

# City Council

YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT: WHAT IT IS DOING

By Elmore M. Murphy

Despite working into the wee small hours on the previous Monday evening, the City council was unable to get the 1941-1942 budget in shape for official action at this week's meeting. Several members of the council indicated, however, that the current appropriation schedule, now over a month overdue, should be ready for approval by next Monday evening.

Mayor Ronan officially opened this week's meeting by closing the bids for labor and materials for the 12-inch water main extension on Fort Sheridan avenue from Bloom street,

north to Walker avenue. This extension and subsequent coupling of the Highland Park water distribution system with Fort Sheridan will only be made if and when an agreement between the city and the Fort for water service is signed. At the moment, the Fort is contemplating contracting with the city of Highland Park for an additional supply of water but as yet no definite agreement has been reached.

Mayor Ronan's report to the council was largely taken up with a resume of Safety Week. As a result of the automobile tests conducted in the safety lane in which 1,159 cars were put through their paces it was found that faulty headlights and defective brakes were responsible for the largest percentage of the failures. The Mayor in praising those responsible for the success of Safety Week publicity called attention to the wholehearted cooperation rendered by the various individuals and agencies in town who worked on the event. Among these he cited the Safety Commission, the school authorities, the police department, the street department, the Boy Scouts, and the local newspapers. He also thanked the authorities at Fort Sheridan for their cooperation in sending down a platoon of troops to take part in the Memorial Day exercises.

A special feature of Monday evening's meeting was the presentation by the mayor of a sharpshooting trophy to its members of the police department. This trophy, representing third place in an inter-city match was won in competition with six other teams. The mayor stated that the Highland Park victory was all the more satisfying and surprising since two members of the team had never before shot in formal competition.

Commissioner Sharp states that the water department is having its usual trouble in collecting money from the same list of delinquents that dot the department's record books year after year. Mr. Sharp inferred that the department had just about exhausted all its patience in dealing with these chronic offenders and that unless the necessary remittance were received promptly, he was going to allow the law to take its course and have their water shut off.

The psychology of the average citizen who is delinquent on bills owed his local government for services rendered is indeed a peculiar one. For some reason or other he places money owed the city in an entirely different category than money owed a private concern. When the gas or telephone company threatens to cut off their services unless she pays his bills, he usually comes through without much fuss. However, when the local government tightens the reins a bit on

his line of credit he rears up on his hind legs and wants to sue everybody in sight.

In the past the water department has leaned over backwards in going along with its chronic delinquents who really are in a position to pay their bills. Now that it wants to get every cent due it in the city's coffers for much needed expenditures these same delinquents are raising one mighty howl. It is unfortunate from every standpoint that they should take this attitude. The water department is simply doing its job and the least it should expect is the cooperation of all members of the community in helping it to do that job.

Parking automobiles on parkways appears to be one problem in Highland Park that is fast getting out of hand. Commissioner Swanson reports that his department is daily in receipt of numerous complaints on this score. The particular offenders at the moment seem to be the automobile dealers who place second hand cars in the parkways in front of and adjacent to their places of business. Commissioner Swanson pointed out that this procedure is not only unfair to the motorist but it also provides a dangerous traffic hazard.

To do a clean job of clearing up this evil it is apparent that the council must instruct the police department to enforce the law covering this subject without exception. To date the police department has been rather handcuffed in the matter because in the past this law has not been strictly enforced. If the police start to put the pressure on and enforce this law to the letter it will undoubtedly cause some hard feelings. If this is the case, so be it. If the police department has to spend its time interpreting the various shades of enforcement which are to be applied to the laws of the community it won't be good for much else. Again, the citizen himself must realize that when he seeks to be made an exception to the law by putting pressure on either the council or the police department he is undermining the effectiveness of his community's government. The crux of the matter, after all is said and done, rests with the council. The police department reports to the council and is largely swayed by that body's opinions. It is to be fervently hoped that the council will take a firm hand in withstanding any tendency on the part of individual citizens to place themselves above the welfare of the community as a whole.

In addition to opening the bids on the Fort Sheridan avenue water main project, bids were received and placed on file for the purchase of four new cars for the police department.

