

Seek Peripheral Route Progress In '64

Bloomfield Eyes Charter Township Setup

New Zoning, Building Boom Seen in 1964

Area Communities Tell of Projects

By DAVE PHILPO
Township Editor

What does 1964 hold for communities in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area?

Officials, unwilling to brand themselves as false prophets, refused to venture out on a limb in their predictions. Here are some "safe" reports:

Bloomfield Hills will get a new zoning ordinance in 1964. Two years for the ordinance to be put into effect is not expected to affect too much the future population growth of the city.

It will allow more families per acre (4.5 as compared to 3), more multiple dwellings and lot sizes will be reduced in some areas. The commercial area will remain about the same.

A PUBLIC hearing on the proposed zoning ordinance has been scheduled for 8 p.m. Jan. 15 in the Cranbrook gymnasium.

Further steps will be taken to assure Bloomfield Hills a supply of Detroit water should the need arise.

The city has paid \$28,000 to increase the size of a main bringing water to the township, in order that it might also supply Bloomfield Hills. Detroit water would be a boon to commercial enterprises and would reduce insurance rates for the township.

The \$955,000 Kingsley Hotel, an addition to the existing restaurant, will be completed by mid-summer of 1964. The 106-room structure, now under construction, will also boast a swimming pool and meeting rooms.

(See ZONING, 8-A)

Suburbia Today Articles Concern Skiing and Maids

"You Can Ski Around the World," Lowell Thomas says in the January 1964 issue of Suburbia Today coming to you with the Jan. 9 edition of your Birmingham Eccentric.

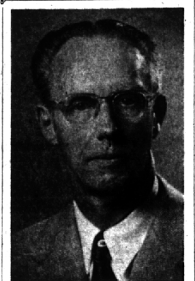
The famous news commentator, who took up skiing at 40, whips you along the fast powder trails in New Hampshire, Chile, the Swiss Alps and the high Himalayas—as he reports on his world-wide adventures with the sport he intends to follow forever (along with so many of the rest of us).

And do you recall those lovely people, servants they were called, who once took over the kitchen, mised the beds, took the kiddies off your hands and generally kept the house in apple-pie order?

MAX WILK remembers them, longingly, and in "Service Exit" he sets forth a crash program to glamorize domestic service and get a maid back on the job.

These and other interesting, informative articles will be found in the January issue of Suburbia Today in next week's Eccentric.

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HENRY S. BOOTH

Ex-Presidents Defend OCL; Laud Record

See editorial, 1-B

By KEN WEAVER
Managing Editor

Two former presidents of the Oakland Citizens League this week came to its defense.

Both sent letters to the Birmingham Eccentric in response to the criticisms made by a researcher after a two-week study of the OCL.

The researcher, James A. Lane, from the Coro Foundation in California, said that membership and finances were the league's two main problems.

He particularly cited lack of "grass roots participation" in OCL activities and a tendency for one-man rule. Two major decisions were being made by the president rather than by the board of directors, he felt.

IN ITS ARTICLE last week, The Eccentric reported that some board members were critical of the reaction to Lane's report by then president William H. McGaughey, who won board approval for a rebuttal to Lane's report.

In the past month, McGaughey has accepted a new job in New York and consequently is withdrawing from local organizations.

F. Ward Ouradnik, administrative director of The Eccentric and a member of the OCL board of directors, has been named acting president until an election is held, probably at a Jan. 8 board meeting.

(See RECORD, 6-A)

WILLIAM H. MCGAUGHEY

Case to Appoint Study Committee

By SAVILLA SLOAN
Special Writer

The history of Bloomfield Township has been so consistent in the past 10 years that it is easy to forecast what will be the predominant characteristic of the township in 1964—growth!

The governmental problems that growth entails will probably lead to consideration this year by residents of Bloomfield becoming a charter township.

Township Supervisor Homer Case announced to The Birmingham Eccentric this week that he will form a citizen's committee to study the advantages of adopting a township charter.

"It is a first step toward the township's eventual incorporation as a city, which, I believe in future years the residents will need and favor," Case said.

CASE SAID he assumed that the committee would complete its study in time to have the issue placed before township residents in 1964.

The phenomenal growth of Bloomfield Township is revealed in population statistics and property valuations.

In 1950, there were 3,851 residents in a predominantly agricultural township.

By 1960, population had grown to 22,530. In three years it increased to 26,162. In the first six months of 1963 the figure went up to 27,500.

Prognostication by population experts puts the number of residents expected by 1970 at 40,000. By 1980, 51,000 residents are anticipated. The eventual saturation under present zoning laws is 67,600.

SINCE THE average home in the township has a market value around \$30,500, the valuation of township property has had a similar upward surge.

