



The Nation's Top Prize-Winning Suburban Weekly

CAC Adopts Centennial As Project For '64

B'ham Commissioners Main, Page To Seek Re-Election

Predict Big Steps in City Master Plan

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

Mayor Pro Tem Robert W. Page and Commissioner Ralph A. Main announced today they would be candidates for another term on the Birmingham City Commission in the April 6 election.

Both fell 1964 will be an important year in Birmingham with major steps in the implementation of the comprehensive (master) plan taking place.

In announcing his decision, Page, 43, said he decided to seek another term because he felt "there was a lot of unfinished work to be done," in Birmingham.

Main, a veteran of 24 years of service, said government has been "a hobby all my life."

KEEPING Birmingham a residential community is high on the list of projects for both of the candidates.

Page said: "It is my very strong belief that as citizens concerned over the future of Birmingham, our basic objectives should be to preserve the unique residential character of this community." Main, 59, said, "Birmingham is a residential community and I believe it should remain so."

He also said he couldn't see the need for any more multiple-zoned projects in the city.

"If we zone for more multiple, some day we'll be sorry," he declared. "Heavy density areas of population create problems. I'd rather see more nonretail business projects," Main said.

PAGE OUTLINED a six-point program he has encouraged and would continue to support if elected to another term on the commission:

- Strengthen the appropriate zoning in single-family residential areas in order to protect those neighborhoods from the deteriorating effects of the encroachment of commercial development.
- Extend the park system for active and passive recreational (See PLAN, 5-A)

Hills Reiterates Policy on Secret School Groups

By SAVILLA SLOAN
Special Writer

Parental cooperation will continue to be sought by the Bloomfield Hills School Board in its effort to enforce the state law against student membership in sororities and fraternities.

SUPT. Eugene Johnson will include in his next meeting to school patrons a review of the state law and the board's determination to enforce it.

A reiteration of the board's position was asked by member Richard McGraw at the school board meeting Tuesday night. He said that an erroneous statement of the board's position was recently quoted in an article in The Birmingham Eccentric.

BOARD MEMBERS agreed that the district shall furnish parents of high school and junior high school students a copy of the state law each fall, and as new families move into the district during the year they shall immediately be given a copy.

Similar steps have been taken in past years by the school administration.

Another measure to combat illegal student memberships recommended by Mrs. Bates was sufficient school-sponsored activity clubs such as language, drama and music organizations.

The FTO Council will be asked (See POLICY, 4-A)



ROBERT W. PAGE



RALPH A. MAIN

Ask Review Board Policy Change Here

Birmingham is considering changing city policy covering the annual assessment board of review. City charter provides that the commission annually appoint two members to the board to review tax assessments.

Charles Hagstrom, city assessor, Monday night asked the commission to appoint two citizens members to the board by Feb. 17. Hagstrom sits as the third member of the board.

Hagstrom noted that both Percy G. Burnett and Barrett Mason who have sat on the board in previous years would be willing to serve again.

COMMISSIONER William E. Roberts said as a matter of policy he would like to see a change in personnel on the board.

"We've gotten marvelous work from the gentlemen who have served but I would like to see us investigate the possibility of making some changes," he said.

Roberts added that he wasn't even sure if the city could come up with qualified replacements.

Commissioner Ralph A. Main said he would also like to study the (See CHANGE, 2-A)

IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

New Constitution Provides For Local Option Charter

Third in a series

By SHELLEY SPANN

Public Relations, Chairman
Pharm League of Women Voters

We have described the organization of a county in Michigan under the provisions of general law. Next, we consider the powers of such a county under the new constitution.

Powers granted counties by general law are of two kinds: structural and substantive. Structural power relates to the kind of county government which may be set up and substantive to what the county is allowed to do.

Under the old constitution, coun-

Jaycees Cite Ouradnik as 'Man of Year'

Key Award Goes To R. H. Crimmins

F. Ward Ouradnik has been named "Man of the Year" by the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Ouradnik, administrative director of The Birmingham Eccentric, was presented his award by Mayor William H. Burgum Wednesday night at the Jaycees' 12th annual Bosses Night banquet at the Kingsley Inn.

