

New Zoning for Bloomfield?

The question of a new zoning ordinance in Bloomfield Hills is scheduled to be decided tomorrow evening in the City Hall. After many years of blood, sweat and tears the city commission will finally vote on what the future of the Hills will be like. Several weeks ago we editorialized on the what we liked and disliked about the proposed ordinance.

BASICALLY WE felt that there were three substantial changes from the present law; more multiple housing, more dense multiple housing and the permitted use of three story dwellings in multiple housing areas.

We were glad that the city had decided to lay away for the time being plans to enlarge the shopping area at Long Lake and Woodward, which would have included a peripheral route.

As to the increase in multiple housing, we felt that it is better for a residential community to give a little to multiple, than end up having the courts destroy the type of community Bloomfield is by making all of Woodward Ave. commercial.

AS TO INCREASING the density of multiple housing from 3 units per acre to 4.5 units per acre, we feel that the city would have a very difficult job, now that it has sanitary sewer facilities, to justify to a court that only permitting a land owner 3 units per acre isn't in fact depriving him of the reasonable use of his land.

There is honestly a question in our minds

whether the 4.5 units per acre isn't too restrictive. Nevertheless it is an improvement.

AS TO THE THIRD proposed change, that of permitting three story multiple buildings with permission of the zoning board of appeals, we have a harder job accepting.

After our editorial flatly rejecting the three stories, we had the opportunity to review proposed developments for the Hills which included well designed three story structures.

We were told that they would only be built in the hilly area close to the railroad tracks on Long Lake.

However, after re-reading the proposed zoning ordinance, we find that three story structures can be placed anywhere that is zoned multiple with permission of the zoning board of appeals.

WHILE THEY WOULDN'T be too bad in a hilly area, once some were put up, there would be pressures put on the appeals board to allow them elsewhere and what concrete answer can they give to reject others when they have allowed some.

Based on the fact that the zoning must apply to the entire city, we feel the higher type buildings should not be permitted in the Hills.

Regardless of our opinions, it is the duty of every interested resident to appear at the commission meeting tomorrow night if they desire some say in the future growth of their community.

Support The House

Once again a drive is under way for funds for operation of The Community House, long recognized as a popular activities center for the Birmingham-Bloomfield area.

The campaign to raise \$55,000 started March 1 and will be conducted throughout this month. The money is needed strictly for the operation of the facility.

In business since 1923, The Community House is supported almost entirely by contributions from area residents and businesses.

Each year, The Birmingham Eccentric endorses this drive because of our faith in the purpose and function of this community establishment. Its value to the community goes unquestioned.

THE COMMUNITY HOUSE is a central, completely nonpolitical, nonsectarian, non-profit organization. It is the meeting place of community-oriented organizations.

We believe that our citizens today have the faith and belief in The Community House that has been characteristic



THE COMMUNITY HOUSE

throughout the years. We are convinced that they are interested in the continuing operation and development of its programs and facilities.

Therefore, we urge overwhelming support of this drive for \$55,000. We ask our citizens to give generously to this campaign. We believe firmly they will be happy that they did.

The Community House needs and deserves our continued support.

A Good Move

The Birmingham School Board, after toting up the figures and casting a glance toward the future has found that there is not enough in the kitty to continue the forward progress of the school system over the next several years.

Realizing that this could be a subjective conclusion, they have decided to invite outsiders to come in and double check their figures before they go to the public and ask for more millage.

They are now in the process of selecting a citizen advisory group, from among residents, to tell them if they are right or wrong.

WE, AT THE ECCENTRIC, must commend them for this action, because oftentimes in the past, the decision to ask the voters for more money was held off till the

last minute, so that opposition wouldn't have time to group together. Thus the people showing up at the polls were sympathetic to the pleas of education.

This effort by the school board seems to us to be an attempt to honestly let the people know how the school funds are being spent today, and where they are needed for tomorrow.