In 1964 the township valuation will not only be increased by all (See CASE, 7-A)

Jaycees Start Search for 'Man of Year'

The Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce is searching again for the "Outstanding Man of the Year" in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area.

Jaycee President Gerry Dudley announced this week that the annual awards banquet will be held Wednesday, Jan. 22, at the Kingsley Inn.

The honor award will be presented at the banquet along with other awards to this year's outstanding Jaycees. The banquet will also serve as the "Bosses Night" dinner and each hour will be briefed on the civic contributions of the Jaycee group.

Dudley said nominations for the "Man of the Year" award are being accepted by Pat Deighan, chairman of the affair.

THE NAME of any Birmingham man between 21 and 35 who has been active in community work may be submitted to Deighan at the banquet office of the Automobile Club, 276 S. Hunter.

Henry M. Hogan, Jr., associate publisher of The Eccentric, was the 1963 winner of the award.



Schools See '64 Problems In Growth

Growth will be one of the main problems facing the Birmingham Public Schools in 1964.

Dr. John Blackhall Smith, superintendent, said the annual rate of enrollment growth has jumped from 371 in 1961 to more than 870 in 1963.

"This year an estimated 1,000 new pupils are expected to move into the district," Smith said. Slightly more than 14,000 students are currently enrolled in Birmingham public schools.

Smith said the board of education is reviewing its long-range building program with the prospect of saving to advance the building timetable.

"WHILE A space shortage is developing in many schools," Smith said, "the most serious problems are in the Beverly and Valley Woods areas."

He added that the new Berkshire Junior High School could reach its designed capacity within another year.

"While being concerned with the quantity of pupils, the board and the administration must also think seriously of the quality of the curriculum," Smith said.

School officials are presently studying some 100 recommendations contained in the recently completed Citizens Elementary Curriculum Study.

SMITH NOTED that many of the recommendations would require additional funds to implement.

He also noted that the additional funds voted by the community in 1961 made it possible for the school to put into effect many of the improvements recommended by the secondary curriculum study group.

Smith added that since that time other needs have developed to improve the secondary curriculum.

"The task eventually will be one of acquainting our residents with the recommendations and then determining to what degree they desire to support them," Smith said.

TEEN POINT OF VIEW:
'Look at the Good Things We Do'

Fifth in a series; for editorial on student reaction to Eccentric articles, read 'Who Creates This Image?' on 1-B.

14 Mile Road Opening Among B'ham's Goals

By LARRY EVOH
City Editor

The new year will be a busy one in Birmingham. Two major construction projects will be completed, progress is expected to be made on the peripheral route and several road improvement programs are scheduled to begin.

City Manager L. R. Gare said both the \$1,500,000 recreation center at Lincoln and Cranbrook roads and Municipal Parking Lot No. 7 in the block south of Shain Park should be completed in 1964.

The new parking lot is another major step in the development of the Central Business District Plan. When the CBDD Plan was presented to the City in 1961, the need for additional parking in the downtown area was listed as being "critical."

Gare said he hoped that work would begin on the widening of Chester Street from Maple to Brown during 1964.

AT THE present time the City is negotiating with property owners along Chester for land right-of-way.

Another phase of the construction of the peripheral route that the City expects to accomplish this year is the straightening of the Brown-Forest-Woodward intersection.

The City has already purchased the property from the Birmingham Masonic Temple Association and is presently renting the land to an oil company for use as a service station.

"CONCERNING the 1964 road improvement program in the city," Gare said he hoped "positive steps would be taken toward the opening of 14 Mile Road" between Southfield and Cranbrook roads.

"We are also in the process of having appraisals made for the purchase of property along Fairway Drive," Gare said.

The commission has already declared necessity for opening Fairway from Arden Lane east to a point 824 feet west of Pleasant St.

Gare said the vacation of Manor Road is also scheduled to be completed this year. The abandonment of the road will increase the size of the nature park about 20 per cent.

IN ADDITION to these special road projects, Gare said the City will continue its annual street improvement and oiling and sidewalk replacement programs.

Along with the nine-hole golf course on the old sewage disposal plant site, the City is constructing a continuation service building-house.

The building will include warming facilities for winter sports buffs who will be able to skate, toboggan and ski at the recreation center.

ALSO ON recreation front, the commission has authorized the construction of two new tennis courts at the northeast corner of

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LWV, Paper Present Home Rule Articles

What is county home rule? What does it mean? What are its promises, if any, for Oakland County? Michigan's new constitution which went into effect Wednesday contains a provision for home rule for counties. It is termed nonexclusive home rule.

What does that mean? These questions and others will be answered by the League of Women Voters of Michigan and The Eccentric in a series of articles beginning in the Jan. 9 issue. The purpose is to inform our readers and the voters of Oakland County of the basic concepts of home rule and how they might apply to this county.

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