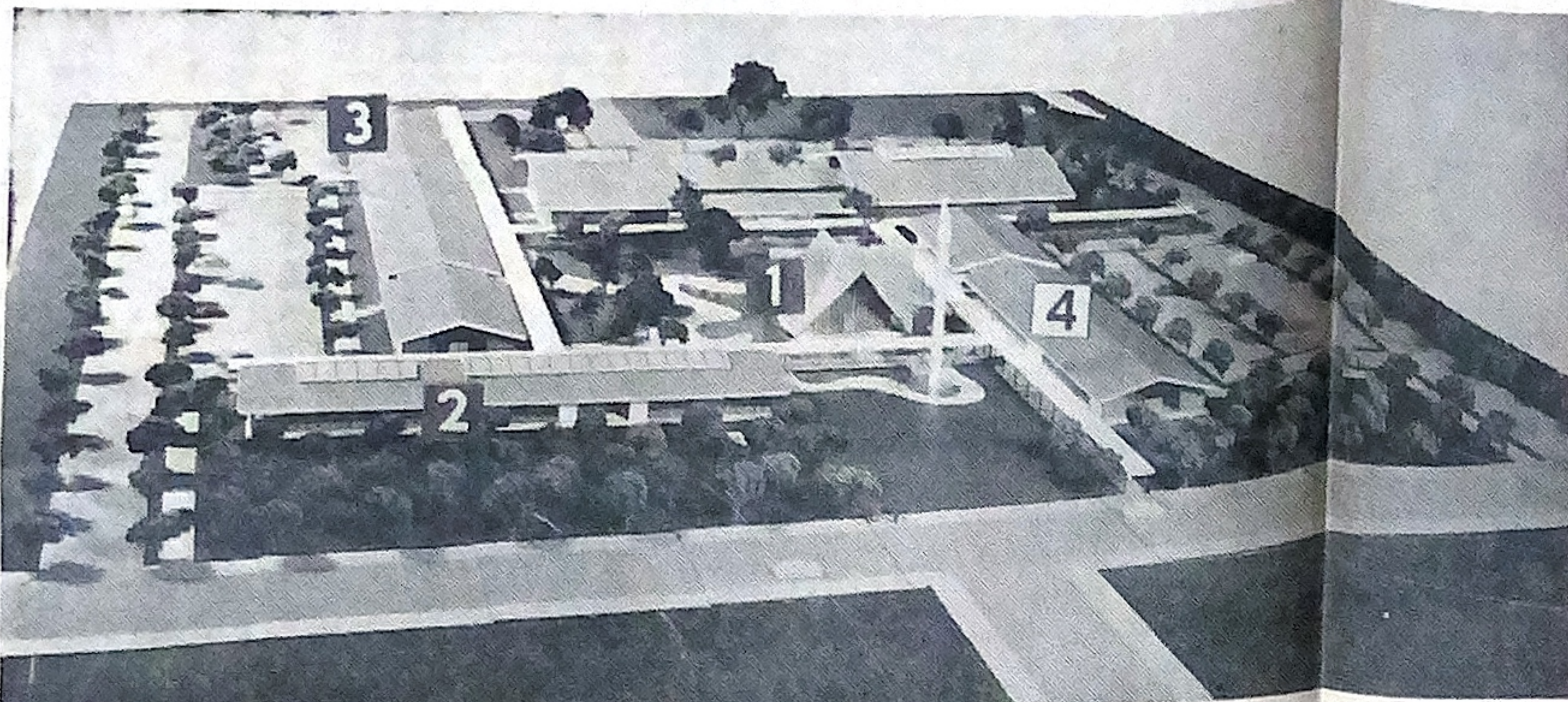


Los Altos to vote Tuesday on Civic Center issue



WILL THESE BUILDINGS BECOME A REALITY?

buildings are: 1. town meeting hall (council chamber); 2. city hall; 3. police department; 4. library. Possibilities for the future are an art center (between city hall and police department), a youth center (directly

behind city hall) and a community center (behind the library). Cost of first four units, including all fees and site development, will be \$575,000. Ernest J. Kump Associates won a national award for the design.

\$575,000 bond proposal would finance town hall, library, police station

By ROBERT BURGESS
Seven thousand six hundred Los Altos are eligible to decide on Tuesday if the city shall have the proposed \$575,000 civic center.

Four core buildings—city hall, town meeting hall (council chamber), police station and library—are on the ballot, a ballot that figuratively has taken four years to prepare.

THE PATH toward the bond issue at times has appeared impassable. Since incorporation in December, 1952, councilmen, planning commissioners and just plain citizens have mulled over ideas for design, financing and location.

Even now unanimity is lacking on financing, so Tuesday will be perhaps more decisive than appears on the surface. First problem was selection of a site. Not until the fall of 1954, 2½ years after incorporation, was the J. Gilbert Smith property at San Antonio Road and Edith Avenue settled upon.

blossoming orchard land. The city offered \$104,400. The \$13,000 impasse was broken by a donation from a man whose identity remained secret for some months. The late Arthur Fowler of neighboring Los Altos Hills was later identified as the donor.

