

# City Council



# Editorial

## Your City Government And What It Is Doing

### Council Approves Street Lighting Plan; Mayor Ronan Explains Police Department's Stand on Speed Laws.

by Elmore M. Murphy

With the exception of the action of the council approving a standard street lighting fixture adopted by the Chamber of Commerce some time ago, the most interesting item on Monday evening's program was a short dissertation on the city's speed laws rendered by the mayor and other members of the community's governing body.

A resident of Highland Park was recently arrested for going 45 miles per hour on south Green Bay road. Thinking that he had a grievance beyond the powers of the police department or the traffic court to settle he appeared before the council on Monday evening to plead his case. The defendant stated that although he was in technical violation of the law it was his opinion that the police department could well afford to be more liberal in its interpretation of the city's speed ordinances. In his case, he stated it was necessary to exceed the speed limit by some 10 miles per hour in order to pass up traffic moving at a slower pace.

Mayor Ronan, after explaining to the petitioner that the council was a legislative body and could not act in a judicial capacity, stated that the police department had been particularly instructed to use exceptional vigilance in apprehending speeders on Green Bay road. Records for 1939 show, he pointed out, that the two mile stretch comprising south Green Bay road was the site of nearly 45 per cent of all traffic accidents in Highland Park. These statistics are all the more amazing, he said, when it is realized that there are some 115 miles of streets and boulevards throughout the city. Commissioner Sharp brought out the point that inasmuch as just what rate of momentum may or may not be considered speeding is a debatable question it was necessary in most cases to enforce the letter of the law.

Chief of Police Andrews who was in the audience stated that it definitely was not the policy of his department to carry on any war of persecution against the community's motorists but that in the interest of safety the speed laws of the city must be enforced. He added that the police department was almost in daily receipt of complaints from home owners residing on Green Bay asking that something be done about automobile speeders on this thoroughfare.

The action of the council finally approving the street lighting plan adopted by the Chamber of Commerce came as a welcome relief to all concerned. This project has been hanging fire for one reason or another since late summer with the

result that part of the business district has been without any street lighting facilities at all. Now that official approval of the plan has been voted work in installing the missing posts and any others approved by the property owners in question will be started immediately.

In order to prevent subdivision developers from dumping the repair of streets in these projects onto the lap of the city's street department the council voted to withhold approval of these developments unless a bond is posted guaranteeing that the abutting property owners maintain their streets until they are surfaced with concrete.

City Clerk Musser read a bid submitted by Midwest Tree Service Co. calling for the treatment and pruning of city owned trees in the amount of \$37.50. Commissioner Swanson stated that although the work on the trees was badly needed he did not see where his department could find the funds to pay for it. Upon his recommendation the bid was placed on file for action upon a later date.

To relieve the ever increasing parking problem in the business district arrangements have been made with owners of vacant lots on Central Ave. and First St. to permit motorists frequenting this area to park their cars for the sum of one dollar per month. The police department is also taking into consideration a plan allowing 15 minute parking on the north side of Central Ave. between the North Shore and the North Western tracks.

In an impressive ceremony following the meeting Mayor Ronan accepted in behalf of the council an American Flag donated to the city by the various American-Italian organizations in the community.

At the close of the session Mayor Ronan announced that there would be no regular council meeting next week.

#### Deerfield Bowling Academy

The high weekly prize winners at Deerfield Bowling Academy were Clarence Smith with a score of 243 and Eleanor Grossman with 252.

A mixed doubles contest is being held all this week, closing Sunday.

Sunday the Rolling 40 Girls of Deerfield will bowl against the Shoreline Girls at the Highwood Shoreline alleys. Four teams will bowl at 2 o'clock and four at 4 o'clock. The following Sunday a return match will be rolled at the Deerfield Academy.

Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock the Shifty Builders will bowl the Moose of Highland Park.

## We Again Return to Magazine Form

Here we are in our "party clothes." We hope you like us.

With this issue THE HIGHLAND PARK PRESS again returns to magazine form, first adopted in 1929.

The change, contemplated for some time, has been dictated by three important considerations.

First, our readers asked for it.

Secondly, our advertisers asked for it.

And finally, we welcomed an opportunity to commemorate a few months in advance, our Thirtieth Anniversary which we will celebrate March 1, 1941.

Thirty years, in the life of man, is a long time, yet as we look back, they seem to have been very short years. So much history has been crowded into them. The first World war seems but yesterday. We can still hear the echoes of the bugles at Ft. Sheridan. Now, even before the world had become accustomed to peace, they are sounding again, and surely will grow louder each passing day.

But with all the strife and turmoil which reverberates so ominously from across both oceans, our work in helping to build a typical American home community, is a happy task.

Above everything, we want to give Highland Park and her sister cities of Highwood and Deerfield, regardless of its form, a *real* newspaper. That means, simply, that if you want to know what is going on in your community, you will find it in THE PRESS.

But, in a folksey, neighborly group of suburbs, such as ours, it is not always easy to live up to the time-honored traditions of a newspaper. That means the news and nothing but the news — concise and truthful. Unfortunately for us, there are some people who feel that a piece about their organization should be given unlimited space and printed "just as the secretary wrote it." The editor's judgment as to whether or not it is news, is dismissed lightly, and too frequently we have succumbed to these importunate requests.

Which brings us back to our new style magazine newspaper. To give you, our readers, better paper, better printing, brighter pictures and more attractive advertising, we must conserve our space. We will try to find room for every item that our editor considers legitimate news — in fact we welcome such contributions — but henceforth, of necessity they will be brief and worth reading.

It is reader interest that makes a newspaper of value to its advertisers. That publication is indeed fortunate which is read for itself, but without advertising revenue, there would be few newspapers.

To warrant your continued support and approval, we will strive with all our might to keep THE HIGHLAND PARK PRESS.

Your Community Newspaper,

John Udell, Publisher

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