THIS TYPE OF communication cannot but strengthen the faith that the residents have in their school board.

We will naturally hold off comment on the needs for additional millage, until we ourselves have had the opportunity to review the figures, but if the school board is willing to be scrutinized, they apparently have no fear that their future requests are well founded.

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

Latin Americans score a sweep in the U.S. National Tennis Championship. But its not true that the Alliance for Progress has been concentrating on tennis.

Freeman, back from Russia, sees "the need to increase our person to person contacts with the Russian people." That word in "contact," not "combat."

Senators have been subjected to so much criticism lately they're developing callouses—which may dull the pain a bit when the full Bobby Baker impact is felt.

Stock averages hit an all-time high. The attitude makes it harder to bear critics who keep repeating that the economy would boom if only they were running it.

ESTABLISHED IN 1878

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press Is Democracy's First Line of Defense

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PUBLISHER: PAUL N. AYERLL
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.
MANAGING EDITOR: KENNETH R. WEAVER
ADVERTISING MANAGER: ARTHUR SHAFER

George R. Averill, Editor Emeritus

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Youth Program Praised; Tells of Engineer's Plan

To the Editor:

It would be difficult to remain passive to the editorial comment recently published, and subsequent action taken by The Birmingham Eccentric, as these relate to the unfortunate incident that recently befell the community.

Neither students nor adults of the community, nor I, as an outsider, condone acts of violence; however, the judgment required to respond constructively, after the fact, is exacting.

The attitude of the Student Congress and its willingness to devote time and energy toward a better youth environment are, for sure, necessary ingredients. The step to name David Zimmerman as a consultant to The Eccentric, and the outlet to the community that it is providing the students to tell about their thoughts and ambitions, is, likewise, an important part of a communication system required in any community.

The combined development is worthy of the whole-hearted support of that community.

MY REASON for writing is to hopefully add a dimension to community thinking by recounting and analyzing the several programs sponsored by The Engineering Society of Detroit in which youths who have demonstrated certain academic interests can be served by people who have a depth of knowledge in the same fields of interest.

The 4,600 members of The Engineering Society of Detroit are all professional people, architects, engineers, scientists and those associated with the profession, who have had the opportunity for an advanced education and who are contributing to the society in which they live through their profession.

ALL OF these people know the relationship between education and the past and future opportunities to serve. All are aware of the need for a continuing supply of young men and women with talent who are able to contribute to the advancement of the standards of living through their own improvement, new products and processes and new industries.

Many of these members are concerned with the quality of their time and talent to youth programs.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Not One But Two Views Are Opposed by Reader

To the Editor:

I wish to comment upon two unrelated articles printed in The Eccentric.

An editorial of Jan. 16, 1964, implied that a non-formed organization in Birmingham is suspect because Robert Verzyer is a member. (He is president of the Central Birmingham Residents Association.)

The inevitable conclusion is that any group Verzyer joins, for example, the Red Cross, bears the burden of justifying its motives. The inaction places an unjust stigma on Bob because it could discourage groups from associating with him.

The article also impugns Verzyer's intentions merely because he has joined this organization, and supported me in last spring's Commission campaign.

I DOUBT IF the editorial's author ever met Bob Verzyer, because the article showed no appreciation for Bob's character. For your information, Bob was elected president of the Baldwin School P.T.A., he is an advisor for a Junior Achievement company, is on the stewardship committee in his church, is active in Boy Scouts, as well as having been elected the founding president of his residential association.

I wish we had more citizens with Bob's interest in our community. This editorial betrays your avowed policy of stimulating interest in Birmingham among its residents—in fact to so irresponsibly impugn Bob (who is stimulated by no selfish motive) discourages other residents from working for the betterment of this community.

A SUCCINCT SUMMARY OF

Ken Weaver's column this week is:

One of our high school counselors is responsible for teen-age confusion because he had the audacity to criticize newspaper coverage of

grams sponsored by the society.