DURING THE winter of 1954-55, councilmen tackled the problem of choosing an architect. By summer they were looking over designs submitted by Stanford architecture students.

Then they contacted internationally renowned Frank Lloyd Wright. The 86-year-old architect upset the rural calm by suggesting a "miniature skyscraper" for the civic center. He indicated he wasn't even too happy with the site.

Expressing high regard for Wright's "brilliant mind," the council turned nearer home. By December, 1955, Ernest J. Kump and Associates of Palo Alto has been given the contract, and Kump had a preliminary design to show the people.

The customary public hearings followed, and the council accepted the over-all design for the center. Besides the first four buildings, he proposed an art center, youth center and community building.

OF THESE THREE, the youth center is being studied now. After a series of lengthy sessions, councilmen decided on bond financing by sales tax money. In January this year they set the election which will be held Tuesday.

Group will offer election services

Election day services Tuesday to be furnished by the Los Altos Civic Center Committee will be threefold, according to Chairman Frank Pearson.

For information on voting, telephone WH 8-5180, WH 8-5681 or the precinct captain. For transportation to the polls, call Burt H. Riggs, WH 8-5681.

Supporters of Civic Center bond issue say: An opposition voice contends:

Civic Center Committee

The following is a statement by the Los Altos Civic Center Committee supporting the bond issue:

The civic center committee was formed by Los Altos whose beliefs in the future of their city is so strong they are willing to work for it; residents of long standing, newcomers, businessmen, merchants, professional people.

THE COMMITTEE was formed when questionable "facts" began to issue from a local "impartial" body, so that Los Altos could get the truth.

The civic center committee wholeheartedly supports next Tuesday's bond election for these reasons:

1. We need a town meeting hall. Have you ever attended a council meeting in the other half of that garage on First Street?
2. We need a police building. We cannot afford to be without police protection while our officers are "commuting" between here and Sunnyvale.
3. We need a city hall. Do you really believe cramped surroundings promote efficiency in city employees?
4. We need a library building. The ever-inadequate freight warehouse we have been calling "our library" will cease to be available as of Jan. 1, 1958.

OF COURSE, we could rent decentralized quarters for various facilities—we could even house some of them in abandoned parsonages perhaps—and spend more in the end due to increased building costs later and rent paid meanwhile.

Because we firmly believe that the cost of servicing the civic center bond issue will not unduly deplete our finances, because we feel it is fair that users of our civic center be permitted to help pay for it, because we know that other capital improvements for the benefit of Los Altos and its residents will not be delayed by having a civic center now, because we know the cost will be paid entirely from sales tax receipts, because of all these factors, we are being very particular: we are a "yes" vote.

Theft victim gets \$11 repayment note

STUART, Okla. (AP)—Service station operator Carl Frasier said he has received a letter containing \$11 from someone who broke into his establishment early Tuesday morning and helped himself to gasoline. The unsigned missive said the money was for gasoline, a broken window and a smashed lock.

Where do voters ballot?

Six polling stations chosen in consolidated precincts A through F for the \$575,000 bond election Tuesday are:

Precinct A (includes regular election precincts 1, 2, 3, 15 and 19), polling place, Earl B. Griffith home, 680 Linden Ave.

Precinct B (precincts 6, 8, 10, 14, 30 and 32), San Antonio School.

Precinct C (precincts 4, 5, 7, 10, 21 and 29), Gibson home, 250 Jordan Ct.

Precinct D (precincts 9, 11, 17, 18, 22 and 23), Ardis G. Egan home, 106 North Springer Rd.

Precinct E (precincts 12, 13, 20, 24, 25 and 31), Methodist Community Church, Magdalena Avenue near Fremont.

Precinct F (precincts 26, 27, 28, 33 and 34), Nelson home, 1630 Hazelaar Way. Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Mayor Irving L. Atkinson

The following is a statement on a demonstrated need and benefit to the city.

THIS ISSUE has no connection whatsoever with, nor will it affect, any other capital improvement projects contemplated or authorized within the city.

This civic center project will be financed entirely out of the proceeds of the city sales tax revenue, thereby providing desperately needed city facilities at no additional cost to the taxpayers.

Revenue contributed by who purchase taxable items in Los Altos—including shoppers from all the surrounding area—will help pay for the project. It is inconceivable that anyone in possession of all the facts would vote any other way except "yes."

How groups stand on bond proposal: Los Altos organizations which have endorsed Tuesday's \$575,000 civic center bond issue include:

The chamber of commerce, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, civic center committee and the PTA council.

Two organizations have asked that it be published they have taken no stand for or against the bonds. They are the Los Altos Council of Republican Women and the Downtown Association.