The Jaycees presented Roger H. Crimmins, 16971 Birwood, Beverly Hills, with the chapter's Key Award for outstanding contributions to the group.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce man of the year award is given each year to a Birmingham-Bloomfield area man between the ages of 21 and 35. It is an effort on the part of the Jaycees to give recognition to citizens for their community service at the local, state and national level.

OURADNIK, 32, was selected from a field of 11 candidates. He was nominated for the award by Henry M. Hogan Jr.

Judges for the contest were Mayor Burgum, Mrs. G. Howard Willett, Jr., former Birmingham mayor, and Charles Adams, Bloomfield Hills advertising agency.

Burgum said the choice of the judges was a difficult one.

"Of the large field of nominees the judges felt the selection of any one would have been excellent," Burgum said.

"However, Ouradnik's qualifications were outstanding. It was one of those cases where the man fitted the award immediately," he said.

BEFORE COMING to The Eccentric, Ouradnik served for 21 months as executive director of The Community House.

A graduate of Michigan State University, he served as assistant director of alumni relations at MSU from 1955 until he took The Community House post.

Since moving to Birmingham, (See MAN OF THE YEAR, 4-A)

Adams Rd. Site OK'd for Split

Birmingham city commissioners Monday night approved a request by the W. E. Reid Development Co. for a lot split on Adams Road near Bowers.

The property, which has a frontage of about 500 feet, is adjacent to the A & P store. The split will divide the land into two parcels, 250 feet by 424 feet.

City Planner William R. Brownfield said the split was legal under the Plat Act. The property, he said, is presently zoned for neighborhood business (B-3).

offices of the register of deeds with that of the county clerk.

Substantive powers were not spelled out by the constitution but were left to the legislature. While these powers were, theoretically unlimited in the old constitution, counties had no substantive powers not specifically granted them by the legislature.

WITH THE demands on counties increasing, there was obvious danger in giving them substantive powers which were too much for their limited structural framework. This was compared by Com-Con delegate Katherine Cushman to (See CHARTER, 6-A)



GETTING DOWN to the task of planning Birmingham's centennial observance (standing from left) James K. Flack, history and heritage; with general chairman Mrs. G. Howard Willett, Jr. are (seated from left) Carl O. Barton, finance chairman; Robert S. Kenning, Michigan Week chairman; (standing left) Robert B. Bender, history and heritage; and F. Ward Ouradnik, activities. Arts chairman Robert B. Bender was not available for the picture.

HHS to Build Store In Downtown B'ham

Plans were revealed today for the construction of a new Hughes Hatcher Suftrin store in downtown Birmingham.

The new store, one of the largest to be erected by the men's clothing store chain, will be located at the corner of Pierce and Merrill.

Sale of the property to the Detroit-based firm was handled by Frederic C. Pew, president of Mac Brook, Inc., Birmingham realtor.

The Hughes Hatcher Suftrin store will comprise a major part of the Pierce Street block immediately south of the Birmingham Municipal Building, according to Pew.

CONCEPTUAL designs for the two-story, 25,000-square-foot building are being prepared by Copeland, Novak and Ireland of New York. Local architect will be Louis Redstone and Associates.

Bernard Pincus, president of the clothing firm, said the company was locating in Birmingham "because of the tremendous growth of the city and surrounding area."

"Also, because of the charm of the city itself, we have decided to depart from our usual practice of locating within an outlying shopping center, by building a single-unit store in the heart of the city," he said.

PEW ADDED that his firm "was very glad indeed to have been instrumental in attracting a merchant of this caliber to the Birmingham business community."

"We have constantly tried to reverse the trend away from downtown Birmingham."

THE RELEASE stated that 14 Mile Road for one mile between Greenfield and Southfield would be widened from 2 to 4 lanes at a cost of \$120,000, and that 14 Mile Road and Cranbrook, 1.5 miles from Southfield road west to Cranbrook, and then north to Lincoln would have a new concrete, 24-foot-wide pavement at a cost of \$420,000.

Greenfield Road for the 3 miles between 11 and 14 Mile roads would be widened from 2 to 4 lanes at a cost of \$420,000, according to the release.

THE ARTICLE did state that the widening of 14 Mile Road between Greenfield and Southfield was "doubtful for 1964." The other projects were not labeled doubtful.

Councilman Edward F. Dolan, chairman of the road commission, mentioned that many people have been led to believe that part of the program is definite and will be done posthaste.