YOUTH ARE invited to attend all scheduled programs of the Science Fair at the Detroit Greenfield Village and, finally, a meeting in the Henry Ford Museum Auditorium where they become a speaker who was an authority on materials science.

For several years, the Professional Guidance Committee has planned and conducted both the Guidance Program, collaborating with the Affiliated Societies Council and the Science Youth Day Program.

For the first time, the Education Committee, in collaboration with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, sponsored the Holiday Lecture Series this year.

AND NOW, for the eighth year, the Engineering Society of Detroit and The Detroit News, are co-sponsoring the Metropolitan Science Fair, this activity originating with the Special Activities Committee of The Society.

The Guidance Program, organized by the ESD Professional Guidance Committee, is planned to give guidance and counsel to students in engineering and science. More than 100 members of professional groups affiliated with ESD volunteer their time for the day set aside for this program.

Each year the winners of the local competition go to a national competition. The scope and quality of the Metropolitan Science Fair are recognized as outstanding throughout the United States. The National Science Fair is being planned for Detroit in 1965.

IT SEEMS quite apparent to ESD that youth do have serious interests and are receptive to encouragement. One might argue that participation by numbers alone does not prove that these activities are worthwhile.

The fact, however, that a very large percentage of those students, who, in past years, did not attend the school, continued their education and are now taking their place in society is ample reward for the efforts of those who assisted in the programs.

(See PROGRAM, 8-B)

eighteen local industries for a portion of a day. The high point of the day was a group tour of the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village and, finally, a meeting in the Henry Ford Museum Auditorium where they became a speaker who was an authority on materials science.

THE HOLIDAY Lecture Series is a new activity planned and conducted by the Education Committee for the first time in this Metropolitan Community. During this last holiday season the famed English tradition of the Holiday Lecture Series was offered to students on the days of Dec. 29, 27 and 28.

The continued attendance for the three days, the enthusiasm and the well-informed questions were a genuine tribute to the students and their teachers. Approximately 700 students responded to the invitation to hear Dr. George Gamow, internationally known physicist, who gave up the heart of the Christmas recess to attend five science lectures.

FINALLY, THE Metropolitan Science Fair reaches far into the area of student guidance; without doubt, farther than any other activity at the school, and the students' parents can judge. By actual count more than 4,900 exhibits were judged in floor fairs last year; and from those, 1,500 exhibits of high quality reached Cobo Hall in the final local competition.

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Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

This humble corner has really made the grade. If you happen to go to the Fisher Theatre during the current engagement you will see that we are the subject for discussion on page 20 of their publication "Stage". It seems a couple of weeks ago I questioned their policy of keeping latecomers in the lobby for 15 minutes as sort of a penalty.

Their article pictures me as a bad guy because I would question a new experiment in show business.

I DON'T REALLY want to start a war with the people at the Fisher because I feel that the theatre is one of the greatest things that has happened to Detroit in a long long time.

And now that they are finally getting better shows, I'm reluctant to kick them before they can get up on their feet and defend themselves.

But unfortunately they misquote me in their article. I am not against the policy of keeping patrons from their seats until a scene change, I oppose their policy of keeping patrons in the lobby an arbitrary 15 minutes and then let them roam in the middle of a scene.

MR. HOGAN IT IS MY CONTENTION that if you are going to interrupt the patrons who are on time, interrupt before the show really gets going, instead of halfway through the first act.

If the management thinks they are holding the latecomers in the lobby for a complete scene, then they ought to check with their hired help. I double checked this the other night and on the stroke of 8:15 the ushers let the dawdlers wander down the aisle. And this was far from a scene change.

I did notice while I was checking that the Theatre has changed their policies a little since my first column.

INSTEAD OF HOLDING people in the lobby they were letting them stand in the rear on the sides so at least they could see what was going on.

They condemn this practice in their little article, but possibly their editorial writer doesn't have time to attend the shows or just doesn't know what's going on.