Committee would let relief cases have TV

SACRAMENTO (AP)—One assembly committee feels a man shouldn't have to make a choice between television and public assistance.

A measure which would let people, getting such aid own TV, radios, musical instruments or other recreational articles was approved yesterday by the Assembly Social Welfare Committee.

Here is statement on issue by taxpayers' organization:

The following is a statement by the Los Altos Taxpayers' League concerning the bond issue.

Next Tuesday Los Altos citizens will have the opportunity clearly and unmistakably to state their wishes to the city government in the manner, amount and purpose of public spending.

This will be the first opportunity for the citizens to speak their mind on financial matters since the city was incorporated.

THE CIVIC CENTER bond issue is proposed as the first of a series of large public expenditures. Subsequent ones on sanitary sewers, storm drains and possibly streets will all be well in excess of one million dollars each, exclusive of interest which adds 40 per cent.

Obviously every dollar of this multimillion-dollar total must come out of Los Altos' "pocket-books" in some form of taxation, whether it be in the form of general property taxes, direct assessments or a retail sales tax.

IMPROVEMENTS can be bought for far less if purchased on a pay-as-you-go basis. Interest alone on the proposed civic center bonds is \$225,000. Being well aware that the only way we can acquire the larger and more essential items of sewers, storm drains and streets is by bonded debt, let's not add unnecessarily to the burden.

The league has pointed out clearly that the two important civic center buildings may be had with little or no delay—at huge savings in cost—if bought pay-as-you-go.

The league also has stated how we could secure the needed library in a convenient location, earlier than it may be secured by bond issue, at only a fraction of the estimated cost—and with the cost distributed equally over all users, residents and nonresidents alike.

Councilman A. W. Conner

The following is a statement by Councilman A. W. Conner opposing the bond issue: Some fear that defeat of the bond issue would mean that we could never have a civic center. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

IT WOULD merely give us an opportunity to proceed in orderly stages, putting first things first. Construction of sanitary

sewers will begin soon. An extensive program of street paving must be undertaken. A storm drainage system is needed urgently, and its construction should begin as soon as working drawings can be prepared.

A police department building is a necessity. It should be built not later than next year. The construction of the city hall and the city council chamber should be deferred for the present.

WE MUST have a library building before the end of the year.

Fortunately, the Union Church property, including the parish house, is for sale and can be made available July 1. It is centrally located in the "triangle," about 350 feet from the parking plaza.

The parish house would be an ideal library building and the old church could be demolished to provide parking or a delightful small park, screened from the street by trees and shrubs.

The parish house is a handsome concrete block building with concrete floor and radiant heat; relation of width to length is suited perfectly to library use. The price is \$90,000, but it is hoped that it can be bought for less. . . . Installment payments will be acceptable.

ESTIMATED cost of the proposed civic center library building, including site development, is \$144,000, which interest on bonds would increase to about \$200,000. Experts say the relation of width to length is not good, and that, consequently, administration would be unnecessarily costly.

It is possible that a plan can be worked out which will result in a sharing of the cost by those who use the library but live outside our city limits. If that can be accomplished, it will remove from our shoulders at least part of the financial burden which we should not carry.

COMING EVENTS

Today

7:30 p.m.—Townsend Whit party at East Palo Alto Women's Clubhouse on Bay Road. Score cards 50 cents. Refreshments.

8 p.m.—Whisman Elementary School District trustees meet at Monta Loma School, Mountain View.

8 p.m.—Regular meeting, Los Altos Planning Commission, Covington School multipurpose room.

Little House — 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Open to persons 50 and over; 7 p.m.—television evening.

Friday

2 p.m.—Card party at St. Francis Clubhouse, Bay Road and Glen Way. Score cards 35 cents.

8:30 p.m.—Square dancing at social hall, Palo Alto First Congregational Church, Louis and Embarcadero roads. Donation \$1 per couple.

Little House — 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Open to persons 50 and over. 9:45-11:45 a.m.—housing and employment counseling; 10 a.m. watercolor painting; 10 a.m.—weaving; 1 p.m.—ceramics; 1:30 p.m.—bazaar crafts; 2 p.m.—chess or checkers; 3:30 p.m.—social security and retirement; 7 p.m.—bridge and canasta.

Saturday

Little House — 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Open to persons 50 and over. 2 p.m.—drama class; 2 p.m.—pinochle and checkers.

Menlo grants library delay

Menlo Park councilmen this week granted a one month extension of time for the contractor to complete the \$38,000 municipal library at Ravenswood Avenue and Alma Street.

The new deadline is May 15, indicating that the building may not be ready for occupancy until June.

EXTRA! HOUSE FOR \$96
OTTAWA, Ill. (AP)—Homer Mathews bought a nine-room frame house for \$96. There's a hitch to the auction sale bargain. Mathews has until April 20 to tear it down or move it from the site where the former owner, Ben Barr, plans to build a new ranch home.



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