the choice of nonpublic versus public schools attempts to compare elementary and secondary schools with colleges. Here too, they should be aware that there is another condition that has not been recognized in their presentation.

In the state of Michigan, it is mandatory that all children attend elementary schools and high schools and that they attend state accredited schools. No such requirement exists for attending colleges. Therefore, there is an additional choice for the "boy of 18," he may choose not to go to any college or university, but no such choice exists for the elementary and high students in this state.

They must attend school and it must be state accredited. Since the

state demands such action by law, it does not seem within reason that the state should discriminate against any group of students, in the benefits they provide, as long as the students are attending state accredited schools as required by law.

Since bus transportation is provided to public school students by state law I believe, as a taxpayer, that this benefit should be provided to all pupils attending state accredited schools, without discrimination.

**KEITH J. ACKLEY**  
1090 Northover Drive  
Birmingham, Michigan

### Kuzmas Clarify Their Statements On Tax Deductions

To the Editor:

It has been called to our attention that our statement, "However, contributions to the church are income tax deductible, so these people do get some tax relief in the chosen education of their children" is considered "erroneous and should be corrected."

We do not believe it is erroneous but it might do well to clarify our point. The average cost of educating one child for one year in the Bloomfield Hills Public Schools is \$371.

The tuition at Holy Name School is \$80 per family, whether one or more children. Our contention is that this is not a realistic tuition fee.

(See KUZMAS, 2-B)

### Yesteryear Happenings

From the Film of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO  
April 25, 1913

The residents of Birmingham have a very commendable pride in their schools, and well they may, for in the judgement of this writer there is no village of 1600 population in the state that can boast of such good schools as we have here either from the view point of buildings and equipment, or the character of the work that is being done.

That ad valorem duties such as are proposed in the Democratic tariff bill are a "delusion and a snare," that the radical tariff revision submitted by the Democrats is inexcusable and uncalled for and that an accounting will come for its enactment into law, are contentions of the Republican members of the ways and means committee in a minority report presented to the house.

Preparations are being made for another great battle in the Balkans. One hundred and twenty thousand Greek troops are being concentrated around Salonika and fortifications are being hurriedly erected. Traffic on the railroad between Salonika and Debreagatch has been stopped, owing to the dispute between the Greeks and Bulgars over the possession of Salonika.

30 YEARS AGO  
April 27, 1933

Two armed bandits made good their escape by only a few seconds Wednesday morning after holding up and robbing C. R. Hills, manager of C. F. Smith Company Store at 576 West Lincoln avenue. Their loot totaled \$49.30 in cash. Left (See HAPPENINGS, 4-B)



## Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



When we pick up a newspaper and read about what is happening in the cold war, very few of us equate the events in Berlin or Asia with what could happen in Birmingham or Bloomfield Hills if things didn't go too well.

I don't mean to be morbid, but we face world events with sort of a detached feeling, as if it is happening to someone else in some other country.

When you give the subject some thought you wonder why the Soviets haven't taken over our nation like others.

It certainly isn't our rockets or missiles that are protecting us if Russia is ahead in the missile gap.

**PART OF MY** questions were answered Tuesday of last week when I was flown up to Oscoda, Mich., to see a SAC base in operation.

SAC, or the Strategic Air Command, is a branch of the Air Force whose main purpose is to develop a big enough retaliatory force so that no nation dare attack us for fear we will in return demolish them.

How SAC does this is relatively simple. They have bases all over the world with B-52 bombers armed with nuclear bombs ready, willing and able to take flight 24 hours a day to bomb the enemy.

If someone attacks us these bombers are dispatched to wipe out the homeland of the attacker.

**IF THIS DOES** happen it won't protect us from oblivion, but the threat of the planes being there might be enough to convince a would-be attacker that it is not worth attacking us.

We sit back and say it will never happen to us, but if it wasn't for this crew who work 24 hours a day, it might.

We have three of these bomber bases in the northern part of Michigan. Each base is equipped with several B-52's always "cocked" and ready to go.

While I was in Oscoda a surprise alert was sounded and within 5 minutes, 10 airplanes were taxiing down the runway. Experts assure us that with our radar network we will always have at least 15 minutes warning of an enemy attack.

**IF THIS IS** true our retaliators will be well on their way to their targets when the enemy arrives.

I suppose the "ban the bombers" are incensed that we would resort to spending millions of dollars keeping these planes ready. Yet, footballers tell us that a good offense is the best defense.

Day in and day out we forget about war and its ugly implications. It's not a pleasant subject.

However, until rockets and missiles are perfected we must rely on the "old fashioned" soldiers, and it is reassuring to know that they are there.

By  
KEN  
WEAVER

## City Beat

James A. Lane is a man with a mission. He is a student of public affairs, and a student of politics.

Lane is on an eight-week assignment to study the Oakland County political structure, the work of the Oakland Citizens League and the governmental problems of the county.

Here for two months, he will write a report on his findings, complete with his own recommendations. There will be many of us looking forward to this report, I'm sure. Lane, 26, is an intern in public affairs with the Coro Foundation of California. He is conducting his local assignment as an individual public service project.

**IN THIS** program, the Coro interns apply their training to specific areas of public affairs. They spend eight weeks, full-time and without pay except for their Coro fellowship and reimbursement of expenses, on projects requested by public and quasi-public agencies.

The Coro Foundation is an establishment that conducts research and education in public affairs. It is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, through which various segments of a community may participate in the training of future public leaders.

**IN HIS** two months in Oakland County, Lane will talk to officials in county and municipal governments, to members of the board of directors of the Citizens League and to other civic leaders.

He will be gathering information on the political makeup of the county, to determine how we operate and why.

He plans to study the implications of the home rule provision in the new constitution, helping to determine how it applies to our county.

Lane has offices at The Community House and at Cranbrook. Incidentally, he is the first Coro Foundation student to be assigned to a project outside of California.

**A NATIVE** of Colorado, he is single and is a 1958 graduate of Colorado State University, where he majored in history and political science.

In college he wrote a column on national and international affairs for the student newspaper.

After completion of his assignment here, Lane will return to California for completion of the Coro program in June.



JAMES A. LANE



### Do You Remember?

Remember how Woodward Avenue looked in the 1920's? The trees light background are at the Maple-Woodward intersection. The old Eccentric Building is in the right foreground. Other identifiable buildings include the Birmingham National Bank, Kelsey Drugs and Slusser's Hardware. Long-time

resident Manley Batley identified the people in last week's photo of Blakeslee's Hardware. The fellow sitting on the steps is Mr. Batley's brother, Gordon. Dean Johnson is the man in the middle and Clarence Riffenburg is on the right. The store was located on the spot where Gwynn's now stands.

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