I can also now commend them on the courtesy of the gentleman who explains to you why you can't take your seat.

They have either replaced the old traffic cop or sent him to finishing school.

So much for the Fisher.

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

The storm is still brewing over that Feb. 13 column of satire on teen-agers.

Too many letters (most of them ridiculing me) were received to permit publishing all of them in their entirety, but here are quotations from some of them:

"Your sarcastic article... concerning the young people of this community has aroused a great deal of righteous indignation and resentment in our family and among many of our friends and neighbors.

"I assume that it was written as a rebuttal to the dignified article addressed to The Eccentric by the young man who was president of the Seaholm High School Student Congress which was printed in your paper the previous week.

"HOW ANY intelligent, fair-minded, democratic, mature adult could respond to our young people in this immature, ill-considered, narrow-minded, mistaken way is utterly inconceivable to me!"

"If your aim was to add fuel to the flames of misunderstanding between young people and adults, you have certainly accomplished it!"

"To turf a deaf ear and to be scathingly sarcastic only aids and abets resistance and defiance between people.

"THE ARTICLE was entirely distasteful to me, and the reference to 'carrying a knife' was extremely offensive in view of the recent tragedy in our town.

"Certainly our youth are not all good or all bad; but, I think, The Eccentric is inclined to be unnecessarily extreme, often to the point of sensationalism, in editorials and news items regarding them.

"Why should our press attempt to accentuate our school children's problems when in other parts of the country the schools are struggling in anguish over such a great and heart-rending problem as racial integration?" —A Birmingham mother.

"THANK YOU so much for the 'City Beat' comments of Feb. 13. You are taking on a fight—you know that!"

"I told my teen-ager that now there's one parent in Birmingham who is not afraid of public opinion; or who is not accepting the teen view in everything..."

"Whether or not we parents can get this message of 'roxy-red' across is the big question. But let's start..."

"If these kids knew about Lincoln the way they know about the Top Ten, it would be a happier world..."

"INTERCEPTION of school notes has proved to me these kids must want nothing else except to be popular. If they are not in the select circle, they blame us; if they bring home poor marks, they blame us; if their skin or hair isn't just right, once again they're to blame.

"Why must they forever and forever be blaming some one else for their shortcomings?"

"Your article put the shoe on the other foot for a change. Can they see this picture of themselves?..."

"If we could have a Teen Morals March, such as the Freedom March, then everything might truly be roxy-red." —A mother who cares.

"I WOULD LIKE to compliment you on your recent article. You have expressed exactly the sentiments I have felt for a long time—and you are right: Your column smells!"

"Why is it whenever you can't think of anything to write about, you knock the teen-agers of Birmingham?" (See CITY BEAT, 7-B)

Yesteryear Happenings

50 YEARS AGO

March 6, 1914

We are now going to have a real village election. It has been years since our club has had a real election to vote over one ticket. This year we have two tickets, and a third canvass called, which did not attract a full head of steam.

Three in attendance, and two of these had such an almighty row, scrap, or war on, that the third party flew away. This trouble ended a third nomination which was fondly hoped to bear issue by its friends. But, alas! Only disappointment.

On Saturday the superintendents of the county high schools met at Pontiac with the county secretary in the YMCA room. They completed the baseball organization and elected officers. Plans had been under way for some time, and now everything is under a full head of steam, and all we need is warm weather, when the various schools will begin spring training.

Geo. H. Mitchell has sold his Woodward Avenue house. A gentleman named Harris of Detroit will move in April 1. To change from a two room house to a six room calls for some change in furniture and fixtures. Mitchell will have an auction sale of everything saving enough to furnish the new place. He will sell a good piano, Domestic sewing machine (cabinet case), two sideboards, (one an antique), bedsteads, spring mattresses, tables, chairs.

30 YEARS AGO

March 8, 1934

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(MORE PEOPLE'S COLUMN LETTERS ON 8-B)