Taps Kenning For Michigan Week Position

Birmingham's assistant city manager, Robert S. Kenning, is the local Michigan Week chairman for 1964.

His appointment to the post was announced today by Henry M. Hogan, Jr., Michigan Week chairman for Oakland County.

Hogan said Kenning was selected because of his previous experience in planning governmental participation in the annual celebration. He has been Government Day chairman in Birmingham each year since its inception in 1953.

"Mr. Kenning is well-suited for this responsibility," Hogan declared. "He has consistently and actively demonstrated his interest in and devotion to the people of Birmingham. I am proud to have him as the director for our local Michigan Week activities in 1964."

HOGAN SAID that "although Michigan Week normally is made up of citizens participation, we've chosen a governmental official because of the centennial celebration planned for the same time."

Kenning will coordinate his activities with the Birmingham Centennial Committee, headed by former Mayor Florence H. (Mrs. G. Howard) Willett. He is one of five mayor appointees by her this week to the beginning committee to formulate the basic plans for the centennial observance.

Kenning, 40, graduated from high school in Minneapolis, Minn., and received his bachelor of business administration and bachelor of civil engineering degrees in (See KENNING, 2-A)

THE SECOND murder trial of Birmingham securities salesman Robert M. Thorson is scheduled to begin in Detroit Recorder's Court on June 8.

Thorson, 2552 Buckingham, is accused of the Dec. 3, 1963, slaying of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Dorothy M. Thomas, in her Detroit home.

In June a Recorder's Court jury deliberated nearly 18 hours before announcing they could not reach a verdict on whether or not Thorson had committed the crime.

Thorson is free on \$5,000 bond. Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Max M. Silverman said the trial had originally been scheduled to begin on March 4 but because of the illness of Conrad D. Kohl, one of Thorson's attorneys, the later date was set.

Thorson's 2nd Trial Slated

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Plan Different Kind of Event; Leaders Named

By KEN WEAVER
Managing Editor

The Citizens Action Committee has accepted Birmingham's centennial observance as a year-long project. It has the structuring and the resources to plan the celebration, the CAC board decided at a meeting last week.

Mrs. G. Howard Willett, Jr., chairman of both the CAC and the Birmingham Centennial Committee, said the celebration will be somewhat different from the "beard-growing, stockade" type of event.

Mrs. Willett drew on the CAC in making her first committee appointments.

SHE SAID the beginning committee is formulating its basic plans for the centennial year, which will be divided into two parts:

"The 100 years past," discovering where we came from and what brought us to today; and "The years that lie ahead," to determine to what do we aspire and how shall we apply what we have learned?"

Named by Mrs. Willett to the beginning committee are: James K. Flack, local historian and reactor, as chairman for history and heritage.

Robert S. Kenning, assistant city manager, local Michigan Week chairman.

F. Ward Ouradnik, administrative director of The Birmingham Eccentric and former Community House executive director, activities.

Mrs. Willett said she and her committee "anticipate working with the chamber of commerce, the schools, churches, groups that involve all of the arts and every possible facet of the community."

She said, "The emphasis of the first half of the year will be on rediscovering our heritage, learning more about our beginning, knowing about the people who put their lives and service into the growth of Birmingham."

"We are privileged to have a historical background before our community programs and presentations that will lead us to directing our future."

"What we cherish today was built for us by others. We have the responsibility of building for those who come after us."

"We anticipate closing the centennial year with something inspiring during the Christmas week of next December."

"WE HOPE that sometime during the year we will have published a 'Birmingham Book'—a book that will be available to everyone; a book that will describe Birmingham editorially and pictorially from its beginning to today, (See CAC, 6-A)

MRS. WILLETT said the first part of the centennial will "kick off during Michigan Week, when we will have the last day as Centennial Day."

The second part, she said, "will be designed to bring before our community programs and presentations that will lead us to directing our future."

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IN THIS ISSUE

A special report on Bloomfield Hills' proposed new zoning ordinance, with detailed changes in the text and a new zoning map. See stories, pictures on 3-A.

Dates change for two major social events. See "Sub Scene" and feature layout on 1-C.

Artist returns from teaching in India; young folk singers team up at The Raven. See stories, pictures on 1-B.

Brother Rice avenges earlier loss to Catholic Central, retains Catholic League lead. See story, pictures on 1-E.

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