

City Council



Calendars

Your City Government: What It Is Doing

By ELMORE M. MURPHY

Collection of Delinquent Taxes on Council's "Must" List; New Record System Proving Invaluable To Police Department

With the dedication of the new fire station set for next Sunday and with the new incinerator practically ready for operation the city council is busying itself these days with plans for the completion of projects either already on the fire or shortly to be put into motion.

Among the former can be listed the widening of Green Bay road south of Central Ave. and the installation of the new water main serving that area. Among the latter the solution of the garbage disposal problem, the installation of "stop and go" lights where necessary and the collection of delinquent taxes head the council's "must" activities for the coming year.

When the current administration took office in May of 1939 its members stated that they would feel they had been negligent in their duty to the electorate unless something was done about the delinquent tax situation. In November of that year a committee made up of representatives of the various taxing bodies in the Highland Park area was formed with Commissioner Sharp as chairman to work out an equitable solution to the problem. Meetings of this committee were held with Okel Fuqua then Assistant States Attorney in charge of delinquent tax collection and the problem seemed well on its way to an early solution.

Subsequently, however, the taxing bodies in the area other than the City of Highland Park appeared to lose interest in the project when it came to financing the investigation.

Unwilling to pay for the entire procedure when it was eligible to claim only a small part of the back taxes collected, the city council drifted away from the problem and devoted its time to other matters.

In the meantime a new states attorney has come into the scene and Mr. Fuqua, an appointee of the old regime has suffered the fate of all political flesh and has faded from the picture.

Thus all the preliminary work done with the now departed Mr. Fuqua has to be done all over again.

In an effort to start the ball rolling again Commissioner Sharp contacted the States Attorney's office a fortnight ago but was told they were too busy to go into the matter immediately. Commissioner Sharp promises, however, that he will leave no stone unturned in his efforts to bring at least a portion of the delinquent taxes into the city's coffers. If it is necessary to haunt the States Attorney's office to make them realize Highland Park means business he will do so.

Commissioner Sharp points out that if the city can collect only a

few of the many thousands of dollars due it in back taxes it would more than put the community back on its feet.

The City Fathers in recent months have been troubled not a little by the tendency of real estate operators to break up the large plots of property that have given Highland Park its reputation as a community of spacious homes into smaller and less desirable pieces. To offset further movement in this direction the council plans to give the zoning laws a thorough going over with an eye towards putting some real teeth in them where necessary.

A recent visit with Chief of Police Rex Andrews has convinced this correspondent that the record system recently installed in the police department under his direction is alone ample reason for his appointment to this job.

Chief Andrews is a firm believer in systemizing every operation of his department's work. Daily bulletins showing every detail of operation are kept in a handy loose-leaf book in easy reach at all times. Complaints are assigned case numbers and filed both numerically and alphabetically so that regardless of the lapse of time involved a complete record of any case can be produced at a moments notice.

The automobile accident record system is well worth careful perusal by every citizen of the community. Separate files are kept by location and by the name of the driver of the machine involved in the accident. The location file is a double arrangement whereby the accident history of any street intersection in the city is available for examination immediately. When an unusually large number of accidents occur at any given spot it shows up in the record file and the department is then able to take the necessary steps to cure the situation.

Again when any one driver is involved in more than the normal number of accidents this fact becomes apparent from the name file.

To help the members of the department visualize the accident record of the community at a glance a large map of the city has been hung on the wall. On this map marked pins are placed at the location of each accident. These pins indicate whether anyone has been killed or injured. An unusually large concentration of pins in any one place immediately marks it as a danger spot. Subsequently, surveys are made with an eye towards reducing the hazards at these locations.

A recent innovation of the department that has been most pleas-

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Highland Park Events for Coming Week

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23—

- 12:15 p.m. Lions Club Luncheon at Sunset Valley Club.
- 7:00 p.m. Chess Club meeting at H. P. Community Center.
- 8:00 p.m. American Legion meets in club room. Edward K. Lewis, speaker.
- 8:00 p.m. Co-ordinating Council General Meeting at Community Center. Mayor Ronan to speak.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24—

- 10:00-4:30 Red Cross meeting at Trinity Episcopal Church.
- 1:15 p.m. Lincoln P. T. A. Ice Carnival, Lincoln School.
- 7:30 p.m. Footlighters meet at Y.W.C.A.
- 8:00 p.m. Community Orchestra meets.
- 8:00 p.m. Sheridan Rifle and Pistol Club meeting at Club Range in Deerfield.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25—

- 9:30 a.m. Boys Airplane Club at Community Center.
- 10:30 a.m. Raggedy Ann Frolic at Y.W.C.A.
- 8:30 p.m. "Exam Jam" Senior Hop at H. P. High School.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26—

- 9:00 a.m. North Shore Hiking Club meets at 1547 S. St. Johns Ave.
- 4:30 p.m. Vesper Service at Bethany Church. Musart Club to present program.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27—

- 10:00 a.m. H. P. League of Women Voters Study Group at Y.W.C.A.
- 12:15 p.m. Highland Park Rotary Club Luncheon at Sunset Valley Club.
- 1:00 p.m. Red Cross First Aid class at Community Center.
- 6:30 p.m. Kiwanis Club Dinner at Sunset Valley Club.
- 8:00 p.m. City Council Meeting.
- 8:00 p.m. Highland Park Social Service annual meeting postponed to February 3.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28—

- 8:00 p.m. Senior Stamp Club at Community Center.
- 8:30 p.m. North Shore Music Series at H. P. High School.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29—

- 1:00 p.m. Mid-Winter Luncheon and Bridge, H. P. Woman's Club.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30—

- 12:15 p.m. Lions Club Luncheon meeting at Sunset Valley Club.
- 7:00 p.m. Chess Club meeting at H. P. Community Center.

Deerfield Events for Coming Week

WEEK OF JANUARY 24-30

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24—

- 7:00 p.m. Jr. High E.L.C.E.
- 7:45 p.m. Bethlehem Church Choir.
- 8:00 p.m. Royal Neighbors.
- 8:00 p.m. Community Chorus.
- 9:00 p.m. Bowling.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27—

- 3:30 Girl Scouts Troop 1.
- 7:00 p.m. Business Men's Bowling League.
- 7:30 p.m. Scouts Troop 2.
- 7:30 p.m. Girl Scouts.
- 8:00 p.m. American Legion.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28—

- 2:00 p.m. Deerfield Woman's Club.
- 7:00 p.m. Woman's Bowling Session.
- 7:30 p.m. Presbyterian Church Session.
- 8:00 p.m. Holy Cross Service.
- 8:30 p.m. Holy Cross Choir.
- 9:00 p.m. C. of C. Bowling League.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29—

- 1:00 p.m. End. Society Club.
- 3:30 p.m. Girl Scouts.
- 7:30 p.m. St. Paul's Choir.
- 8:00 p.m. Presbyterian Choir.
- 8:00 p.m. Bethlehem Midweek Service.
- 8:00 p.m. Badminton League.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30—

- 12:15 p.m. Rotary Club.
- 7:00 p.m. C. of C. Meeting.
- 8:00 p.m. Bethlehem Women's Auxiliary.