Reports of the water and build-

# Calendar

Highland Park Events for Coming Week

THURSDAY, JUNE 2—

- 12:15 p.m. Lions Club Luncheon, Sunset Valley Club.
- 7-9 p.m. Elm Place School Band Concert and Ice Cream Social in Elm Place bowl.
- 8:00 p.m. North Shore Yacht Club, at Clubhouse.
- 8:00 p.m. American Legion Auxiliary.
- 7:30 p.m. A. O. Fay Lodge No. 676, A.F. and A.M., Masonic temple.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6—

- 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Red Cross, Trinity Church.
- Ravinia Garen Club Board meeting (no time stated).
- 8:00 p.m. Rifle and Pistol Club, Deerfield range.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7—

- 8:00 p.m. Saturday Evening Club.
- 8:30 p.m. High School Junior Prom.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8—

Children's Day in Highland Park churches.

MONDAY, JUNE 9—

- 12:15 p.m. Rotary Club Luncheon, Sunset Valley Club.
- 6:30 p.m. Kiwanis Club Dinner, Sunset Valley.
- 7:00 p.m. Park Board meeting at City Hall.
- 7:45 p.m. School Board No. 108, Lincoln School.
- 8:00 p.m. City Council meeting, City Hall.
- 8:00 p.m. Braeside School Graduation, at School.

TUESDAY, JUNE 10.

- 10:00 a.m. YWCA Board meeting at YWCA.
- Flag Day Picnic, Green Bay and Elm Place schools.
- 6:30 p.m. Chamber of Commerce Dinner, Open House.
- 7:30 p.m. Highland Park Social Service Board, Office.
- 7:30 p.m. Mother's Club, YWCA.
- 7:45 p.m. School Board No. 107.
- 8:00 p.m. Choral Club, Community Center.
- 8:00 p.m. Ravinia School Graduation at Ravinia School.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11—

- 9:45 a.m. Girl Scouts Council, Mrs. Nereim.
- 9:30 a.m.-12 m. Highland Park Hospital Auxiliary dressings, Highland Park Hospital.
- School closes in District 107.
- 8:00 p.m. Lincoln School Graduation, Lincoln School.
- 8:00 p.m. Library Board meeting, Highland Park Library.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12—

- 12:15 p.m. Lions Club Luncheon, Sunset Valley Club.
- 2:00 p.m. D.A.R. regular meeting at home of Mrs. A. Lyle Gourley.
- 8:00 p.m. American Legion meeting, Legion Hall.
- 8:00 p.m. Young Men's Club, Community Center.
- 8:00 p.m. High School Graduation, Highland Park High School.

## Community Center Calendar

- Thursday, June 5—
- 7:00 p.m. Chess Club.
- Friday, June 6—
- 8:00 p.m. Community Orchestra.
- Saturday, June 7—
- 9:00 p.m. Junior Airplane Club.
- Monday, June 9—
- 1:00 p.m. Home Nursing Class.
- Tuesday, June 10—
- 4:00 p.m. Junior Airplane Club.
- 7:00 p.m. Hilland Planesmen.
- 8:00 p.m. Senior Stamp Club.
- 8:00 p.m. Community Choral Club.
- Wednesday, June 11—
- 9:30 a.m. First Aid Class.
- 8:00 p.m. Highland Park Camera Club.
- Thursday, June 12—
- 7:00 p.m. Chess Club.

ing departments read at Monday evening's meeting revealed unusual activity in these two branches of the city's government. Water pumpage for the month of May was some 16 percent higher than for the same period a year ago. Building permits for May, 1941, were more than eighty thousand dollars greater than for May, 1940.

## MATERNAL WELFARE COMMITTEE TO SEND OUT QUESTIONNAIRES

At the meeting of the Lake County Permanent Lay Maternal Welfare committee held on Wednesday, May 28, at the Lake Forest Public library, plans were discussed in regard to sending out health questionnaires to all mothers who have had babies born in the county in 1941. The answers sent in will be compared to the ones received from the 1939 questionnaires on prenatal and post-natal care.

Mrs. Walter French will be the new Antioch representative, replacing Mrs. E. F. Vass. Mrs. Robert Pettis of Deerfield has resigned, but her successor has not as yet been approved by the board. Mrs. Walter E. Johnson of Lake Forest will take over Mrs. Pettis duties as publicity chairman.