

WILMETTE LIFE

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Order Repeal of Major Street Plan

EXPECT 1931 TO BE PROSPEROUS

Wilmette Business Men Optimistic About Business Outlook for New Year

Wilmette business men are optimistic about the prospects for a successful business year in 1931. Several men in various fields of business in Wilmette were interviewed this week, and all of them were of the opinion that 1931 will be a better year than was 1930.

E. B. Knudtson, president of the First National bank, commented as follows:

"Reports coming to us from various merchants in Wilmette for 1930 are of a favorable nature in spite of the general adverse condition. Our institution feels confident that a definite turn will come in 1931, and that there will be a gradual improvement as time passes. Security markets have a firm undertone, and within the last few weeks there has been increased buying of bonds. The financial situation in this territory is sound, and we look forward to better conditions in all lines."

E. C. Cazal of the Snider-Cazal Drug store says that the business outlook for 1931 is good. "Last year was a better year than 1929 in our business," he said, "and if 1931 is as good as 1930 we will be satisfied." Mr. Cazal expressed the opinion that the drug business was not as hard hit by the depression as some of the other businesses.

Period of Slow Convalescence

Leo Mickel of the Dutch Oven believes that 1931 will be a period of "slow convalescence," with a probable improvement in business conditions toward the end of the year. So far as the Dutch Oven is concerned, every year has been better than the one preceding it, but Mr. Mickel spoke from the standpoint of business in general. "We were sick in 1930 and we are still sick," Mr. Mickel said, adding that he expects business to improve gradually and with no sudden spurt.

J. E. Worthen, president of the Chamber of Commerce and owner

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Ten New Members Added to Chamber of Commerce

Ten applications for membership were accepted by the Wilmette Chamber of Commerce at its meeting on Monday evening in the Masonic temple. Albert H. Fuessle, Sam Speredes, A. J. Anderson, William F. Bolinger and R. P. Herr were received as regular members, while T. D. Scarff, Henry Brandt, H. A. Gould, Lyman E. Goss, Jr., and Charles S. McCoy entered as civic members. These ten names swell the active membership of the Wilmette Chamber of Commerce to 261, as compared with 167 for the opening of the year 1930.

Stoddard Comments on Board's Action

Regarding the action of the Wilmette Village board Tuesday night ordering the preparation of an ordinance revoking an ordinance passed two years ago by the board, which approved a major street plan for Wilmette recommended to the board at that time by the Wilmette Plan commission, Robert Stoddard, president of the Plan commission, made the following statement in an interview with a representative of WILMETTE LIFE.

"You have asked me if I have any comment to make upon the action of the Village board Tuesday evening ordering the Village attorney to prepare an ordinance repealing the major street plan ordinance which was adopted some months ago.

"There should be no precipitate action in this matter. If the street plan is ill advised and something which the village doesn't need, its repeal would be proper, but if for its best development and orderly growth the village needs a guiding street plan the subject should be treated with deliberate and thoughtful consideration.

Provides for Setback Lines

"The revised zoning ordinance provides for building setback lines on streets to be widened. This is the easy and effective first step in street widening. Under our major street plan the widening would affect comparatively few buildings now existing, but it would prevent the erection of other structures too close to front lot lines.

"The Wilmette Plan contemplates a complete boulevard system substantially within our own borders and encircling the village. Street widening in old-built up districts is well nigh impossible, but in these days of new traffic conditions many cities have had to face the problem. It has not yet become a serious one with Wilmette. Sensible action now may obviate future distress.

"Public hearings will soon be held on the revised zoning ordinance. If it is previously determined to cancel in whole or part our announced street program, not only would the proposed new zoning ordinance have to be revised to conform thereto but we would also relinquish our control over the opening of streets adjoining the village in the mile and one-half zone permitted by the statutes."

Invite Officials To Attend Annual Architects' Meet

Officials of the north shore villages have been invited to attend an informal dinner and reception to be held Monday night, January 12, at the Orrington hotel, Evanston, upon the occasion of the opening of the fourth annual architectural exhibition.

The invitation was extended to the village officials by the Evanston-North Shore Association of Architects with the cooperation of the Evanston Plan commission and the Evanston Art commission.

Robert Kingery, executive secretary of the Chicago Regional Planning association, will be the speaker. He will talk on the subject, "Proposed Development of the Lake Front North of Chicago." Dwight H. Perkins will preside.

Following the program there will be an adjournment to the art center exhibition rooms in the Evanston Public library, across the street from the Orrington hotel. It is expected that the annual awards made by the Evanston Art commission for architectural work of merit in Evanston during 1930 will be announced at this meeting.

CLUB COMMITTEE MEETS

A meeting of the general committee of the Wilmette Sunday Evening club will be held in the chapel of the First Congregational church Sunday afternoon, January 11, at 4 o'clock.

AUXILIARY MEETS MONDAY

The regular January meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary of Wilmette Post No. 46, will be held at the home of Mrs. Norman Deno, 229 Laurel avenue, Monday evening, January 12. The program will be given by Mrs. W. J. Benner, soloist.

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BOARD RESCINDS EARLIER ACTION

Ordinance Passed Two Years Ago Approving Wilmette Plan to Be Revoked

Repeal of an ordinance passed two years ago which approves a comprehensive major street plan of 80-foot and 100-foot thoroughfares for Wilmette as recommended by the Wilmette Plan commission was voted by the Wilmette Village board at its regular meeting Tuesday night. Village Attorney Charles H. Jackson was instructed to prepare an ordinance which will revoke the present ordinance approving the major street plan.

This action of the board Tuesday night was taken following a storm of protest against the plan from property owners on various streets designated as major streets and the presentation of a petition by Michigan avenue property owners asking that their street be left out of the plan and that public hearings be called on each major street.

A proposed new zoning ordinance which contains the initial step in carrying out the major street plan has been drafted and will be submitted to Wilmette residents at a public hearing soon. It was this proposed new zoning ordinance which brought the matter of the major street plan to a head at the meeting of the Village board Tuesday night.

Discussed at C. of C. Meeting

The matter was discussed by Attorney Herman T. Reiling at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce Monday night in explaining the provisions of the proposed new zoning ordinance. The Chamber of Commerce, it was explained, had no interest in the matter except as a discussion on a civic proposition.

Under the provisions of the major street plan recommended by the Wilmette Plan commission and approved by the Village board in an ordinance passed in January, 1929, widening improvements were considered on the following streets:

Proposed Major Streets

East of Ridge road: North and south streets—Michigan avenue, 80 feet; Sheridan road, 80 feet; Sixth street, 80 feet; Main street, 66 feet (its present width); Prairie avenue—Fifteenth street, 80 feet, and Ridge road, 100 feet; east and west streets—Maple avenue, Greenleaf avenue, Central avenue, Lake avenue, Forest avenue, Elmwood avenue, Greenwood avenue, Ashland avenue, Chestnut avenue and Wilmette avenue, each 80 feet.

West of Ridge road: North and south streets—Illinois road, Hibbard road, Thayer avenue (proposed), Skokie boulevard, Laramie avenue and Lakewood avenue, each 100 feet, and Locust road, 80 feet; east and west streets—Ashland avenue, Lake avenue, Wilmette avenue and Glenview road, each 100 feet.

Members of the Wilmette Plan (Continued on page 2B)

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